

St. Philip the Apostle

488 Saddle River Road, Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663
201 843 1888 • www.stphilipsb.org



In Loving Memory



Basil Pizzuto

1972-2022

Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Second Sunday of Advent

December 04, 2022

A Note from the Pastor

Happy Advent!

I write this only a few days after returning from the Holy Land because of the busy holiday printing schedule. Our parish pilgrims had an excellent time running around Israel. We celebrated Mass in Nazareth, Bethlehem, Gethsemane and Calvary, among other places. And you were part of our prayer intentions.

St Jerome, an early translator of the Bible into the vernacular, once called the Holy Land “the fifth gospel” because to walk the land of Abraham, Moses and Jesus is to experience God’s word in a unique way. Personally, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to visit Israel for the third time and more importantly, to introduce our pilgrims to the land of Jesus. Going forward we will publish some pictures of our pilgrimage and offer a slide presentation to the parish for anyone who is interested in seeing highlights of our pilgrimage.

With Thanksgiving behind us and Advent moving along, I encourage you to take some time to nurture your soul by reading the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke’s gospels, commonly known as the “infancy narratives.” An excellent book for those who want to delve deeper into these texts is Raymond Brown’s *A Coming Christ in Advent*. Brown was one of the finest Catholic Biblical scholars of modern times, having been appointed by the pope to the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Advent first calls us to reflect upon God’s plan for creation, as we look forward to the time when there will be “a new heaven and a new earth” as Revelation promises. Then, in the final days of the season we look toward commemorating the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. When we visited Bethlehem the line of pilgrims waiting to visit the traditional spot of Jesus’ birth was several hours long. Fortunately we had an early wakeup call that day and so we were near the front of the line.

In that same church there is a cave that is said to be the cave where St Jerome worked on his translation of the Bible. His desire, echoing that of Pope Damasus, was to provide an accurate translation of the scriptures so that people could comprehend a text written in languages they did not understand (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek). How blessed we are to have reliable, excellent translations in our own modern English so that God’s word is accessible to us as well. But, unless we open the book and read it, it cannot deliver God’s message.

In the Lord’s Love,
Fr Bruce

Lectionary Spirituality

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Second Reading James 5:7-10
Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

patient. Things happen in God’s time, not ours. While we wait we are called to persevere in faith, knowing that just as planting seeds leads to a harvest so too our faith will eventually be rewarded. James reminds them of the prophets who suffered patiently and never lost faith in God.

Today’s reading from Isaiah continues the message of renewal and hope we heard last week. “The wilderness and the parched land will exult,” (35:1) the prophet says. He speaks words of hope and comfort, possibly to those exiled in Babylon. They are weak but he speaks words of strength and encouragement to them, “Be strong, do not fear!” (v.4) Their God comes to deliver them. “The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and enter Zion singing” (v.10). These words provide hope for a broken people. Returning to Jerusalem they will rebuild their city and its temple and once again “see the glory of the Lord” (v.2).

In today’s gospel we hear that John the Baptist, while in prison, sends his disciples to question Jesus about his identity, “Are you the one who is to come?” (11:3). Jesus’ response invites them to report back to John “what you hear and see” (v.4). Jesus’ ministry to the blind, the lame, lepers, the deaf and the dead is an indication that he is God’s servant, spoken of by the prophets. He has also come to announce the good news of the gospel. John had earlier proclaimed that, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (3:2), with the ministry of Jesus it starts to be realized.

Over the years the early church came to realize that Jesus wasn’t coming back as soon as they anticipated. James writes to encourage them to be

For Reflection: Do I draw strength from God’s promises? How can my life contribute to continuing Jesus’ ministry to others?

Mass Intentions for the Week

- **Saturday** **December 3rd**
St. Francis Xavier
 7:00 am For Our Benefactors
 8:30 am † Agnes Ramsay
 5:30 pm † Meghan Hughes
- **Sunday** **December 4th**
 7:00 am For the People
 8:30 am Living & Deceased Members of The
 Rosary Altar Society
 10:00 am † Michael Murcko
 12:00 pm † Evelyn Marx
- **Monday** **December 5th**
 7:00 am † Frank Soden
 8:30 am † Lucielle Larose
- **Tuesday** **December 6th**
 7:00 am † Blake Katkowski
 8:30 am † Anthony A Borsella
- **Wednesday** **December 7th**
St. Ambrose
 7:00 am Birthday Blessings for Dorothy Fleisch
 8:30 am † Joseph Bonanno
 5:30 pm † Tessie DeMaio
- **Thursday** **December 8th**
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
 7:00 am † Bernie Smith
 8:30 am † Jeanette O'Mara
 12:10 pm † Rev. Thomas Kenna 17th Anniversary
 7:00 pm † McGowan Family
- **Friday** **December 9th**
 7:00 am Dorothy Ratajczak
 8:30 am Nora Mende
- **Saturday** **December 10th**
 7:00 am † Diane Riviuccio
 8:30 am † God's Blessings for the Foran Family
 5:30 pm For the People
- **Sunday** **December 11th**
 7:00 am † Steven A. Alaimo
 8:30 am † Michael Tulipano - 1st Anniversary
 10:00 am † Lee Deedmeyer, Jr
 12:00 pm † Maria Calderone

Memorials for December

- St. Therese** † Living & Deceased Members of
 The Sestanovich & DiFeo Families
 by Mary Sestanovich & family
- Holy Family** † Gara & Soden Families
Candle by Nancy Gara & Family
- Sanctuary** † Norbert & Michael Small
Candle by Nancy Small
- St. Jude** † Jennifer & William Duffy
 by The Stichauner
- Hosts** Special Intention
 by Pat & Bill Major
- Wine** † Richard Ardito
 by Louise Ardito

Readings for the Week

- Monday** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12,
 13-14; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac,
 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10;
 Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3bc-4;
 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6;
 Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16,
 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday** Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10;
 Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11



Diane Madoukas

Ellen O'Donnell

Margaree T. Maritsch

Joseph DiStefano

Immaculate Conception

“THE IMMACULATE Conception” is a title for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The expression means that Mary was conceived without sin. The conviction that Jesus was born of a virgin is a distinct belief, even though many Catholics erroneously think that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus.

Contributing to the confusion is the celebration of the Immaculate Conception during the season of Advent. While the faithful are preparing to honor the birth of Jesus, we commemorate the conception of Mary. The choice of December 8 for the Immaculate Conception does not directly relate to Advent; it corresponds more to the traditional date for the Feast of the Birth of Mary, September 8, which coincides with the dedication of a Jerusalem church in honor of the mother of Mary. The feast for the conception of Mary is backed up from that day nine months. In a similar way, we celebrate the Annunciation on March 25, nine months before the birth of Jesus.

Belief in the Immaculate Conception asserts that God preserved Mary from all sin from the moment of her conception, thus preparing a pure vessel for the Incarnation of the Son. This belief is not expressly contained in the Scriptures, but it enjoys a widespread following in the Church’s tradition. Although the Immaculate Conception of Mary has been affirmed since the earliest centuries of Christianity, it was not formally proclaimed a dogma of the Church until 1854. December 8 is now a holyday of obligation in the United States, which is placed under Mary’s patronage with this title.

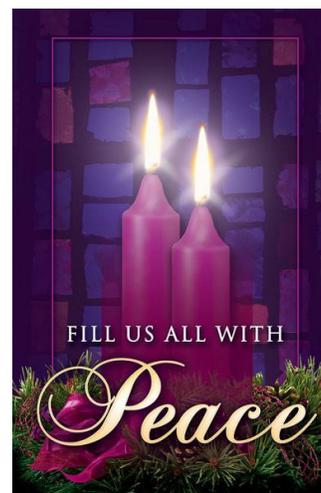
When Mary is depicted as the Immaculate Conception, she is often shown wearing a crown of stars as the woman in Revelation 12 and standing on a snake, reversing the temptation of Eve. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is the exalted Queen of Heaven who manifests God’s power over sin.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020
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Written by Paul Turner.

Prayer for Advent Week 2

One advantage of following an annual Christmas tradition is that it deliberately gives us a time and space to think about Biblical themes we don’t always think about. It also presents a time to read Bible verses about that theme and give prayers on the subject. Here is an Advent prayer about peace you can start using right now:

Lord Jesus, we are all tempted to live without peace. It is not easy for us to remember that our peace is ultimately found in our status as believers, like your children. Help us to see the times when we have lived without peace and forgive us for our transgression. Set our minds on you, that we may remember you are the prince of peace, and our security comes from you alone. Teach us that this peace is inward, everlasting, and can exist regardless of our circumstances. In whatever way you believe is best, teach us how to live in that peace every day. We ask for that in your holy name, Amen.



“Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

*Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

Respect Life Ministries

COAT AND OUTERWEAR DRIVE

“USED” AS WELL AS NEW



The Knights of Columbus # 2842 Rochelle Park/ Saddle Brook is conducting their annual Coat and Outerwear Drive for the less fortunate. Please check your closets, attics and basements for adult men’s and women’s COATS AND OUTERWEAR, help keep someone in need warm this winter.

We will be collecting these items until Friday, December 23rd. This YEAR the CLOTHING WILL BE DONATED TO ST. LUCY’S SHELTER IN JERSEY CITY. (ST LUCY’S PROVIDES FOOD, CLOTHING AND HOUSING FOR THOSE IN NEED)



Thanks to all who contributed to our annual Giving Tree. Once the numbers are totaled we will publish a report. The tree will remain in place through the Christmas Season. Each tag on the tree represents a gift received. Bless you for decorating the holidays of the needy in our area.

In Touch Ministry

Do You Know Someone who is Homebound?



Our “In Touch Ministry” makes phone calls to the homebound. Volunteers are ready to make a phone call to “check in” with those who cannot come to us. If you know someone who would benefit from a regular phone call from one our parishioners, please contact the Main Office at 201-843-1888.

Living Out the Gospel

Stewardship

Stewardship Reflection

2nd Sunday of Advent

“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

Next Weekend’s Second Collection



...is the annual national collection for Retired Religious. This collection provides aid to the various religious communities of sisters, brothers and priests who have served the Church in various ministries. Please be generous in your support.



Collections of the Week

	2022	2022 # of Envelopes	Average/Family	2021
November 20th, 2022	\$4,469.00	182	\$29.70	\$4,234.00
Faith Direct Avg. Weekly	\$2,924.75			\$2,038.00
Total Collection	\$7,393.75			\$6,272.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$1,341.17	5	\$35.40	\$306.50

Thank you for the continued support of our church.

The Gift You Have Received, Give As Gift

Nurture Your Faith



ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES continues. Contact the Main Office for Information.

Read: Raymond Brown's *A Coming Christ at Christmas* Available from Amazon and other book sellers.



Rosary Altar Society



December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This Tuesday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Under this title, Our Lady is the patroness of our country.

Let us pray that through her intercession we may grow in love of God and neighbor.

Mass times are Tuesday, Dec 7 at 5:30pm, Wednesday, Dec 8 at 7am, 8:30am, 12:10pm and 7pm.

RCIA—Four letters that stand for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a process where non-Catholics explore our faith and are invited to become members of the Catholic Church. Are you someone who...

- Has expressed an interest in being baptized?
- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child but has not completed the sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation?

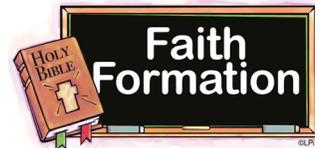
We gather for 10am Mass & meet afterwards. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in joining us, please contact the Religious Formation office with your name & phone number. We are excited to journey with you as we explore the Catholic faith together. Call 201-843-2240.



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Classes have started!

Have you registered yet with Faith Formation for the 22-23 school year? Those who were registered for 21-22 received a link to re-register for the 22-23 school year. If you have a child in 1st through 8th grade & would like to enroll in our Faith Formation classes, please visit our website <https://stphilipsb.org/registration-form> or contact the office at 201-843-2240.



We are looking for Catechists willing to teach young children and help them to grow in the Catholic faith. We will guide you as to how you can join our dedicated team of wonderful Catechists. Thank you.



God's Special Children, a religious education program for children with special needs, is currently accepting registrations for their 2022-2023 year. The program is designed to address the unique learning needs of children with Autism Spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, anxiety, ADD/ADHD, Oppositional Defiance Disorder and others. If you have any questions regarding this program, kindly call or text the program director, Monica Maniscalco at 917-992-7904.

Lord, I Believe, Increase My Faith!



Please note the Rectory Office will be closed on December 8 in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Weekly Offertory Envelopes

Weekly Offertory Books for all parishioners who contribute to the parish using envelopes are in the bride's room in the back of the Church. Please stop by at the end of Mass & pick up your offertory envelopes. A member of our hospitality team will be glad to assist you.



Please take a chance & support our ministries at St. Philip the Apostle Parish. The **50/50** Cash Prize will be drawn immediately following the **12pm Mass on Sunday, December 11th.**

The current jackpot is \$3,750.00*

Each registered family of the parish received six (6) 50/50 tickets. Tickets are \$10 each.

If you would like additional tickets, they are available at the Rectory office or from our hospitality table after Mass.

What a wonderful Christmas present winning would be!

If you notice an error in any part of your mailing address, kindly mark the label with the changes and return to the collection basket or the Rectory office.

*as of 11/18/2022



Betty Agnello, Ross Alfieri, Eric Angeles, Jacob Berard, Georgine Brancato, Marianne Cappello, Pat Cullen, Joann Diangelis, Patty H., Lucielle Hanselman, Wanda Kozloski, Nancy Lyden, Marilyn McPartland, Don Price, Pamela Swenson, Steven Testa, Henry Wortche.

(This list will be updated monthly please call the rectory if names need to be added or removed)

**Take ADVENTage:
Advent/Christmas Opportunities**

Welcoming Christ at Christmas

In the coming weeks, many more people than usual will be coming through our church doors for the Christmas holidays. Many of these people are searching for a place—a community—where they can express their faith. Please remember that just as we have sung in the past and will sing again, "All Are Welcome". We have the opportunity not to judge but to be Christ-like; warm and welcoming to ALL this Christmas. Remember, we cannot complain that more Catholics do not come to Mass and then give them a reason not to come back by the way we treat them when they show up at Christmas.

Christmas Mass Schedule

As you, make plans for celebrating Christmas we wanted to inform you of the schedule of Masses.

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day

7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 noon

A copy of the schedule will be mailed to all registered parishioners.

The Love of God

No matter how long it has been, the Love of God knows no time. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday at 4:30pm before the 5:30pm Mass or you may schedule private.



Parish News & Activities

Other Ways to Donate to St. Philip's



St Philip's is an Amazon Smile charity. This means that when you make a purchase from Amazon, after designating us as your "Smile" charity, we will receive a donation of 0.5% from Amazon based on any purchase you make. You only have to sign up once and then make your purchases through the Amazon Smile link. While it doesn't sound like a lot of money, it can add up to a considerable amount if enough people participate. Please share this message with anyone you know who shops at Amazon.

Sign up by visiting the link on our webpage or visit Amazon's Smile page and search for St Philip the Apostle, Saddle Brook.

Text to Give



To securely make a gift to St. Philip the Apostle, text a dollar amount to (201) 733-4101. You will be asked to complete a one-time registration page with your billing and contact

information. After this registration, you can give any time by texting a dollar amount to our phone number.

Do you wish to make life easier by donating electronically to St. Philip's? Consider an online enrollment at Faith Direct. No envelopes!



Scan Me!



Be directly linked to our Venmo to make a donation to St. Philip's.

Thank You for your Support!!

venmo

Quotable Quotes

"The scars of others should teach us caution."



St Jerome



BINGO FRIDAY NIGHT

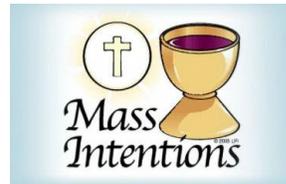
Doors open at 6:00pm
Early Bird game 7:15pm
Regular schedule 7:30pm



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

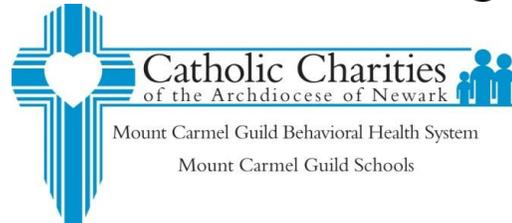
Call Rectory: 201-843-1888

We Now Accept Credit Cards!



Now when you want to have a Mass Intention or Memorial for someone you are able to pay by credit card. Please stop by or call the rectory and we will be able to help with this.

"Thanks-giving" A Distinctive Meaning



Catholic Charities is deeply thankful for your positive response to the Donation Bins. One way to give "thanks" is by "giving." Just as the Lord has given us so many blessings, this is an ideal time to give to others. We need used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, and children's books. Happy "Thanks-for giving"!

Our Website!



Check out our Parish Website stphilipsb.org

YouTube Channel at YouTube.com
Saint Philip the Apostle Saddle Brook

for PARISH VIDEOS and other important news and information.

Parish News & Activities



Upcoming Parish Events

Dec 8th		Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)
Dec 10th	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Cub Scouts Vendor Show
	10:30 AM-1:00 PM	Santa Photos
Dec 11th		50/50 Drawing after 12pm Mass
Dec 18th	2:30 PM	Choir Christmas Concert

Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass Schedule

5:30 PM (Saturday Evening)
7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Weekdays & Saturdays

7:00 AM & 8:30 AM

Holy Days

5:30 PM (Eve), 12:10 PM & 7:00 PM

Baptism. Celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Call the rectory office to schedule your child's baptism.

Marriages. To be scheduled at least 12 months in advance. To plan the Sacrament of Marriage, please contact one of the parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. If you would like to invite one of our priests to visit and pray with you or a loved one please call the rectory.

Reconciliation. Every Saturday at 4:30 PM before Mass. Private Reconciliation by appointment, call the rectory.

Devotions. Recitation of Rosary is daily after 8:30 AM Mass. Miraculous Medal Novena on Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass.

Parish Contact Information

Pastor

Rev. Bruce Janiga

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Marek Bokota

Rectory Office

Eileen Green, Office Manager
201 843 1888
201 368 9161 (Fax)
ourparish@stphilipsb.org
www.stphilipsb.org

Music Ministry

Basil Pizzuto, Director
201 615 5299
Francesca Kubian, Adult Choir
Barbara Weiner, Children's Choir

Religious Education & RCLA

Peter K O'Brien M. Div., Director
Elaine Mogerma, Secretary
201 843 2240
reled@stphilipsb.org

God's Special Children Rel. Ed

Monica Maniscalco, M. Ed, Dir.
917 992 7904
Instruction for Special Needs Children

Trustees

Dr. Richard Filipek
Camille Tritto



Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST
Matthew 3

W L U Z M H V J O J Q V Q S U
 I Y V S L O G N K M D B H A K
 K C T X T N M R H K Y T E X X
 C I X J T E Z Y J T A E S L E
 P N N Y Y Y A S L P P T R Z T
 R B M G J W I L D G S U E S Q
 E D A H D H A I R U X G P T C
 P Z O P Y O U S C E N U E R F
 A T O Q T W M O H I N J N A F
 R Z S G N I L O H L R L T I M
 E Z J N P O Z C P N E P Y G P
 E S P O A E A E H M N N Z H C
 L O R D H E M T A F T Q X T Y
 J W K K R N J C U Y C T Q T U
 I X E P F N M H L D Z D E N I

LORD	PREPARE	KINGDOM	JOHN	HAIR
BAPTIZE	STRAIGHT	PATHS	PREACHING	WILD
REPENT	LOCUSTS	HONEY	CAMEL	BELT