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Receptionist
Sylvia Peter

Music Director
Janice Cox

Youth Minister
Ana Rodriguez

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Leslie Farquhar

Parish Catechetical Leader
Allison Van Antwerp

School Principal
Gwen Edwards

School Secretary
Amanda Stary

Cemetery Supervisor
Kirk Stary

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Deacon Larry Hoelscher

Daniel Berglund
Lisa Bubela
Kim Couvillion
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SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOUNDED 1909

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



304 W. Church St., El Campo, Tx. 77437
979-543-3770 • fax: 979-578-8831

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 25 – Dec 31

MON	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Parishioners Intentions + Louis Buzek
TUE	8:00 a.m.	+ Allen Bubela
WED	1:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Priest Intention + Bobby Stepan
THU	8:00 a.m.	+ Sylvester Kollaja
FRI	8:00 a.m.	+ Edwin and Judy Orsak
SAT	5:00 p.m.	+ Anton Peter Sr.
SUN	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	+ Regina Merta +Alfonse, Rosie, and Dennis Pustejovsky, Roland Kacal Parishioners Intentions

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.
- Luke 1:35

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DEC 30 & DEC 31**SATURDAY– 5:00 p.m.****Lector:** Essie Leslie**Cantor:** Richard Raun**Altar Servers:** Conley Craneck, Hayes Craneck, Ansleigh Merta**Hospitality:** Steven and Wendy Korenek**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Dennis Edwards, Gwen Edwards

SUNDAY 7:00 a.m.**Lector:** Angela Dornak**Altar Servers:** Parker Eide, Elizabeth Leopold, Addelyn Leopold**Hospitality:** Michael Feagin, Terry Priesmeyer**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Aaron Faas, Mike Smaistrila

Vocation Crucifix: Bill and Nelda Schmidt**SUNDAY– 10:00 a.m.****Lector:** Susie Gaines, Ginger Harris**Cantor:** Daniel Berglund**Altar Servers:** Connor Purrell, Michaela Purrell, Matthew Van Antwerp**Hospital/Meridian:****Hospitality:** Bruce Allgayer, Clay Harris, Gerry Mikeska, Jimmie Triska**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Kimberly Couvillion, Mike Couvillion, Jan Dornak, Mary Kay Price, Ron Price

CLOW:**SUNDAY– 5:00 p.m.****Lector:** Polly Wilkins**Cantor:** Madi Kelly**Altar Servers:** Harrison Porter, Sophie Porter, Caleb Porter**Hospitality: Need Volunteers****Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Lynn Cox, Theresa Staff

*Fourth Sunday of Advent**December 24, 2023***A Message From Our Pastor**

We have made it! Through all the hustle and bustle, through all the waiting and preparing, we have each made our own unique journey to the stable in Bethlehem. Christmas is upon us; a Savior is born for us.

This is not just a historical event that happened long ago in a faraway land. What we celebrate in these days is the reality that our God comes to be with us every day, even now, and it began with that little baby boy. The question that Christmas lays before us, is whether we make space for God in our lives. He comes to us, he knocks at the door of our heart, that he might dwell within us and make us a holy people. The annual celebration of Christmas is our yearly check-up. What have I let take up too much space in my life, what priorities do I need to rearrange to allow God the space he needs to transform me into the person he created me to be?

This Christmas is a remembrance of the greatest and purest love that has ever existed and been discovered by human beings, a remembrance of a God who comes to be with his people, whose name is Jesus. May you find the peace of the new-born King alive in your lives today and every day. Merry Christmas!

With the tenderness, compassion, and mercy of the loving Savior,
-Fr. Dalton

**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, 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, and the homebound.

FIRST READING - Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?" Abram continued, "See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

SECOND READING - Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age --and Sarah herself was sterile-- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

GOSPEL - Luke:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted --and you yourself a sword will pierce-- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Key Scriptural Passage (Dec 24)

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Questions for Discussion:

Adult: When have you followed the example of Mary and said, "Let it be done to me as you say?"

Child: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

Key Scriptural Passage (Dec 31)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

Questions for Discussion:

Adult: How do family members know that you are a compassionate person?

Child: What family member needs your compassion and kindness right now?

Pray For Our Seminarians:

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

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

J.J. BUBELA'S FLOOR CENTER, INC.

Let us support our bulletin advertisers and encourage others to do the same

Flowers - December 25/January 7

Christmas - Donated by donors of our flower offering.

Readings For The Week (Dec 25 - Dec 30)

Monday.....Isaiah 62:11-12/Titus 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20
Tuesday.....Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday.....1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1,2-8
Thursday.....1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
Friday.....1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday.....1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Readings For The Week (Jan 1 - Jan 6)

Monday.....Nb/6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday.....1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday.....1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Thursday.....1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Friday.....1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Saturday.....1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11

Pray For Those Serving In The Military and Law Enforcement

Nathan Cox LCRA Ranger, Zachary Elledge, E-5 MM2 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, LCDR Jarrod Smith US Navy, 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, Ivan Jaramillo Private #2, 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

Mass Intentions Jan 1 – Jan 6		
MON	8:00 a.m.	+ Adolph Balcar
TUE	8:00 a.m.	+ Fred Prihoda
WED	1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Priest Intention + Johnny Mican, Adolph and Sophie Kunetka
THU	8:00 a.m.	+ Johnnie Bartosh
FRI	8:15 a.m.	+ Annie Drastata
SAT	8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Parishioners Intentions Lynn and Janice Cox (Special In- tention)
SUN	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Parishioners Intentions + Richard and Gloria Slovak, Rick Slovak + Edwin and Judy Orsak



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The Epiphany of the Lord
All kings shall pay him hom-
age, all nations shall serve
him.
- Psalm 72:11

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JAN 6 & JAN 7

● **SATURDAY– 5:00 p.m.**

Lector: Ruthie Buzek

Cantor: Diane Bard

Altar Servers: Faith Korenek, Grady Lange, Katelyn Netardus

Hospitality: Steven and Wendy Korenek

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Martha Bartos, Tish McAlister

● **SUNDAY– 7:00 a.m.**

Lector: A. J. Kresta

Altar Servers: Brynn Charbula, Tallynn Charbula, Allie Zalman

Hospitality: Roy and Janice Smaistrle

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Michael Bolcik, Linda Bolcik, Jason Zalman

Vocation Crucifix: Sylvia Little

● **SUNDAY– 10:00 a.m.**

Lectors: John Hancock, Rita Hancock

Cantor: Richard Raun

Altar Servers: Annie Aertker, Breckyn Drapela, Paislyn Drapela

Hospitality: Frank Jalufka, Frank Kacal, Joe Kocurek, Philip Kocurek

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Kimberly Couvillion, Mike Couvillion, Duane Korenek, Claudia Raun, Romona Stepan

CLOW: Hanni Mican

● **SUNDAY– 6:00 p.m.**

Lector: Juliann Little

Cantor: Abigail Porter

Altar Servers: Caroline Little, Alexandra Martinez, Michael Rodriguez

Hospitality: Need Volunteers

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Lynn Cox, Theresa Staff

SUNDAY READINGS for JANUARY 7, 2024

FIRST READING - Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

SECOND READING - Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

GOSPEL - Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Pro-Life Corner...Dec 24 - Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the Baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years.

Pro-Life Corner...Dec 31 - Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-woman. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers.

On New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, the household gathers at the table or at the Christmas tree or manger scene. Many people make New Year's Day a day of prayer for peace.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

Let us praise the Lord of days and seasons and years, saying, "Glory to God in the highest!"

R/. And peace to his people on earth!

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years, for we are part of a universe of suns and moons and planets. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.

One Present reads from Sacred Scripture: A Reading from Book of Genesis:

God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, members of the household offer prayers of thanksgiving for the past year, and of intercession for the year to come. On January 1, it may be appropriate to conclude these prayers with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in Part VII: Litanies) since this is the solemn feast of Mary, Mother of God. In conclusion, all join hands for the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader continues:

Let us now pray for God's blessing in the new year.

After a short silence, parents may place their hands on their children in blessing as the leader says:

Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter.

You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

All conclude with the sign of the cross.

*Father Dalton, Father Samuel,
Deacon Jerome, Deacon Larry,
and the entire staff of
Saint Philip the Apostle
Catholic Church pray you and
your family will have a Blessed
Christmas Season.!*



A Christmas Prayer... When life forces us to wrestle with what's difficult, give us courage. Teach us that there is a purpose in everything we experience, and everything is more than it appears to be. This world is permeated by Your presence, and is Your presence in form. May we be drawn to Your voice above the other, competing voices. Great and Holy One, we pray for Peace. Take us to the abode of Peace for which all hearts long. We pray to find stillness within our busyness, and rest in the midst of our celebrations and activity. Show us how to walk more gently, more patiently, on the Earth. Let kindness be born within all hearts. Teach us to draw together as one people. One humanity. One heart. One spirit. One longing. May our prayer rise up like fire and be Light for a troubled world. This we know. Something is trying to be born in us. Take our hand as we set out anew.
-Paula D'Arcy

A Prayer at Christmas Time for Country Living

LORD Jesus Christ, when, on a winter's night I look up through the clear air at the stars, I can be very close to You and to Your native Bethlehem. It was at night that You first came to this earth. It was under the same stars that now gleam in this night sky that Mary first held You in her arms. It was by the faint light of these stars still shining tonight that the shepherds found their way to the stable, and discovered You, as the angels had said they would, lying in a manger.

Dear Christ, it is especially at Christmas time that I see and understand how close You are to those who live on the land. We have so many reminders of You! The stars and moon at night and the sun by day — the same stars under which You were born; the same moon that shone that night on Bethlehem; the same sun that brightened Your first days on earth.

The stable, and the farm animals that shared their quarters and their warmth with You, their creator. The sheep and the shepherds that came to adore You — rough men, but good, truthful, honest, and sincere.

O Jesus, Son of the everlasting God, You are so wonderfully made one of us at Christmas time! You are our God, but You are our Brother, too. You are our King, but You come as a helpless little baby, longing for our love. Help us today and always to see You in all those with whom we come in contact. Let us never forget Your own instruction, that whatever we do for the least of those around us, we do for You. Help us always to serve You in the generous, selfless spirit of this season, and we shall then be real Christians — more and more like You — other Christs. Amen.



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We would like to thank the following families and individuals for their memorial donations to the Christmas flowers in loving memory of: *Deceased parents and grandparents by M/M Robert Leopold, Ed & Marcella Malek, Lester & Marie Ladewig by M/M Lawrence Ladewig, Norman H. Green, Ed & Rosie Valigura, Herbert & Irene Green by Leona Cunningham, Ed & Clara Riha by Cynthia Riha and Nancy Garrett, Wilber Hensley, Richard & Lucy Hubenak, Frank & Millie Matlock, Emil Matlock, Larry Matlock, Peggy Matlock, Cheryl Cornelison by M/M Larry Hensley, Terry Busby, Ed & Rita Strnadel by Diane Busby, Emil & Leona Olson, Emil & Annie Korenek by M/M Lawrence Korenek, Tiffany Alford by M/M Bill Schmidt, Lucian Livanec, Joe, Ann, & Butch Zajicek, Henry, Henry Jr. & Mina Peters by Frances Livanec, Jennifer Kacal Patek by M/M Frank Kacal, Michael Appling Sr. by Dianne Appling. Also Pete and Theresa Kubena by M/M Leonard Hubenak, Gaston & Lilia Couvillion by M/M Mike Couvillion, Pete M. Ramos by Elizabeth Ramos, Jim & Annie Kulcak, J. V. Korenek by Lillian Strnadel, Charles Sr. & Marie Urbanovsky, Charles Urbanovsky Jr., by Harold & Bernadette Smith, Frank & Louise Voldan by M/M Larry Wagner Jr., Barbara R. Holubec by David Holubec, Brandon Janak by M/M Allan Janak, Dwight Holub by Janet Holub, Harrison Acree by M/M Jim Van Antwerp, B. G. Parma by Betty Parma, M/M Jerome Naiser, Diana Huvor, Robert Merta, Regina Merta, Darlene Schneider by M/M Jerry Naiser. Flowers also given by Bettie Konvicka, William Sulak, Deacon Larry & Pat Hoelscher, M/M William Goerig, M/M Ralph Gold*

2023 Gift To Christ... We would like to thank the following families and individuals who have contributed to the appeal of **GIFT TO CHRIST: The total thus far is \$31,598.00.**

Dot Hermansen, Shebra Adler, M/M Ed Weinheimer Jr., Barbara Junek, Heather Simons, Margaret Bartosh, M/M Eric Merta, Annie Clark, M/M Jason Ermis, Janet Holub, M/M Josh Glaze, George Mondrik Jr., M/M Eugene Kana, Delores Prihoda, M/M Gary Capak, M/M Daniel Zalman, M/M Kevin Green, M/M Chris Dettling, M/M Gary Charbula

Cecilia Polasek, M/M Dennis Korenek, Monica Drastata, M/M David Janik, M/M Arthur Priesmeyer, M/M Randy Waligura, M/M Nathan Konarik, M/M Randal Hildebrand, M/M Brent Pratka, M/M Andrew Swoboda, M/M Dick Otis, M/M James Leslie, Georgia Mikeska, M/M Dennis Edwards, Dr. & Mrs. John Richards, Sylvia Little, Angela Dornak

Mary Ann Kruppa, M/M Dennis Skow, Lillian Strnadel, Deacon Larry & Pat Hoelscher, M/M Alan Beery, M/M Jere Jones, M/M Troy Prasek, M/M Raul Martinez, Gulf Coast Ready Mix, Kathryn Kainer, M/M Harold Smith, Aaron Faas, Vlasta Bartos, M/M Ray Jaksch, M/M Ralph Gold, Diane Busby, M/M Gerald Ripple, M/M William Rioux, M/M Mark Appling, Mary Mican, and Milton Machacek.

2023 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) Thank you to the following who have most recently contributed: Bobby Bartlett, M/M Thomas Bodungen, M/M Thomas Cerny, Angela Dornak, Joe Janda, Olivia McDonald, Lillian Socha, Julie Strnadel, M/M Chris Dettling, M/M Adolph Hlavaty, M/M Michael Smaistrila, Sylvia Little, and Janet Holub.

Sacrificial Giving

12-17-23 \$14,345.00

The collection amounts for the weekend of Dec 24 and Dec 31 will be reported in the Jan 7, 2024 bulletin.

What is under your tree this Christmas?.....

Christmas celebrates the most amazing truth: God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, loves each of us individually and particularly. Of all God's creatures, we alone were made for God himself. His love is free—the best gift for Christmas.

Accept the gift. To do that, open your heart to receive all the love he wants to give you. Empty yourself of resentment, bitterness, anger, envy—anything that doesn't belong to make room. Start with the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. Repeat often throughout the year.

Unwrap the gift. The Bible is the great story of God's love and a personal love letter written by God to each of us. Reading scripture is key to revealing all the ways God loves us.

Share the gift. There may be people in your life who don't yet know God. Your example and influence could be the only way they will know what God's love can be like. Blessed Pope John Paul II said, "Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him."

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.

Growing in Faith...Open your heart to the Christmas promise... This time of year is full of promise and the Bethlehem star reminds us of our hope for a future of peace in our own hearts and the hearts of the world. 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 Emmanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope. Try to experience the new life promised with the birth of the Christ child and be like the young girl long ago who believed that nothing is impossible when God is involved.

Christmas Mass 2023... The 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve and Christmas falls on a Monday. To fulfill both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas obligation, **you must attend two different Masses.**

You may fulfill the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass obligation on Saturday (Dec 23) at 5:00 p.m. or Sunday (Dec 24) at 7:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.

You may fulfill the Christmas Mass obligation on Sunday (Dec 24) at 5:00 p.m. or Midnight or Christmas day (Dec 25) at 7:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.

Calendar of Events...**Tuesday, December 26**

- KC rosary at 6:30 p.m.; meal at 7:00 p.m.; and meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Club Hall.

Tuesday, January 2

- Women's bible study at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 5

- Patriotic rosary at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 7

- Blessing of expectant parents after all the Masses.

The parish office will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 1, 2024 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holiday. The parish office will reopen on Jan 2, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

*****PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be a bulletin printed on the weekend of December 31. This bulletin of December 24 is going to have information for both weekends.

*Father Dalton, Father Samuel,
Deacon Jerome, Deacon Larry, and
the entire staff of Saint Philip the
Apostle Catholic Church
Wish You and Your Families a
MOST BLESSED NEW YEAR!*



St. Philip School Catholic Super Prize Drawing Winner for December 15 is *Mike Ryan*.

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. Past nominees will be considered. They can be picked up at the school office during normal business hours. Deadline for nominations will be **Jan. 12, 2024**. The 2024 Distinguished Graduate will be announced during Catholic Schools Week.

St. Philip Youth Fried Chicken Dinner...

St. Philip Youth will sponsor their annual fried chicken dinner Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with plates to go only at the Columbus Club Hall. \$12.00 per plate. Contact any St. Philip High School CCE student.


The Family P.E.A.C.E. Plan:**Five Ways of Sharing PEACE with your Family...**

- Praying with your family members;
- Eliminating the negative thoughts and comments and focusing on the positive;
- Affection and compassion shared with your family members;
- Communication within the family; and
- Enjoying time with one another. Bring **PEACE** to your family.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY...Come as You are! You are welcome here!

Join us for **Opening Your Heart: The Starting Point**

Each lesson stands alone so please join with us as we continue to explore the fundamental questions of our Catholic faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Tuesday evenings beginning January 2nd

Mikeska Fellowship Center - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Linda Bolcik (979) 541-3172 or Angie Socha (979) 541-6385

Monday Mornings beginning January 8th

St. Philip's Meeting Room - 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Questions? Contact Dot Hermansen (979) 541-3023 or Rita Hancock (979) 541-7475

Inspiration for the season...St. Joseph...

If anyone had to rely on a feeling that things would turn out for the best, it was St. Joseph. He took in Mary, risking his reputation and accepting a responsibility that he at first didn't understand. But he had hope and faith, and he forged on to serve as the father and protector of the Savior. St. Joseph's trust was called upon again when Jesus was a baby. An angel appeared to St. Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod, who was seeking to kill the newborn King.

Joseph didn't call up his friends in Jerusalem to confirm or google places to stay in Egypt. He fled with faith, believing that what he desired—safety for his family—would be fulfilled. Like St. Joseph, we can proceed with the quiet confidence that St. Joseph exhibited so well in such a tremendous role.

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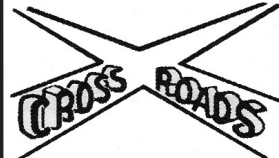
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