We are a welcoming inter-generational community united through our faith in Jesus Christ, demonstrating our love to others through service and charity. All are Welcome, All Belong!

December 2, 2018

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Stephen Howell, V.G., Pastor
Rev. Brendan McBride, In residence
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center
Rev. Patrick Summerhayes, In residence
Director of Vocations, Priest Secretary
Office of Archbishop

Rio Stefanus, Finance/Business Manager
Mary Dante, Bookkeeper
Sandra Kearney, Pastoral Associate

MASS TIMES

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.
         10:30 a.m.
Saturday: Vigil 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. - Chapel
Holy Days: 8:00 a.m.
         7:00 p.m.
Confessions: 4:15 p.m. (Saturday)

DEVOTIONS

Rosary - Monday - Saturday after
8:00 a.m. Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Tuesday after 8:00 a.m. Mass

ST. PHILIP PRE-SCHOOL
Phone: 415.282.0143
Rachel Williams, Pre-School Director
preschoolinfo@saintphilipparish.org
www.saintphilippreschool.org

ST. PHILIP SCHOOL
Phone: 415.824.8467
Fax: 415.282.0121
Mary McKeever, Principal
info@saintphilipschool.org
www.saintphilipschool.org

1st Sunday of Advent

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” - Lk 21:27

trials. Jesus himself had faced a violent end at the hands of the state. The Christians needed to be reminded that their salvation would come, and that they also needed to be vigilant, watching for that same salvation. And at the time this gospel was written there were many other Christians who may have lost hope or grown weary of waiting. This message was for them; and the message is also for us.

For us, the watching for the coming of the Son of Man has been not merely decades, as it was for the early Christians, but two millennia! Do we really believe that the end is near? That Jesus might return any day? It might be more worthwhile for me to imagine my own personal end (death) rather than the end of the world. In that way, it might be easier to see that my own personal end could catch me “by surprise like a trap.” And when I live with the expectation that my end is near, or at least unknown, it can be easier for daily anxieties to dissipate. This is not to say we have no cares for the world, but rather, we have our eyes set on something greater as we live by a different set of values. Ideally, we serve more than we are served; we give more than we receive. And in that way we imitate Christ, whose disciples we are.

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

Most of us look for meaning in the signs and events of daily life. We wonder how God might be acting in our lives. Was this a chance meeting with an old friend, or part of something greater? Was it a coincidence that I was thinking of this person when I received a call from him or her? Did the inclement weather keep me at home so I was able to spend time with my family? Not only we, but generations of those who have gone before us, discerned meaning in the events of daily life. The ancient pagan Romans looked at the sky for omens, and read the entrails of slaughtered chickens to discern how the gods were acting in their world.

The gospel reading for today gives the reader signs that will accompany the end times, the coming of the Son of Man. But we would be mistaken if we took these passages literally. And it’s certainly true that hundreds if not thousands of people have done just that—looked for these signs to be fulfilled literally.

The message of this passage sought to give hope to a beleaguered people, the Christians, who anticipated their redemption. Many of them desperately wanted to see the coming of the Son of Man who would establish justice and peace. Many of the early Christians were on the bottom of the social ladder, experiencing tribulations and
Next weekend’s second collection is the annual collection for the Retirement fund for Religious. Donations to this Fund for Religious support more than 32,000 senior religious and their communities. Most older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for small stipends, leaving a large deficit in retirement funding. Each year, proceeds from the annual collection help hundreds of religious communities furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. A portion also underwrites assistance for retirement planning and education. This support helps communities address funding challenges so they can care for elder members while continuing important ministries to the People of God. As always, your generous support is greatly appreciated.
WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:
What significance does the Advent season have for our Christian faith journey? What are we joyfully anticipating and expecting?

Answer:
Advent is a season of joyful anticipation and expectation. But for what specifically? Certainly not for the birth of the Christ Child - that occurred more than 2,000 years ago. This season links us with all those who lived in the era of longing for the coming of the Messiah. But he has come and lived among us. Some are joyfully anticipating the many gifts that they will buy and share with others, along with the many gifts they will receive in return. Others enter into the overblown commercialism - decorating, partying, writing cards, and all the endless customs that go with the season.

What if the anticipation and expectation were to focus on how we can continue to make present the living Christ in each and every moment of our daily lives? Yes, Jesus came among us 2,000 years ago. But how do we continue to make that presence real in our world? Jesus himself set the agenda for us. We are to proclaim good news to the poor and give liberty to captives, sight to the blind, food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and freedom for those who are oppressed and abused. What would the Advent season look like if this, rather than materialism, was the main focus of our joyful anticipation and expectation? Try it and see what results. It may surprise all of us.

It’s that time of year again friends when our “Giving Tree” makes its appearance so we unite as a community to share the power of giving to make a difference in the lives of those families who are disadvantaged in our local community.

The tree is adorned with gift tags noting suggested gift items that will be delivered to The Riley Center Women’s Shelter, St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Family Day Home, Casa de Las Madres and St. Joseph’s Family Center.

We never tire in acknowledging your generosity helping our brothers and sisters who struggle day to day. You are their hope and witness of God’s love.

We ask that you place your unwrapped gift under the “Giving Tree” located by the Mary Statue by Sunday, December 16th to allow us time to deliver and sort the items.

If you would like to volunteer to sort and or deliver gifts, do call the Parish Office at 415-282-0141.

In general, gifts for infants, toddlers, teens, adults & seniors are needed.

Looking for a way to make your Advent more meaningful? It’s not too late to join the Lectio Divina Advent Prayer Group.

Join us for the remaining dates: Saturday 8, 15 & 22, 2018 before the vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall#3.

Come learn this profound art of praying with Scripture, which you can use all year long.

Call the Parish Office at 415-282-0141 to learn more.

“When we pray, we speak to God; when we read Scripture, God speaks to us.”

Words to Inspire

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before."

— Jan Richardson
God’s Justice

God of justice, you surprise us with your choices of the smallest nation to bless the world, a shepherd boy to be their king, and a baby born in a stable to be the King of Kings. Give us a heart like yours that loves the least among us and values them as the greatest. Teach us your justice that will always forgive and bring forth life from death. We make our prayer through Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of the promise from all ages. Amen.

Sunday, December 2, 2018
A Season of Waiting

Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36. Many good things require waiting and planning: a wedding celebration, the birth or adoption of a baby, running a marathon. For such events, we enter into a mode in which much attention is focused on the preparation, even while the obligations of our daily life continue.

This kind of preparation is needed to have a good Advent. It may be hard to imagine even more preparation when already there are presents to be bought and wrapped, a tree and lights to be put up, cookies to be baked, and cards to be written.

Preparing for Advent is not hard work; it is a work of the heart. There are many ways to prepare our hearts—attending daily Mass, reading and reflecting on each day’s readings, praying Morning and Evening Prayer, praying the Rosary, and meditating in silence for fifteen minutes each day.

The work of the heart we choose keeps our eyes fixed on the miracle that in God’s plan, he spoke his Word and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the Word expressed in flesh and blood, to allow us to draw closer to the God of infinite mystery. Jesus gives his very flesh and blood to us—once in history on Calvary, and for all time in the Eucharist.

While we await his return, we have good reason to “stand erect and raise [our] heads,” as today’s Gospel counsels. We cannot become too fatigued or too anxious to remember that “[our] redemption is at hand.”
Advent
A rich and powerful season of the Church year.

We often miss Advent's power because these December weeks are full of secular Christmas parties and preparations for Christmas. Each year, the busyness of this season serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, with all its meaning.

Offer yourself a gift of pause this season and embrace the Season of Advent. We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, “Come, Lord, Jesus.” We might expand that prayer, in quiet moments of our days ahead, “Come into my life. I trust you don’t mind if it is still messy. I believe you love me, because I need your love. I don’t fear you can’t find the way to my heart. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give.” Some of us will want to open our hands on our laps or hold up our arms in the privacy of our rooms and say out loud, “Come, Lord, Jesus, come into this house, into my family, into our struggles. Come and heal us, and give us joy again. Come and unite us and let us experience, each in our own way, a bit of the joy you are offering me now.”

Parish Advent Penance Service

We will be offering our Parish-wide seasonal Advent Penance service on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Opportunity for individual confessions will be available.

Come and receive God’s amazing grace.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

As we begin our Advent journey in preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth and in anticipation of his coming again in glory, we are reminded of our need to be vigilant and prepared. This short season of Advent can be a mini-retreat for us who find ourselves living in a world that is often counterproductive to developing mature, focused, and meaningful relationships with God. Being a Christian and standing firm in our faith requires a strength that can only come from prayer. These four short preparatory weeks can help us look back to what God has done in history, to what God continues to do in our lives today, and to what God promises for the future. May we use this Advent time wisely, calling us to greater holiness.

Marking the passage of time is what we do as humans. Using calendars, timers, clocks, and watches we are constantly keeping track of and measuring time. No wonder the Advent wreath plays such a prominent role in most of our recollections of Advents from our past.

The Advent wreath is not specifically Catholic and actually originated with Lutherans in Germany during the sixteenth century. In the beginning, it had twenty-four candles and kept track of time much like our Advent calendars filled with chocolates do today, with candles for each weekday in addition to the Sundays.

As time went by, the wreath developed into the common form we see today of four candles, but variations of the wreath still exist in many different Christian communities.

The most common form we see today has a wreath with three purple and one pink candle. A new candle is lit for each new Sunday of Advent, with the pink candle being reserved for the third Sunday, or Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete comes from the Latin root that means to rejoice. The focus is on the joy we have concerning the second coming of Jesus. When all four candles are finally lit, the hour of Christmas is then close at hand.

Will you have an Advent wreath in your own home this year? It does not have to be a real wreath and it can have any size candles. Four votive lights in a circle or even in a row on the mantle will do. The point is the marking of time, which keeps us mindful of the approaching Nativity.

Interested in having your child Baptized at Saint Philip the Apostle Church?

Please call the parish office at 415.282.0141 to reserve your spot for any upcoming preparation session and schedule a date for the baptism. Next Session will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Rectory.

Call the Parish office at 415-282-0141 to make your reservation.
PARISH SERVICES

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
This Sacrament is for those who are elderly, seriously ill, or scheduled for surgery. Contact the Parish Office to schedule the anointing in Church or at home. If in hospital, or care facility, please request the Catholic Chaplain or a priest from the Parish in which the hospital or care facility is located, through the nursing station.

BAPTISM
Parents wishing to baptize children should call the parish office to schedule the baptism and to schedule participation in our baptismal preparation program. Please call two months before you wish the baptism. Parents must make an appointment to attend the preparation session. Godparents may attend if they wish.

As of January, 2019, these sessions will take place the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The preparation maybe done before the birth of the child. Please call the Parish office at 415-282-0141 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION
Sacramental preparation is a one year program here at St. Philips. First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in the 2nd grade. However, we offer accommodations for those older. Classes are held in the chapel on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. A copy of the child’s baptismal certificate will be required upon registration. Please call the Parish office for complete details. 415-282-0141

Our Confirmation Program is designed for those youth entering the 8th grade or already in high school. These sessions begin in the fall. You must provide baptismal and First Eucharist certificates. To register call the Parish Office 415-282-0141

R.C.I.A.—Adults wishing to explore the Catholic faith are welcome to attend an Inquiry Session in the fall. Classes are held on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Resource Center building (the old convent). Call the Parish Office at 415-282-0141 for a registration form.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY
Call the Parish Office to arrange for visitation and the gift of Holy Communion from one of our Extraordinary Ministers for your friends and family members who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or hospitalization. This is a beautiful ministry which allows for the Church to reach out to those who are homebound and share faith and friendship.

MARRIAGE
Couples are asked to call the Parish Office at least six months prior to their intended wedding date to schedule an appointment with the Pastoral Staff to begin their marriage preparation journey.

RECONCILIATION
Saturdays 4:15—4:45 p.m. or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
415-282-0141 Fax: 415-282-8962
www.saintphilipparish.org —info@saintphilipparish.org

PARISH RESOURCES

PARISH OFFICE
Rio Stefanus, Financial/Business Manager
Email: rio.stefanus@saintphilipparish.org
Mary Dante, Bookkeeper
Email: mary.dante@saintphilipparish.org
Sandy Kearney, Pastoral Associate
Email: sandy.kearney@saintphilipparish.org

MUSIC MINISTRY
Carlton White, Music Director

DEVOTIONS
Rosary - Monday - Saturday • After 8:00 a.m. Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Help • Tuesday after 8:00 a.m. Mass

SCHOOL GRADES TK-8
665 Elizabeth Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
Phone: (415) - 824-8467 • Fax: (415) 282-0121
www.saintphilipschool.org
Email: info@saintphilipschool.org

PRE-SCHOOL
(415) 282-0143 www.saintphilippreschool.org
Ms. Rachel Williams, Director
Email: preschoolinfo@saintphilipparish.org

PARISH OUTREACH
Baptismal Classes  First Tuesday of the Month 7:00 p.m. (Rectory by appt.)
Belfry Society  Tuesday 7:00 p.m. (Church)
Children Choir  Tuesday 4:00 p.m. (Hall 1)
First Communion Instruction  Sundays 9:15 a.m. (chapel)
CCD Confirmation Instruction  Sundays 9:15 a.m. (Lyons Rm)
Liturgy Committee
Parish Council
Parent Teacher Group (PTG)
RCIA (Adult Faith Instruction)  Second & Third Thursday, 11:30 a.m., (Hall 3)
Rosary Makers
Young at Heart (Senior Club 50+)  Second & Third Thursday, 11:30 a.m., (Hall 3)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Please contact the rectory at 415-282-0141
As a service to the community, we sponsor the following:
Monday  A.A. Meeting (Men's)  7:00 p.m. Hall 3
Tuesday  A.A. Kitchen (Ladies)  6:00 p.m. Hall 5
Wednesday  Alanon  7:00 p.m. Lyons
**Duggan’s Funeral Service**  
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