

1st *Sunday*
OF ADVENT



Saints Philip and James Parish

Exton, PA

November 30, 2025



Sunday Mass Schedule

Vigil: 4:00 pm

8:30, 10:30AM, 12N & 5:30PM

Monday through Saturday

Holy Mass 8:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation Monday - Friday

7 PM Vigil,

6:30, 8:30 AM, 12 Noon, 5:30, 7:30 PM

Parish Clergy

Rev. Anthony R. Hangholt, Pastor

Rev. James W. Cassidy, O.S.A., *in residence*

Weekend Assistance

Rev. Christopher J. Drennen, O.S.A. *Malvern Prep*

Rev. Francis J. Sabatini, Pastor Emeritus

St. Lucy Parish, Phila.

Parish Staff

Mrs. Barbara A. Doyle

Parish Office Manager

Mr. Michael McCafferty

Business Manager

Mrs. Carmel Kropp

Coordinator of Liturgy Services

Saints Philip & James Rectory

107 North Ship Road Exton, PA 19341

Phone: 610 363 6536 • www.sspj.net

Rectory Hours Monday thru Thursday 9AM—5PM

Closed 12N - 1PM

Saints Philip & James School

Pre-K, K, Grades 1-8: 610 363 6530

Sister Teresa Ballisty, IHM, *Principal*

Parish Religious Education

Sister Marie Garman, IHM, *Director*

Office: 610 363 1307

Christian Initiation (formerly RCIA)

Mrs. Marie Romano

484-433-9401

CYO Information

cyo.sspj.net

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is every put to shame.

COMMUNION: The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday November 29, 2025
4:00 PM Rachel Rava McFillin

Sunday November 30, 2025
8:30 AM Marie Cabrelli
10:30 AM Gavankar Family
12:00 PM Vincent & Mary Pettinato
5:30 PM Vince Buettner

Monday December 1, 2025
6:30 AM Living and Deceased Parishioners of SSPJ
8:30 AM Special Intention (L)

Tuesday December 2, 2025
6:30 AM Special Intention (L)
8:30 AM David G. Kelble, Jr.

Wednesday December 3, 2025
6:30 AM Kate McCoughan (L)
8:30 AM Edward Kushner

Thursday December 4, 2025
6:30 AM Andrea O'Donnell
8:30 AM Rachel Parker

Friday December 5, 2025
6:30 AM Joseph Stokes
8:30 AM Marianna Connell

Saturday December 6, 2025
8:30 AM Sister Teresa Ballisty, IHM (L)
4:00 PM Roe & Jon Rambo, Bob Siter

Sunday December 7, 2025
8:30 AM Anthony L. D'Elia, Jr. (Happy Birthday)
10:30 AM Lorraine Ruggeri
12:00 PM Peter M. Bruno
5:30 PM Robert, Reva, James Wack



St. Mary's Chapel is open for adoration of the Exposed Most Blessed Sacrament. Monday through Friday 9-7
Sign up sheets are available at the entrance to the chapel.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday 7 PM to 8PM, Saturday 3PM to 4PM
Sunday 8 AM—8:30AM

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

please pray for the sick

Thomas Melvin, Baby Calvin, Martin Flaherty, Lily Walker, Joseph McCormick, MaryAnn Harkins, Tracy Peacock, John Coyne, Bridget Dougherty, Sherri Lane, Bill Oxenford, Mason Ellingsworth, Lori Mergen, Kellen Leister, Linda Gardner, Dante Danilshenko, Susan Mousley, Bernadette Fattal, Kristin Schmitz, Deborah Elliott, Brandon Wack, Karen Wack, Jeff Wack, Ryan Wack, Michael Maguire, Karen Mary Portella, Fredericka DeFlaviis, Bradley Gramling, Arthur Romano, Debbie Ludwig, Erik Elken, Patrick Baker, Jim Santoro, Kole Sample, Gregory Petry, James DeFrances, Paula Slemmer, Sue Kushner, Don & Mave McKeen, Walt, Joan Delaney.



Pray for the safety of those serving Our Country: Matthew Kleponis, Brent Grafmuller, Cole Iannarino, Connor Iannarino, Christopher Iannarino, Timothy Iannarino, Matthew Boland, Liam Hansen, Daniel DiLuigi, Matthew Green, James Green, Michael Gorr, Andrew Gorr, Nick Lusi, Erik Salem Reed, Andrew C. Hagerty.

Please call the rectory if you would like a family members name added/removed to either list. Thank you.



Please remember all our deceased benefactors in your prayers.

“Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are.” St John Chrysostom



Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples must make arrangements to meet with a priest at least six months in advance. The next Pre-Cana will be **March 2026**. For more info or to register call 610-363-6536.



Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated the Second & Fourth Sundays of most months at **1:00 PM** in the Church. Please contact the Rectory for the Baptism Forms.

Baptismal Instruction The next scheduled class is **March 15, 2026** at 10:00 AM in the Rectory Meeting Room. Call Rectory to register 610-363-6536.



Dear Friends in Christ,

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, we find ourselves once again at the threshold of Advent—a season of hope, waiting, and joyful expectation. Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas; it is a sacred time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, both in the celebration of His birth and in the promise of His return.

This year, I invite each of you to enter into Advent with intentionality. Let us slow down, make room for Jesus in our daily lives, and allow the light of Christ to guide us through the busyness of the season.

To help us begin this journey, we will gather as a parish family on **Monday, December 1** for an **Evening of Reflection**. This will be a time of prayer, quiet, and renewal—a chance to step away from the noise and rediscover the peace that Advent offers. I encourage you to join us and bring a friend.

In the weeks ahead, we will also be sharing some exciting opportunities for our prep and school children to enter into the spirit of Advent. These events will help them learn, celebrate, and prepare their hearts for the joy of Christmas. Please stay tuned for more details—we look forward to seeing our young parishioners shine with anticipation and faith.

May this Advent be a season of grace for you and your families. Let us walk together in hope, awaiting the One who is Emmanuel—God with us.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

May I suggest lighting an advent wreath at table with your family and saying this prayer each day :

Lord Jesus,
as we light this Advent candle,
fill our hearts with joyful expectation.
Help us wait for You with hope that never fades
and a joy that grows brighter than this flame.
May our home reflect the gladness of Your coming—
in our words, in our kindness, and in our love for one another.
Draw us close to You as we prepare to celebrate Your birth.
Come, Lord Jesus,
our Joy and our Savior. Amen.

 Thank you for your great support of the **2025 Ss. Philip & James Chester County Christmas** program. We will be collecting all gifts and gift cards on the weekend of **December 6th & 7th**. If possible, gifts should be returned by the Noon mass on December 7th, so that we can sort the gifts that afternoon. If you aren't shopping for a child, please consider donating gift cards to grocery stores (Giant or Acme) or retail stores (Wal-Mart or Target); these will be given to the recipient families to help meet their basic needs.
For more information or to volunteer, please contact Doug or Maria Weems at (610) 594-9798 or dowmaweems@verizon.net.

Christmas 2025 Schedule:
Parish Advent Penance Service Monday, December 22 @ 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Masses Wednesday, December 24
NO AM Masses
Vigil Masses 4:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 11:00 PM
TICKETS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR ANY MASS
Christmas Day Masses Thursday, December 25
8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NOON

Sunday, December 14 – 7:00 p.m.
You are invited to step aside from the busyness of your Christmas preparations and come to a beautiful Advent Prayer Service offered by our three choirs...
Advent of Hope
~
Birth of Peace

Saints Philip and James parishioners, including Seventh and Eighth grade school students, visited Saint Carlo Acutis' Shrine at the Malvern Retreat House on November 12th. Father Anthony celebrated mass for those gathered, about 90 participants, and Mary Bea D'Amico, the shrine's director, provided a history on the development of the shrine. Afterwards, the group enjoyed lunch in the dining room and time to explore the shrine and campus. St Carlo, pray for us!

CELEBRANT SCHEDULE 2025
November 29/30

4:00 PM Fr. Cassidy
8:30 AM Fr. Anthony
10:30 AM Fr. Anthony
12:00 PM Fr. Sabatini
5:30 PM Fr. Drennen

**Thank you for your
generous Support of
SSPJ Parish**



SSPJ Helping Hands Volunteers

A hand is here for the asking! We are a volunteer group and ready to help our fellow parishioners with temporary needs. We make meals, visit, drive for errands and doctor appointments, groceries, and church. Ask if you think we can lend a helping hand or if you would like to join our volunteer group.

For more info contact Joe Mayo 484-341-3007. HelpingHands.sspj@gmail.com

Bethesda Project – A Social Outreach

The SS. Philip and James parish family continues to provide on-going support of the Bethesda Project. This is a program which provides emergency shelters, transitional and long-term housing for Philadelphia's homeless population.

By way of explanation, one ministry of the Bethesda Project is in constant need of useable towels, toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.), men's new underwear (sizes M, L and XL) and twin flat white sheets. These items allow the homeless to shower, freshen up and change into clean undergarments. It gives them a fresh start and lends dignity to their person.

If you would like to participate, donations of the listed items can be placed in the designated container found in the church vestibule. Contact Lou Ruggeri (484-889-5239) for more info.

BINGO
Every Monday
From 11:30 AM Until 3:00 PM
Doors open at 10:00 AM
Non-Smoking – Friendly
Refreshments
1392 Olde Phoenixville Pike
West Chester, PA

Contact Mike Reitman
genereitman@gmail.com

Contact Jim Evans
jim8646@comcast.net

Welcome *Registration for
New Families*

We want you to be a part of our Parish Family! Whether you are a returning Catholic, a newcomer to the area, or someone with an interest in the Catholic faith, we want to welcome you to our Church home. Stop in our Rectory Office Monday thru Thursday 9-5 closed 12-1.

Moving On? Please let the rectory know if you are moving out of SSPJ Parish, so we can remove you from our registry.

SAVE THE DATE

**BRUNCH
With Santa**

Bring your little ones for a delightful morning filled with joy and wonder. Join us for brunch with Santa Claus, where children can share their holiday wishes, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and revel in the magic of the season

- ✓ Meet, greet and get a photo with Santa Claus
- ✓ Enjoy crafts, gingerbread house contest and the SSPJ Santa Shop
- ✓ Delicious breakfast options for the whole family

Saturday, December 13 | 9 AM - Noon
Saints Philip and James Cafeteria

Jesus is calling YOU!

Grow in your faith through **FORMED** - a great resource to access powerful and informative religious programming!

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary culminating in the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 which is a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast commemorates Mary's conception without original sin.

Access FORMED to view *What is the Immaculate Conception?* In this program, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss Mary's conception and what it means to the church.

To register: Enter FORMED.org in your browser; select FIND YOUR PARISH SUBSCRIPTION; enter Zip Code 19341; select SSPJ, then enter your name and email address. Your login is your email address; no password is needed.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

Join us as the Exton Knights of Columbus will be Praying the Stations of the Cross on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month at Saints Philip and James. We will be gathering in the front of the church on the Mary's side after the 8:30 Mass to remember the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please join us as walk through all 14 Stations and remember Christ's Passion and his love for us.

SSPJ Men's Group

This is an open invitation to join us on the first and third Wednesday evening of each month. We strive to know God as a loving Father, and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, Scripture, Catholic video content, and discussion. We meet in the Rectory meeting room from 7:00 to 8:30PM. About once each quarter, we gather at a local watering hole for fellowship. Contact Bob (610) 574-5131 or Nick (248) 520-3214 for more info.

Significance of the Advent Wreath Shape and Color

Since circles have no beginning and no end, the circular shape of the Advent Wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The wreath holds four candles which are lit progressively, over the four weeks of the Advent season. Generally, three are violet (purple) and one is rose-colored, each representing 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior.

Violet is a liturgical color symbolizing penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent, we light violet candles as a reminder of the preparation of heart and mind undertaken in this season, which was traditionally known as a "little Lent."

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our wait is almost over. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

White candles can also be used in place of colored candles. Many years ago, before colored candles were available, white ones were the ancient tradition.

The Meaning of Each Candle

Each of the four candles on an Advent wreath has a specific meaning.

The first Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope, with the Prophet's Candle reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The second Sunday symbolizes Faith, with the Bethlehem Candle reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third Sunday symbolizes Joy, with the Shepherd's Candle reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.

The fourth and final Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the Angel's Candle reminding us of their message to all mankind, repeated in the Gloria at Holy Mass: "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

The Gift and Tradition of the Advent Wreath

The Church gives us this liturgical season so that we can prepare our hearts to receive Christ once again, in His coming at Christmas. We are also encouraged to reflect upon our lives in anticipation of His second coming, at the end of time.

The Advent Wreath is a beautiful way to enter into reflection alone or with your family. Slowing down during the hectic rush of the season and bringing family together nightly around the wreath can be a source of peace, grace, and blessings shared with one another, and with Christians throughout time.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sunbathing season ... just a distant memory? Rest assured, all is not lost. You can now take in some "spiritual sunbathing"! There is nothing better than taking in the warmth of the grace and love radiating from the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you St. John Vianney for the metaphor of "spiritual sunbathing". To give it a try for an hour, please contact Patty Callan at 484-467-8807 pacallan@comcast.net.

Our Advent Journey
Preparing for the Coming of the Lord in Our Hearts.

Presented By:
Father Dennis Billy
A Redemptorist of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

7:00PM
December 1, 2025

Saints Philip and James Church
723 Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Narthex.

SHARE THE FAITH MINISTRY
December Faith & Fellowship

About Father Dennis Billy
Father Billy is an American Redemptorist of the Baltimore Province. He grew up on Staten Island, New York, and attended Catholic schools there before earning his A.B. in English at Dartmouth College. He then entered the Redemptorist seminary system and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Church History (Harvard Divinity School), an M.A. in Medieval Studies (University of Toronto), an M.M. in Moral Theology (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), an S.T.D. in Spirituality (Pontifical University of St. Thomas, Rome), and a Ph.D. in Spiritual Direction (Graduate Theological Foundation).

Father Billy is the author of more than 50 books and over 400 articles, and he is passionately engaged in retreat work and the ministry of spiritual direction.

We are pleased to welcome him in his ministry at Saints Philip and James Catholic Church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

FATHER CASSIDY

December 6

Hello Everyone!



Last year, we had an amazing response to our Outreach for Camilla Hall. I would like to set the wheels in motion for another awesome response during October and November! Will you help? Camilla Hall (Near and dear to my heart!) Location: 100 Maxis Drive, Malvern, PA 19355 Camilla Hall is the Convent Home and Healthcare Center of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All who minister here, religious and lay, endeavor to serve the Sisters and one another with respect, dignity and compassion in imitation of Jesus, the Divine Healer.

Donation Items: Air Fresheners, Bar Soap: Dove/Olay/Dial, Body Splash (light) Cough Drops, Efferdent Tablets, Fixodent Adhesive, Mouthwash, Safety razors, Small Tissue Packets, No Conditioner, please! Antiperspirants/Deodorants, Battery operated toothbrushes **with extra batteries, Body Wash: Aveeno/Dove/Olay, Dental Floss, Emery Boards/Nail Care, Lotions-Aveeno, Intensive Care, Lubriderm, Nivea, Polident Tablets, Shampoo/Hairspray, Toothpaste. Please send only unopened items. Your generosity is so appreciated for and by our Sisters!

THESE ITEMS MAY BE BROUGHT TO CHURCH OR TO CLASS—THERE WILL BE A BOX IN THE NARTHEX AND ONE OUTSIDE MY OFFICE. Thank you so much! Sister Marie Garman, IHM



COME CHECK US OUT!

There's something for everyone!

Cash only
Thank you.

610-363-6530
x560

SSPJ'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS

Thursday 3:30 to 7:00 pm
Saturday – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday—1:00 pm- 4:00 pm

Spiritual Direction

Companions for the Journey Spiritual Direction is the contemplative practice of helping others to awaken to the mystery of God in their lives. Even more so in these unprecedented times, our need for our personal connection to God is vital.

The Spiritual Direction Ministry at the Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA offers trained and experienced Spiritual Directors for those seeking to revitalize their relationship with God and for those who want to deepen their spiritual lives. In person, virtual and phone meetings available.

For more information on how this ministry can enrich your life, contact Daylesford Abbey at 610-647-2530 ext. 1020 or at spiritualdirecor@daylesford.org.



There is a binder on the **Offertory Gifts** table near the Baptismal Font. We encourage individuals and/or families to sign up to present the Gifts. The calendar is prepared until the end of the year. Thank you in advance for your participation in this beautiful part of the Mass.

ADULT GROUP
WEDNESDAY, December 17
11:30 AM
RECTORY MEETING ROOM
Christmas Party

COME FOR FELLOWSHIP,
BINGO, CANASTA, BRIDGE,
PINOCHLE, etc.

Feel free to bring a friend!
Lunch will be provided

BINGO

10	18	40	53	74
3	23	37	55	70
15	24	★	51	62
5	30	43	54	65
1	28	33	58	67

Christian Initiation of Adults

“Thirsting for God?”

Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition, who is searching for what it means to become Catholic?

Do you know someone already Catholic but, who has not yet received Confirmation & Eucharist? They may be searching also!

Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly RCIA) is a place to ask questions and seek understanding. Weekly sessions will begin again in September. Please contact Marie (marieromano@verizon.net) 484-433-9401.

All Bulletin Announcements need to be to the rectory by Monday -12 noon for the upcoming weekend.

Below is a detailed weekly submission Bulletin schedule for the 2025 Holiday Season. Please have all bulletin announcements to the Rectory by the date listed:

- December 7 is due **December 1****
- December 14 is due **December 3****
- December 21 is due **December 11****
- December 28 is due **December 17****
- January 4 is due **December 22****



Saints Philip and James Prayer Shawl group will meet on **Friday, December 12 @ 9AM** in the rectory meeting room. **SCARVES are due that date also.**

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join the group. If you have any questions please

call Kathy at 610 363 1720 or kpenderghast@verizon.net (We are no longer accepting yarn and projects can be worked on at home)



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A community rooted in faith, growing in knowledge, serving with love, worshiping God

ENROLL TODAY!



We are always grateful for the way our school community comes together for Family Mass. Last week, our students in grades 8, 4, 1, and Pre-K 4B helped lead us in worship through lectoring, greeting, presenting the gifts, and sharing their voices and talents. Moments like these show how a Catholic education forms the whole child through nurturing faith, confidence, leadership, public-speaking skills, and a love for service.

CONTACT US

- 📞 610.363.6350 X137
- 🌐 SCHOOL.SSPJ.NET
- ✉ ADVANCEMENT@SSPJ.NET
- 📱 [@SAINTSPHILIPANDJAMESCHOOL](https://www.facebook.com/saintphilipandjameschool)





CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

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



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 STOCKING
 WREATH
 GARLAND
 CANDLE
 FIGURINE
 ORNAMENT
 TINSEL
 RIBBON
 TWINKLING
 LIGHTS
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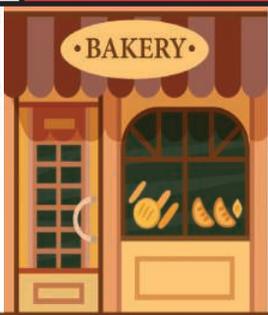
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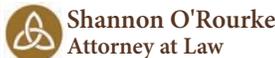


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