

**2<sup>nd</sup>** *Sunday*  
**OF ADVENT**



# Saints Philip and James Parish

Exton, PA

December 7, 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](http://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](http://cyo.sspj.net)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice..

**COMMUNION:** Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



**Saturday December 6, 2025**  
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

**Monday December 8, 2025**  
**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary**  
6:30 AM Living and Deceased Parishioners of SSPJ  
8:30 AM Dr. Frank Brennan  
12:00 PM Thomas Pohl  
5:30 PM Doreen E. Kelly  
7:00 PM Michael Griffin

**Tuesday December 9, 2025**  
6:30 AM Harry H. Parker  
8:30 AM Sean Folan (Happy Birthday)

**Wednesday December 10, 2025**  
6:30 AM Theresa Schurr  
8:30 AM Helen & Edward Parviskhan

**Thursday December 11, 2025**  
6:30 AM Sister Virginia Assumpta McNabb, IHM  
8:30 AM Dr. Frank Brennan

**Friday December 12, 2025**  
6:30 AM Sister Marie Carroll Isselmann, IHM  
8:30 AM Mary Lou Noone

**Saturday December 13, 2025**  
8:30 AM Peg DeVry  
4:00 PM Francis W. Brennan, DO

**Sunday December 14, 2025**  
8:30 AM Joseph & Carmen Podziomek  
10:30 AM James Catagano  
12:00 PM Dee Wills  
5:30 PM Deceased Members of the Brennan Family




**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

**December 7, 2025**  
**Second 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.

144 St. Philip & James



Dear Friends in Christ,

On **Monday, December 8th**, we celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, a holy day of obligation. This solemnity reminds us of the great gift of Mary, conceived without sin, chosen to be the Mother of our Savior. I encourage everyone to join us at Mass as we honor Our Lady and give thanks for her “yes” to God’s plan of salvation.

As we move deeper into Advent, our hearts naturally turn toward the traditions of Christmas. The lights, carols, and decorations all point us to the joy of Christ’s coming. Traditions are powerful — they connect us to our faith, to our families, and to our parish community.

This year at **SSPJ**, we are beginning a **new parish tradition**. On the **Third Sunday of Advent**, we invite each family to bring a Christmas tree ornament to church. The ornament may be store-bought or homemade, simple or elaborate. What matters most is that it represents your family (please make sure the ornaments displays your family’s name on the front). Together, we will decorate a “**Family Tree**” in the narthex of the church. Each ornament will display the names of our parish families, creating a beautiful symbol of unity and faith.

Imagine the joy of seeing our tree adorned with ornaments from every household — a living reminder that we are one parish family in Christ. I hope you will take part in this tradition and help us make it something we can cherish for years to come.

May this Advent season be a time of hope, joy, and preparation as we await the coming of our Lord.

In Christ,  
Fr. Anthony

PS: We will continue our tradition of The Banbinelli Blessing on December 13 and December 14.

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

### 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 MASSES

Christmas Day Masses Thursday, December 25  
8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NOON

New Years Eve Wednesday, December 31  
8:30 AM, 4:00 PM

New Years Day Thursday, January 1  
8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NOON

## CELEBRANT SCHEDULE 2025

December 13/14, 2025

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

### Stewardship Update 23 Weeks through November 30, 2025

	Year To Date	Weekly Average
Budget	665,343	28,928
Actual	<u>610,078</u>	<u>26,525</u>
Variance	-55,265	-2,404
	-9.1%	-9.1%

Thank you for your generous Support of SSPJ Parish

# 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

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Contact Mike Reitman  
 genereitman@gmail.com



Contact Jim Evans  
 jim8646@comcast.net



### 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.

## 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

## 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.

## 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. This devotion honors the truth that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin which prepared her to be the Mother of God.

December 12 is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe which commemorates her appearances to Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac near Mexico City in 1531. Her image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma is seen as a divine sign of her love and mercy. Access FORMED to view *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message*. This documentary discusses the history of this transformative event from the 16th century to the present through interviews with leading theologians, historians, and experts on the scientific inquiries into the miraculous image.

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.

 This is collection weekend for the **2025 Ss. Philip & James Chester County Christmas** program! We will be collecting gifts and gift cards in the Narthex at all masses this weekend. In addition, we will have a 'drive-thru' gift drop-off in front of the rectory on Saturday 12/6 from 1 pm to 4 pm and on Sunday 12/7 from 10 am to 5:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Doug or Maria Weems at (610) 986-7109 or [domaweems@verizon.net](mailto:domaweems@verizon.net).

## 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](mailto:pacallan@comcast.net).

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.



**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

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

**COME FOR FELLOWSHIP,**  
**BINGO, BRIDGE,**  
**PINOCHLE, CANASTA, 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



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

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join the group. If you have any questions please call Kathy at 610 363 1720 or [kpenderghest@verizon.net](mailto:kpenderghest@verizon.net) (We are no longer accepting yarn and projects can be worked on at home)

**THANKS-FOR-GIVING RAFFLE**

A heartfelt thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets in support of our annual **Thanks-for-Giving Raffle**. Sales for this year amounted to just shy of 700 tickets! Proceeds from this very worthwhile fundraiser accrue into the school's operating account, supporting the many student-focused initiatives and facility requirements to properly operate our wonderful school. A special thanks goes to Jeff D'Ambrosio Auto Group, a family-owned car dealership, who partnered with us again this year, and are also a BLOCS Donor, helping to help make a Catholic education more affordable through needs-based scholarships; and to our local Wawa store, a new sponsor to this year's event and a wonderful partner to the parish. Again, many thanks to everyone who participated and supported this meaningful fundraiser!

This year's winners are: **Grand Prize** – Mr. Henry Casey; **First Prize** – the Mattera family; **Second Prize** – Mr. Jeffrey Fountaine; **Third Prize** – the Kolenda family

**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](mailto:spiritualdirecor@daylesford.org).**



**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](mailto: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 21 is due December 11**  
**December 28 is due December 17**  
**January 4 is due December 22**

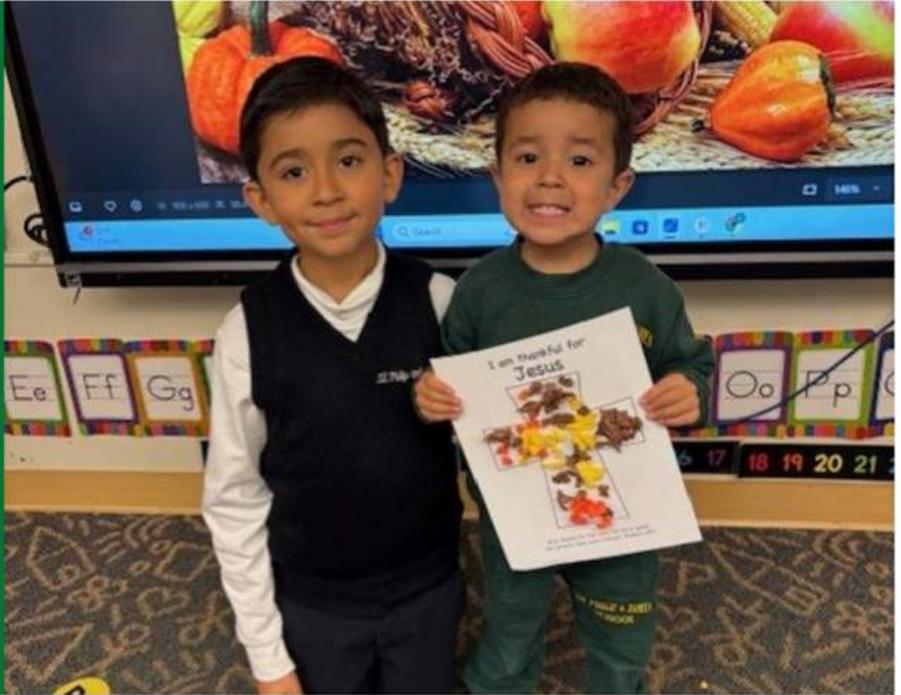


# SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES SCHOOL

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



## ENROLL TODAY!



Our Pre-K 3 and 3rd Grade Prayer Partners shared a memorable morning working on a festive Thanksgiving activity. We loved watching our older students model leadership, kindness, and patience as they guided their younger buddies through each step with plenty of joyful laughter, proud moments, and sweet smiles along the way. Experiences like these beautifully reflect our mission to nurture faith-filled hearts, inspire servant leadership, and foster meaningful relationships across grade levels. It's in these everyday moments of community, care, and shared prayer that our school truly feels like family.

### CONTACT US

- 610.363.6350 X137
- SCHOOL.SSPJ.NET
- ADVANCEMENT@SSPJ.NET
- @SAINTSPHILIPANDJAMESCHOOL



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



# Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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



- |              |         |             |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| ADVENT       | INFANT  | MYRRH       |
| ANGEL        | JESUS   | NATIVITY    |
| BETHLEHEM    | JOSEPH  | REJOICE     |
| BIRTH        | MAGI    | STABLE      |
| BLESSINGS    | MANGER  | STAR        |
| CAMELS       | MARY    | THREE KINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MIRACLE | WISE MEN    |



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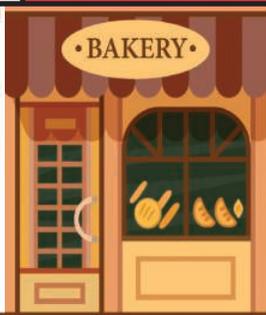
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