

St. Philip Neri Church  
437 Ridge Pike / Lafayette Hill, PA 19444



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

“Be watchful! Be alert!”

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December 3, 2023

[www.saintphilipnerichurch.org](http://www.saintphilipnerichurch.org)

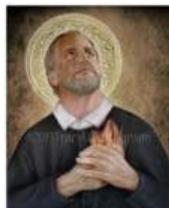
Church Office 610-834-1975

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School 610-828-3082

Convent 610-828-2866

PREP Program 484-804-1875



“The love of God makes us do great things”  
St. Philip Neri

**Priests & Deacons**

Rev. George J. Szparagowski

*Pastor*

Rev. Christopher Redcay

*Weekend Assistant*

Rev. Msgr. Charles P. Vance, *Pastor Emeritus*

Rev. William B. Dooner, *In Residence, Retired*

Deacon Robert G. Flynn

&

Deacon Michael J. Cipressi

**Parish Staff**

Michael Pastorius

*Business Manager*

Mrs. Betty Veneziaie

*School Principal*

Mrs. Sharon Otto

*Director of Religious Education*

Barney McGee

*Parish Accountant*



*Our parish community extends a welcome to our guests and visitors. We welcome you to our Church to share our faith and celebrate the Eucharist. Please go to our website: [www.saintphilipnerichurch.com](http://www.saintphilipnerichurch.com) for more information or if you have any questions or want to register call the Church Office at 610-834-1975. In order to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist or Matrimony or to have access to Letters of Eligibility to stand as a godparent at Baptism or sponsor at Confirmation you need to be registered with a parish. Young adults who turn 26 or complete higher education and continue to reside within our area should register individually.*

**Regular Sunday Mass for Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil Mass Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> – 5PM**

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 11AM**

**Christmas Masses - Holy Day Obligation**

**Christmas Eve - 4PM & 6PM**

**Christmas Day - 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 11AM**

**New Years Eve - 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 11AM**

**New Years Day – 8:30AM**

*(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)*



**Parish Penance Service**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**



**Parish Mass Schedule**

**Saturday Evening Vigil Mass**

**5PM**

**Sunday Morning**

**7:30AM - No Music**

**9:30AM & 11:00AM**

**Daily Mass Schedule**

**Monday through Saturday 8:30AM**

**Holy Day Mass Schedule**

**6:30AM, 8:30AM, & 7PM**



**Confessions are heard every Saturday from 3:45PM to 4:45PM or by appointment, call 610-834-1975 to schedule.**

**Gluten Free Hosts**

Gluten free hosts are available at every Mass. The celebrant will have them available; simply ask him when you present to receive Holy Communion.

**We Pray**

**For all those who have gone on before us marked with the sign of faith, especially Edward Biasi and the souls in purgatory. May God grant them eternal rest and give hopeful peace to those who**



# Mass Intentions

## Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

*St. John Damascene*

8:30AM – Earl Bruce Kirk – 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

## Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM – Santo & Adele Caruso  
Eleanor Flynn

## Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

*St. Nicholas*

8:30AM – Adam & Marie Quaglia  
Elizabeth Nelson

## Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

*St. Ambrose*

8:30AM – Ursula Jones

## Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

*Immaculate Conception of BVM*

6:30AM – Deceased Members of the  
Brennan & Lowry Families  
8:30AM – Steve Petrokubi  
7PM – Caryn Wolfe

## Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

*St. Juan Diego*

8:30AM – Margaret Ponietowicz

**Since there is no longer a 6:30AM daily Mass,  
6:30 Mass intentions (already reserved) will be  
included at the 8:30AM Mass.**



### Sanctuary Memorials



This week the Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of  
Earl Bruce Kirk & Nancy Kirk, req'd by Kirk Family

1 candle will burn at the statue of the Blessed Mother  
in memory of Susan Fisher, req'd Fisher Family

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – FRIDAY, DEC 8<sup>TH</sup>  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
MASSES AT 6:30AM, 8:30AM & 7PM.**



Please pray for our sick, the home-bound, and those in  
nursing homes, we particularly remember:

George Alburger, Nancy Bogdon, Susan Bonner, Audrey  
Michelle Cacchio, Lou Cacchio, Sally Cahill, Eleanor Cimini,  
Ava Love Conley, Cari Crane, Charlie Dickman, Clare  
DiDonato, Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores  
Downes, Holstyn Fink, Johnny Higson, Kathleen Kunes,  
Mary & Molly Lozinak, Olwen Loudon, Phyllis Luther, Greg  
deGroot Maggetti, James Maggetti, Robyn Lee  
Malachefski, Joan Marine, Bernie McLafferty Sr, Julia  
McLaughlin, Steven Merlin, Christopher Minetti, Joe  
McLaughlin, Joe O'Brien, Elizabeth Peirce, William Pinto,  
Maria Prince, Penny Purcell, Ann Marie Sanders, Michael  
Shaw, David Sparacino, Betty Sparks, Brian Stenz, Amy  
Swift, Patricia Trioli, Frank Tulino, William Wilder, may God  
strengthen them in their struggle.

*Our bulletin sick list will list the names of the sick  
for a 6-week period, if additional time is needed,  
please call the Church Office at 610-834-1975.*



### 2024 Mass Book is Open

**Masses and Intention Candles are  
available for the deceased, the living,  
a special intention or to commemorate a  
birthday or an occasion.**

**Sunday Masses are also available.**

**Please call 610-834-1975 or stop by the  
Church Office to reserve a date.**

### Baptismal Instruction / Pre Jordan

The next session will be December 11th; these sessions  
are virtual. Once you register, Deacon Mike Cipressi  
will contact you with meeting details. Please call the  
Church Office at 610-834-1975 to register.

**To help children feel included and learn more about  
the Mass *My Picture Missal* books are available for  
use during Mass in a basket in the cry room. Please  
help yourself and return books when finished.**

**Dear St. Philip Neri Families & Friends**



We give praise and thanks to God for the graces He has given. As we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath, we embark on a sacred journey of anticipation and preparation. The liturgical season of Advent calls us to pause, reflect, and open our hearts to the coming of Christ. The First Sunday in Advent invites us to focus on the theme of hope. In the midst of a world often marked by uncertainty and turmoil, we are reminded that our hope is anchored in the promises of God. The prophet Isaiah, whose words echo through the ages, speaks of a future filled with the light of the Lord. "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" (Isaiah 2:5) As we meditate on the Scripture readings for today, we are called to examine our hearts and ask ourselves: What does it mean to hope in the Lord? How can we cultivate a spirit of joyful expectation as we await the celebration of the Incarnation? St. Philip Neri would like that. Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas; it is a season of spiritual preparation. It is a time to prepare the way for the lord in our hearts, making room for Jesus amidst the busyness of our lives. The Gospel reading reminds us of the importance of staying awake and alert, for we do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will come (Matthew 24:37-44). This vigilance is not one of fear, but of hope and readiness. In the hustle and bustle of the season, let us carve out moments of stillness and prayer. Let us reflect on the blessings of the past year, acknowledging God's faithfulness, and surrendering our worries and anxieties to Him. As we wait in hope, may we also actively engage in acts of kindness and charity, becoming beacons of Christ's love in a world that hungers for hope and peace. The Advent Wreath, with its first candle aglow, symbolizes the flicker of hope that dispels the darkness. As we gaze upon this flame, may it serve as a tangible reminder of the Light that is to come. Let us journey through Advent with hearts full of hope, trusting in the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.

Please invite someone to Mass.  
St. Philip Neri pray for us!  
Have a blessed week!  
Fr. Szparagowski

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Religious Retirement  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend – Christmas Flowers



**Congratulations and Best Wishes**

*Michael Proška & Moira Gannon were united in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony recently here at St. Philips! We wish them a long and happy life together!*



**We Welcome**

Louisa Kathleen, daughter of Joshua & Brianna Clark, Oliver William, son of Andrew & Kawana Haff, and Edward Thomas, son of Seth & Shannon Richards, all were recently baptized here at St. Philips!

**St. Monica Club**

**Have your loved ones drifted away from the Church? Follow the example of St. Monica and PRAY WITHOUT CEASING! Join us for our next meeting in the convent chapel on Dec 12th at 7PM. We pray, talk about how to love those who are rejecting the faith and be good witness for them, and share the good news when prayers are answered.**

**Contact Sharon Otto at 484-804-1875.**

**The Tribunal**

**The Tribunal is available to help people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you are divorced and want to remarry in the Church or remarried outside the Catholic Church, please call the Tribunal at 215-587-3750 or visit:**

**[www.archphila.org](http://www.archphila.org)**

**Block Collection**

**2023 Annual Block / Census Collection  
Number of registered families - 2312  
Number of responses - 454**

**Thank you for your contribution to this most important collection to keep our parish fiscally sound, if you haven't already donated, please consider doing so today.**

**Thank You!**

**Infant Jesus Figurine Blessing**

Bring your baby Jesus figurine from your family crèche to Mass for a blessing, at all Masses on December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>



## Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements must be made with a priest at least 6 months prior to your desired wedding date, contact the Church Office at 610-834-1975 to schedule. The Archdiocese requires that couples attend a Pre-Cana class before marriage. At this time, we ask you to go to [www.archphila.org](http://www.archphila.org), under marriage preparations to take class on line. Liturgy and musical planning are done through Mrs. Jean Martin our Director of Music (215-704-0508).



## Anointing of the Sick

Primarily intended as prayers for healing from serious illness or as a spiritual preparation before surgery, it can involve multiple sacraments; Penance, Anointing & Eucharist. When death is imminent, it serves as "Last Rites" which include a special Apostolic Pardon. Please do not delay in calling for your elderly or chronically ill family member. Call the Church Office to schedule an anointing.



## Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month immediately following the 11AM Mass. For first time parents, Pre-Jordan classes are required. Deacon Mike Cipressi conducts these classes via zoom appointments, they are offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Godparents are required to obtain Letters of Eligibility; these letters are due at the Parish Office at least one week before the scheduled baptismal date. Call the Church Office at 610-834-1975 to schedule a Baptism and/or to register for the Pre-Jordan Class.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is for individuals interested in exploring and discerning membership in the Catholic Church. This program is for non-Catholics who may or may not have been baptized in another Christian Church and wish to receive the Sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. It is also for those who were baptized in the Catholic Church but never received the other Sacraments of Initiation. Call Barney McGee in the Church office at 610-834-1975 for more information.

Complimentary calendars are available at the doors of the Church, please take one.  
Courtesy of Lownes Funeral Home.

## Spiritual Adoption Program

Now your spiritual adopted baby is finished developing and concentrating on gaining weight; she might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size. She will need a layer of fat to help her stay warm after she leaves the perfect temperature inside her mother's womb. For some weeks now she has recognized her mother's voice. In a short time, her baby will be born. Your baby's mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.

## Young Adult Ministry

Serving and engaging young adults in their faith journey is an important ministry in the Church. If you are college age, in your 20's or 30's (single or married) we invite you to be part of an exciting new ministry in the parish specifically aimed at accompanying young adults on their faith journey with opportunities to connect with peers who share similar values and beliefs rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. In order to ensure that Young Adult Ministry in our parish meets the needs of young adults and their particular interests. For more information, please contact Francesco Cesareo at [francescocesareo@spnprep.org](mailto:francescocesareo@spnprep.org)



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## Knights of Columbus Advent Seafood Sale

Order forms are available in the Church vestibule, their prices have gone up but our price has remained the same. Drop off order in collection box in the vestibule, in the collection basket or the Church Office. Deadline for orders is December 10<sup>th</sup>. Pick-up for orders will be Dec 16<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2PM in the school cafeteria. Thanks for you support!



## Save the Date!

**Annual Parish Christmas Tree lighting will be on  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.  
Hot Chocolate, coffee & sweets.  
Call the Church Office (610-834-1975) if you are  
coming so we can be sure to have enough hot  
chocolate & sweets. Thank you!**



SPN Cub Scout Pack 109  
**Poinsettia Sale**  
 December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> after all Masses  
 \$20 - 7" Red Plant



**Mark your calendars!!!**

**SPN Women's Guild**

**Presents....**

**Annual Cookie Exchange &  
 Yankee Swap**

**Sunday, 12/10/23 2:00pm, School Hall  
 437 Ridge Pike**

**Lafayette Hill, PA 19444**

**Call Tish Bellingham, 484-868-1749 or  
 Dara Varrone, 484-919-6725.**

**See flyer @ SPN WG Facebook page or on  
 SPN School Communications**



All major food stores and major clothes retailers have cards available; please go to the website for a complete list.

These programs help support our school and is **driven by parishioner participation**...give it a try!

\$335 monthly in groceries = \$160/yr

\$250 monthly of dining out with a = \$240/yr

\$150 monthly clothing = \$70/yr

\$150 monthly in home improvement = \$70/yr

GIANT, ACME, SHOP RITE, WEIS, KOHLS,  
 BOSCOVS, MACY'S & LOWES just to name a few.

Cards are available in the Church Office,  
 Monday to Friday, 8AM to 5PM.

## St. John's Hospice

**Casseroles can be home made or store brought.  
 The next drop off dates are before and after all  
 Masses on the weekend of December 30th & 31st  
 and before 9AM on pick-up day, Wednesday,  
 January 3rd before 9AM. If you need an alternate  
 day or time call Lynn Kennedy at 610-828-6728, or  
 email at [lkennedy1071@comcast.net](mailto:lkennedy1071@comcast.net). Dropoff  
 address is 2311 Mulberry Lane  
 (right across Ridge Pike from the Church).**

## St. Francis Inn

Many thanks for your continuous support!

Items we need most are listed on the collection box in the vestibule. Keep us in your prayers! The collection box is in the Church vestibule year-round accepting your donations. Donations can also be dropped off at the Muller's porch, 472 Poplar Lane in Whitemarsh Woods.

### Church Cleaners

We are in need of a couple of volunteers to help keep the Church vacuumed and dusted. This is not "heavy" cleaning nor does it involve restrooms. It's the first Thursday of the month after the 8:30 Mass. If interested call the Church Office at 610-834-1975.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Food Collection

Help us "Pack the Pantry" for Colonial Neighborhood Council in Conshohocken. For your convenience we have made an *Amazon Wish List* where you can select items to purchase and then have delivered directly to the CNC.

Go to: <https://shorturl.at/inJP2>

## Advent and Advent Wreath



The word "advent" comes from the Latin "adventus" meaning coming or arrival. Its beginnings date back to 380AD when it is mentioned at the Council of Saragossa. It essentially has a threefold purpose; prepare for the birth of Christ, celebrate our faith in Christ, and joyful anticipation of His Resurrection. The Advent Wreath seems to be German in origin with its use of evergreens symbolizing immortality. The four candles have meaning as well. The first for hope, called the Prophecy Candle, the second for peace, called the Bethlehem Candle, the third for joy, called the Shepherd's Candle and the fourth for love, called the Angel's Candle. A wonderful symbol to focus our hearts on the coming glory of the Incarnation.

**Special thanks to our SPN Home & School Association who organized the recent Great Gatsby Auction Night. The event, which is a huge fundraiser for our school, was a great success! We are most grateful for those who coordinated and volunteered so much of their time and talents!**

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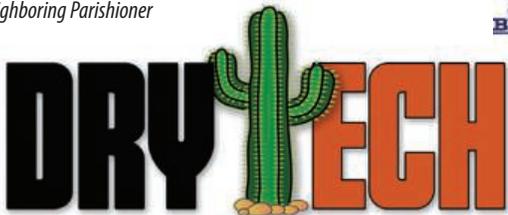
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\*Valid thru December 31, 2023. Valid on advance planning cemetery space purchases only in specific areas of the cemetery. See location manager for details. Monthly payment is subject to down payment, interest rate and term. Minimum of 5% down payment required. Cannot be combined with other offers. Includes prior purchases. Vault and Opening and Closing required for Burial. Limit 10 cemetery spaces per family.

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