

St. Philip Neri Church



“For whoever is not against us is for us.”

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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time / September 29, 2024

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

437 Ridge Pike / Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

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

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.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 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, Samuel Antrim and the souls in purgatory. May God, in His mercy, grant them eternal rest and give hopeful peace to those who mourn.

Low Gluten Hosts

Safe Communion for Celiac's

- ✓ Lab certified, under 20 parts per million
- ✓ 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.



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5PM Vigil – Parishioners

Sunday, September 29th

7:30AM – Marianne Nelson McBrearty

9:30AM – Deceased Members of the
DiGiacomo, Small & Griffin Families

11AM – Bryce Klett

Monday, October 1st

St. Jerome

8:30AM – John Viti

Tuesday, October 2nd

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

8:30AM – George Westwood

Wednesday, October 3rd

Holy Guardian Angels

8:30AM – Alexa Kane

Thursday, October 4th

8:30AM – Geraldine Lampe

Friday, October 5th

St. Francis of Assisi

8:30AM – Colin Still

Saturday, October 6th

St. Faustina Kowalska & Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos

8:30AM – St. Philip Neri Guild

5PM Vigil – Nancy Liberato

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 your special intentions to our Mother Mary and ask her intercession.

"For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance toward heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally, it is something great, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites me with Jesus"

St. Theresa / Feast Day October 2nd



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, 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 Martin Hamberger,

req'd by Maryann Hudson & Barbara Kushwara.

2 candles will burn at the Statue of the Blessed Mother,

1 in memory of Edward & Catherine Pilcicki,

req'd by Jankowski Family.

1 for a Special Intention.

1 candle will burn at the Statue of St. Joseph, in memory of Michael Driscoll, req'd by Driscoll Family.

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 family welcomes James Thomas, son of Christopher & Michelle Dancer, Finn Noah, son of Aidan & Monica O'Kane, Emilia Mary, daughter of James & Christine Pienkowski, and Wesley Reed, son of Mark & Laura Tuscano all baptized recently!



Dear St. Philip Neri families & friends, we give praise and thanks to God for the graces He has given us! In our Sunday readings, we encounter two moments where God's work overflows beyond the boundaries that people expect. Both in the Book of Numbers and in the Gospel of Mark, we see the message that ***God's Spirit is not confined by human expectations or limitations.***

We are called to cultivate a generous spirit and an open heart as we follow God's will. In the first reading, we find Moses overwhelmed by the burden of leading the people of Israel. To help him, God tells Moses to gather seventy elders, and He shares the spirit that was upon Moses with them. When the Spirit comes upon them, they begin to prophesy. However, two men – Eldad and Medad – who were not with the other seventy, also begin to prophesy in the camp. Joshua, Moses' assistant, sees this and tells Moses to stop them. But Moses responds with wisdom and generosity; "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit on them!" Moses recognized that ***the Spirit of God is not confined to just a select few.***

He longs for everyone to be filled with the spirit and to participate in God's work. His openness and humility are an example for us – he doesn't cling to power and privilege, but welcomes God's grace wherever it appears. In the Gospel, we see a similar scenario unfold with the disciples of Jesus. John comes to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him

because he does not follow us. Like Joshua in the first reading, the disciples are concerned that someone outside their group is acting with God's power. But Jesus responds, "Do not stop him. For no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us." Jesus is teaching His disciples that ***the mission of God is bigger than any one group or individual.*** The disciples were focused on their group's special status, but Jesus reminds them that anyone who works in His name is part of the larger mission. He challenges them to see that the Kingdom of God is broader than they can imagine. Both readings today invite us to reflect on the dangers of exclusivity and jealousy in our faith.

Whether it's Joshua worried about Eldad and Medad prophesying, or John concerned about the outsider casting out demons, the underlying issue is the human tendency to want to control or limit how God works. Moses' and Jesus' responses point us toward a different attitude; one of ***generosity, openness, and humility.*** Moses wishes that all God's people would receive the Spirit, and Jesus welcomes anyone who works in His name. Both invite us to recognize that ***God's Spirit moves freely,*** and we are called to rejoice whenever and wherever we see God at work, even if it's in ways we don't expect or through people we might not know

or understand. After Jesus teaches the disciples about inclusion, He goes on to warn them about "stumbling blocks" – those things that cause others to sin. He uses strong language, saying that it's better to cut off a hand or foot or pluck out an eye than to be thrown into Gehenna.

While these words are dramatic, Jesus is making an important point; ***anything that leads us away from God or causes harm to others is a serious matter.*** In the context of today's readings, one of the stumbling blocks we can fall into is the sin of jealousy, pride, or the desire to control God's work. When we become narrow in our thinking, when

we exclude others from God's mission, we risk leading others astray and even harming the Body of Christ. We must constantly examine our hearts to ensure that we are not putting up barriers that prevent others from experiencing God's grace or using their gifts for His glory. Avoid stumbling blocks; we must be careful not to let pride, jealousy, or exclusivity become stumbling blocks in our spiritual lives.

Let us ask ourselves; Are we creating barriers that keep others from fully participating in the life of faith? Are we trying to limit God's work to our own expectations? In today's readings, God calls us to a spirit of ***generosity and openness.*** We are invited to recognize that His Spirit is at work in ways that may surprise us, and to celebrate whenever we see God's hand at work in this world. Let us avoid the stumbling blocks of pride or exclusion, and instead, open our hearts to the fullness of God's mission, rejoicing in His work wherever we find it.

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 today 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. 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.



Dear St. Philip Neri Family,

October Count

During the month of October, as is customary, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are asked to record our Sunday Mass attendance. This data is essential for the archdiocese's future strategic planning, as it helps us identify trends in Mass participation, both at our parish and across the entire Archdiocese.

As you can see from the data below, we have experienced a downward trend in Sunday Mass attendance over the past few years: Do not lose Hope---God is with us!

- **2017: 1,631**
- **2018: 1,537**
- **2019: 1,495**
- **2020: 1,495**
- **2021: 1,152**
- **2022: 1,051**
- **2023: 1,079**

This decrease in attendance is not unique to our parish but reflects a broader trend throughout the Archdiocese. While there are many factors that may contribute to this decline, I believe it is crucial that we respond with faith, hope, a joyful heart and a renewed sense of mission.

Pray for our brothers and sisters who, for various reasons, have stepped away from regular Mass attendance. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to the call of God and the beauty of the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our faith. I firmly believe that the Mass is the heart of our relationship with God, and I know that many who are distant may simply be waiting for an invitation to return.

I encourage you to invite friends and family who may not be attending Mass regularly to join you on Sundays. A personal invitation can make a world of difference, especially if it comes from someone they know and trust. Whether it is a special occasion, a holiday Mass, or simply a desire to reconnect with the faith, your invitation could be the start of someone's journey back to Jesus and His Church.

Additionally, if you or someone you know feels distant from the Church, remember that **we are here to support you**. I am and our parish staff are available for conversations, confessions, or any questions you may have about returning to the faith or rediscovering the beauty of the Eucharist.

Let's continue to pray together for a renewal in our parish and across the Archdiocese. Together, we can work towards strengthening our faith community and helping others feel welcomed and embraced by God's love.

Fr. Szparagowski

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.

Respect Life Corner

Every October, we consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. The Respect Life Committee is sponsoring the following activities during October:

Oct 12th & 13th – 2nd collection to benefit Pro-Life Educational Foundation

Oct 26th – Rosary for Life at Norristown Planned Parenthood.

All Oct – Respect Life literature table in the vestibule



October is Pro-Life Month

Items for mothers and babies in need may be placed in the crib in the vestibule during October. Maternity clothes, lg diapers, developmental toys, etc. are all needed. All go to local Pro-Life organizations.

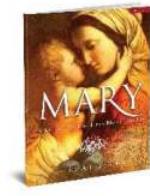


All major food stores and major clothes retailers have cards available; go to the website for a complete list.

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.



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

Bmcgee@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 its 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.

