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SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOUNDED 1909

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



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PARISH SCHOOL:
979-543-2901 • fax: 979-578-8835

Parish Homepage: www.stphilipapostle.org
Parish Email: apostle@stphilipapostle.org
School Homepage: www.stphilipschool.org

Pastor: Rev. Dalton R. Ervin
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Samuel K. Owusu

Deacons: Deacon Jerome Grahmann
Deacon Larry Hoelscher

***Community Mission Statement...** We, the people of God of Saint Philip the Apostle, in the loving and evangelizing spirit of St. Philip, form a family community that challenges each of us to proclaim and live the gospel messages of Jesus Christ in the world through worship, evangelization, Christian formation and service.*

Sunday Eucharist Schedule

Saturday (Vigil of Sunday) 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

Holy Day and Weekday Schedule

Holy Days (check the Bulletin)
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, First Saturday 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
Friday during School Season 8:15 a.m.

Perpetual Adoration and Rosary

Perpetual Adoration Monday 8:30 a.m. until Friday 5:00 p.m.
Rosary 30 minutes before 5:00 P.M. Saturday Evening Mass
and 7:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.;
by appointment and season schedule during Advent and Lent

~ PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION ~

Sacrament of Baptism: Please inform the Parish office at least six months before due date. Further instructions and baptismal materials will be provided at the Parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please register at the parish office as soon as possible, but at least six months prior to anticipated date.

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound: Call the Parish office when a family member is sick and would like a visit or would like to receive Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

New Parishioners and Status: Welcome to St. Philip Parish! Call or come by the Parish office to register. Also notify us when moving out of the parish or when you have a change of family status and address.

Mass Intentions Dec 4 – Dec 10		
MON	8:00 a.m.	+ Brandon Janak
TUE	8:00 a.m.	+ Vlasta Faldyn
WED	1:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Priest Intention + Francis Stock
THU	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	+ Bob Staff + Mary Ann Krauskopf, Marie Urbanovsky
FRI	8:15 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 6:45 p.m.	+ Charles and Mary Waligura Parishioners Intentions Intention for An End to Abortion
SAT	5:00 p.m.	+ Milton and Angeline Schoenfield
SUN	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Parishioners Intentions + Ruby Jean Rod + Larry Karasek

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DEC 9 & DEC 10

SATURDAY— 5:00 p.m.**Lector:** Cecilia Polasek**Cantor:** Wendy Korenek**Altar Servers:** Breckyn Drapela, Paislyn Drapela, Katelyn Netardus**Hospitality:** Lillian Bartek, **Need Volunteer****Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Martha Bartos, Kevin Pavlas

SUNDAY 7:00 a.m.**Lector:** A. J. Kresta**Altar Servers:** Brynn Charbula, Talyan Charbula, Parker Eide**Hospitality:** Roy Smaistrila, Janice Smaistrila**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Aaron Faas, Michael Feagin, Mike Smaistrila

SUNDAY— 10:00 a.m.**Lector:** Susan Richards, Madsen Raun**Cantor:** Kathy Bodungen**Altar Servers:** Annie Aertker, Rhett Dertien, Addison Popp, Matthew Van Antwerp (**Thurifier**)**Hospital/Meridian:** Mike Couvillion**Hospitality:** Frank Jalufka, Frank Kacal, Joe Kocurek, Philip Kocurek**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Kimberly Couvillion, Mike Couvillion, Jan Dornak, Irene Nohavitza, Claudia Raun

CLOW: Stacy Amestoy**Vocation Crucifix:** Stacey Charbula family**SUNDAY— 6:00 p.m.****Lector:** Grace Amestoy**Cantor:** Abby Wallis**Altar Servers:** Addison Koudela, Alli Koudela, Aubri Koudela**Hospitality:** **Need Volunteers****Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Lynn Cox, Theresa Staff

*First Sunday of Advent**December 3, 2023***A Message From Our Parochial Vicar**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Lk. 3:4).

Once again, as we continue our preparations this week, towards the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation at Christmas, we meditate on our readiness to meet the Lord when he comes.

We hear in the Gospel of Luke, for example, the message of John the Baptist “preaching a baptism of repentance and forgiveness of sins,” reminding us to prepare for the Messiah’s coming, in order to experience the event of great joy that his birth brings along. It is a season of grace, since this is one of the best ways to prepare our hearts for Christ.

I know plans are far advanced to make the sacrament of reconciliation more available to all in the next couple of weeks, as it’s always done in our Parish. Just encourage yourself and leave a space in your schedule for it when the time comes, so that you wouldn’t need to press for a space in a queue at night.

A word of gratitude to you all for your selfless support and cooperation, and also to my Pastor, *Fr. Dalton*, for giving me the opportunity to come your way this week.

With the mercy and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ,

-Fr. Samuel (Parochial Vicar)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER**Pray For The Sick...**

Annabelle Van Deursen, Anton Tupa, Dolores Priesmeyer, Melody Macha, Milton & Henrietta Machacek, Kristen Lezak, Abby Goerig, Carly Walker, Lisa Respondek Holt, Leonard Hubenak, Jennifer Martin, Irene Sedlock, Eugene Graham, Cindy Junek, Bill Culver, Carl Siglock, Shirley McMahon, Cindy Schmidt, Edith Farish, Kristi Baker, Lorrie Goodman, L. C. Koehne Jr., Lawrence Korenek, Linda Vaclavick, Frank Kacal, Cindy Blaha, Kim Underwood, Vicky Pavlu, Margaret Waters, Rickie Wiesner, Gail Zaruba, Kim Peikert, Douglas Hansen, Sue Maxwell, Frances Kappelmann, Austin Tice, Pat Cunningham, Daisy Zella, Laura Thane, Blair Ross Couey Jr., Barbara Junek, Darrell Nohavitza, Dorothy Faas, Walter and Stephanie Stepan, Louise Kubena, Billy Berry, Stephen Gaines, Gerald Ripple, Regina Kaspar, Calynne Reckaway, Ginger McMasters Preite, John Scogin, Amelia Lyford, Betty Hlavinka, Jesse Wheeler, Candace Janecka, Douglas “Bubba” Dornak, Elaine Janik, Albert Socha, Clifton Bram, Alvin Merta, Dolores Resendez, Patsy Mican Smith, Melodie Kacal, Larry Grubbs, Eleanor Mican, Julia Rodriguez, Evelyn Dybala, Darlene Kahanek, Nancy Kacal, Marilyn Goerig, Braden Mican, Trent Mican, Alice Bacak Richardson, Anna Peter, Chris Dettling, Tommy Barker and the homebound.

FIRST READING - Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

SECOND READING - 2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a

mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

GOSPEL - Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Key Scriptural Passage...

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

Questions for Discussion:

Adult: At this time, how faithful do you feel you are being to God's plan for you?

Child: What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

Readings For The Week (Dec 4 – Dec 9)

Monday.....Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday.....Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday.....Is 25:6-10/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday.....Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21,24-27
Friday.....Gn 3:9-15,20/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday.....Is 30:19-21,23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1,5,6-8

St. Philip Catholic School Distinguished Graduate Award

St. Philip Catholic School recognizes a distinguished graduate whose accomplishments reflect the values and character of St. Philip alumni. We ask for nominations for one such graduate using the following simple criteria:

The Distinguished Graduate Award Nominee:

- Must be a graduate of St. Philip Catholic School
- Should have graduated from St. Philip at least 10 years ago
- Should have made some significant contribution to American, Texas or local society and /or the Catholic Church which reflects favorably on the education the nominee received at St. Philip Catholic School.

If you know of someone who meets the above-mentioned qualifications, please complete a nomination form. Forms may be picked up at the school office during normal office hours.

Pray For Our Seminarians:

Deacon Joseph Blackburn, Aaron Padilla, Shane Goertz, Caleb Krischke, William Pettus, Alex Woods, Nelson Lagos

****Bulletin Sponsor of the Week:**

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The poster for the 2023 SPS Run With The Saints is set against a light blue background. At the top, a blue and white checkered banner curves across the frame. Below the banner, a circular photograph shows a group of people running on a paved path. To the right of the photo is a silhouette of a runner. The text '2023 SPS RUN WITH THE SAINTS' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the top. Below the photo, there is a section titled 'Join the Movement!' with a sub-header 'New name, same great FAMILY TIME! Kick off Catholic Schools Week with our annual fun run.' Below this, it says 'For Inquiries, Contact Us at:' followed by an email icon and 'jk_eide@hotmail.com'. At the bottom, there is a red 'Register' button with a right-pointing arrow, followed by the URL 'https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/ECCoPo/RunWithTheSaints2K'. To the right of the URL, there is a section titled 'Choose Your Distance' with two options: '5K Run or Walk' and 'Family Fun Run', each accompanied by a small red flag icon. In the top left corner, there is a calendar icon and the text 'Saturday Jan 27, 2024'. In the top right corner, there is a location pin icon and the text 'St. Philip Catholic School'.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Those Going Home to God

Georgia Hlavaty

Life has changed, not ended....

Pray For Those Serving In The Military and Law Enforcement

Nathan Cox LCRA Ranger, Zachary Elledge, IT1 US Navy, Lance Corp. Casey Winfield, USMC, David Haugh US Army Staff Sgt., Robert Drapela, Coast Guard, Zachary Montello Master Chief Sub-Lant Lance Corp., Mason Miller USMC, Spec. Christopher Alford, U.S. Army, Chris Bird, Texas Game Warden Wharton County, Lane Kocian Air Force, Shannon Srubar Sheriff, Clint Savino Chief Deputy WCSO, Captain Larry Hensley, WCSO, Captain Jason Mican, WCSO, SRO Jeffery Pfeil, ECPD, Greg Pasak Travis County SO, James Scott DOJ, James Sanders Houston PD, Arthur Debo ECPD, Braden Mican ECPD, SR Reece Mazel, Navy, Joseph Dornak, Private E2, Billy Edmiston, Infantry Marine, Brenden Norman Coast Guard, Colton Holub Army, Hunter Koudela WCSO, Jonathan Elledge, Staff Sgt. U.S. Air Force, Sgt Kurt Korenek, PD - Cy Fair ISD, Kaci Korenek USMC, Joshua Graham Douglas, Texas Guard

Adorers Needed: We are needing adorers for **Wednesday** from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., and **Thursday** from 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., Please pray and answer God's call. For more information, call Janet Holub at 543-6130.

Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah... Presented by the Columbus Community Choir on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. at the Columbus High School Auditorium. Recognizing and honoring all pastors and ministers who serve our communities.

Prayer for Advent... Lord Jesus, stir up my heart this Advent with a lively desire for your coming. Though I am tempted to settle for the illusions of happiness, strengthen me to seek the real thing in you. Amid the sometimes-frantic pace of preparation for Christmas, give me a joyful sense of your presence. When I am faced with the darkness of suffering, remind me that you were born because we desperately needed a Savior and that we have your promise of eternal life.



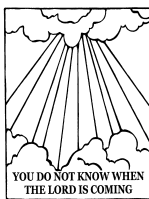
From Scripture...Mark 13:33-37...

Be watchful, be alert... This gospel is from the first Sunday of Advent. We are preparing to celebrate the birth of Our Lord, his first coming. Christmas is a time of joy, for Jesus came to us in human form to redeem us from our sins.

But Advent is a time for us to prepare for when Jesus comes again. In the creed we say, "...he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." We don't know when this will happen. It could be tomorrow; it will certainly be when we die. Jesus' message is to be watchful and alert for his coming.

To be watchful involves getting our individual lives in order. Christ gave us the sacraments so we can do this, especially the Sacrament of Penance. Being in a state of grace means we are prepared to meet Jesus.

However this preparation involves each of us gathering the harvest. It means each of us being a missionary in our lives so everyone may come to know and love the Lord when they come face to face with God.



Upper Room Prayer Group welcomes YOU! We invite you to come and Praise and Worship God and learn to Be Still and Know that HE is God. Come check us out! Tuesday from 6:00 pm – 7:30 in the music room of the school. Our concentration is learning and practicing the many gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Flowers - December 3
Advent - No Flowers

Sacrificial Giving

11-26-23.....	\$11,468.00
Maintenance.....	\$165.00
School	\$175.00

The Season of Advent: Rest Stops for a Rushed People... "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while," Jesus counseled his disciples when they returned from their first mission trip. (Mk 6:31). The disciples were full of excitement, reporting all the wonderful things they had done. Jesus' advice: Calm down, get away from the crowds, rest, be quiet for a while.

In these weeks before Christmas, Jesus' advice is especially fitting. Life is hectic. We are overloaded, frantic to get everything done before Christmas. Advent is the Lord's call to us to "come away by yourself and rest a while." Advent is a time for waiting, a time for quiet contemplation, a time to sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" instead of Christmas carols. We wait, not for presents on Christmas day or even family get-togethers, but for Jesus.

We remember Israel's wait for Jesus birth into the world. We wait as individuals for Jesus' coming into our hearts. We wait for his coming at the end of time. We wait.

Suggestions for Celebrating the Season of Advent:

- ◆ Attend daily Mass.
- ◆ Attend Eucharistic Adoration.
- ◆ Read the Bible, both personally and as a family.
- ◆ Pray the rosary, perhaps before bedtime or in the car on the way to school, work, or shopping.
- ◆ Pray the rosary as a family.
- ◆ Take time to assist someone in need.
- ◆ Fast.
- ◆ Turn off the television at least once a week, even for just a few hours.
- ◆ Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Growing in Faith... Open your heart to the Christmas promise...

This time of year reminds us of our hope for a future of peace. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

"One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again" (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christmas child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.

"The poor will eat their fill; those who seek the Lord will offer praise" (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.

"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope.

ADVENT SERVICE...

A Journey to Bethlehem

Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in church with Fr. Dalton. Join us for an evening of prayer and reflection as we prepare the way of the Lord.



Calendar of Events...**Monday, December 4**

- Men's bible study at 6:00 a.m. - Meeting House.
- Bible study group session at 10:00 a.m. - Meeting House.

Tuesday, December 5

- Upper room prayer group will meet at 6:00 p.m.
- Women's bible study at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6

- CCE Grades K-12 at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 8

- Parish office closed.

Sunday, December 10

- Second collection is for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.
- Please return the paper bag with the food items and place in front of Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Altar.

St. Philip School Catholic Super Prize Drawing Winner for November 24 is *Harper Hubenak*.

CDA/KC Christmas Party on Monday, December 4 at the Columbus Club Hall. Social at 6:00 p.m. and meal to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus #2490 annual sportsman raffle and stew supper will be held Tuesday, December 12 at the Columbus Club Hall. Raffle tickets are available at the church office.

Memorial Donations for Christmas Flowers...

Those wishing to remember their loved ones may do so by placing their donation in the envelopes that will be provided this Sunday, December 3. You may bring them to the rectory or drop the envelope in the collection basket.

Parish Food Drive...The parish is sponsoring a food drive for the Blessing Cup Storehouse as part of our Advent preparation. Paper bags will be available this weekend Dec 2 and Dec 3 and should be brought back and placed in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary altar and St. Joseph altar the weekend of Dec 9 and Dec 10.



The Giving Tree Program...The directors of the board of *The Blessing Cup* have asked that churches participating in the project once again assist them in their need for towels, blankets, sheets (any size) hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and laundry detergent. These items will be distributed to those in need throughout the year. **Please do not wrap these items.** The donations may be brought to the church and placed in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary altar and St. Joseph altar Dec. 9-10.

**2024 Parish Religious Calendars...**

Thank you to the following parishioners and businesses who were so generous in providing the 2024 parish religious calendar. Calendars will be distributed after all the Masses next weekend, December 9th and 10th.

Triska Funeral Home, Knights of Columbus #2490, Gary Tupa Plumbing, Mikeska Barbecue & Catering, E.A. Collins & Sons Trailer Sales, Witcher Advertising Specialties, Heavenly Helpers and Flowers Etc. & Gifts.

Strength For The Journey Grief Support ministry monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church parish hall in Ganado Texas. For more information, contact *Pat Hoelscher* at 979-257-9984.

December 8, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation.

Masses are at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec 7, and 8:15 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 6:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec 8.



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Lector: Jim Van Antwerp

Cantor:

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion: Kimberly Couvillion, Mike Couvillion, Tish McAlister

Altar Servers: Alexandra Martinez, Jade Thibeaux, Jude Thibeaux, Matthew Van Antwerp (**Thurifier**)

Hospitality: Need Volunteers

Friday, December 8 at 8:15 a.m.

Lector: St. Philip School Ministry

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion:

St. Philip School Ministry

Altar Servers: St. Philip School Ministry

Hospitality: St. Philip School Ministry

Friday, December 8 at 12:10 p.m.

Lector: Angela Dornak

Cantor:

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion: Tish McAlister, Irene Nohavitz

Altar Servers: St. Philip School Ministry

Hospitality: Need Volunteers

Friday, December 8 at 6:45 p.m.

Lector: Dot Hermansen, Ceci Triska

Cantor:

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion: Linda Bolcik, Michael Bolcik, Duane Korenek

Altar Servers: Connor Purrell, Michaela Purrell, Michael Rodriguez, Duncan Harris (**Thurifier**)

Hospitality: Bruce Allgayer, Clay Harris, Gerry Mikeska, Jimmie Triska

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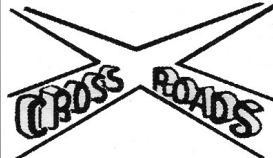
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