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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.

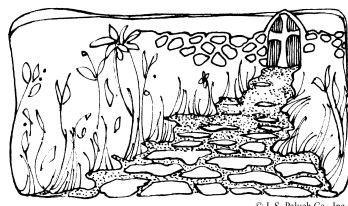
Sacrament of Marriage: Please register at the parish office as soon as possible, but at least six months prior to anticipated date.

Ministry to the Sick, Homebound and Hospital: 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. **If anyone has a family member or a friend that would like to receive communion on Sunday that is in El Campo Memorial Hospital, please call the rectory at 543-3770.**

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 Feb 19 – Feb 25

MON	8:00 a.m.	+John C. and Josephine Naiser
TUE	8:00 a.m.	+ Donald McDonald
WED	1:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Priest Intention + Alvin, Anna, and Veronica Bartos
THU	8:00 a.m.	Parishioners Intentions
FRI	8:15 a.m.	+ Bobby Little
SAT	5:00 p.m.	+ Andrew Rod
SUN	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Parishioners Intentions Michaela Segui (Special Intention) + Edwin and Judy Orsak



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First Sunday of Lent

Your ways, O Lord,
make known to me; teach
me your paths.

- Psalm 25

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR FEB 24 & FEB 25**SATURDAY– 5:00 p.m.****Lector:** Leona Cunningham**Cantor:** Carol Smolik**Altar Servers:** Faith Korenek, Connor Purrell, Michaela Purrell**Hospitality:** Steven and Wendy Korenek**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Dennis Edwards, Gwen Edwards

SUNDAY 7:00 a.m.**Lector:** Donna Shelton**Altar Servers:** Brynn Charbula, Talynn Charbula, **Need Volunteer****Hospitality:** Michael Feagin, Terry Priesmeyer**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Margaret Anderson, Mark Merta

Vocation Crucifix: Angela Dornak**SUNDAY– 10:00 a.m.****Lector:** Glenn Frels, Jim Van Antwerp**Cantor:** Diane Bard**Altar Servers:** Beck Hoelscher, Louise Hoelscher, John Hoelscher**Hospitality/Meridian:** Mark Merta**Hospitality:** Clay Harris, James Holik, Gerry Mikeska, Chris Pustejovsky**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Jason Hoelscher, Duane Korenek, Mary Kay Price, Ron Price, Claudia Raun

CLOW: Kim Kelly**SUNDAY– 6:00 p.m.****Lector:** Grace Amestoy**Cantor:** Madi Kelly**Altar Servers:** Caleb Porter, Harrison Porter, Sophie Porter**Hospitality:** **Need Volunteers****Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**Lynn Cox, **Need Volunteer**

First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2024

A Message From Our Pastor

Our journey into Lent started out incredibly. Approximately 1,000 people received ashes at St. Philip's on Ash Wednesday between the various Masses. This speaks deeply of our awareness of our own personal and unique need to turn away from sinfulness and increase in faithfulness to the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The ashes also highlight the sense of our own mortality. Indeed, we are dust and to dust each of us will return. As the opening prayer of Mass on Ash Wednesday puts it, "Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint."

Lent, and our experience of it, is a journey. Much like the Hebrew people's journey through the desert and wilderness searching for the Promised Land, some days will be easier than others. Do not let a day of failure in your Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving keep you from beginning anew the next day. With that, please begin looking ahead for the ideal opportunity to make your annual Lenten confession. It is a precept of the Church that all Catholics receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter Season, this is the time to prepare.

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 and Henrietta Machacek, Kristen Lezak, Abby Goerig, Carly Walker, Lisa Respondek Holt, Leonard Hubenak, Jennifer Martin, Irene Sedlock, Eugene Graham, Cindy Junek, Carl Siglock, Shirley McMahon, Cindy Schmidt, Edith Farish, Kristi Baker, Lorrie Goodman, Lawrence Korenek, Linda Vaclavick, Frank Kacal, Cindy Blaha, Kim Underwood, Vicky Pavlu, Margaret Waters, Rickie Wiesner, 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, Cecelia Davila, Frances Livanec, Butch Medford and the homebound.

FIRST READING - Genesis 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

SECOND READING - Romans 8:31-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

GOSPEL - Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Key Scriptural Passage...

For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)



Questions for Discussion:

Adult: When or how could you step away from your daily responsibilities to renew yourself, so that you can do a better job of following in the footsteps of Jesus?

Child: What good habit could you work on during Lent so you could grow closer to God?

Readings For The Week (Feb 19 – Feb 24)

Monday.....Lv 19:1-2,11-18/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday.....Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday.....Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday.....1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Friday.....Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday.....Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

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Flowers - February 18

Lent - No Flowers

Pray For Our Seminarists:

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

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

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS #1374

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

The Gabriel Project is excited to host its 3rd annual "Let's Taco 'Bout Babies" Bingo Benefit on Thursday, Feb. 29th at the Club Westerner at 6:00 p.m. Check out their facebook page "The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads" for more information.

Lenten Fish Frys:

Wharton - Holy Family Church fish fry dinner every Friday at the Holy Family Center from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \$13.00 per plate. Desserts available.

Nada - Knights of Columbus fish fry every Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Nada Community Center.

East Bernard - Knights of Columbus fish fry every Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Riverside Hall. Drive-thru plates only at \$12.00 each.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Welcome the Newly Baptized...

Maci Wilson, Uriel Perino, Adriel Perino

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 Sruhar 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

THE BASICS OF LENT... What is Lent?

Lent is the annual preparation for Easter observance calling us to reform our lives and to open our hearts to the spiritual blessings God has promised to bestow on us. Lent begins Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday when the Triduum begins.

WHAT MUST I DO? According to the Church's Canon Law, all healthy Catholics from age 18 to 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent. Youth 14 and older are also to abstain from meat on those days. "Fasting" means that no more than one meal is eaten daily, while in the same day no more than two partial meals are eaten which together don't equal the one main meal.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? Take the necessary steps to get yourself on the road to conversion and spiritual renewal. To help you do this, the main Lenten disciplines urged are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We are invited during Lent to practice these disciplines often. But these aren't just chores we must do because the Church strongly urges them: they are above all opportunities to grow in faith and in love for God.

WHY PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMS? The Lenten basic practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are rooted in Jesus' original guidance about how to be his disciples that we find in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt ch. 5-7) *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1966-1972) also reminds us that Jesus here outlines for us the new law which, if we embrace and implement it, will lead us more surely to the interior renewal and growth in holiness and perfection that Jesus expects of us as his disciples.

SHOULD I SET LENTEN GOALS? Absolutely. Reflect prayerfully about your Lenten resolutions before making them. Then make yourself a list. But be modest. You may be setting yourself up for disappointment if you set unrealistic goals. And doing a little with love and devotion is spiritually more beneficial than trying to do much but doing it halfheartedly.

Taking Up Our Cross And Following Christ

We need Lent. In the midst of our busy lives, with worldly forces and temptations working hard to distract us from the call of Christ, the weeks of Lent are a gift. As we fast, pray, and extend our hands to the poor, we are imitating Christ, joining ourselves more closely to him. He suffered and sacrificed; so do we. He lives in eternal joy; so will we, as we follow him in hope.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl... Please note that each Sunday of Lent we will have a second collection at each Mass that is designated for *Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl*. This program allows us the opportunity to share through almsgiving to the poor and less fortunate around the world.



Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving...The Three Pillars of Lent... The solemn season of Lent is marked by three pillars of spiritual practice: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, battling temptation. We, too, walk through the desert this season as we struggle with our temptations to sin. We pray more in Lent so as to strengthen our relationship with God and ask his forgiveness for our shortcomings. We fast as a reminder of how hungry we are for God's everlasting love. We give alms to people in need to follow Christ's command to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

7 Ways to Make Lent Joyful

- * Start all prayers with praise
- * Take time with God in a beautiful place
- * Don't carry the world's pain on your own back
- * Fast for the sake of richer food—the daily Eucharist
- * Take flowers and a smile to a sick person
- * Reconcile with an estranged friend
- * Compliment someone for making the world better

From Catholic Update, 2/95 St. Anthony Messenger

Our Faith...Forty Days in the Desert...

Why did Jesus spend forty days in the desert before beginning his ministry? The number forty has a special meaning in Scripture and is symbolic of preparation before a major life change. Moses spent forty days fasting and praying on Mount Zion when he received the Ten Commandments. (Ex 34:28) An Israelite patrol spent forty days spying on the land of Canaan before reporting back to Moses and Aaron (Num 13:25).

And the entire Israelite people spent forty years wandering in the desert before gaining access to the promised land. (Num 14:34) Jesus likewise spent forty days before leaving his old life as the son of the carpenter to bring new life to the entire world.



Easter flower envelopes will be available this weekend for those wishing to offer flowers in remembrance of their loved ones. You may drop in the collection basket or bring to the rectory.

Pro-Life Corner... "What do you think a human artist would feel if he were working on a masterpiece and someone came up and destroyed his artwork? Deliberate destruction of an art object expresses the lack of respect for both the artist and his art. The same attitude is expressed towards God when man indiscriminately destroys human children that God is forming in the womb." *- John Ankerberg*

Prayer for Week One of Lent... Father, you established a new covenant with us in the blood of your Son, Jesus. The sacrifice of Jesus brings us salvation. Keep us faithful to your covenant. During this holy season, help us to discipline ourselves so that we can keep your covenant all the days of our lives. Your son, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In his name, have mercy.



Calendar of Events...**Monday, February 19**

- Men's bible study at 6:00 a.m. - Meeting House.
- Bible study group session at 10:00 a.m. - Meeting House.
- CDA rosary at 6:00 p.m.; meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

- Stations of the cross at 8:15 a.m.
- CCE Grades K-12 at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 23

- Stations of the cross at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 25

- RCIA class at 8:30 a.m. The topic is: *The Holy Spirit*.
- Second collection is for the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl.

St. Philip School Catholic Super Prize Drawing Winner for February 9 is *Sharon Shafer*.

Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 23: 6:00 p.m. in church.



There will be a new ministry starting at St. Philip Church called **The Bethany Group**. This group of ladies will assist any **registered** member of the parish who is not a member of the Catholic Daughters or Knights of Columbus with the funeral luncheon. If you would like to volunteer to be a member of this group, call the rectory at 543-3770.

33 Days to Eucharistic Glory... At critical times throughout Salvation History, God's people have been invited to consecrate themselves. We are at one of those critical times in history, and consecrating ourselves, our families, our country, and indeed, the whole world to the Eucharist may make all the difference. If any one is interested in this Lenten study and would like to purchase a book, we do have a few books available at the rectory office for \$15.25.

**Those We Have Loved Become A Part Of Us...****"Life After Caregiving"**

Amor Meus Spirituality Center is hosting this workshop/retreat on Saturday, February 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, please invite them to attend. Many grieving the loss of a loved one ask: "what's next?" or "Where do I find meaning and purpose in my life now?" This is an opportunity to work through the loss of the person to whom you have given so much of your love, care, and compassion.

Deacon Leo Sharron, Director of Clinical Services at the Emmaus Counseling Center and Bereavement Services Coordinator/Chaplain for Hospice of South Texas along with Terry Robinson, former Executor Director of Hospice of South Texas will facilitate the workshop/retreat.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center is located at Incarnate Word Convent (1101 NE Water Street.) Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to please park in front of the Convent. To register, call 361-575-7111 or email amomeuscenter@gmail.com

Lenten Solemn Vespers... Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to pray the Lenten Solemn Vespers on Sunday, February 18 and all Sundays during Lent in their chapel at 5:00 p.m. (1101 N.E. Water St.) Vespers will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Men's ACTS Retreat... Feb. 22 thru Feb 25, at the Cathedral Under the Oaks in Weimar. Registration forms are available in the church office or by contacting Joe Esquivel at (832) 725-3969. There is still room available.

A Grief Ministry for Parents whose children have died

Strength for the Journey

Grief Support Retreat

Saturday, March 9, 2024

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church St., El Campo, Texas

Meeting will be held in the Mikeska Fellowship Hall
(in front of the St. Philip School gym facing Hopkins Broadway)

~ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (doors open at 9:30 a.m.) ~

Coping with the death of a child is very difficult. Parents are in a place they have never been before, often overwhelmed by the grief that follows. Grief does not end in a prescribed number of days, weeks, months or years. We are a group of parents who have lost a child, and will walk this grief journey with you whether your loss is recent or in the past.

This day will include the opportunity to pray, listen to presentations by clergy and other parents who have lost a child, and meet others on the grief journey. Participants are not required to share anything that day, and may remain silent and listen if they'd like.

Pre-registration required at www.victoriadiocese.org/grief-support.

Snacks and lunch will be provided. There will be a good will offering basket.

For more information, contact Pat Hoelscher at 979-257-9984 or email phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

We are looking for Bulletin Sponsors. If you would like to place an ad please Contact Leslie Farquhar at 979-543-3770 or apostle@stphilipapostle.org

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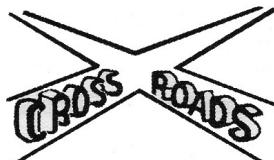
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