

Saint Philip Catholic Parish is a Pennsylvania Charitable Trust.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor
Deacon Joe Allen, Parish Deacon
Mr. Frank Bey, Office Coordinator
Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Faith Formation Director
Ms. Mary Beth Barsh, Music Director
Ms. Dorothy Mancini, Assistant Organist
Mr. David Pilarski, Business Coordinator
Mr. Gary Urbatis, Safe Environment Staff
Ms. Maureen Takach, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Linda Bey, Faith Formation Secretary
Ms. Denise Ball, Faith Formation Staff
Mr. Richard Hufnagel, Maintenance
Mr. Thomas Dembecki, Maintenance
Ms. Pilar Brown, Bulletin Designer

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Philip Farrell, Ascension Rectory

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Patricia Cygrymus, Barbara Hendrick,
Joseph Hoover, Martin Matko,
Richard Musser, Katie Phillips,
David Sammel and Mary Schubert

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Benjamin Bannon, Robert Bertocchi,
Joseph Hoover, Joseph Rynn,
Richard Schubert and Gary Urbatis

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Website: saintphilipparishpgh.com
Email: parishoffice@saintphilipparish.com
Saint Philip Office (412) 922-6300
Faith Formation Office (412) 922-6388
Society of St. Vincent dePaul (412) 444-8140
Guardian Angel Academy (412) 922-4765

CRISIS SUPPORT/SUICIDE PREVENTION
24-Hour Lifeline Dial 988
Resolve Crisis Network 1-888-796-8226

Saint Philip Catholic Parish

The People of God in Pittsburgh, Thornburg, Ingram, and Crafton



Week of February 1, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SAINT PHILIP CATHOLIC PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic Community of Saint Philip Parish, united in faith and empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are firmly committed to promoting full and active participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. We answer the call of the Gospel to bring about the kingdom of justice and peace through worship, education, service, and stewardship.

Saint Philip Church

50 West Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Ascension Church

114 Berry Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Guardian Angel Academy

915 Alice Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Mr. Robert Munz, Principal



CONFSSION

Available Saturdays from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at *Ascension Church*.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: A seminar is required for first-time parents. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 12:15pm at *Saint Philip Church* or at *Ascension Church*. Call the Faith Formation Office at 412-922-6388 for more information.

Matrimony: The Pastor is to be contacted 6-18 months in advance of the requested wedding date. Participation in a Pre-Marriage Program is required. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick: Following a weekend Mass and on the last Saturday of the month at 8:30am at *Ascension Church*.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): Call the Faith Formation Office at 412-922-6388 for more information.

Priesthood/Religious Life: Contact the Pastor for more information.

Victim's Assistance Hot-Line: If you are a person who has been hurt by abuse from clergy or others associated with the Church, the Diocese of Pittsburgh offers assistance with counseling, spiritual direction and referrals to other supportive services.

For information, contact our Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 412-456-3093.

Protecting God's Children — VICTIM HOTLINE: 1-888-808-1235
CHILDLINE: 1-888-932-0313 to report child abuse
Call 911 if a child is in imminent danger.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Our Liturgies are celebrated at both *Saint Philip Church*, 50 West Crafton Avenue, Crafton, and *Ascension Church*, 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh

LOCATION	TIME	PRIEST'S INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 — SAINT JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST			
Ascension	8:00am	Terry Keeley	Pat Keeley
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Alma & Bill Yingling	Gabrielle Yingling
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Jane Graysay	The Graysay & Kosmar Families
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Theresa Davis	Family
Ascension	9:30am	Raymond Killmeyer, Sr.	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	James Michael Witkowsky	Linda & Joe Givvin
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 — THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Helen Bloom Shaeffer	Claire Megyesy
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 — SAINT BLAISE, BISHOP & MARTYR			
Ascension	8:00am	Deceased Members of the Marlinga & Dembecki Families	Tom Dembecki
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Justin Gregory Hudson	Lynn Harris
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 — SAINT AGATHA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR			
Ascension	8:00am	The Dukovich & Ruffalo Families	Rose
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 — MARTYRS OF JAPAN			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Raymond Drozak	The Barekzai Family
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 — BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of Saint Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Amy Naegele	The Bronder Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Francis Anthony Leone	Mother, Dolores; and Sisters, Michele & Donna Leone
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 — FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Jim O'Toole	The O'Toole Family
Ascension	9:30am	Joseph & Louise Rago	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Deceased of the Drozak Family	The Barekzai Family



Notes from the Pastor

Best wishes to you and all our parish members and families for a blessed Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - and a very good 2026!

Living like Jesus

During this Church Year 2026, we're reading and hearing from the Gospel according to Matthew in our Sunday Liturgies. This account of the birth, life, teachings, miracles, death, and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is truly a most remarkable testimony to the Lord. The Gospel according to Matthew has inspired our Christian faith in the hearts and minds of billions of Jesus' disciples, and this Gospel has had a profound influence on human thought and culture for twenty centuries.

Among the many profound messages of Jesus that are found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7 is essential to what we believe and how we live. Then within the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), today we hear the Beatitudes (chapter 5:1-12a) which are at the very heart of Jesus' teaching as well as our Christian faith and life.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus calls everyone who would follow Him to lead lives of holiness and humility, mercy and peace. Jesus calls all of us to focus our minds and hearts on God's ways and life. He calls us to be children of God and to imitate in our own lives all that is divine and holy. It's truly a very high goal that Jesus sets for us, but living in the ways of Jesus will indeed deepen our life in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

It is also very good to read all the teachings found in Matthew's chapters 5, 6 and 7. The Beatitudes are an excellent beginning, but in fact,

all the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount are truly worth our reading, reflection, and meditation often throughout every year. These three chapters only require a few minutes to read, but Jesus' words and teachings are truly important for our discipleship - and inspiring for our daily living.

The Sermon on the Mount teaches us about our being light to others, the importance of God's laws, appreciation of holy marriage, love of enemies and others, promises and oaths, rejecting retaliation, charity and almsgiving, prayer, the Lord's Prayer, fasting and penance, our treasure in heaven, the priority of God, dependence on the goodness of God, not condemning others, the Golden Rule, true discipleship, building a firm foundation upon God, and more.

This year, I hope that each of us and all of us will take time to read the Gospel according to Matthew from its humble beginning to its glorious end. Without any doubt, you - and your faith - will be inspired by this incredible testimony of Christian faith and life that was written in the first century of Christianity and which hands on to us many of the accounts of Jesus of Nazareth whom we recognize and acclaim to be the Son of God, the Messiah, the Risen Lord, and our Savior.

As we continue in these first months of 2026, may we once again resolve to accompany Jesus in our personal prayer and weekly Liturgy - being especially inspired by the Gospel according to Matthew. May we gladly profess our faith in Jesus, and may we live as the Lord calls us to live so that we will be blessed and filled with his divine life always!

Best wishes for a blessed Sunday & a good week!

Best wishes to you and all our members and families for this Sunday and for a blessed 2026! Again, thank you very much for your continued faith, discipleship, dedication, goodness, and generosity - to our parish community, to one another, and to those in need.

Yours, Father Jim Torquato



Catholic Foundation For Greater Pittsburgh †

BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

KEEPING OUR PARISH STRONG IN THE COMING YEARS

For the first time in the 183 year history of our Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, our bishops - first, Bishop David Zubik and now Bishop Mark Eckman - have established a diocesan wide endowment to strengthen the future of parishes and our diocesan church.

This new endowment is called the **Catholic Foundation for Greater Pittsburgh**, and every parish is invited to establish its own endowment within the larger foundation.

Initial efforts for this program have proven successful for the diocese, and in the coming months, Saint Philip Parish will begin our own effort to invite and encourage financial support and savings in our own endowment fund held within the diocesan foundation. Our parish will benefit from higher endowment level dividends that will be directed toward growing and sustaining our parish financial stability in the coming decades.

Further information will be coming to us in the months ahead. As we head into the future, endowment contributions will be most helpful in supporting the ongoing faith, life and stability of our local Catholic community. Thank you for considering a gift (or ongoing gifts) in the coming months and years to our Saint Philip Parish endowment within the **Catholic Foundation for Greater Pittsburgh**. Your continuing generosity will help to keep our parish vital and alive in the years and generations ahead!

What is the World Day for Consecrated Life?

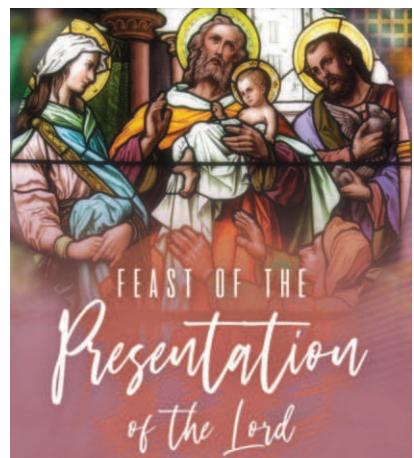
It's a worldwide celebration held on February 2 that coincides with the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.



Consecrated Life

Thank you for your generous financial contributions to
SAINT PHILIP PARISH!

→ ←
Your goodness and participation help to keep our parish alive!





BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 1

Zephaniah 2:3 and 3:12-13;
1 Corinthians 1:26-31;
Matthew 5:1-12

Weekdays

2 Samuel 18-24;
Mark 5-6

Sunday, February 8

Isaiah 58: 7-10;
1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 5:13-16

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND

To deepen your spiritual life this Lent, Reflection booklets and Lenten prayer cards will be available NEXT weekend at the doors of both of our churches. We'll have ONE booklet per family next weekend. Extra copies will be available once every family has had an opportunity to receive their copy.

You'll be welcome to take a Lenten booklet for your own time in prayer - and for the use and benefit of your family members and friends, too!

FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collections & mail-in, January 24-25	-- \$4,833.00
Online donations, January 24-25	-- \$2,290.00
Maintenance donations	-- \$987.00
Religious Education donations	-- \$1,337.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$858,415.50
Parish offertory received since July 1, 2025	-- \$433,643.12
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2025	-- \$31,241.15
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2025	-- \$217.90
General donations since July 1, 2025	-- \$36,297.02

Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses	-- \$6,154.57
Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses	-- \$2,371.13
Average weekly utility expenses	-- \$2,046.80
Average weekly insurance expenses	-- \$1,137.78
Weekly contributions to Guardian Angel Academy	-- \$1,392.25

Parish members -- 2,289	Parish families -- 1,253
Church attendance on January 24-25	-- 358
Sunday envelopes used January 24-25	-- 129
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,052

2026 Parish Appeal Goal	-- \$126,559.50
Parish Appeal received	-- \$0
2026 Parish Appeal Donors	-- 0

February 3 Saint Blaise Day Blessing of Throats

This Tuesday, February 3, Father Torquato, Father Farrell, and Deacon Joe Allen will make the annual Blessing of Throats available on Saint Blaise Day. These are the times to receive the Saint Blaise Blessings. Please arrive a few minutes early or on time.

8:30am at Ascension,
12 noon at Saint Philip,
4:00pm at Saint Philip, and
7:00pm at Ascension.



BLESSING
OF THE
THROAT



Parish News

CALLING ALL BAKERS

The St. Philip Fish Fry is back, and we need your delicious homemade treats for our bake sale. All goodies are welcome, cakes, pies, cupcakes, cookies, fudge, and more.

Drop-off times:

- Tuesday before Ash Wednesday
- Thursdays during Lent, 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Drop-offs take place in Ascension's Connor Hall. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for adding sweetness to our Fish Fry season.



Children's LITURGY

Sundays, February 1 & February 8
at the 9:30am Mass
at Ascension church

Sundays, February 15 & February 22
at the 11:00 Mass
at Saint Philip church

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the persecuted. These are radical words in a world that insists the opposite: blessed are the

wealthy. Blessed are the forceful. Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have what it takes to be radical?

Saint Philip Parish Annual Calendar Party Luncheon

Our *24th Annual Calendar Party Luncheon* will be held **Sunday, March 8** at Bishop Canevin High School. Doors open at 11:30am. Lunch will be served at 1:00pm. The Calendar Party should conclude at 3:30pm. Admission is \$25 and reservations are required.

If you are unable to attend but would like to support this parish fundraiser, you can help us by:

- **Donating a Basket** for the Chinese Auction-
Donating Gift Cards or other items to be used as a Door Prize
- **Helping to set up and/or clean up**
- **Volunteering to work the event** (help sell Chinese Auction Tickets, Table Centerpiece Auction Tickets, 50/50 Raffle Tickets, or help serve lunch)

For reservations or if you're interested in hosting a table, please contact Regina McDonald at 412-771-0667 or Barb Hendrick at 412-608-7752 for more information.



What I have, I give!

OUR 2026 PARISH APPEAL PROGRAM WILL BEGIN SOON!

As all of our members and parishes have done for 50+ years, we will soon begin this year's Parish Appeal Program to contribute our required funding for the operations of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh in 2026. The Parish Appeal allows Bishop Mark Eckman and his staff to continue and oversee and all the offices and programs of our Diocesan Church.

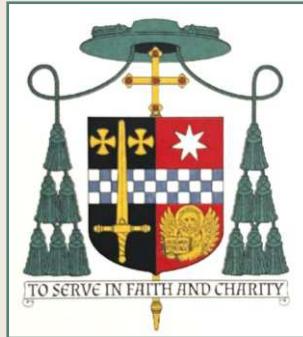
Many of you, our parish members and families, have been supportive of this important program since its beginning. Some parish members are even very, very generous! All the donations received above and beyond our annual goal are retained by Saint Philip Parish for the benefit and operations of our own Catholic community!

Every year, each parish is asked to raise an extra 11% of its income received during the previous year. This extra 11% is our annual Parish Appeal Goal.

For 2026, our Parish Appeal Goal for Saint Philip Parish is again **\$126,559**.

As in past years, I invite every household in our parish to again contribute or pledge at least **\$250** to the Parish Appeal Program this year. If you can contribute \$500, or \$1000, or \$2500 or more, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Contribution and pledge cards will be sent in the postal mail to each of our households in mid- February.

As always, I thank you very much for your participation in our parish community and Liturgy, and I thank you for your financial contributions and support for the benefit and operation of our Diocesan Church of Pittsburgh and our Saint Philip Parish. Your generosity and donations help to keep our parish alive - and help to continue and to grow the Kingdom of God here in our community and in our region!



We offer our sympathy to the families of **John McCambridge** and **Josephine A. Maurer** who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns *in Loving Memory of Si et Rita Pfender*
Offered by: Barbara Pfender

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns *in Loving Memory of Kenneth A. Ferretti, Sr.*
Offered by: Anita Okraszewski

ADVERTISER of the Week

ROBERT P. BOTT, D.M.D.

Thank you for helping to underwrite the production of our weekly Parish Bulletin.

A Final Gift to the Parish Please support

SAINT PHILIP PARISH
by including the community in your will and estate planning.

Thank you!

Connect with FLOCKNOTE!



To register, contact our parish office, OR text **stphilippa** to **84576**, OR visit www.stphilipchurch1.flocknote.com.



Faith Formation

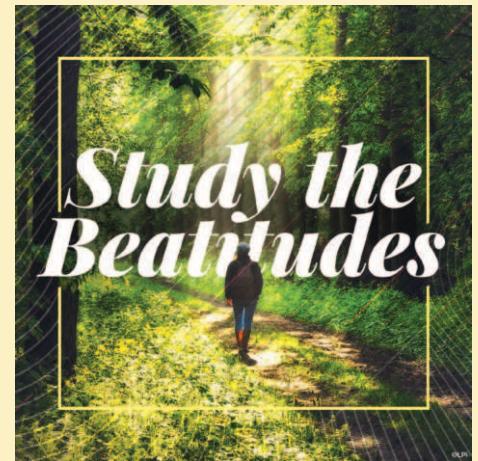
Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Director of Faith Formation
412-922-6388 m.garfold@saintphilipparish.com

REFLECTIONS FROM MARYANN: The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time is The Beatitudes from Matthew's Gospel. Each of the Beatitudes calls us to a deep trust and dependance upon God. In the book, Good News in Bad Times the author John Lozano tells the following story by Anthony DeMello:

In a distant land there was an elderly man who lived in the countryside. One day his son captured a wild horse. All those around him said, "*That is Good News*," to which the elderly man replied, "*Maybe*." The next day the horse escaped. Everyone said, "*We are sorry. That is Bad News*," to which the elderly man replied, "*Maybe*." It turned out that the horse was the leader of a herd and returned to the stable with the entire herd of horses. All those who witnessed this exclaimed, "*What Good News!*" Once again, the man replied, "*Maybe*." Later that week the man's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses and was thrown to the ground and broke his leg. Everyone said, "*That is Bad News*," to which the elderly man replied, "*Maybe*." Several weeks later the army entered the village and conscripted all the young men for a fierce battle that was soon to take place. Seeing the man's son with a broken leg, they left him behind. Everyone exclaimed, "*That is Good News*." Finally, the elderly man said the following: "*Good News, Bad News...Who Knows?*"

John Lozano notes, "*in looking back on our lives, we can all recognize events that initially looked good or bad but played out very differently in the long run. Each event is a moment of grace, an invitation to faith, an invitation to trust that God is at work in each individual life.*" Trusting that God is working in our lives allows us to be poor in spirit (humble); meek (generous to others); merciful (offering forgiveness); clean of heart (gospel focused); peacemakers (patient and kind); persecuted for the sake of righteousness (courageous); and mourners (invitation to faith).

Let us try to live the beatitudes throughout this week as we become aware of this week's moments of grace and place our trust in God.



Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult
you and persecute you and utter
every kind of evil against you
[falsely] because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your
reward will be great in heaven.

— Matthew 5:3-12

WEATHER ALERT

WEATHER RELATED

CANCELLATIONS: If winter weather causes changes to our schedule, we'll share updates on KDKA and WPXI.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: Due to snow and hazardous weather, our Faith Formation Family Game Night scheduled for Monday, January 26 was cancelled. The event will be rescheduled for a Monday evening during Lent and announced in an upcoming bulletin.

On **Monday, February 9**, all students from pre-school through 8th grade will spend time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Catechists will lead age-appropriate prayers and reflections, and families will gather for Benediction at 7:35pm in Saint Philip church.

On **Monday, February 16**, during our regular session, Faith Formation will present the Diocese-mandated program, *Empowering God's Children: Educating Children for Personal Safety*, provided by the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Our Confirmation students will be assisting at the Parish Lenten Fish Fry. Schedules have been sent to all candidates, please take a moment to greet them and encourage them on their journey.

NEW THIS YEAR: Weekly Sunday Gospel reflection videos from Pflaum Press will now be available for our pre-school, kindergarten, and

first-grade classes as part of our Children's Liturgy resources.

BAPTISM: A Baptism Session for new parents will be held on **Wednesday, February 11** at 6:30pm in the Administration Building (114 Berry Street). To begin the baptism process, call 412-922-6388.

KITCHEN TABLE MINISTRY: Our next Drop-In Sunday is **February 1** following the 9:30am Mass in Ascension's Conner Hall. Enjoy coffee, donuts, health information, and free blood pressure screenings. All are welcome.

GROUNDING TECHNIQUES

The *Holy, Healthy, Happy Aging* presentation is now available to view on the Saint Philip Crafton Facebook page. 30-Second Anxiety Grounding Reset (from Catholic Counselors):

- Press both feet gently into the floor
- Inhale slowly through your nose for 4 seconds; exhale through your mouth for 4 seconds
- As you exhale, pray quietly: "Lord, I am safe with you."
- Name one thing you can see, one thing you can feel, and one thing you can hear
- Repeat: "Lord, I am safe with you."

Soup, Salad and Speaker Series



10th Anniversary

Join us this Lent for seven delicious homemade soups, inspiring talks, desserts, and warm fellowship.

Wednesdays beginning February 25
6:00pm to 8:00pm • Ascension Church Hall

Come and bring a friend!

SAINT PHILIP PARISH



We don't know who will play in this year's Super Bowl yet, but we do know the game is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2026 between the AFC and the NFC. We are having a Super Bowl Pool. The cost is \$50 per block. There are 100 blocks in the pool. We will have 4 payouts:

1st Quarter score - **\$375**
2nd Quarter score - **\$750**
3rd Quarter score - **\$375**
Final score - **\$1,000**

The names and numbers will be randomly drawn in advance. You will receive a copy of the completed pool prior to the Super Bowl.

Don't wait too long, this always sells out!!!

Purchase a block for yourself or partner with a friend. Please fill out the form below and return to the parish office. **Thank you.**

SAINT PHILIP SUPER BOWL POOL

Square(s) @ \$50 each

Total enclosed _____

I would like to name my block(s)

Name

Phone number

Email



Monday, February 16

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Ascension Church Conner Hall
114 Berry Street**

Pancake and Sausage Supper,
Music with DJ John Wiggins, Dancing
Coloring and Word Search Contest,
Lenten Trivia Contest, Fun,
Fellowship and more. *All ages welcome!*

For reservations, complete the form below
and return it to the Parish Office.

Name:

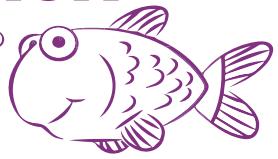
Telephone:

Email:

No. of Adults:

No. of Children:

The 2026 Saint Philip Parish Fish Fry is coming soon!



With Ash Wednesday scheduled for **February 18**, it's time to get ready and begin our preparations for the Saint Philip Parish Annual Lenten Fish Fry!

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us for these excellent dinners and gatherings on Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent through April 3.

Each Fish Fry evening will be 4:00pm until 7:00pm on Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent, including Good Friday!

Join us for dinner this Lent, and if you and your family members can lend a hand, or two, please join our team of Fish Fry volunteers. Call the parish office this week, and speak with our parish staff about your interest in volunteering!

New volunteers are most welcome to join us in the weekly fun of this largest social event and fundraiser for our parish community.

We can always use your additional assistance in these areas:



Preparing Conner Hall
Advance food preparation
Fish Fry Day preparation
Kitchen assistance
Assembly line assistance
Dinner service assistance
Fish Fry cleanup crew
7:00pm cleanup crew
Hospitality crew
Publicity team



Saint Philip Parish

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

A PARISH SURVEY DURING LENT

You may recall that in 2023, our Catholic Diocese conducted a survey in every parish to assess the faith and discipleship of each community. In keeping with the program conducted by a Philadelphia consulting group - the Catholic Leadership Institute - every parish will repeat the same survey this coming Lent to gauge how well our parish faith and life are faring in 2026.

This survey is called the Disciple Makers Index. It will be available to all parish members from Ash Wednesday, February 18 through Palm Sunday, March 29. The survey will measure our parish faith, life and discipleship today - as well as the progress of our ongoing parish pastoral planning and growth in these past three years.

As you know, our parish has been participating in the Next Generation Parish Program of our Diocese. Among our Saint Philip Parish developments since 2023 are these:

- Additional Faith Formation programs for children, families, and adults;
- Initiation of our new Ladies of Charity Conference;
- Initiation of our new Mental Health 'Kitchen Table' Ministry;
- Prayers before each Sunday Liturgy;
- Daily Reflection booklets for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter;

- Prayer and spiritual books offered to our community each year;
- Addition of new Saint Vincent dePaul Conference members and associates;
- Celebration of annual parish events including Mardi Gras, our summer Barbecue, our September parish picnic, our Lenten Speaker series, our parish Fish Fry evenings, and seasonal Bingo gatherings.

Our new programs and events have been added to all of our existing programs which strengthen and deepen the Catholic life and discipleship of all our parish members and families. Our thanks go to all of our members and staff who've helped to develop and further our parish mission as disciples of Jesus and as the People of God!

Every parish member is asked to complete this easy survey during Lent. All submissions will be kept confidential. Only aggregate results will be shared with the pastor and staff. More information will be provided in coming weeks regarding the location of this year's survey.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

— Psalm 51:10



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

The Housing Choice Voucher program, better known as Section 8, allows renters with a voucher to pay a percentage of their income, usually 30%, to rent any housing unit as long as the landlord is willing to participate in the program. The rest of the rent is paid by the federal government. This program allows people the affordability of subsidized housing, while having the flexibility of not being tied to a traditional subsidized housing community.

The Allegheny County Housing Section 8 waiting list lottery is opening for a very short time from Wednesday, February 4 at 6:00am to Thursday, February 5 at 11:00pm. The waiting list does not open often, so this is a rare opportunity to get a chance to obtain a Section 8 voucher. Only one application per household will be accepted. Submitting an application does not guarantee that you will receive a voucher - it just guarantees that you will be placed in the lottery. All applications will be placed into a randomized lottery and 2,000 applications will be chosen to be put on the 2026 voucher waiting list.

In order to apply, you must have an email address, your social security number, and your annual income. For a household of one, your annual income must be no more than \$37,600; for a household of two, no more than \$42,950; for a household of three, no more than \$48,300; and for a household of four, no more than \$53,650. For more information, or to apply, visit the Allegheny County Housing Authority online at: <https://www.achsng.com>.

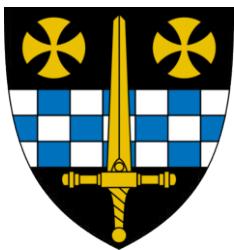
We are seeking donations of washers, gas or electric dryers, and stoves, as these items are often requested by neighbors in need. If you have one in good working condition, please call or text 412-444-8140 or email svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com to arrange a pickup.

This past week, your generous donations enabled us to provide a single mother with a bed, clothing vouchers and a service call for her dryer; a woman was given a clothing voucher; a single mother was given two beds; a woman was assisted with \$400 toward rent; two single mothers were each assisted with \$400 toward rent; and another single mother was given \$449 toward rent. Thank you for your continued support of our friends in need!

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may use the poor boxes, mail your gift to the parish office (Attn: SVdP) at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate online at the link provided. All donations stay within our conference to assist friends in need and cover necessary operational expenses.

LADIES OF CHARITY

The Ladies of Charity invite all women of the parish to join us for our upcoming gatherings in a spirit of fellowship and service. Our monthly meeting will be held on **February 12** at 1:00pm in the LOC Meeting Room on the St. Philip campus. On **February 21** at 9:30am, we will meet in the St. Philip cafeteria to assemble Blessings in a Bag for the residents of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, preparing lunch and dinner for all 60 men who reside there. On **February 26** at 10:00am, we will gather again in the St. Philip cafeteria to make sandwiches for Operation Safety Net; donations of individually wrapped snacks, soups, hot chocolate, or monetary gifts are gratefully welcomed. For more information, please call 412-256-8067, and your call will be returned within 24 hours.



Around the Diocese and Community

BISHOP CANEVIN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Bishop Canevin High School (2700 Morange Rd., Pittsburgh 15205) is offering a \$2,000.00 Catholic Commitment Scholarship for all incoming Catholic elementary graduate students. Bishop Canevin offers many advanced courses and extracurricular activities.

Enroll Now! Bishop Canevin High School Placement Test on **February 7** at 9:00am; and Spring Open House on **March 1** at 1:00pm. Contact Bishop Canevin at 412-922-7400 or bishopcanevin.org for more information.

BIRTHRIGHT OF PITTSBURGH

Birthright is seeking volunteers to provide compassion, dignity, and practical help to moms and their babies. As a volunteer, you can make a meaningful difference by offering your time, a listening ear, and encouragement. Opportunities range from client support and mentoring to administrative help, education, and outreach there is a place for every heart and skill. No prior experience is necessary. We provide thorough training and ongoing support to ensure you feel confident and prepared. Two-hour weekly or occasional shifts make a real difference. Call 412-621-1988 or email hope@birthrightpittsburgh.org.

PRINCESS TEA PARTY AT CANEVIN HS

The 12th Annual Princess Tea Party, hosted by Team Mahalo, will be held **Saturday, March 21** at Bishop Canevin High School, with sessions from 10:30am to noon or 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Admission is \$40 per princess (ages 3-9), with up to two adults free. Space is limited, so early reservations

are encouraged. Each princess receives a door-prize ticket, hair styling, painted nails, make-up, a jewel, a fairy-wand craft, and tea (pink lemonade) with a sandwich and cookie. Guests can meet the Team Mahalo Princesses, enjoy story time with the Fairy Godmother, and browse a kid-friendly auction. **Preregister by March 13** at 412-251-3933 or mahaloteaparty2011@gmail.com. All proceeds support CURESEARCH's fight against childhood cancer.

MAGNIFICAT PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN

Join us on **Saturday, March 7**, 9:00am to noon, for a prayer-filled breakfast at the Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Twp. In addition to a delicious breakfast, praise and worship, fun and fellowship, the featured speaker will be Bishop Mark A. Eckman. Registration is \$35 and includes music by Living Praise, speaker, and breakfast. For more information, to register, or to download a mail-in registration, visit www.magnificatpittsburgh.org.

ARM NEWS

Addiction Recovery Ministry is holding a sober, family-friendly Super Bowl Party on **Sunday, February 8**, at 5:30pm in the John Paul I Center in Sharpsburg. Snacks and drinks will be provided but you are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert. For more information, contact Rosemarie at 412-378-9290.

HELP FOR MARRIAGES IN DISTRESS

The weekend program Retrouvaille (Rediscovery) will be held locally **February 13-15** to support and assist married couples who are currently experiencing difficulties and distress. The weekend is conducted by other married couples who hope to encourage communication, healing, and intimacy among the couples in attendance. For confidential information, call 412-277-3434 or email 3041R@HelpOurMarriage.org. Please contact the coordinators this week!



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