

St. Philip Neri Church

437 Ridge Pike / Lafayette Hill, PA 19444



“Zeal for your Father’s house will consume me.”



March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent

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 Venezia
School Principal

Mrs. Sharon Otto
Director of Religious Education

Michael X. Lundy
Director of Music

Barney McGee
Parish Accountant



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



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.



**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 Sr. Elizabeth Heller SSJ, Teresa Ingersoll, Jay Kunaszuk, Seanna McElroy, Sr. Louisa Schumacher SSJ, and the souls in purgatory. May God grant them eternal rest and give hopeful peace



**2 candles will burn at the statue of St. Joseph
this week in memory of Robert Snyder
requested by the Snyder Family.**



**The sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of
Earl Bruce Kirk & Nancy Kirk,
Requested by Kirk Family.**



Saturday, March 2nd

3rd Sunday in Lent

5PM Vigil – Madeline Moser

Sunday, March 3rd

7:30AM – James G. Dwyer

9:30AM – Lucy & John Vitali

11AM – Joseph D'Angelo

Monday, March 4th

St. Casmir

8:30AM – Nancy Kirk – 5th Anniversary

Tuesday, March 5th

8:30AM – Josephine A. Caruso

Wednesday, March 6th

8:30AM – William Moffett

Thursday, March 7th

Sts. Perpetua & Felicity

8:30AM – Brendan Conner

Friday, March 8th

St. John of God - Day of Abstinence

8:30AM – Deceased Members of the
Brennan & Lowry Families

Saturday, March 9th

St. Frances of Rome

8:30AM – St. Philip Neri Guild

5PM Vigil – Parishioners



St. Philip Neri Guild

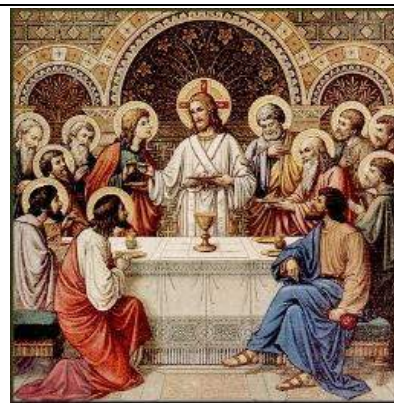
This is a guild of living and deceased persons, prayer intentions or any special occasion, that are listed and prayed for every Saturday at the 8:30AM Mass. This Mass is offered for guild members and their intentions. Please call the Church Office to include your intention(s). Suggested offering is \$20.00, which goes to support our sanctuary fund.



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

George Alburger, Nancy Bogdon, Sally Cahill, Eleanor Cimini, Charlie Dickman, Clare DiDonato, Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores Downes, Eileen Drab, Kerin Dungan, Bernadette Fisher, Ellen Letta, Donna Little, Phyllis Luther, Robyn Lee Malachefski, Joan Marine, Baby Hadleigh McCarthy, Joe McGrath, Elizabeth Peirce, Penny Purcell, Barbara Pester, William Pinto, Maria Prince, Martine Schaffer, 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.

When doing your financial planning, please consider remembering St. Philip's in your will.

Dear St. Philip Neri Families & Friends



We give praise and thanks to God for the graces He has given us. As we continue on our journey during Holy Lent, I would like to share some reflections from our *No Greater Love* class with Dr. Edward Sri. There are 42 parishioners participating. **More than suffering**, sometimes when Christians think about Christ's sacrifice on Calvary, they focus primarily on the suffering endured. Catholic Tradition, however, emphasizes that Christ's love is what gives the Cross its redeeming value. Certainly, it is a total self-giving love that is expressed poignantly through sacrifice and suffering, but love – not the amount of blood, pain, or torture – is at the center. To paraphrase St.

Catherine of Siena, **the nails could not have held Him fast to the Cross, if love had not held Him there first.**

Because He is fully human, Jesus can represent the human family and offer an act of love to the Father on our behalf. Because Jesus is also fully divine, His act of love takes on infinite value and can bridge the infinite gap between us and God that was caused by our sin. As St Bernard of

Clairvaux is often attributed as saying, **“The smallest drop of Christ's blood would have been enough to have redeemed all mankind.”** That is why only Christ's sacrificial gift of love can reconcile us to the Father.

Gethsemane: A Window into Jesus' Soul. As soon as Jesus arrived at Gethsemane, He faced an intense ordeal. The Gospels make this clear in five small details that serve as a window into Jesus' soul and the agony He experienced in the garden. Each of these five details tells us something for our lives. When we have our own Gethsemane moments – when we face trials, become distraught or experience intense sorrow in our soul – we must do what Jesus does; turn to the Lord, withdraw to a quiet place for prayer, fall on our knees and beg God for help, prostrate at least in our hearts before Almighty God, trust in His care for us, and humbly submit to whatever may be His will.

Reflection Questions – What do you think caused Jesus the most agony when He arrived in Gethsemane? What are some of the things Jesus did to face His trial – to deal with His becoming distraught and sorrowful? How might you imitate Jesus the next time you face a difficult trial – a “gethsemane moment”? In Gethsemane, Jesus surrenders perfectly to the Father's will when He prays, **Not as I will but as you will” (Mt 26:39).** On a scale of 1 to 10, how willing are you to surrender decisions and life situations to the father's will? What are some of the things that keep you from entrusting your life to the Father's plan for you? Not wanting to give up control? Not being convinced God is trustworthy? Not wanting to surrender your plans to His plans? In the Bible, God says, **“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future of hope”** Jeremiah 29:11. How might this verse give you confidence to seek and do the Father's will for your life?

Please invite someone to Mass.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Szparagowski

Baptismal Instruction / Pre Jordan

The next session will be March 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

We Welcome

Matthew Jack, son of Jonathan & Brianna Matey and
Jacqueline Mary, daughter of Theodore & Julia Schlanger.
Both were recently baptized here at St. Philip's!



Wednesday evenings in Lent at 7PM

Are you a Parent who has Lost a Child?

An informal group of moms & dads get together to talk or just listen. Contact Judy Sturm at 610-909-2034 or Karen Montgomery at 215-920-5269 for more details.

Project HOPE

A group of concerned parishioners who are willing to assist others in need of transportation to places within the community such as doctor's offices, therapy centers and Church, call Brigid at 267-879-6534

Novena to St. Joseph for Families

Does the evening news scare you? March is dedicated to St. Joseph. You are invited to a reflection on St. Joseph as husband, father, and patron of families. You will receive a Novena to St. Joseph to pray at home with your family before his feast on March 19th. Our sessions will be March 6th at 7PM in the convent. For more information contact Sister Lourdes at lourdesken@gmail.com

A special thank you to our volunteers from the 8:30AM daily Mass who stuff our bulletins with weekly inserts. They are a great help! Thank you!



Votive candles are available at the statue of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph for prayer intentions. Votive comes from the Latin word *votum*, meaning promise or Prayer. These simply represent our prayers before God.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
2nd Monday of the month in the chapel.
Next is March 11th from 9AM to 5PM.
Come and spend some time with Our Lord,
have a quite talk, He's waiting!



SPN 2024 Annual Golf Outing

Sponsors needed!

Monday, April 29, 2024

Sandy Run Country Club

\$45/pp for happy hour only ticket

See flyer at doors of Church for more information.

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 Whitmarsh Woods.



Knights of Columbus Lenten Sale!

Flyers for orders are in this week's bulletin.

Pick-up day will be Saturday, March 23rd

The Knights donated over \$7,000 to charities & scholarship's last year!

Thanks for your support!



Home and School St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dinner

Join us on Saturday, March 23rd as we celebrate St.

Patrick & St. Joseph! Tickets are \$50/pp, 21+, includes dinner buffet, beer, hard seltzer and soft drinks as well as live music from Celtic Pride! 50/50 raffle items will be available for purchase. Go to <https://forms.gle/fvFfYBD8Nnqa1oMQA> for tickets.

Young Adult Ministry

The next Praise & worship Holy Hour will take place on Thursday, March 21st at 7PM in the Church. The theme will be "The Cross" in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week. All parishioners are invited to join the young adults in the parish spending time together in prayer and reflection in preparation for the Sacred Triduum.

Attendees are invited to a social gathering at the Ale House (405 Germantown Pike) following the Holy Hour.

The Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring a Lenten Service Project on March 23rd from 1PM to 3PM at Cradles to

Crayons, a local non-profit organization that helps alleviate poverty for children in the Philadelphia area.

They offer clothes, shoes, school supplies and other items to children in need. We will be volunteering at their Giving Factory (4700 Wissahickon Ave, Suite 142, Phila., PA 19144) where we will help organize donations and ensure that children are receiving good quality items. Any

young adults in the parish who wish to join us for this service project need to register by March 20th by emailing your contact info Francesco Cesareo at

francescocesareo@spnprep.org



School News

St. Philip Neri Theater Company presents
Finding Nemo Jr.

Located in our school cafeteria

Friday, March 8th at 7PM

Saturday, March 9th at 7PM

Sunday, March 10th at 2PM

Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://spnschool.org/drama-club>

Come on out and support our aspiring actors and actresses!

St. John's Hospice

Casseroles can be home made or store bought. The next drop off dates are before and after all Masses on the weekend of March 2nd & 3rd

and before 9AM on pick-up day, Wednesday, March 6th 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).

Respect Life Corner

Pained by the killing of unborn babies through abortion, the late archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn baby. To further that goal, he composed a short prayer which became the foundation of the spiritual adoption movement. On March 23rd & 24th, St. Philip Neri Parish will hold its annual spiritual adoption of an unborn baby effort. All parishioners are invited to spiritually adopt an unborn baby and his/her mother by praying Archbishop Sheen's short prayer daily for 9 months. Mark that date on your calendar and look for more details in upcoming parish bulletins.



Share the Joy of Easter Donate a Easter Food basket

The meal should consist of non-perishable items including a shelf-stable canned ham (Grocery Outlet), canned pineapple, rice, instant potatoes, canned vegetables, biscuit mix, puddings, soups, nuts and whatever you think a family would enjoy at Easter Dinner. The collection will be the weekend of Marcy 16th & 17th. Call Sharon Otto at 484-804-1875 with any questions.



Save the date! SPN Women's Guild
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 23, 2024
12 Noon, Rain or Shine
Parish Playground/Ball Field

Save the date..

SPN WOMEN'S GUILD



*Please join us for our annual
covered dish supper Thursday,
April 4, 2024 6:30pm,
SPN School Hall
Flyer will follow.*

*For Information call
Rose Boneck 610-324-3111 or
Loretta Gallagher 484-213-1202*

40 Days for Life Campaign

"You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always & defend life always & everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help & encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work & pray against abortion." Pope St. John Paul II

Join your fellow parishioners in praying the **Rosary for Life** to protect life from conception to natural death.

Saturday, March 16th at 11AM outside of the Planned Parenthood facility in Norristown.

This is part of the annual **40 Days for Life Campaign**. We will assemble at 10:30AM in the parish parking lot and caravan together. For anyone driving directly, the facility is located at

1221 Powell Street in Norristown.

Any questions contact Joe Manta at 215-353-7577 or email at josephmanta@me.com

St. Philip Neri Respect Life Committee

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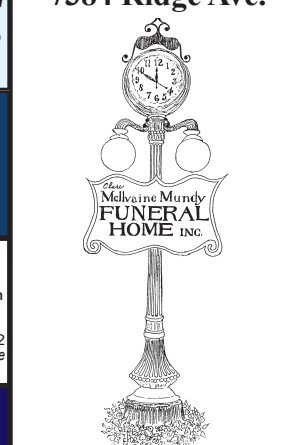
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