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 23, 2018—Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

ST. PHILIP SCHOOL

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

4th Sunday of Advent

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.” (Lk 1:44)

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary "set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." She has recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit - but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Yet Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing. How do you plan to tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."
REMINDER

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are Holy Days of Obligation.

Choirs on Christmas Break

12/24 Christmas Eve Family Mass, 4:00 p.m.
12/24 Christmas Carols, 7:30 p.m., Church, followed by the Christmas Eve Solemn Mass at 8:00 p.m.
12/25 Christmas Day Masses 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
   Merry Christmas
12/25 &26 Parish Office is closed
12/27 Seniors Christmas Luncheon & Movie, 11:30 a.m. Parish Hall. Parking will be available.
12/30 Second Collection for the benefit of St. Vincent de Paul

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
Masses: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 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.

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, 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.

Meeting & Events

December 23, 2018
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
12/24 Monday Vigil of Christmas
8:00 a.m.
(by: )
4:00 p.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
8:00 p.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
12/25 Tuesday The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish
12/26 Wednesday Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
8:00 am † Rodger, Cecelia, Thomas, Michael, William & Margaret Furey
(by: Ellen Furey)
12/27 Thursday Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist
8:00 a.m. † Arthur McGuigan
(by: Helen McGuigan)
12/28 Friday The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00 a.m. † Joe Hayes
(by: The Finnerty Family)
12/29 Saturday Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity;
St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
8:00 a.m. Della Laidlaw (Special Intention)
(by: Marie McLaughlin)
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Connie Weber & Family
(by: Stephen H. Howell)
12/30 Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:00 a.m. † Robert Smith
(by: Lorraine Smith)
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish
Merry Christmas! Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. The gift of Jesus Christ to humanity is the result of God's unconditional and merciful love for us. Jesus lived and died trying to show human beings how to live by rejecting godless ways and worldly desires and by living temperately, justly, and devoutly. We are also asked to live in joyful hope of Christ's return again, anticipating the fulfillment of all things in Christ. How well have we learned the lessons Jesus taught? Instead of moving closer to realizing God's vision for us, it appears that our world is moving further away. We are easily distracted, disoriented, and preoccupied with things that leave us feeling empty. There is a God-shaped hole in each one of us that can only be filled by Him. Realizing this truth about who we are is the only thing that can bring real happiness. This year, are we going to just "celebrate" God's gift of his Son or really "accept" him?

O God, you have made your saving love known by becoming one with us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to see his face. Open our mouths to proclaim your word. Open our hearts to find you dwelling here, in our midst. Help us show others our gratitude for your great gift to us, Jesus Christ.

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Christmas morning finds many of us unwrapping gifts that have been waiting all Advent to be opened. Once the adrenaline of surprise and wonder has passed, we experience a "gift coma" that lulls us into a pleasant and carefree mood.

In this time with family and friends we can bask in their presence and take pleasure in the things we have received from loved ones. However, a true gift given in love is one that obligates the receiver to action, that is, to return the gift—not as a kind of payment or equal exchange but as a loving response of thanksgiving, acknowledging both the gift and the giver.

When our heavenly Father is the one who bestows the gift, and the gift given is Jesus his only Son, what "return gift" could we possibly give?

Today we can look to the humble shepherds who had nothing to give but their presence and their courageous witness to any who would hear their message—that God is with us! We also can follow the example of Mary whose "return gift" was her very heart in which she allowed the message to dwell and shape her life and actions.
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).

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:
Why do we celebrate Jesus' birthday on December 25th?

Answer:
As you may notice from the Christmas stories, there is no calendar date listed for Jesus' birth! The Christians in the East - Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor - celebrated Christmas on January 6th. This was a calculation based on the estimated date of Jesus' crucifixion. In the Western Church - centered in Rome - January 6th became celebrated as the feast of the Epiphany.

So why December 25th? A popular theory relates to the time period. The Roman Empire had lavish festivals for the winter solstice as light began to return to the earth. These festivals culminated with the day to celebrate the birth of the "Unconquered Sun." The parallels are easy enough to see. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." With the birth of Jesus, a new light shines into the world. The unconquered Maker of the sun dwells among us! Some historians believe that Christians "baptized" this feast, in a sense, turning people's attention away from worship of creatures towards worship of the Creator. This Christmas, celebrate the true Light of the World!

UPCOMING

Save the Date

Thursday, December 27th
Annual Christmas Movie!
Join us for a light-hearted afternoon
Parish Hall
FREE
Showing at 12:00 noon

Cary GRANT  Loretta YOUNG  David NIVEN

The Bishop's Wife

happy birthday Jesus!

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. Philip’s 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.

Traveling during the Christmas Season?

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

It really works!
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.

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.

St. Mary’s Cathedral.

The rally begins at 12:30PM in San Francisco’s Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down the city’s Market Street, begins at 1:30PM. Last year’s Walk drew 50,000+ people.

For complete information about the Walk, visit www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

We encourage you to enroll in our online giving Program

- It’s easy to set up
- Gives you real-time access of your charitable donations

We invite you to visit our website at www.saintphilipparish.org and select the online giving tab on the homepage. Alternatively, you can download the mobile app from Googleplay or the Apple App Store. Register by entering our church ID of (4254)

If you wish to continue to use your paper envelopes, you are most welcomed to do so.
**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

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**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**
Belfry Society
Adult Choir
Children Choir
First Communion Instruction
CCD Confirmation Instruction
Liturgy Committee
Parish Council
Parent Teacher Group (PTG)
RCIA (Adult Faith Instruction)
Rosary Makers
School Consultative Board
Young at Heart (Senior Club 50+)

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**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