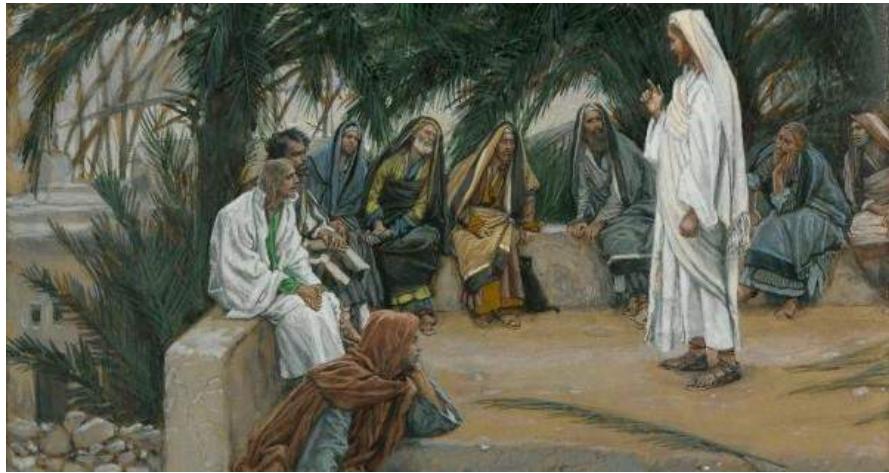


St. Philip Neri Church



“If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”

+ + + + + + + + + + +

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time / September 22, 2024

www.saintphilipnerichurch.org

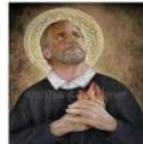
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School 610-828-3082

Convent 610-828-2866

PREP Program 484-804-1875



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437 Ridge Pike / Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

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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

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

The 2025 Announced Mass Book has been opened. Please stop by the Church Office, Monday thru Friday, from 9AM to 5PM to schedule a announced Mass.



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.saintphilipnerechurch.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 and active 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.

We Pray

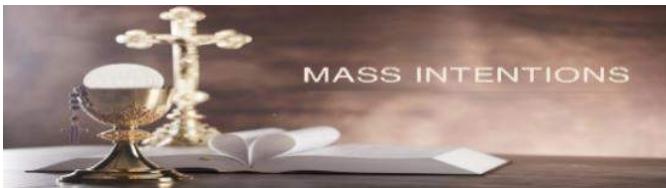
For all those who have gone on before us marked with the sign of faith, most especially, Sr. Leslie Birks OSF, Timothy Durkin Sr., Sr. Joan Mickey SSJ, Ann Marie Sanders, Anne Sulock and the souls in purgatory. May God, in His mercy, grant them eternal rest and give hopeful peace to those who mourn.

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- ✓ Classified by F.D.A. as "gluten free"
- ✓ No worries about gluten or other allergens
- ✓ Vatican complaint

Available at every Mass, the celebrant will have them available; simply ask him when you present to receive Holy Communion.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5PM Vigil – John Viti

Sunday, September 22nd

7:30AM – Rosemary & Jim Fitzpatrick
9:30AM – Jay Kunaszuk
11AM – Helen Lust

Monday, September 23rd

St. Pius of Pietrecina

8:30AM – William & Yvonne Stephens

Tuesday, September 24th

8:30AM – Katherine Speers

Wednesday, September 25th

8:30AM – John Viti

Thursday, September 26th

Sts. Cosmas & Damian

8:30AM – Joseph Conti

Friday, September 27th

St. Vincent de Paul

8:30AM – Jack Hoffman

Saturday, September 28th

Sts. Wenceslaus and Lawrence Ruiz & Companions

8:30AM – St. Philip Neri Guild
5PM Vigil – Parishioners of St. Philip's

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Church on Monday, October 14th from 9AM until 5PM.



Family Rosary, join the Knight of Columbus on Wednesday, Oct 9th at 7PM at the Shrine next to the Church for our rosary. Bring you special intentions to our Mother Mary and ask her intercession.



Please pray for our sick, the home-bound, and those

in nursing homes, we particularly remember:

George Alburger, Nancy Bogdon, Emily Carpey,

Charlie Dickman, Clare DiDonato,

Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores Downes,

Eileen Drab, Kerin Dungan, Landon Michael Frick,

Johnny Higson, Annamarie Koch, Phyllis Luther,

Kerry Macaitis, Joan Marine, Maria Marley,

Terrence Martin, Baby Hadleigh McCarthy, Joe

McGrath, Rowan McNichol, Elizabeth Peirce, William

Pinto, Maria Prince, Brenda Royer, Baby Charlotte

Ann Marie Smith, Michael Shaw, David Sparacino,

Betty Sparks, Barbara Stuhl, Brian Stenz, Amy Swift,

Patricia Trioli, and Frank Tulino.

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.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of Steve & Jean Muschynka, req'd by Patrice Werner.

Pre Jordan / Baptismal Instruction

If you are having your first child baptized, the archdiocese requires the parents to attend a Pre-Jordan Class. Deacon Mike Cipressi hosts these virtual classes on a monthly basis.

Call the Church Office at 610-834-1975.



Our parish council is always looking to increase our numbers, many hands lighten the load! You can participate as much or as little as your schedule allows. Go to our website: www.spnkofc.com for information.

Spam Emails

There has been a rash of people reporting they have received an email from Fr. Szparagowski requesting some sort of help or donation. Please know Father did not and will not send such emails, please do not open the email.



Dear St. Philip Neri families & friends, we give praise and thanks to God for the graces He has given us! Today's readings invite us to reflect on two key virtues central to our faith; humility and trust in God's wisdom. The first reading from the Book of Wisdom presents the persecution of the righteous, while the Gospel of Mark reminds us of Christ's teaching on true greatness through humility and service. The reading from the Book of Wisdom speaks about the wicked conspiring against the righteous. The righteous person is a constant reminder to the wicked of what they are not. His very life of integrity and devotion stands as a rebuke to their selfish ways, and so they seek to destroy him. The passage foreshadows the suffering and rejection of Christ, who would be persecuted by the religious leaders of His time. The righteous one is subjected to trials and mockery because His ways are different, and His trust in God irritates those who rely only on human wisdom. It is in this moment of rejection and suffering that the righteous reveal their strength – not in retaliation or bitterness but in enduring trust in God's wisdom and justice. They recognize that true strength lies not in power or status but in their relationship with God. In today's Gospel, Jesus predicts His passion and death for the second time, but His disciples are unable to grasp the meaning. Instead of contemplating His message of suffering and sacrifice, they argue among themselves about who is the greatest. Jesus, aware of their dispute, teaches them a profound lesson on humility. He says, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." To illustrate His point further, He takes a little child in His arms, saying, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." In the time of Jesus, children were among the most powerless and dependent members of society. To serve them meant to serve without expectation of reward or recognition. Jesus was inviting His disciples to adopt a spirit of humility, recognizing that greatness in the Kingdom of God is not about status, but about service to others, especially the least and the vulnerable. The two readings challenge us to rethink our understanding of greatness and success. In the first reading, the righteous are targeted precisely because they challenge the worldly wisdom that values power, wealth, and control. Similarly, Jesus turns the values of the world upside down by teaching that true greatness is found not in self-exaltation but in self-giving service. Both readings point to a truth that is often hard to accept; the wisdom of God is not the wisdom of the world. The world glorifies those who seem strong, powerful, and successful, but God's wisdom invites us to look deeper, to value humility, righteousness, and love. Just like the righteous one in the Book of Wisdom, we too may face ridicule, misunderstanding, or opposition for living according to

God's ways. In those moments, we are called to trust in God's wisdom and justice, knowing that God is with us in our trials. Jesus calls us to serve without seeking recognition. In our families, workplaces, and communities, we are invited to place the needs of others before our own. This is the path to true greatness in God's Kingdom. Jesus' example of embracing a child challenges us to reach out to the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those who have no voice. It's in serving them that we truly encounter Christ. The readings today remind us that God's wisdom is often at odds with the world's understanding of success and greatness. We are called to embrace humility, to serve others, and to trust in God even when we face trials. May we open our hearts to God's wisdom, following Christ's example of humility and love. In doing so, we will find true greatness, not in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of God.

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



Parish 40 Hours Devotion



September 29th to October 1st

Annual 40 Hours will begin on Sunday, Sept 29th after the 11AM Mass. Evening Prayer and Benediction will be held at 7PM on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday evenings. Fr. Shane Flanagan is our celebrant and homilist, his theme will be "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:46-52). Fr. Flanagan is parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Doylestown, one of 8 children from St. Dominic's Parish, a graduate of Father Judge HS, and ordained a priest in 2023. Please save the date on your calendar, Forty Hours provides time to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist and to pray before the Lord in solemn adoration. The world needs Christ in these troubled times, come and reach out to Him and pray for His guidance and graces. The Church will be open continuously for the forty hours for personal adoration, please take the time for personal visits.

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
For individuals interested in exploring and discerning membership in the Catholic Church. Our program starts in September, call Barney McGee in the Church Office at 610-834-1975 for details.

Sacraments



Baptism

Baptisms are scheduled on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of every month immediately following the 11AM Mass.

Godparents need Letters of Eligibility, for first time parents the Pre-Jordan Class is required. Call the Church Office at 610-834-1975 to make arrangements.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made with a priest at least 6 months prior to wedding date. Pre-Cana classes are required, contact Church office at 610-834-1975.

Anointing of the Sick

Primarily intended as prayers and anointing for healing from serious illness or as a spiritual preparation before surgery. Last Rites or Extreme Unction are for those in danger of imminent death. Call rectory or Church Office.

Would you like to remember St. Philip in your will?

Ask your attorney to include such words as these: "I give, or bequeath to St. Philip Neri Church, 437 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA for its general purposes all, or state percentage of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal." OR "I give to St. Philip Neri Church \$X to be used for the general purposes of St. Philip Neri Church."

Respect Life Corner

Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 lbs. She sits up straight now to accommodate her internal organs which have moved into their final place in her little body. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Don't forget to pray for your baby. Abortion is legal through all nine months and her mom might still feel pressure to abort.

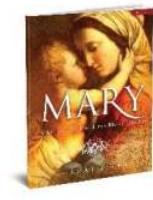
Malvern Retreat House

Nationally recognized retreat directors Fr. Michael Shea and Fr. Douglas McKay will be directing retreat from Dec 8-10, call 610-644-0400 for details.

19th Annual CKH for Cerebral Palsy

Golf Outing / North Hills CC – Oct 21st

Music, silent & live auction, games, sports events, etc.
Contact: DeeHigginsPix@yahoo.com / 484-868-1645



A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

Adult Faith Formation Fall 2024

Thursday's at 7PM

October 3, 10, 17, 24,

November 7, 14, & 21

School Cafeteria with Fr. Szparagowski as moderator. Registration is free.

To register call / email:

Barney McGee in the Church Office

610-834-1975

BarneyMcGee@spnchurchlh.org

or

Sharon Otto at 484-804-1875

SharonOtto@spnprep.org

St. Monica Club

Have your loved ones drifted away from the Church?

Are you worried they may not return? Follow the example of St. Monica and PRAY WITHOUT CEASING! Join us for our next meeting on Sept 24th at 7PM in the convent chapel. We pray together, talk about how to love those who are rejecting the faith and be good witnesses to them, and share good news when prayers are answered. Contact Sharon Otto at 484-804-1875. Park in front of convent garage and use main door.



Summer Repairs Collection

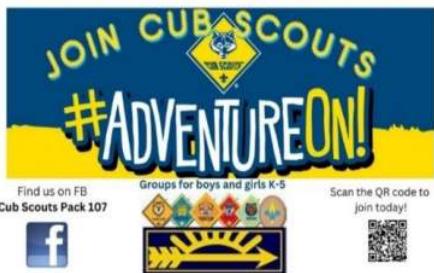
Thanks to all who contributed to the collection.

Our Church windows have been recaulked, and the Church window and door frames have been painted. Church carpets have been cleaned. Church doors, the bell tower and the crucifix in the circle have all been painted. A new phone system has been installed linking the entire campus together. The major electrical work in the school, replacing antiquated circuit breakers and boards is nearly completed, the altar lighting is being worked on as well as the school gym lighting. Your contributions make this possible. As you well know it's crucial to keep up with necessary repairs before they become overwhelming. If you haven't helped already and would like to, just drop an envelope in the collection basket or send to the Church Office.

As always, thank you for your generous and unfailing support of our parish.

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.



School News

Congratulations to our Neumann Scholar Candidates who have achieved the academically highest status for 8th grade students throughout the archdiocese. Nineteen of our students will be afforded the opportunity to compete for tuition scholarships to an Archdiocesan High School...well done!

Our new school mascot, "Saint" the Blue Jay, arrived at our school gym with all students present. We welcome our new mascot and introduced a few possible mottos that reflect our mission. "Guided by Faith, Soaring with Wisdom: our Blue Jay Way" and "St. Philip Neri School: where Faith Takes Flight"



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

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

GIANT, ACME, SHOP RITE, WEIS, KOHLS,
FLOCCO'S, BOSCOVS, MACY'S & LOWES

just to name a few.

Cards are available in the Church Office,

"Where there is no obedience, there is no virtue; there is neither goodness nor love. And where there is no love, there is no God. Without God, we cannot reach heaven. These virtues form a ladder; if a step is missing, we fall down."

St. Padre Pio / Feast Day

Metropolitan 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 marry in the Church or remarried outside the Catholic Church, please call the Tribunal Office at 215-587-3750 or visit: www.archphila.org.

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 September 28th & 29th and before 9AM on pick-up day, Wednesday, October 2nd. If you need an alternate day or time call Eileen DiTore at 215-939-8368, or email hurdles28@hotmail.com. Dropoff address is 2308 Mulberry Lane right across the street from the Church.

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. Please call Brigid at 267-879-6534.

A yellow poster with musical notes floating around the text. The text reads "SINGERS WANTED!" in large, bold, black letters. Below the text is a small illustration of a choir singing. At the bottom, there is more text: "Our PARISH CHOIR is welcoming new members for the 2024 - 2025 season. If you have a love for singing and would like to assist our music ministry in adding beauty to the sacred liturgy, we encourage you to join our ranks. We currently meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Registration is on our parish website or you can see our Director of Music, Michael, after a weekend Mass."

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