

St. Philip Neri Church

437 Ridge Pike / Lafayette Hill, PA 19444



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

www.saintphilipnerichurch.org

Church Office 610-834-1975

Rectory 610-828-5717

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 Veneziale

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 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.



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

Monday, December 11th

St. Damasus

8:30AM – Clara Pisarek

Tuesday, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30AM – Frank English

Wednesday, December 13th

St. Lucy

8:30AM – Lucy & Michael Simpson

Lucy Drenkhahn

John Kerrigan

Thursday, December 14th

St. John of the Cross

8:30AM – Elinor Kollmer

Friday, December 15th

8:30AM – Frank Stanczak

Saturday, December 16th

8:30AM – Charles & 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 Macaitis & Pisarek Families, req'd by Macaitis Family.

2 candles will burn at the statue of the Blessed Mother 1 in memory of Joseph DeMarco, req'd Terri Smith.

1 in memory of Anthony Spinelli,
req'd by Terri Smith.

2 candles will burn at the statue of St. Joseph

1 in memory of Mark LaPera,
req'd by Christine & Heather LaPera

1 in memory of Joseph DeMarco, req'd by James Smith.

Block Collection

2023 Annual Block / Census Collection Number of registered families – 2312

Number of responses – 456

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!

Baptismal Instruction / Pre Jordan

The next session will be January 8th; 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.

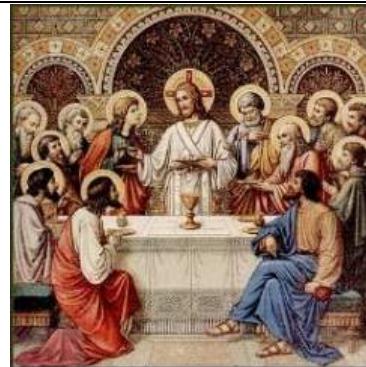
*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight His paths.”*



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 Louden, Phyllis Luther, Greg deGroot Maggetti, James Maggetti, Robyn Lee Malachebski, 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.

Dear St. Philip Neri Families & Friends



We give praise and thanks to God for the graces He has given. As we advance through the season of Advent, the liturgical journey deepens, and the candlelight grows brighter. Today, we light the second candle on our Advent Wreath, the candle of peace. In the midst of a world often marred by discord and restlessness, we are called to pause and reflect on the profound peace that Christ brings. The prophet Isaiah, in today's readings, speak of a vision where the wolf dwells with the lamb, the leopard lies down with the kid, and a little child leads them (Isaiah 11:6). This vision goes beyond the ordinary expectations of peace; it speaks of a transformative peace that emanates from the presence of the Messiah. It is a peace that surpasses understanding, a peace that reconciles and restores all of creation. As we contemplate the Scriptures, we are reminded that the

Advent journey is not just about the historical anticipation of Christ's birth but also a preparation for His second coming. The Gospel of Matthew (3:1-12) introduces us to the figure of John the Baptist, the voice crying out in the wilderness, urging us to prepare the way of the Lord. St. John's call to repentance is not a mere ritual; it is an invitation to a profound change of heart. The pathway to true peace begins with repentance, turning away from sin, and aligning our lives with the teachings of Christ. In this season of Advent, let us examine our hearts and make room for the Prince of Peace to reign within us. The Advent Wreath, with its two flickering candles, becomes a visual reminder of the growing light of Christ penetrating the darkness of the world. It symbolizes the peace that begins in the quiet corners of our hearts and radiates outward, touching the lives of those around us. In a world that often hungers for peace, (especially at this time) we, as followers of Christ, are called to be ambassadors of His peace. This means actively seeking reconciliation, practicing forgiveness, and extending compassion to those in need.

As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, let us be instruments of His peace, bringing hope and healing to a world longing for the transformative power of the Gospel. "May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Him." (Philippians 4:7). Let us journey through Advent with hearts attuned to the call of John the Baptist, preparing the way for the Prince of Peace to enter and reign in our lives.

Please invite someone to Mass.

St. Philip Neri pray for us!

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Szparagowski

2nd Collection – Christmas Flowers

Regular Sunday Mass for Dec 23rd & 24th

Vigil Mass Dec 23rd – 5PM

Dec 24th 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 14th at 7PM



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, 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 2nd & 4th 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 2nd 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.

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.

Turkey / Ham Bonus Christmas Donations

If you are not using your supermarket bonus turkey or ham receipt the Patrician Society would be happy to accept your donation. The drop-off day for turkey, hams or bonus receipt (with phone number) is December 17th from 7:15AM to 11:5AM in the school cafeteria or the Church Office any time before that date.

Thanks to all who donated to Give Catholic last week, over \$6,000.00 was donated all in support of our school.



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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 10th. Pick-up for orders will be Dec 16th from Noon to 2PM in the school cafeteria.

Thanks for your support!



Save the Date!

**Annual Parish Christmas Tree
lighting will be on Sunday,
December 17th 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 – TODAY!**

after all Masses
\$20 – 7" Red Plant

A big thank you to our 7th & 8th grade classes who changed our missalettes in the pews last week, they were a great help and a great bunch of eager workers! Special thanks to their teachers Kathleen Sexton, Erin McMenamin, Kim Keeley & Hilary Aaron for organizing!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS LANTERNS

The Knights are running their annual Christmas Memorial Lanterns. The lanterns will be placed outside the Church, the name of the person to be remembered on the attached bow. The cost is \$25 each and the deadline is December 20th. Drop your reservation in the collection basket or in the collection box in the Church vestibule or drop it off at the Church Office. Last year the Knights donated over \$5000.00 to charities and Catholic School Scholarships... Thank you for your support of all our fundraisers, you're helping us help others!



Subscription / Membership Renewal Forms

Forms are in the vestibule to apply for membership or renew a current membership. Proceeds benefit our school, see display in vestibule for more details.

Deadline for applications is December 17th.

Any questions call Linda in the Church Office at 610-834-1975.

Thank you to all who donated their bonus turkey or supermarket receipt. Over 40 Thanksgiving turkeys were delivered to the Patrician Society in Norristown for distribution to needy families.



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.

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

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. 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.



Breakfast with Santa

A big thank you to all those who attended the Breakfast with Santa last Saturday. Over 200 joined us for a wonderful morning, that included a reading of "Santa and the Christ Child" by Fr. Szparagowski and a visit from Santa Clause who spoke with over 100 children. A special thanks to those who volunteered, especially our seventh graders.

10th 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>

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