

# Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

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

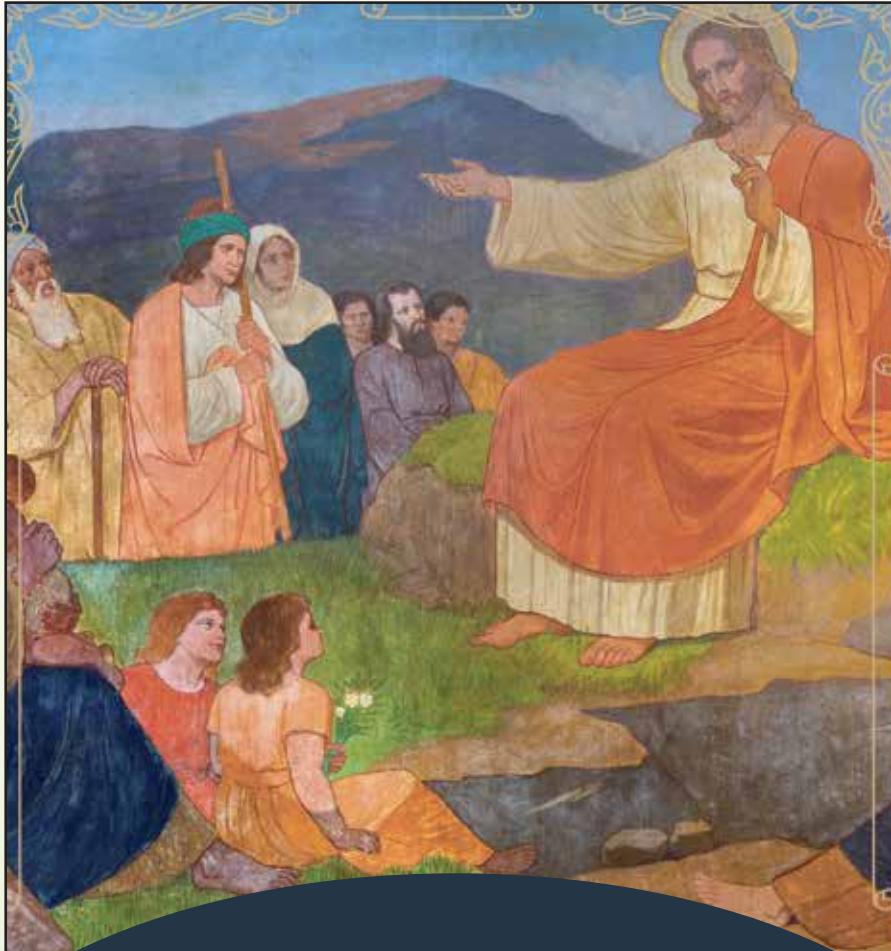
Benjamin Bannon, Robert Bertocchi,  
Joseph Hoover, Joseph Rynn,  
Richard Schubert and Gary Urbatis

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
Website: [saintphilipp Parishphg.com](http://saintphilipp Parishphg.com)  
Email: [parishoffice@saintphilipp Parish.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintphilipp Parish.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



*Week of February 8, 2026*

**FIFTH 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
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 — BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>			
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
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 — FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
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
<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Dennis & Bridget Maher	Maher Family
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 — SAINT SCHOLASTICA</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Richard, Audrey & Valentino Nania	Amy Buchman
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 — OUR LADY OF LOURDES</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Metro & Mary Novolselski	Ray & Paula Butter
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Fr. H. Michael Kernan & Fr. Bob Herrmann	Rose Dukovich
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Regis, Mary B. and Dorothy McDonald	McDonald Family
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 — SAINTS CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of Saint Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	2:00pm	Wedding: Zachary M. Cortese and Meredith N. Neupauer	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Fannie Carson	David & Tamara Dulick
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Anthony Michalski	Ruth & Barb
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 — SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Kerovin Paul	
Ascension	9:30am	The Schuler Families	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Zane Bloom	Cassie Mishkin



# Notes from the Pastor

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

Light for our community and for the world

**During the Christmas season**, we celebrated that Jesus is the Light of the World sent from God the Father to scatter the darkness of this world and to share divine light with humanity.

**As I like to remind everyone**, Jesus truly is the Light of the World in that:

- 1.) He shows us who God is as the loving Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- 2.) He shows us who we are as the very children of God; and
- 3.) He shows us the path of life so that, following Jesus' way, we will be guided home to the very presence and life of Almighty God.

**For these three reasons - and for many more**, we can and should all be grateful for the divine light that Jesus continues to share with us through His Holy Spirit each and every day! Without the light of Christ, humanity would be lost in near total darkness. Without the light of Christ, life on this earth would be terribly hard to endure. We'd be lost in a world of sin, vice, violence, and chaos.

**As such, it's so very important** for all of us (and each of us) to keep the Lord's light shining brightly!

**In today's Gospel according to Matthew**, Jesus calls us - His disciples - the "light of the world." We are all meant to carry the divine light of Christ to many others wherever we are so that they too might know the life, goodness, love, and holiness of God.

**We also have the sacred responsibility** of sharing the Lord's light with our younger generations in our families, in our homes, and in our neighborhoods and parish. Without Jesus' light, the darkness creeps back into our lives and into our society - and the darkness never leads to anything good.

**During these weeks**, the daylight continues to lengthen as we head toward spring. May we always keep in mind the importance of light in our world and in our daily lives.

**May we also remember the importance of Jesus' divine light** in our personal lives, in our families, in our communities, and in our world. Rather than only appreciating the light of Christ Jesus that's been given us, may we all do our best to keep Jesus' light shining for everyone in our families and in our parish. May we all shine with - and share with others - the divine light of Christ which will illuminate our way to eternal salvation!

Best wishes for a blessed Sunday and 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



# 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.

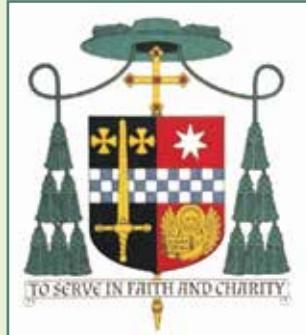
Many of you, our parish members and families, have been supportive of this important program since its beginning. Some parish members are even very, very generous! All the donations received above and beyond our annual goal are retained by Saint Philip Parish for the benefit and operations of our own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



Let the light of Christ  
that we carry within us  
drive away the darkness  
of fear and sadness.



*Love Life.  
Respect Life.*



*As Catholic Christians,  
we respect all the  
people of God  
pre-born children,  
young children, young  
adults, all adults and  
seniors, moms, dads,  
grandparents, and  
everyone!*

*Like Jesus, may we be  
good and caring toward  
all individuals of every  
age – in the name of  
Almighty God!*



## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, February 8

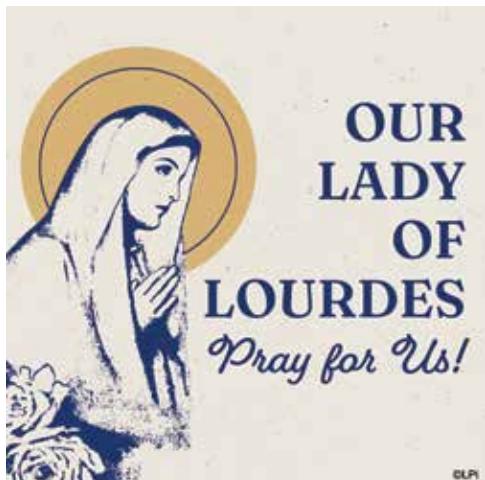
Isaiah 58: 7-10;  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5;  
Matthew 5:13-16

### Weekdays

1 Kings 8-12;  
Mark 6-8

### Sunday, February 15

Sirach 15: 15-20;  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10;  
Matthew 5:17-37



Thank you for your generous financial contributions to

## SAINT PHILIP PARISH!

Your goodness and participation help to keep our parish alive!

## FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collections & mail-in, Jan. 31 & Feb. 1	-- \$9,109.00
Online donations, Jan. 31 & Feb. 1	-- \$2,223.00
Maintenance donations	-- \$363.00
Religious Education donations	-- \$90.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$858,415.50
Parish offertory received since July 1, 2025	-- \$447,125.73
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2025	-- \$31,241.15
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2025	-- \$217.90
General donations since July 1, 2025	-- \$37,497.02

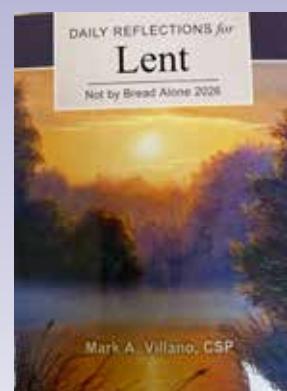
Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses	-- \$6,154.57
Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses	-- \$2,371.13
Average weekly utility expenses	-- \$2,046.80
Average weekly insurance expenses	-- \$1,137.78
Weekly contributions to Guardian Angel Academy	-- \$1,392.25

Parish members	-- 2,289	Parish families	-- 1,253
Church attendance on Jan. 31 & Feb. 1			-- 594
Sunday envelopes used Jan. 31 & Feb. 1			-- 237
Total households receiving envelopes			-- 1,052

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

## Lenten Reflection booklets available this weekend

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



**You're 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!



# 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

**Sunday, February 8**

9:30am Mass at Ascension church

**February 15 and February 22**

11:00am Mass at Saint Philip church

## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Salt without flavor is no longer salt. Light that illuminates nothing is no longer light. As Christians, we must be what we have been made to be. So think about it, carefully: what stands between you and being who you were made to be?

## Saint Philip Parish Annual Calendar Party Luncheon

Our *24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Join us for our annual Parish Mardi Gras celebration on **Monday, February 16** from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in Ascension's Conner Hall. Enjoy a pancake and sausage supper, music from our DJ, a lively dance floor, a coloring contest, Lent Trivia, and more. **This evening is open to all ages and all members of the Parish.** See page 10 for the registration form.



*Support our  
ADVERTISERS!*

# Lent 2026 Soup, Salad and Speaker Series



## Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

All of our parish members, families, and neighbors are invited and welcome to join us during these five Lenten evenings for a meal, for fellowship, for prayer, and for an inspiring spiritual reflection.

*NO reservations are required!*

**Wednesdays 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
Ascension Church • Father Conner Hall

**“Create in me, O Lord, a new heart”**

**February 25 — Father Joseph Mele**

*Create in Me a Christian Heart*

**March 4 — Deacon Andy White**

*Create in Me a Grateful Heart*

**March 11 — Laetitia Bridges**

*Create in Me a Forgiving Heart*

**March 18 — Deacon Michael Fekete**

*Create in Me a Servant’s Heart*

**March 25 — Lynda McFarland**

*Create in Me an Intentional Heart*



We offer our sympathy to the family of **Ann A. McKee** who entered into eternal life. Please keep her in your prayers.

## Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns *In Loving Memory of McDonald, Auth & Weber Families*  
Offered by The McDonald Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns *In Loving Memory of Pauline Balchus & Son, Donald*  
Offered by Bill & Marilyn Nizinski



**FACAROS FOOT AND ANKLE**

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

## DONATE ONLINE

### Online Giving Update

Our online giving platform has transitioned from We Share to ParishSOFT by Ministry Brands.

If you were previously enrolled, your login info remains the same.

New donors, scan the QR or visit:  
<https://giving.myparishsoft.io/app/giving/saintphilipchurch>

*Thank you for your continued support!*





# Faith Formation

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

**REFLECTIONS FROM MARYANN:** In the First Reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Prophet Isaiah invites us to “*share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own.*” We remember however, that we can not give what we do not have. We are invited to feed ourselves first in order to share with the hungry.

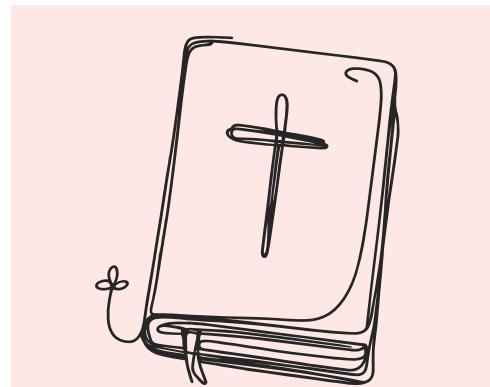
It's the time of year when we are invited to feed our body, mind and spirit. Our theme this Lent is, “*Create in me a new heart, O God.*” As we approach Lent, we can “*give up*” things but perhaps this Lent we can “*get things.*” It's time for a change. It's time to feed our body, mind and spirit so that we can share with others. It's time to look at participating in our parish in a new way where we can take some refreshment for our spirit and bread to nourish our spiritual life.

This Lent, consider participating in one of Saint Philip Parish programs listed below:

- Soup, Salad and Speaker Series begins **February 25** from 6:oopm to 8:oopm. Enjoy home-made soup with bread & salad followed by a speaker and dessert.
- Stations of the Cross **each Friday in Lent**. Check bulletin for schedule.
- Ladies of Charity sandwich making for the homeless on **February 26** at 10:00am on Saint Philip campus.
- Parish Fish Fry **each Friday during Lent** from 4:oopm to 7:oopm in Ascension's Conner Hall.
- Join a small faith group and reflect upon Lenten Gospels. Call 412-922-6388 for information.
- Read and reflect upon the Lenten booklets provided by the parish.

Let this year be the most meaningful Lent ever. Consider participating in one of the many Parish Lenten Offerings.

**FAITH FORMATION NEWS:** Faith Formation Family Night for January 26 was postponed due to weather. It has been rescheduled for **April 13** at Saint Philip campus.



## A PAUSE FOR RENEWAL

January can feel discouraging after the excitement of New Year's resolutions, but God doesn't work on a calendar. It's never too late for a fresh start and sometimes all it takes is a simple pause in your day. A quick journaling reset can help. Reflect on these prompts:

- What has felt heavy or draining lately?
- What has brought even a small sense of peace or connection?
- How do I want to show up for myself this week, not perfectly, but faithfully?

Listen to your heart and to where God is leading you. Courtesy of the Catholic Counselors website.

## WEATHER ALERT

### WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS:

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

On **Monday, February 9**, Faith Formation will include some time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for each of the children in pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Catechists will provide prayers and reflections for each grade level. Parents and children will celebrate Benediction at 7:35pm in Saint Philip church.

Faith Formation will present The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh Program: *Empowering God's Children: Educating Children for Personal Safety* on **Monday, February 23** during the regular Faith Formation session. This program is mandated by the diocese.

Confirmation students will help with the Parish Lenten Fish Fry. Schedules have been sent to each Confirmation candidate. Please feel free to greet the students and congratulate them on their journey.

Saint Philip Confirmation is scheduled for **Saturday, April 25** with Bishop Mark Eckman. If any high school student or adult would like to participate in the Sacrament, please contact the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388. Preparation is minimal and available online.

**BAPTISM:** A Baptism session for new parents will be held on **Wednesday, February 11** at 6:30pm in the Administration Building located at 114 Berry Street. If you would like to have your child baptized, please call 412-922-6388 to begin the process.



**KITCHEN TABLE MINISTRY NEWS:** Our next Drop-In Sunday is **February 8** following the 9:30am Mass in Ascension's Conner Hall. Come join us for coffee, donuts, general health information and blood pressure screenings. All are welcome.



## 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.

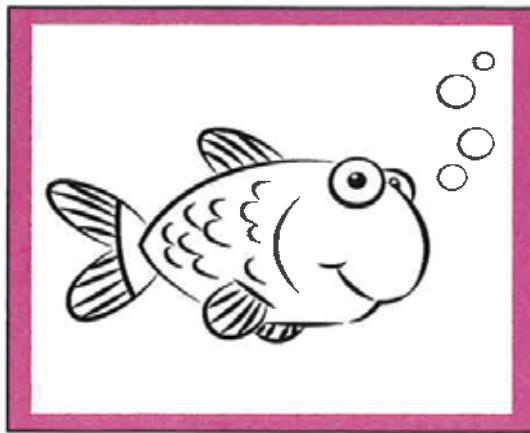
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Children: \_\_\_\_\_



# Saint Philip Catholic Parish

*at Ascension Church*

114 Berry Street, 15205

## 2026 FISH FRY MENU

**JUMBO FISH SANDWICH ----- \$10.00**

**FISH DINNER ----- \$13.00**

*Jumbo Fish sandwich, fries, coleslaw*

**BAKED FISH DINNER ----- \$14.00**

*Cod baked in OJ, fries, coleslaw, roll*

**JUMBO SHRIMP DINNER ----- \$14.00**

*5 Shrimp, fries, coleslaw, roll*

**CRABCAKE DINNER ----- \$14.00**

*3 Homemade Crabcakes, fries, coleslaw, roll*

**SEAFOOD PLATTER ----- \$15.00**

*Fish, 2 Shrimp, Crabcake, fries, coleslaw, roll*

**MACARONI & CHEESE Small ----- \$4.00**

**Large ----- \$8.00**

**HALUSKI Small ----- \$4.00**

**Large ----- \$8.00**

**SOUP OF THE WEEK Small ----- \$4.00**

**Large (*to go, cold*) - \$8.00**

**GRILLED CHEESE ----- \$3.00**

**FRENCH FRIES ----- \$3.00**

**CHEESE SAUCE ----- \$1.00**

**BEVERAGES ----- \$1.00**

*Eat in or Take out*

**4:00-7:00 pm**

**Ash Wednesday &  
Fridays of Lent**

+++

**Good Friday**

**3:00-7:00 pm**



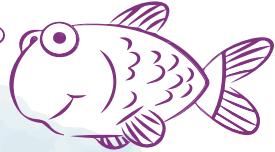
**Assorted desserts are available  
in our bakery section!**

Attention customers with food allergies:

please be aware that our food may contain  
or come into contact with common allergens –  
such as dairy, eggs, wheat, soybeans, tree nuts,  
sesame, peanuts, fish, shellfish, or wheat.



# The 2026 Saint Philip Parish Fish Fry is coming soon!

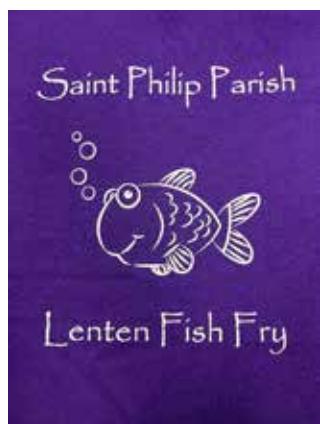


With Ash Wednesday approaching on February 18, we're gearing up for the Saint Philip Parish Annual Lenten Fish Fry!

**Mark your calendars and plan to join us** for delicious dinners and warm community gatherings on Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent through April 3, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm including Good Friday.

**This beloved parish tradition depends on many helping hands.** If you or your family can volunteer this year, please call the parish office and let our staff know you're interested. New volunteers are especially welcome to join the fun and fellowship of our largest parish social event and fundraiser.

We can always use your additional assistance in these areas:



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

**Your time and talent make this event possible,** thank you for being part of it. Call the parish office this week, and speak with our parish staff about volunteering!





# 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



## LADIES OF CHARITY

On Saturday, January 24, several women of the parish, along with one of our youth, joined the Ladies of Charity to prepare "Blessings in a Bag" meals for the residents of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. Each bag included a sandwich, soup, chips, homemade cookies, fruit, pudding, and a slice of friendship bread. A heartfelt thank you to Noblestown Giant Eagle for generously donating bread, fruit, chips, and pudding.



Our next gathering is **Saturday, February 21** at 9:30 am in the Saint Philip campus cafeteria. All are welcome to join us in this work of service. For more information, call 412-256-8067 or email [ladiesofcharitysaintphilip@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesofcharitysaintphilip@gmail.com).

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

If you, or someone you know, is in need of a furnace repair or replacement that you cannot afford, there are resources that can help.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) crisis grants can be used to fix or replace broken heating equipment. Applications will be processed in 10 business days or less depending on whether you are facing an emergency situation. **Applications must be submitted prior to April 10** and the grant amounts range from \$200 to \$1,000. You must apply for a crisis grant through one of the Allegheny County Assistance Offices. The closest one is located at Piatt Place,

301 Fifth Avenue, Suite 470, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. The phone number for the office is 412-565-2146.

Some weatherization programs offer repair and replacement services. For a list of local weatherization programs and the services, visit [paz11.org](http://paz11.org) and use the search bar in the middle of the page to search for weatherization programs.

For eligible homeowners that live in Allegheny County, but outside of the City of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Home Improvement Loan Program offers no-interest loans that range from \$2,000 to \$18,000 to fund various home repairs, including repair and replacement of heating systems. Visit: [www.alleghenycounty.us/ahilp](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/ahilp) to learn more.

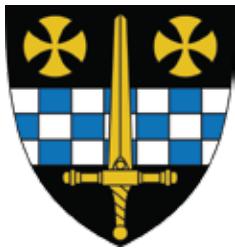
Lastly, some utility companies offer emergency repair and replacement assistance to their customers. Depending on whether you heat with electric or gas, check with your utility provider to see if it offers any such programs.

We are in need of donations of washers, gas and electric dryers, and gas and electric stoves, as these items are frequently requested by our neighbors in need. If you have one that is in good, working condition, please contact us at 412-444-8140 or [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com) to arrange a pickup.

This past week, your generous donations enabled us to provide a woman with \$300 toward her rent; a man was given emergency food; a woman was given a vacuum; and a man was given a bus pass. Thanks so much for your generous and ongoing support!

## CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB OF PITTSBURGH

The Catholic Alumni Club offers single Catholics 21+ a welcoming space for fellowship, faith, and fun. **Co-ed softball (O'Hara Twp.) and tennis (Moore Park)** leagues are now recruiting players of all skill levels. CAC also hosts dinners, retreats, trips, mini golf, canoeing, volleyball, and more. To apply, visit [www.cacpittsburgh.org](http://www.cacpittsburgh.org), or email [CACSoftball@yahoo.com](mailto:CACSoftball@yahoo.com) or call 412-341-4070 (option 4).



# Around the Diocese and Community

## HELP FOR MARRIAGES IN DISTRESS

Retrouvaille will be held **February 13-15** to support couples experiencing difficulties. Confidential info: 3041R@HelpOurMarriage.org or 412-277-3434. Please contact coordinators this week.

## DAY OF REFLECTION

Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center hosts an Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection on **February 18**, 11:00am to 3:00pm. Includes reflections, lunch, prayer, confessions, and Mass with ashes. \$40 per person. Register at 412-381-7676.

## EXPLORE BISHOP CANEVIN HS

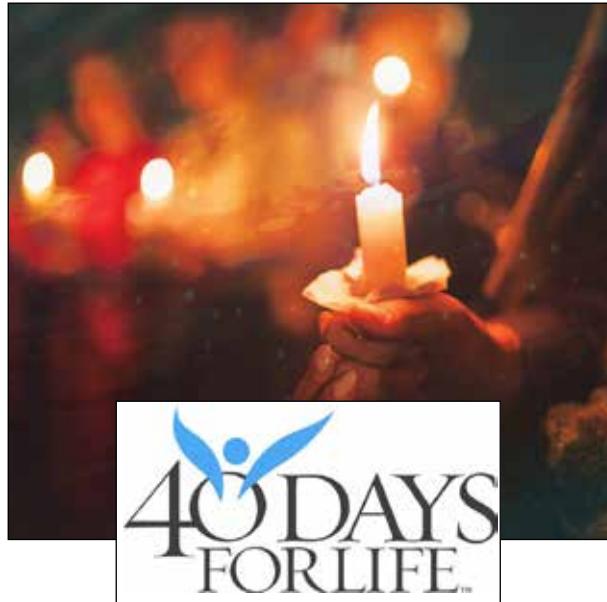
RSVP for Open House: Families with students in grades 5 - 11 are invited to a drop in tour of our school to meet faculty, staff, students, and parents to discover all that Bishop Canevin High school has to offer! To RSVP, please visit <https://bishopcanevin.org/open-house>.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN

Join us **Saturday, March 7**, 9:00am to noon at the Marriott North, Cranberry Twp. Speaker: Bishop Mark A. Eckman. \$35 includes breakfast, music, and program. Details and registration: [magnificatpittsburgh.org](http://magnificatpittsburgh.org).

## PRINCESS TEA PARTY AT CANEVIN HS

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Princess Tea Party is **March 21** with sessions at 10:30am or 1:00pm. \$40 per princess (ages 3-9); up to two adults free. Includes princess activities, treats, and a kid-friendly auction. Preregister by March 13: email [mahaloteaparty2011@gmail.com](mailto:mahaloteaparty2011@gmail.com) or call 412-251-3933. Proceeds support CURESEARCH.



From **February 18 to March 29**, you're invited to join other Christians for *40 Days for Life* - *40 days of prayer and fasting* for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

If you'd like more information, and especially if you'd like to volunteer, contact: Nikki at [nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com](mailto:nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com).

## KICK-OFF EVENT:

**Tuesday, February 17:** Join us for Holy Mass at Divine Mercy Parish (Epiphany Church), celebrated by Bishop William Waltersheid at 6:00pm. A Candlelight Eucharistic Procession to Planned Parenthood immediately following Mass! Procession ends in front of PP (it doesn't return to the church), so it is advisable to park near PP and walk to the church for Mass.



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