



St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church

2308 3rd Street · Huffman TX 77336

Spirit and Truth Newsletter

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of the Lord

Parish Office

Phone: 281-324-1478

Fax: 281-715-5533

parishoffice@stphilip.cc

Mailing Address

PO Box 2363

Huffman, TX 77336

Office Location

2308 3rd Street

Huffman, TX 77336

Hours: Monday-Friday
9:30 am-4:00 pm

Pastor

Rev. Richard Barker

Mass Times

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 am

Daily Mass

Tues & Thurs: Noon

Wed & Fri: 9:00 am

First Sat: 9:00 am

Adoration

Friday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:30 pm

Or by appointment

Grace Upon Grace

My dear parishioners, despite this past year deserving to be forgotten for its troubles, Christ Our Shepherd led all of us to “springs of living water,” to slake our thirst for the “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit.” [Rev 7:17; *ROMAN MISSAL*, Introductory Rites 2011]

Through grace, the Son of God gave us rest in green pastures, beside still waters. With love our heavenly father embraced us on the very path that leads to him. In communion, the Holy Spirit gathered us together, anointing us with peace, righteousness and joy. [cf Psa 23:2; Lk 15:20; Rom 14:17] Would that we cherished these gifts to the full! May the Most Holy Trinity remove all our doubts and strengthen our feeble faith in the heavenly promises!

As Our Lord’s nativity drew near, I witnessed many instances of simple charity, remarkable for their intensity and joy. You gave generously to the poor, visited one another, and brought Christmas carols and gifts to many people forgotten or ignored this time of year. You supported our parish ministries and charities. You warmly welcomed our visitors and new families.

Above all, coping with difficult and stressful circumstances, you regard each other with the gentleness of Christ. You treasure the Church’s liturgies, offering worthy veneration of the saints and adoration to God, the author all good things. You share stories of faith and determination; these strengthen everyone. I visited many of you this past Advent and Christmas and can testify to God of your faith’s “confidence to audacity.” [Saint Therese of Lisieux] You build up the Body of Christ at Saint Philip by the power of God’s grace, love and communion.

(Continued on page 7)



“MyParish” smartphone app



Facebook.com/stphiliphuffmantx



www.stphiliphuffmantx.org

Become an Active Member in a Parish Ministry

We are happy to have all of you as part of our St. Philip family. We are a small but mighty Parish. All parishioners play vital and active roles in the life of our Parish. If you or your family has not yet found a ministry to take part in, use the beginning of this new year as a chance to do so.

All of our ministries are reaching out for you to join them in fellowship, while serving our Church and community. Enjoy the featured articles about the many active ministries at St. Philip. Read about their goals and projects for the year, then decide which ministry your time and talent can serve best. There is a need and place for all to serve.

**“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'
Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'” [Isa 6:8]**

Usher Ministry

Ushers Needed Immediately!

We have an urgent need for Ushers at all of our weekend and holy day Masses. Your “Yes” is especially needed for the Saturday 4 pm and Sunday 11 am Masses.

Our Ushers’ primary responsibilities are to greet parishioners and guests and to assist in seating them appropriately in the Church. We assist those who need doors held open, both into the Church and into the worship area. Ushers arrive on campus 20 minutes before Mass begins.

Ushers also assist in the collection of the Offertory, as well as ensure an efficient, reverent Communion procession, as required.

After Mass, Ushers assist in the distribution of the bulletins and inspect the worship area: kneelers are set upright, and articles that the congregation may have left behind are secured.

Ushers must be 18 years old and must be trained in Safe Environment. Please contact our Usher Ministry at usher@stphilip.cc or talk to one of our Ushers after Mass if you can help.

Children’s Liturgy Program

We are so excited with the success of the Children’s Liturgy program we started this Fall!

The children are engaged in their own special Liturgy of the Word. They listen to the readings and the Gospel for Sunday Mass, read on their own level. Our volunteers then lead the children in discussions that bring the lesson of the day to life. The time is full of sharing and lively participation. We are so happy to have our “regulars” join us weekly, but we always welcome all children to



join us, even if you are just visiting.

We have a great group of parent volunteers but can always use more help. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please contact Nikki Metzler @ nikkinoelmetzler@yahoo.com. We promise, you will get just as much joy and fellowship from this program as the kids!



Choir Corner

We need both singers and instrumentalists



Our dedicated long-time members want to mentor beginners who want to sing and serve the Lord. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

Everyone can actively participate in sung prayer, loud or timid, on or off key, just make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Each of us are called to actively participate in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Pope St. John Paul II wrote that at every Mass, "the faithful are to take an active part in the singing."

Please come to a choir rehearsal and consider singing with us. We meet at 6:20pm on Tuesday nights and are finished by 8pm. Contact Kathy Corbett in the St. Philip office if you are not already a registered member here at St. Philip the Apostle. We look forward to welcoming you into our choir family.

Geralyn (Geri) and
St. Philip Heavenly Chorus



Invitation to Parish Men Join the Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus, council 9794 at St. Philip, invites all Catholic men over the age of 18 and in good standing with the Catholic Church to join. We serve the needs of our parish community. We are

Catholic gentlemen committed to the ideals of **charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism**. We take pride in participating in other parish ministries.

Please talk to one of our Knights who serve as ushers, lectors, EOMs, sacristans, and choir members. Faith and Hope are common among us as we take action towards **Charity** in our fund-raising projects.

Of course, you all will notice our **Unity** as we work together to make our projects successful.

We are also very proud of our "turnouts" in support of events such as Confirmation, Holy Week, and/or Funerals. Our **Fraternity**, meeting with other KofC Councils in our Galveston-Houston Assembly is especially rewarding.

We are blessed to have many military veterans in the KCs who served the USA honorably, and we all support **Patriotism** every opportunity we have.

The KCs enable good men to become better Catholics, engaging in service to the Parish, Church, and community.

Joining has never been easier. Contact Grand Knight Ray Kessler (rkessler@stphilip.cc or 832-644-8078), for more information.

Prime Timers (55+ Social Group)



Join us for great memories! The Prime Timers host shopping trips, visits to museums, and visits to local and state attractions. You can expect a turnkey, planned day. All transportation is arranged. We leave St. Philip at about 9:30am and usually return before 5:00pm.

There is a modest cost for venue admission and lunch is on your own at a memorable restaurant near the attraction. You can expect to relax, learn, and visit with fellow parishioners. Contact information is on the last page of every Spirit and Truth newsletter. Pray for the end of COVID!

CCE Invites you to attend:

FAITH in Action

Join us this morning in the parish hall after the
8:30 am Mass.

Our CCE coordinator, Carlie Richard, will provide a short lesson on how families can put our faith into action by performing the Corporal Works of Mercy. We will introduce our next Work of Mercy: **Shelter the Homeless**. All parishioners are invited to attend.





St. Philip the Apostle Presents The Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant



This year's Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant was truly special and a much-needed reprieve from the trials that we have all shared together and endured in 2020. This Christmas Eve was an especially true gift to St. Philip parish as we were back in our Church after recovering from another flood restoration and being amid a worldwide pandemic. To see our children and families healthy, safe, and bringing to life, in a beautiful display, the absolute joy of Jesus' birth, was truly a Christmas miracle this year!

Our worldwide pandemic did bring about one blessing: more of our parish families were celebrating Christmas at home this year instead of traveling. This allowed for higher participation from our children than in years past. To ensure our Nativity Pageant success, we held two rehearsals, the two weekends prior to Christmas Eve. The rehearsals consisted of casting roles, outfitting costumes, and running through the play multiple times to ensure perfect timing. Our second rehearsal also had the pleasure of having our Music Director, Geri Moulds, attend to enrich our pageant with music, which plays such an intimate part in telling the story. The blend of music, pageantry and our children's smiling faces illuminated for all the beauty of the Nativity on Christmas Eve and in our daily lives.

Special thanks to our Nativity Pageant Coordinators, Heather Wehking and Anne Bednarak, along with their team of helpers: Becky Pursell, Suzanne Burch, and Nikki Metzler for the time and dedication in celebrating Christmas through the eyes of our children! Lastly, big thanks to all our children who participated and made this a cherished gift from our Holy Family and a memorable celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

NATIVITY PAGEANT CAST:

NARRATOR: Thomas W.	SHEPHERDS: Rigby O. & Keegan G.
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: Addison S.	LEAD ANGEL: Guilianna D.
JOSEPH: Landon B.	CHOIR OF ANGELS: Emmaline W., Kaitlyn B., Francesca D., Anna M., Charlotte S., Audrey S. & McKenna G.
INNKEEPER: Aiden S.	STAR: Kensley S.
WISEMEN: Grayson W., Josef M. & Ethan S.	LAMB: Ava O.
CRYER/SHEPHERD: Jay B.	



The Women's Guild



Our Mission Statement: *The Women's Guild of St. Philip the Apostle provides financial assistance and personal service to the care and upkeep of the sanctuary and sacristy, as well as, assistance to the Pastor in the spiritual and corporal work of caring for God's house and other designated parish activities. These tasks are carried out in a spirit of familial charity and fellowship.*

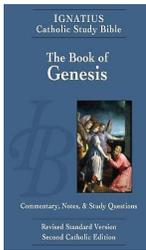
We assist other parish ministries by providing receptions and decorating the parish hall. Upon request, we host funeral receptions in the parish hall or deliver food dishes to the deceased's family home. We support charities outside of St. Philip.

We have resumed our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is **January 12**

Our dues are \$20 and we welcome both active and non-active members. You can also go to our parish website (www.stphiliphuffmantx.org) and download the membership form. The membership dues are a source of revenue for the Guild. If you are a working woman who cannot attend our day-time meetings, please lend your support with your prayers plus a donation of dues to help the Guild achieve its goals. It takes everyone working together to enable us to serve our parish.

The Women's Guild is about parish women enjoying life in Christ together. Our members celebrate the warmth, talents, experiences and feelings of one another as we work and pray together. We treasure the happiness of being together and sharing our lives. We do things from the goodness of our hearts. We are open to having others in our lives, and we hope our new members will include *you!*

Journey in the Catholic Faith



Journey in the Catholic Faith will resume our study of Genesis on **January 13, 2021** and continue until February 17, Ash Wednesday. If you haven't had the chance to join us, the new year is the perfect time to join us!

During the 6 weeks of Lent (Feb. 17-Mar. 24), the group will use the Emmaus Journey Reflections on the Sunday readings, meeting **EVERY WEDNESDAY** in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm.

We will return to the study of Genesis, Ch 35-50, following Pentecost. Please join us for a delightful sharing of our thoughts as they pertain to the scriptures.

For more information, contact: Deb Kessler rdkessler@stphilip.cc

St. Philip Ministry Event Schedule

"And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." [Eph. 4: 10-13]

Date	Event	Day	Time	Location	More info (pg)
Sundays	Children's Liturgy	Sunday	8:30am Mass	St. Philip	Call office
January 10, 2021	CCE Faith in Action Shelter the Homeless	Sunday	Immediately following 8:30am Mass	Parish Hall	See website
January 12, 2021	Women's Guild	Tuesday	10:30am	Parish Hall	5
January 13, 2021	Journey in the Catholic Faith	Wednesday	7:00pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall	5

Ways to Give to St. Philip



Scan QR code.



Place in the collection basket at Mass.

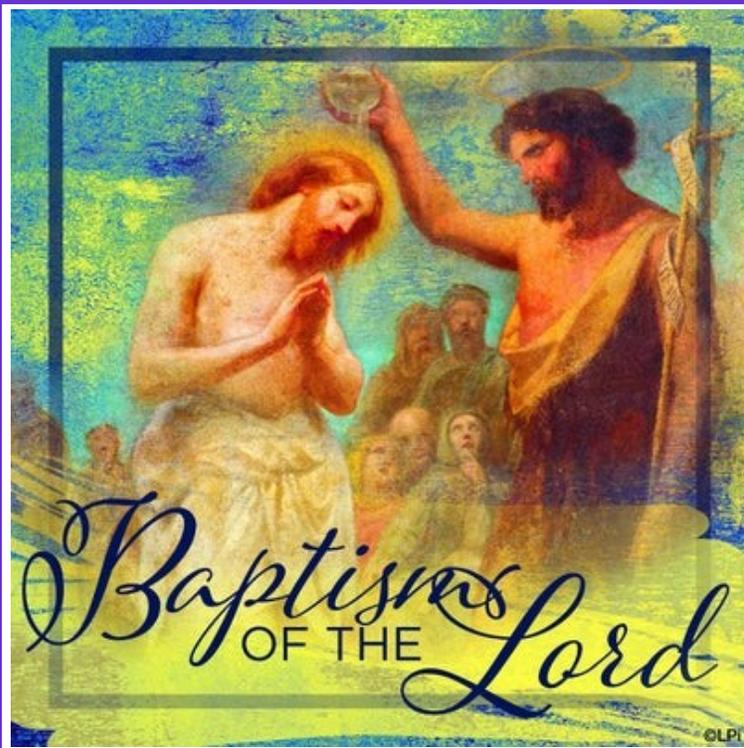
Mail your check to:

St. Philip the Apostle
PO Box 2363
Huffman, TX 77336

Use our mailing address to set St. Philip the Apostle as a vendor in your bank's online bill pay.



Download the MyParish app, set St. Philip as your Church, and tap the "Giving"



Pray the Rosary Daily!

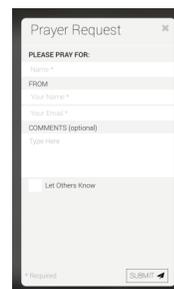
And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Mt 3:16-17

The Luminous Mysteries

- ◇ The Baptism of Jesus
- ◇ The Wedding Feast of Cana
- ◇ The Preaching of the Kingdom
- ◇ The Transfiguration
- ◇ The Institution of the Eucharist

Request a Prayer

Did you know that you can request prayers for a loved one or for any special intention by using our parish app? Simply open the myParish app and choose the **PRAYERS** button. At the bottom of the screen, choose **PRAYER REQUEST**. Fill out the form and your prayer request will be sent to our Prayer Warriors group. We will also add your loved one to our prayer list which is found on p. 8. You are always welcome to call or email the parish office with any prayer requests.



Grace Upon Grace

(Continued from page 1)

Thanking God always for grace upon grace, I remember you in my prayers, especially those who reached out to me in a special way at Christmas. The beautiful cards, words of encouragement, cookies and fudge were delightful. Your little gifts showed great care and thoughtfulness. I cannot thank you enough for the joy and comfort they inspire. I am truly refreshed in the community of our Church.

Our celebration today of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. If there's any New Year's resolution worthy of the name, resolve then to "pray for the first grace" *always*. [Saint Therese] As we look forward to a new year and the many joyful occasions it will bring, keep in mind this heartfelt thought from Saint Francis de Sales . . .

BEHOLD THE dear infant Jesus, and adore him fervently. Contemplate his poverty and humility in imitation of his most holy mother and of Saint Joseph. Repose near him as sweetly as you can. He will not fail to love your heart, void as you find it of tenderness and feeling. Nothing will be wanting to you, since you will be in the presence of that holy infant.

ABIDE THERE, and learn of him how meek and humble he is, how simple and amiable. See how lovingly he has written your name in the depth of his divine heart, which beats on that couch of straw from the impassioned zeal it has for our advancement, and heaves not one single sigh unto his father in which you have not a part, nor a single movement of his Spirit except for your happiness.

Sincerely in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Your pastor,
Father Richard Barker. +++

Ask the Lord for The Very First Grace

St. Therese, the "Little Flower," tells us that St. Peter's most important life-lesson was when he learned to **ask the Lord for the very first grace!**

Follow the example of Peter. Whenever any challenge presents itself to you, pause and ask our Lord Jesus Christ for the "first grace." Our savior will not fail to grant it.

Pray for one another and for your unworthy pastor. **"The Lord goes before you. He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.** Do not fear or be dismayed!" [Deu 31:8]

Sincerely in the hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Your pastor,
Reverend Richard Barker +++

Saints of the Week Series

St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Feast Day January 13



Hilary hadn't been raised a Christian, but he knew that life was a gift of which he wanted to find the meaning. He was aware that he should rise above what the Arian heretics of the 4th century were doing—satisfying their own desires. He knew if he didn't lead a virtuous life, he would feel guilty and be unhappy.

So, Hilary set out to find the giver of the gift of life. During his search, he heard many theories on God and the Creator. Hilary finally happened upon Christian scripture. He read the verse from Exodus 3:14, "I AM WHO I AM" and Hilary said, "I was frankly amazed at such a clear definition of God, which expressed the incomprehensible knowledge of the divine nature in words most suited to human intelligence." Hilary came to understand that this great gift of creation would not just disappear at death, but the true gift was everlasting life.

After becoming a Christian, he was elected bishop of Poitiers. The Arians did not believe in the divinity of Christ and when Hilary refused to support their ways he was exiled from Poitiers to the East in 356. In his later travels through Greece and Italy, he preached against the Arians. He had also heard the hymns used as propaganda by the Arians. These hymns were not based on Scripture. When Hilary got home, he started writing hymns of propaganda himself to spread the faith. His hymns are the first in the West with a known writer.

Hilary died in 367 or 368 and was proclaimed a doctor of the Church in 1851. He is the patron saint against snake bites.

Mass Intentions

Sunday Masses

Saturday, January 9

4:00 pm - + Ronnie LeJeune +

Sunday, January 10

8:30 am - Hannah Boyd

11:00 am - People of the Parish

Daily Masses

Monday, January 11

No Daily Mass

Tuesday, January 12

Noon - + Windy McMichael +

Wednesday, January 13

9:00 am - +Mary Louise Rodriguez +

Thursday, January 14

Noon - Fr. Barker

Friday, January 15

9:00 am - Fr. Barker

Sunday Masses

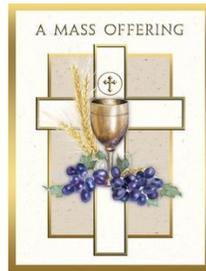
Saturday, January 16

4:00 pm - Fr. Barker

Sunday, January 17

8:30 am - People of the Parish

11:00am - Jorge Contreras



Pray For...

Graces, Strength and Healing

Heidi Koch, Toni Lamas,
James O'Donnell, Flo Gaines,
St. Philip Parishioners

In Times of Need

Thank you, Lord, for being there for me and allowing me to cry out to you in my times of need.

It is amazing to me that the Lord of the Universe would take time to listen to me and to care about what I say.

God, there are things happening around me right now that I do not understand. Some of these things make me feel weak, helpless and afraid.

Even in the midst of this, I know that you are the Lord. I know that the situation is in Your hand, and I trust You. I beseech you for strength and for wisdom that I would be able to endure this situation and be able to handle it in a way that would bring glory to Your name.

In Jesus name. Amen.

Altar Flowers Given

By Mary LeJeune

In Memory of

Ronnie LeJeune

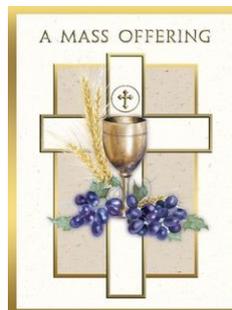


All are invited to sponsor a bouquet for their intentions. The donation for a bouquet is \$50.00.

The flower binder can be found on the display case counter next to the main front doors. Please fill in the information for the date you choose.



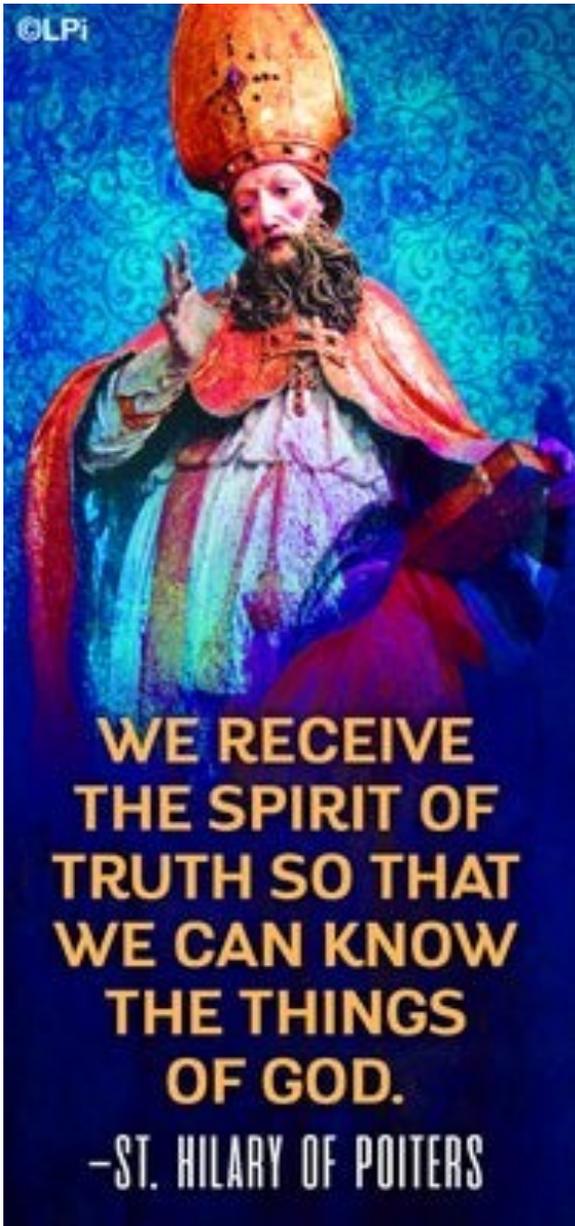
Mass Intentions



The greatest and most powerful prayer we possess is the Mass. The fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. This is why our Church encourages the faithful to have Mass offered for loved ones, both living and deceased. It is a worthy and ancient Catholic devotional practice.

To have a Mass offered, please call our St. Philip parish office at (281) 324-1478. We will let you know what Masses are available in the liturgical calendar. Mass intentions may be requested for most weekday and weekend Masses.

Stop by the office or give us a call. We will help you!



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
GALVESTON-HOUSTON



OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE
ACTIVITIES

RESPECT LIFE MASS

January 2021 marks 48 years since the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, legalizing abortion throughout the United States. On Saturday, January 23, join His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, the Office of Pro-Life Activities, and Catholics from around the Archdiocese as we celebrate the Mass, raising our voices in prayer and solidarity for the defense of human life! Mass begins at 11am. Please plan to arrive early to allow time for check-in.

The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
1111 St. Joseph Parkway
Houston, Texas 77002

January 23, 2021
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

For more information or to register for the event, please visit: [Respect Life Mass \(cvent.com\)](https://cvent.com)

Sacraments

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

If you have been participating actively *at least six months* after registration in the parish, you may ask for an appointment with the pastor or pastoral associate to begin marriage preparation. Marriage preparation requires six months.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Children age 6 or younger, the following documents **are required** before baptism date may be scheduled: parish registration, birth certificate, and baptism class certifications. Godmother and Godfather must be in good standing as practicing Catholics.

If you have been participating actively at least six months after registration in the parish, you may call the parish office to begin baptismal preparation.

FUNERAL SERVICES

To ensure that parish ministers can assist you, please call the parish office **before** setting dates and times for funeral services. Regarding personal spoken remembrances at funeral liturgies, St. Philip parish adheres to the policies of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By appointment. Please call our office to make arrangements.

Please call our **Church office** at **(281) 324-1478** if you are in need of these sacraments.

Parish Ministries Contact Information

Pastor - Rev. Richard E. Barker

Parish Administrator/Pastoral Associate - Kathy Corbett
(281) 324-1478, kcorbett@stphilip.cc

Mailing Address: PO Box 2363, Huffman TX 77336

Parish Phone: (281) 324-1478

Parish Fax: (281) 715-5533

Parish E-Mail: parishoffice@stphilip.cc

Parish Website: www.stphiliphuffmantx.org

Bulletin Submissions: spirit_truth@stphilip.cc

LITURGICAL

Altar Servers

Father Richard Barker
pastor@stphilip.cc
(281) 324-1478

Sacramental Ministry

Fr. Barker
pastor@stphilip.cc
Kathy Corbett -Pastoral Associate
kcorbett@stphilip.cc

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Nikki Metzler
nikkinoelmetzler@yahoo.com
936-521-9483

Communion to the Homebound

Kathy O'Donnell

Adornment of Sanctuary

Disciples of Jesus and Mary
Bonnie Sulkowski
(281) 508-5198

Music Core Team

Geri Moulds, Director
gmoulds@stphilip.cc
(281) 540-4682
Jan Williams
jwilliams@stphilip.cc
(713) 419-8097
Valerie Sivil
(713) 202-1310

Usher Ministry

Gary Aldrich
usher@stphilip.cc
(832) 586-6430

SOCIAL OUTREACH/CONCERN

Mary's Blessings Team

*For financial assistance
please call (832)-764-9814*

Marie Hohmann
mhohmann@stphilip.cc
(281) 360-9032

Prime Timers (55+)

Claudia Herron
cherron@stphilip.cc
primetimers@stphilip.cc
(832) 270-3385

Rosemont Assisted Living

parishoffice@stphilip.cc
(281) 324-1478

Transitions Ministry

Susie Cleary
sccleary@stphilip.cc
(765) 490-1369

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Disciples of Jesus and Mary

Laity Spiritual Formation

Jan Williams
jwilliams@stphilip.cc
(713) 419-8097

Eucharistic Adoration/Holy Face

Prayer Group

Janet Hays
(281) 852-3444

Knights of Columbus

Ray Kessler, Grand Knight
rkessler@stphilip.cc
(832) 644-8078

Women's Guild

Dianne Truitt
(713) 823-4948
dtruitt@stphilip.cc

Prayer Ministry

MyParish App - Prayers
Or email prayer requests to
parishoffice@stphilip.cc

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CCE Office

cceoffice@stphilip.cc
(281) 324-1934

CCE Core Team Chairperson

Middle/High School Coordinator

Becky Pursell
bpursell@stphilip.cc
(713) 516-7376

Elementary Coordinator

Carlie Richard
crichard@stphilip.cc
(337) 258-4840

First Sacrament Coordinator

Suzanne Burch
sburch@stphilip.cc
(361) 877-9728

Confirmation Coordinator

Becky Pursell
bpursell@stphilip.cc
(713) 516-7376

CCE Registrar

André Taylor
ataylor@stphilip.cc
(832) 233-0829

Journey in the Catholic Faith

Ray and Deb Kessler
rdkessler@stphilip.cc
(832) 644-8078



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facebook.com/stphiliphuffmantx



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www.stphiliphuffmantx.org