

St. Philip Neri Church



Gaudete Sunday

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3rd Sunday of Advent / December 15, 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



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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*

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Holy Communion.



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

Gaudete Sunday

The 3rd Sunday of Advent in the Catholic Liturgical Year.

The word "gaudete" is from the latin opening words of today's Entrance Antiphon; "rejoice in the Lord always". It is used to express joyful anticipation of the coming Incarnation of Christ.



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 souls who have gone on before us marked with the sign of faith, most especially, Donna Marie Montalvo, Bob Sague, William Wilder and the souls in purgatory.

May God, in His mercy, grant them eternal rest and give hopeful peace to those who mourn.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Our annual Block Collection is underway, envelopes were sent to all parishioners, and responses have been coming in, please help if you can. This along with the Christmas and Easter Collections are pivotal to the structure of our parish finances. Your goodness provides a sound base from which we maintain and improve our Church and campus.

You make all this possible!

2345 Registered Families

428 Responses Received



3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

5PM Vigil – Thomas T. Hudson

Sunday, December 15th

7:30AM – Angelo Mavrone, Sr

9:30AM – Frank Stanczak

11AM – Deceased Members of the Morrison & Mullen Families

Monday, December 16th

8:30AM – Edward A. Szparagowski

Tuesday, December 17th

8:30AM – Charles J. Pastorius

Wednesday, December 18th

8:30AM – Colin Still

Thursday, December 19th

8:30AM – George Naab

Friday, December 20th

8:30 AM – Anthony Maresca

Saturday, December 21st

St. Peter Canisius

8:30AM – St. Philip Neri Guild

Vigil – Thomas F Keane III & Thomas F Keanne Jr
Frank & Concetta Lupinacci & Family



Christmas Eve Masses

3:45PM Nativity Tableau

4PM & 6PM

Christmas Day Masses

7:30AM, 9:30AM & 11AM

New Year's Eve Mass

4PM Vigil

New Years Day Masses

8:30AM & 10AM



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

George Alburger, Richard Bapst, Nancy Bogdon, Charlotte Craven, Valerie Carlisle, Charlie Dickman, Clare DiDonato, Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores Downes, Eileen Drab, Johnny Higson, Annamarie Koch, Phyllis Luther, Joan Marine, Maria

Marley, Anna Marlin, Terrence Martin, Baby Hadleigh McCarthy, Rowan McNichol, William Pinto, Maria Prince, Michael Shaw, David Sparacino, Betty Sparks, 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 Candle will burn in memory of Thomas Hudson, Sr, req'd by Maryann Hudson.

2 candles will burn at the statue of the Blessed Mother

1 in memory of Nikki Kourtis, req'd by Patrice Werner.

1 in memory of Brendan Ryan Gray, req'd by Frank Gray.

1 candle will burn at the statue of St. Joseph in memory of Jim & Rosemary Fitzpatrick. req'd by Fitzpatrick 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 Second Annual Parish Christmas Tree lighting was a great success, thanks to the Women's Guild for providing the refreshments and thanks to all who attended!



We give praise and thanks to God for the graces and blessings He has given us! The Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, is a joyful pause in the midst of our Advent preparation. The word *Gaudete* means “rejoice”, and today’s readings overflow with this invitation to joy, reminding us that the coming of Christ is near. In the first reading, Zephaniah calls us to sing and shout for joy because the Lord is in our midst. The image of God rejoicing over His people like a loving parent captures the tenderness of God’s love. The passage reminds us that our joy does not come from worldly success or fleeting pleasures but from the deep truth that God is with us, actively working to save and restore us. Paul’s letter to the Philippians echoes this call: “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Paul writes these words not from a place of comfort but while imprisoned, showing us that true joy is not dependent on circumstances. It flows from knowing that the Lord is near, that His peace surpasses all understanding, and that we can entrust our worries to Him in prayer. In the Gospel, John the Baptist teaches us that joy and preparation for Christ go hand in hand with action. He challenges his listeners to live lives of generosity, integrity, and fairness. Advent is not just a time to prepare our hearts but also a time to reflect Christ’s love in the world. Sharing our resources, treating others with kindness, and living justly are tangible ways to proclaim the Good News. As we light the rose-colored candle this week, let it remind us that the joy of the Lord is our strength. This joy is not naïve or superficial but deeply rooted in the hope and love that Christ brings. Even amid life’s challenges, we are called to be a people of joy, reflecting God’s light to others. This *Gaudete Sunday*, let us rejoice in the nearness of our Savior, open our hearts to His transforming love, and share His joy with those around us.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!”

May God bless you all.

Please invite someone to Mass today.

St. Philip Neri, pray for us.

Fr. Szparagowski

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the
Church on Monday, January 13th, 9AM to 5PM.



Membership Drive is back by popular demand. Look for flyers in the vestibule this weekend, membership drive through Dec 30th. You can call BJ's directly or send your membership directly to BJ's. Any questions call Linda Pizzi at 215-518-1275

2nd Collection Today – Christmas Flowers



Harper Marie, daughter of Joseph & Danielle Acquaviva, Savannah Lynn, daughter of Patrick Banicki & Kellie Devenney, Alayna Jo, daughter of Mark Camm & Kira Rampone, Damianna Anastatia, daughter of Damian & Nancy D'Angelo and Vance Michael, son of Timothy & Jaclyn Garrett, all were recently baptized her at St. Philip's

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.

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.

Join the St. Monica Club

A Community of Hope & Prayer

Are your loved ones drifting away from the Church? Do you worry they may not find their way back? You're not alone, and there is a way to make a difference. Follow the example of St. Monica – PRAY WITHOUT CEASING! Join us for our next gathering on Jan 28, 2025 at 7PM in the Convent Chapel. Together, we will pray for those we care about, share strategies to show love and support to those struggling with their faith and celebrate the answered prayers. Your presence can be a source of encouragement and strength. Contact Sharon 484-804-1875, please park in front of the garage and



This program 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

Cards are available in the Church Office.

Scrip Cards will soon be available in the vestibule after Masses

enter through the main door.



School News

Our parish maintenance garage roof has been replaced and our gym roof has received two coatings to insure years of protection. The cost was \$100,000.00, only your generosity makes these maintenance projects possible....thank you!



**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
A new organ for our parish!**

We are thrilled to announce that our parish now has a beautiful, refurbished organ to enhance our worship! Our old organ, which served us faithfully for many years, was nearing the end of its life. But through God's providence and the generosity of a parish family, we are blessed with a new organ, including installation and new speakers, fully funded by their charitable donation. This generous family, who wishes to remain anonymous, has shared an extraordinary gift with our parish. Their kindness reflects the great love and charity of God that shines through the hearts of so many in our parish family. I am deeply grateful for this donation, which will allow our music ministry to flourish and bring even greater beauty to our liturgies. Fittingly, this blessing unfolded on the Feast of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians. Inspired by the generosity of this gift and the intercession of St. Cecilia and St. Philip Neri. May our music always glorify the Lord and uplift our parish community. St. Cecilia & St. Philip Neri, pray for us!



Knights of Columbus



Tickets are \$100.00 / Maximum of 400 tickets sold.
 1 grand prize winner of \$10,000 or 25% of all sales
 20 second place winners of \$500 or 1.25% of all sales
 Drawing is March 30, 2025

Proceeds go to support the parish general fund and Knights charities. Tickets will be sold after Masses on Sunday's at the doors of the Church, they are always available in the Church Office, Monday to Friday 8AM to 5PM. Makes a great stocking stuffer!
 Thanks for your support of our parish and the Knights of Columbus charities!

Project Hope

A group of concerned parishioners who are willing to assist others in need of transportation to places within the community. Call Brigid at 267-879-6534.



Save the Date!
 SPN Women's Guild Presents
 Wine tasting with Marc Supsic
 Friday, 1/31/25 at 7PM, SPN School Hall
 Details to follow....



Boys Scout Troop 12 – Tree Sale
Miles Park, Lower Parking Lot
Nov 30th – Dec 22nd
Mon-Fri 5:30PM -9PM
Sat & Sun 9AM -9PM



MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS LANTERNS

The Knights are running their annual Christmas Memorial Lanterns Fundraiser. The lanterns will be placed outside the Church on Christmas Eve, the name of the person to be remembered on the attached bow. The cost is \$25 each. 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!

St. Francis Inn

Please help if you can, we are having a difficult time keeping up with need. Always looking for volunteers, go to volunteers@stfrancisinn.org
 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



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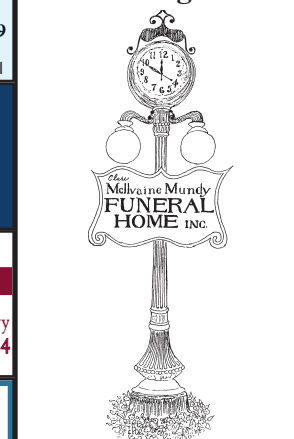
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