



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: saintphilipparishpggh.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



Week of February 15, 2026

**SIXTH 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



CONFESSION

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 (OCA): 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: 1-800-932-0313 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, FEBRUARY 14 — SAINTS CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP			
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
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 — SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	50 th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Kerovin Paul	
Ascension	9:30am	The Schuler Families	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Zane Bloom	Cassie Mishkin
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Bill & Marie Reife	Sue & Mike Rust
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Special Intention of Bishop William Winter	Patricia Farley
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 — ASH WEDNESDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	12:00pm	Service with Ashes	
Saint Philip	4:00pm	Service with Ashes	
Ascension	7:00pm	Kenneth A. Ferretti, Sr.	Anita Okraszewski
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 — THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Kerovin Paul	
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 — FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Mary Jo & James Romano	Friends
Saint Philip	8:30am	Stations of the Cross	
Ascension	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross	
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 — SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Rose Camarda	Family
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Evelyn Moses	MaryAnn Gilliland & Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	The Zunic Family	Jane Beistel
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 — FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Thomas A. Ogden, Sr.	Pauline Ogden
Ascension	9:30am	Cynthia Laughlin	Family of Cynthia
Saint Philip	11:00am	Marie Maurer	Daughter, Louise & Kevin Gargis



Notes from the Pastor

Best wishes to you and all our parish members and families for a blessed Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - and a very good Season of Lent!

Following the ways of God

Whenever we purchase a new computer or some other technology, we usually need to begin its use by programming it - or by having someone else program it for us. Then after we receive the necessary instructions and have everything arranged, the device we've programmed will hopefully function well without too many problems.

Our own lives are very similar. When we're infants and young children, all of us depend on our parents and grandparents to instruct us in all the good ways of our faith and life. We don't arrive on our delivery day with instructions already programmed into our minds. In fact, we are entirely "blank slates" who need to learn everything we need to know from our family members. It's exhausting work raising and teaching children, but in the end, it's absolutely necessary. In the end, a very good upbringing and home education will have excellent results hopefully found in a new generation that is also very good.

As Catholic Christians, it's absolutely necessary and essential that the ways which we instruct our children and grandchildren are the ways of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - the ways of the Lord.

There are countless ways of life and activity that are found in our society and in our world, but

sadly, many of the world's ways are **NOT** the ways of God. Far too many ways and attitudes in our society today are filled with darkness, selfishness, and evil. These ungodly ways are usually detrimental to our lives and our families. These ungodly ways lead many individuals to disintegration and destruction. They destroy the good that God has made and has accomplished in this world. At times, it seems that the ways of darkness can overwhelm and even extinguish the ways of the Lord in our world.

As we approach the holy Season of Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18, we'll all do well to examine our lives and honestly ask ourselves if we're truly living in the ways of the Lord. If we see that we're instead actually following the ways of the world - the ways of darkness and sin - then we would do well to pray for conversion in our hearts and in our souls. If we admit that we've strayed from the ways of God, then we should approach the Season of Lent with the intention of improving our ways and redirecting our path so that we return to the way of the Lord - the way of salvation.

This Sunday, may we heed the teachings of Jesus in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount (*found in Matthew chapters 5-7*). May we realize that the ways of the Lord are the best ways for us, for the Church, and for all humanity. Finally, may all of us make the most of Lent so that, by Easter Sunday, our lives, souls, families, and community will be renewed in the life of the Lord Jesus who has given us the true way to salvation in God's Kingdom.

Best wishes for a blessed Season of Lent

Best wishes to you and all our members and families for this Sunday and for a blessed Season of Lent which starts this coming Ash Wednesday! 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

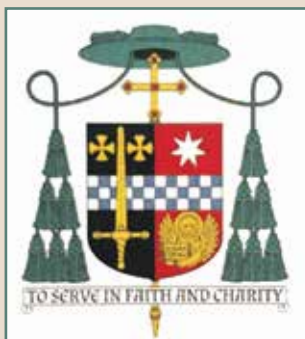
OUR 2026 PARISH APPEAL PROGRAM BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

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.

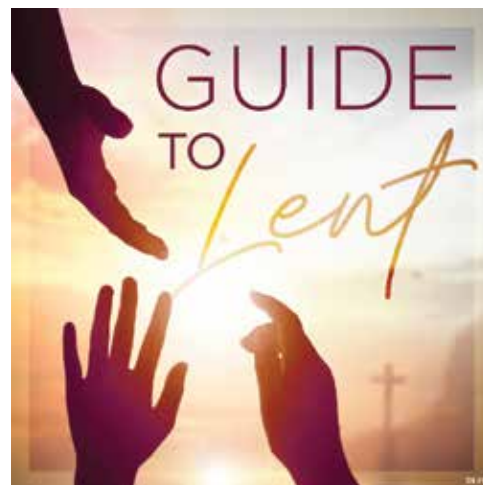
For 2026, our Parish Appeal Goal for Saint Philip Parish is again **\$126,559**.



As in past years, we 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 have now been sent in the postal mail to each of our households. Your reply this week will be greatly appreciated!

As always, we thank you very much for your participation in our parish community and Liturgy, and we 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!

What I have, I give!



As Lent approaches, the Church reminds us of its discipline of fast, abstinence, and penance.

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstaining from meat. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the U.S.
2. Abstinence (no meat) begins at age 14. Fasting (one full meal, two lighter meals) is required of those 18-59.
3. Those with medical conditions which make fasting harmful are excused but should choose another form of penance or charity.
4. Minors are not bound by these laws, but pastors and parents should teach them the meaning of penance and encourage age-appropriate practices.
5. All the faithful are encouraged to take on additional acts of penance and charity during Lent.
6. Dispensations from Friday abstinence are rarely granted; social events are not sufficient reason.



Sunday, February 15

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

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18;
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Weekdays

James 1-5;
Mark 8-9

Sunday, February 22

Genesis 2: 7-9 & 3:1-7;
Romans 5:12-19;
Matthew 4:1-11

Ash Wednesday Schedule

8:00am Mass with Ashes
Saint Philip church

12:00pm Service with Ashes
Ascension church

4:00pm Service with Ashes
Saint Philip church

7:00pm Mass with Ashes
Ascension church

FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collections & mail-in, February 7-8	-- \$9,537.00
Online donations, February 7-8	-- \$3,530.00
Maintenance donations	-- \$142.00
Religious Education donations	-- \$30.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$858,415.50
Parish offertory received since July 1, 2025	-- \$469,801.23
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2025	-- \$31,241.15
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2025	-- \$217.90
General donations since July 1, 2025	-- \$37,757.02

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 February 7-8	-- 591		
Sunday envelopes used February 7-8	-- 227		
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,052		

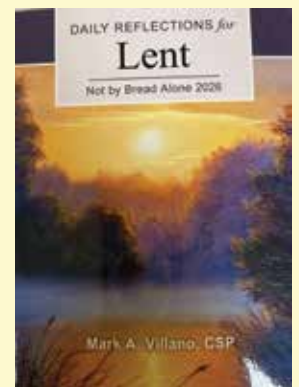
2026 Parish Appeal Goal	-- \$126,559.50
2026 Parish Appeal Received	-- \$0
2026 Parish Appeal Donors	-- 0

Lenten Reflection booklets are still available

To deepen your spiritual life this Lent, Reflection booklets and Lenten prayer cards are still available at the doors of both of our churches.

Please share them with your family members, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

You're encouraged to read your Lenten booklet every day in your time in prayer - and to share these reflections with your family members and friends!





Parish News



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.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

We still have quite a few Sanctuary Lamp memorials remaining for 2026. They are a wonderful way of honoring deceased loved ones. If you would like to schedule your intention, please contact Maureen at the Parish Office.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Our Bereavement Support Group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in Conner Hall on the Ascension campus. We spend this hour together sharing our stories with compassion and mutual support. This is not a psychotherapy group, but a gathering of fellow parishioners who accompany one another through the grief journey. You are welcome to come alone or with a friend. **Our next meeting is Thursday, February 19.** Please consider joining us.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

It's that time of year again when we ask you to share your favorite Baked Goods for our Parish Fish Fry. We love cookies, pies, cakes, breads, etc. Baked goods can be dropped off **every Thursday during Lent from 5:00pm to 7:00pm** in Ascension Church Conner Hall. Your delicious baked goods add to the enjoyment of our Fish Fry patrons.



Newly Baptized

Please welcome into our faith family. . . **Sadie Jean Davis, Zoey Claire Davis, and Lily Paige Davis**, daughters of Brandon Jamaal Davis and Kathryn Leigh Gallagher, who received the Life of Christ in Baptism in our parish on Sunday, February 8, 2026. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.



Join us for
Stations of the Cross
every Friday in Lent

Saint Philip 8:30am
Ascension 7:00pm

Lent 2026 Soup, Salad and Speaker Series



Our 10th 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
114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh PA 15205

“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 **Jane M. Benedetti** 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*
the Living and Deceased Members
of Saint Philip Parish

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at
Ascension burns *in Loving Memory of*
the Living and Deceased Members
of Saint Philip Parish



**ADT - MONITORED
HOME SECURITY**

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



**FEBRUARY 18
through APRIL 2**

Donate: unexpired,
non-perishable food items or
toiletries. See page 13 of this
bulletin for more information.



Faith Formation

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

REFLECTIONS FROM MARYANN: *"Create in me, O Lord, a new heart"* is the theme of Saint Philip Lenten Season which begins on Wednesday. This comes from Psalm 51, the most famous of the Penitential Psalms. This is really a life changing request. The psalmist begs pardon for his sins. He prays to be restored to grace.

In our *Soup, Salad and Speaker Series* we ask the Lord to create in us a new heart. We ask for a Christian Heart; a Grateful Heart; a Forgiving Heart; a Servant Heart; and an Intentional Heart. Which heart would you like to receive from the Lord. What needs changed in your life that you may receive a Loving Christ Life heart?

Join us this year for our Lenten offerings. Join us for our *Soup, Salad and Speaker Series* each Wednesday night beginning **February 25**. Join us for Stations of the Cross. Join us for daily Mass. Join us and bring a friend that together our hearts may be made new. Let us pray together:

Create in me, O Lord, a new heart. A steadfast Spirit renew within me that I may see You in all things, in all places and in all circumstances. O Lord open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. For you have blessed me. You have gifted me. You have sheltered me in Your Love and Care. May I be open to You and to that to which You call me. This Lenten Season, may all that I do prepare me to celebrate the Joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: 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 be helping 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.

Soup, Salad and Speaker Series 10TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



FEATURING *your* DELICIOUS RECIPES!

To celebrate this milestone year, we're creating a Saint Philip Parish Soup Cookbook featuring favorite recipes from our *Soup, Salad and Speaker* community. We'd love your contribution! Please type your recipe details, include the soup name and your name, and send it to the Office of Faith Formation by **March 1**. Free copies will be available at the **April 1** *Soup, Salad & Speaker* evening.

Children's LITURGY

February 15 and February 22
11:00am Mass at Saint Philip

March 1 and March 8
9:30am Mass at Ascension

WEATHER ALERT

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

Saint Philip Confirmation is scheduled on **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.

KITCHEN TABLE MINISTRY NEWS: Our next Drop-In Sunday is **March 1** 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.

KITCHEN TABLE MINISTRY'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: You don't need to wait until everything is perfect to celebrate progress. Sometimes, the most empowering thing you can say is simply, "*look what I did.*"



THIS WEEK AT † SAINT PHILIP PARISH †

Monday, February 16: MARDI GRAS at 5:30pm in Ascension's Conner Hall

Tuesday, February 17: Hooks & Needles at 9:30am in Ascension's Admin Building, 2nd floor

Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday (See page 5 of this bulletin for schedule)
Fish Fry from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in Ascension's Conner Hall

Thursday, February 19: Grief Support at 2:00pm in Ascension's Conner Hall;
OCIA at 6:00pm in Ascension's Admin Building, 2nd floor;
Legion of Mary Meeting at 6:30pm in Ascension's Rectory Room;
Choir Rehearsal at 7:00pm in Ascension church



WORKS of MERCY

The Corporal Works of **MERCY**

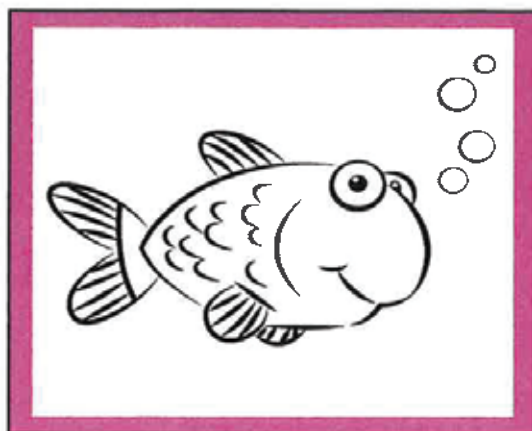
EVERY CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN IS CALLED:

To feed the hungry,
To give water to the thirsty,
To clothe the naked,
To shelter the homeless,
To visit the sick,
To visit the imprisoned, and
To bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of **MERCY**

EVERY CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN IS CALLED:

To teach and instruct others,
To counsel the doubtful,
To be patient with those who
wrong us,
To forgive offenses,
To comfort the afflicted,
To admonish sinners, and
To pray for the living and the dead.



**Saint Philip
Catholic Parish**
at Ascension Church
114 Berry Street, 15205

2026 FISH FRY MENU

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.



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

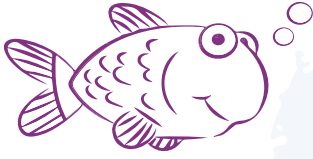
GRILLED CHEESE ----- \$3.00

FRENCH FRIES ----- \$3.00

CHEESE SAUCE ----- \$1.00

BEVERAGES ----- \$1.00

The Saint Philip Parish Fish Fry begins this Ash Wednesday!



Ash Wednesday, February 18 is this week, and we're gearing up for the Saint Philip Parish Annual Lenten Fish Fry!

Make plans 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



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

This Lent, we're holding our **fifth annual food drive to support the St. Philip St. Vincent de Paul food bank**. Our volunteers deliver groceries each month to about 60 households without transportation and assist anyone who contacts our hotline in need of emergency food.

We're asking for the items our pantry needs most, but we gratefully accept any unexpired, non-perishable food or toiletries. Paper bags with a list of suggested donations will be available beginning **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, at the St. Philip church courtyard (ramp) entrance and the Ascension church main entrance. Donations can be returned to those same locations through **Thursday, April 2**.

We are asking for the following items: cereal, instant oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese, chunky soups, condensed tomato soup, condensed vegetable soup, condensed chicken noodle soup, canned chicken, canned tuna, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, baked beans, instant mashed potatoes and bath soap or body wash.

If you would like to use our Lenten food drive as an opportunity to get your whole family involved in an almsgiving activity, you can shop each week for some of the items as a family, drop your donation off at church when you attend Mass together, and say a prayer together for those who do not have enough food to eat. For the first week of Lent, you can shop for the suggested breakfast foods, which

are cereal, instant oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter and canned fruit.

This year, we also have an anonymous donor that has offered to match all monetary donations that we receive during Lent! This is an exciting opportunity to make your donation go even further! If you would like to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in one of the poor boxes, mail it to the parish office (to the attention of SVdP) at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate online at <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/StVincentdePaul>.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Lenten food drive, our food bank, and our neighbors in need!

This past week, your generous donations enabled us to provide quarterly twinning assistance in the amount of \$500 to the St. Joseph Conference in Kingwood, West Virginia; \$500 to the St. Agnes Conference in Beaumont, Grand'Anse, Haiti; \$500 to the Good Shepherd Conference in Braddock; and \$500 to the Mary Mother of God Conference in McKeesport. Locally, we provided a man with a box spring; a man was given \$400 toward his rent; a woman was assisted with \$446 toward her electric bill; a single mother was given two beds; and a man was given \$35 for gas for his car. Thank you so much for allowing us to help not only our local neighbors in need, but also some additional people who are served by conferences that have little to work with financially.

LADIES OF CHARITY

Join us for our next gathering on **Saturday, February 21** at 9:30am in the Saint Philip campus cafeteria. All are welcome to join us in this work of service. For more information, please call 412-256-8067 or email ladiesofcharitysaintphilip@gmail.com.



Around the Diocese and Community

PRINCESS TEA PARTY AT CANEVIN HS

The 12th 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 or call 412-251-3933. Proceeds support CURESEARCH.

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>.

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB OF PITTSBURGH

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

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 breakfast, praise and worship, fun and fellowship, the featured speaker is Bishop Mark A. Eckman. Registration is \$35. For more information, to register, visit www.magnificatpittsburgh.org.

LENTEN CHARITY FOR PASSIONIST SISTERS

As in past years, your Lenten donations to the Passionist Sisters in Pittsburgh will again be very helpful to this cloistered community of Religious Sisters who provide our Communion hosts - and who pray for our community - and for you - every day. Donation envelopes are in our church entrances.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

February 18 - 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.

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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