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 16, 2018—Gaudete Sunday

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

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

NOW the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.” - Lk 3:15-16a

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

We hear the preaching of John the Baptist today, the Third Sunday of Advent. We are moving toward the imminent coming of the Son of Man. John would have been a fine preacher of the fire and brimstone variety, motivating his audience to action. Three times different groups ask him, “What should we do?” And three times John has an answer founded in justice and mercy. Follow the rules; share with those who have not. This is fairly simple and straightforward advice. And because of it he was thought to be the Messiah.

We can almost feel the crowd’s anticipation and excitement. Here is someone who is preaching justice and mercy. By the crowd’s ready reception of this message we might imagine that justice and mercy were in short supply. Soldiers might have taken more than their due, as did the tax collectors. Mercy, giving another a cloak when you have two, seems to have been wanting. The reception of the message tells us something about the crowds, who likely were on the lower economic rungs of society.

Furthermore, John tells them that this is only the beginning. Another is coming. Rather than a message of peace, John tells them that the one to come bears a winnowing fan. Though today many might not be familiar with the term, a winnowing fan was a fork-like shovel. The winnower used the fan to throw wheat grains into the air. The heavy kernels would fall to the ground and the lighter chaff would be blown away gathered up, and burned. John the Baptist used this vivid image to speak of what the “one who is to come” would do.

Being burned in an “unquenchable fire” seems a distant image from the “lilies of the field” Jesus that Luke will narrate later in his gospel. This might cause us to wonder, were John’s expectations met? Perhaps in his fire-and-brimstone preaching he was hoping for a fiery judgment. And this could be the reason he sent messengers to Jesus later in the gospel asking him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Luke 7:19:NABRE), John’s own expectation of a Messiah who would bring judgment, wrath, and an “unquenchable fire” might not have been met by Jesus. John would not be the first to have dashed expectations and hopes. Jesus has another way. Still, John’s essential message of practicing justice and mercy are good ways to prepare for Christ’s coming.

Living the Paschal Mystery

John the Baptist’s simple message of justice and mercy has global ramifications in the modern world. Though it’s easy to glance backward and recognize the challenges faced by those in the ancient world, John’s message is for us too. There are those today who are cheated out of wages and/or benefits by others who game the system. Many of us might even benefit (intentionally or not) from a system that encourages unjust practices when it comes to labor conditions or wages and benefits. Those in the developed world have the equivalent of multiple cloaks while many throughout the world go without. While it might be rare for us to see outright pilfering of wages, more often we can encounter poor working conditions, a minimum wage that requires 120 hours of work each week to support a family, or cheap goods whose real costs are borne an ocean away.

What are the values that guide our lives? How are we to live in preparation for the coming of the Son of Man? Justice and mercy are a sure foundation.
December 16, 2018

12/15 Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mary Tom (Special Intentions) (by: Mary Tom)
5:00 p.m. † John, Ellen & Eddie McSweeney (by: Peggy Hunt)
12/16 Sunday Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. † Lisa Hyland (by: The Anderson Family)
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish
12/17 Monday 8:00 a.m. † Joe Hayes (by: Caitriona & Mark Anderson)
12/18 Tuesday 8:00 a.m. † Ida Carrillo (by: Tom & Danny)
12/19 Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Helen Berger (by: Caitriona & Mark Anderson)
12/20 Thursday 8:00 a.m. † Bobby Brady (by: The Finnerty Family)
12/21 Friday Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church 8:00 a.m. † Theresa & Ernst Schneider (by: Mila Schneider)
12/22 Saturday 8:00 a.m. Davina Tom (Special Intentions) (by: Mary Tom)
5:00 p.m. † Denis T. Murphy (by: Rita Murphy)
12/23 Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. † Nora & Jeremiah Crowley (by: Sandy Crowley)
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

Let us remember in our Prayers…

Those who are sick or who suffer in any way, especially the homebound and the elderly, that God will assist them in their time of need and that they may find comfort and healing in Christ.

John Bamber Michael Brust Mary Dekle
Corrado DeMartini Marian Dickey Danny Forchione
Laura Garcia Denyse Hale Dolores Martin
Fred Jungmann Mow, Kain Chiu Ron Ramirez
Bill Matthews Agnes Piva

Those who have died, Leo Juarez, the deceased of our parish, and especially those who have no one to pray for them.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. May the Perpetual Light Shine upon them.

We are sincerely grateful for your financial stewardship supporting our various parish needs.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>December 9, First Collection</th>
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24, 2018
Vigil of Christmas

Children’s/Family Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Carols: 7:30 p.m.
Solemn Mass: 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25, 2018
Christmas Day
Masses: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 30, 2018
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Masses: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 6, 2019
Epiphany of the Lord
Masses: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 13, 2019
The Baptism of the Lord
Masses: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Children (Kinder through 5th grade) needed to participate in the Christmas Eve Children's mass (December 24th, 4pm) at St Philip's Church. This is a St Philip's tradition and a lovely way for the children to play a special role in this important service.

If your children are interested, please have them be in the Parish Hall no later than 3.30pm on Christmas Eve.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Rhona (ericnrhona@sbcglobal.net) or Margaret (cammysgrammy2003@yahoo.com).

GAUDETE SUNDAY

This Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down? We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life, indeed our own weakness and sin, eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective. We really want to be free from our burdens but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to "do life differently," just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and despair.

YEAR-END TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

This is the time of year when you may be reflecting on catching up on your charitable contributions for the 2018 tax year.

If you plan to include St. Philips to your list, please make sure your donation is dated by December 31, 2018 in order to receive credit for 2018. As always, year-end tax contribution letters are available to you by request.

WANTED

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Children (Kinder through 5th grade) needed to participate in the Christmas Eve Children’s mass (December 24th, 4pm) at St Philip’s Church. This is a St Philip’s tradition and a lovely way for the children to play a special role in this important service.

If your children are interested, please have them be in the Parish Hall no later than 3.30pm on Christmas Eve.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Rhona (ericnrhona@sbcglobal.net) or Margaret (cammysgrammy2003@yahoo.com).

UPCOMING

Save the Date

Thursday, December 27th
Annual Christmas Movie!
The Bishop’s Wife
Parish Hall
FREE

Showing at 12:00 noon

TRAVELING DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON?

Visit: www.masstimes.org to find a local catholic church near your travel destinations.

It really works!
God of Truth

God of truth, you help us to see ourselves for who we are in our selfishness and sinfulness. We are stung and left to ask, “What should we do?” Strengthen us to follow your Great Commandment: to love you, Lord, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and all our strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Save us from your judgment and instead rejoice over us as we rejoice in your great kindness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 16, 2018
Rejoice! The Lord is near

Today’s Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18. The people who gather around John the Baptist are both stung by his words and attracted by what he is saying. Their self-interest and avarice have led them to dishonest practices, but now they seem willing to leave those ways behind to welcome the Christ.

John assures them that, although he is not the Christ, another is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The anticipation is building, and we can imagine their excitement as they await his coming.

Excitement is building in the Church as we move through Advent. This Third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete,” a word that means “rejoice.” St. Paul tells us why: “the Lord is near.” We know, as John’s disciples only hoped, that the Lord has come and lived among us as one of us. That alone is cause for rejoicing. We also know that he died and was raised from the dead, and he shares his risen life with us through the Baptism promised by John. More reason to rejoice! But since God has extravagant love, there is more. Jesus has promised he will return, that there will be new heavens and a new earth, and God will be “all in all.” We wait for that day, the Parousia, rejoicing that the Lord is near.

As you light the rose-colored candle on your Advent wreath this week, recall the day when you were baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. What words and signs help you to know that the Lord was near on that day and continues to be with you? How is your life different because of your Baptism? Are you on fire with love for God?
PARISH REGISTRATION
ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL BELONG
Our parish is blessed and enriched by the presence of new parishioners.

We welcome all new families and individuals. If you are interested in joining the Saint Philip’s parish community, feel free to call our office at 415-282-0141 for a registration form, or go online at www.saintphilipparish.org to complete the form online.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
at
MISSION DOLORES
partnering with Sundance Christmas Tree Nursery
corner of 16th & Dolores Sts. (across from the Basilica)
LOT OPENS Friday, November 23rd
HOURS: Mon - Sun, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Free parking. Full service loading.
Home delivery and setup.
Flame retardant treatment available.
FRIENDLY SERVICE
PROCEEDS to benefit Mission Dolores Parish Nursery quality trees from a fully sustainable farm in Oregon.

Gaudete Week
Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophesies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus’ life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace
We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask:

Prepare our hearts
and remove the sadness
that hinders us from feeling
the joy and hope
which his presence
will bestow.

Each morning this week, in that brief moment we are becoming accustomed to, we want to light a third inner candle. Three candles, going from expectation, to longing, to joy. They represent our inner preparation, or inner perspective. In this world of “conflict and division,” “greed and lust for power,” we begin each day this week with a sense of liberating joy. Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say,

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”

Creighton U Online Ministries
http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with permission.

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 may be 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 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 Saturday of the Month
9:00 a.m. (Rectory by appt.)
Belfry Society
Tuesday 7:30 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)    Sunday 9:15 (Resource Center)
Rosary Makers           Second & Third Thursday, 11:30 a.m., (Hall 3)
School Consultative Board
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 3
Wednesday      Alanon 7:00 p.m. Lyons
Duggan’s Funeral Service

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