Pope’s Intention for December: The Future of the Very Young. That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

December 15, 2019 - Gaudete Sunday

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”
Matthew 11:4-5

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
**Mass Intentions for the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>Saint John of the Cross, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church: Michael Cahalane (by: Deirdre &amp; John Cahalane)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m. For the Deceased of the Spillane &amp; McAuliffe Family (by: The McAuliffe Family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>Third Sunday of Advent: Conrad Quianio (by: Pura Lippi)</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/16</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Mary O’Leary (by: Helen Ripple)</td>
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<td>12/17</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. The Flanagan Family (Spl Int.) (by: Maureen)</td>
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<td>12/18</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Ida Carrillo (by: Tom &amp; Danny)</td>
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<td>12/19</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Patricia Crowley (by: Patricia Crowley Estate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. The Lopez Family (Spl Int.) (by: Maureen)</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m. Patricia Crowley (by: Patricia Crowley Estate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church: Special Intentions (by: Anonymous)</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m. John, Ellen &amp; Eddie McSweeney (by: Peggy Hunt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of Advent: Theresa &amp; Ernst (by: Mila Schneider)</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish</td>
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**Let us remember in our Prayers...**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Bamber</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corrado DeMartini</td>
<td>Brust</td>
<td>Dekle</td>
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<td>Laura Garcia</td>
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<td>Fred Jungmann</td>
<td>Dickey</td>
<td>Forchione</td>
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<td>Bill Matthews</td>
<td>Agnes</td>
<td>Crystal</td>
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<td>Piva</td>
<td>Zapata</td>
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<td>Cody</td>
<td>Bordelon</td>
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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.

**December 8, 2019—First Collection**

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<td>Basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Collection—Retirement Fund Religious</td>
<td>$466.00</td>
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**CHURCH CLUSTER ANNOUNCEMENT**

News about a Cluster forming in Noe Valley for St. Paul, St. James and St. Philip Parishes: Fr. Mario Farana, Pastor of St. Paul’s, has agreed to become Pastor of our Cluster. His appointment becomes effective July 1, 2020

**Next Sunday's Readings (12-22-2019)**

Prepare Your Heart & Mind for Next Week's Encounter

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14—The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

**Psalm:** 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6—Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second Reading:** Rom 1:1-7—The gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness.

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24—She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

John the Baptist’s presence features prominently in the gospel today. John the Baptist had been preaching fiery judgment, imminent wrath. In John’s mind, the one to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The winnowing fan is in his hand. The chaff will be burned in an unquenchable fire. But there is not the judgment that John expected. Jesus’ words and actions were not what John had expected. Thus, he sends his own disciples from his imprisonment with an astonishing question for Jesus. Had John gotten it wrong? Is Jesus the one? Or is there another?

For his part, Jesus does not respond with a simple “yes” or “no” answer. He responds by sending John’s disciples back to him with a report of what they have seen and heard. Perhaps John misunderstood Jesus and his mission.

Jesus reminds the one who baptized him that among other things, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them. This is the mission of the Christ sent by God. Jesus’ mission is proclaiming this kingdom and creating it. Let us align ourselves with the Christ sent by God, assisting in proclaiming and creating the kingdom in our own day and time. But how?

Today’s second reading from the letter of St. James encourages us to adopt a difficult spiritual practice: patience. Patiently waiting is challenging whether we are expecting overdue medical test results, are awaiting an admissions letter from the school of our dreams, or are longing for the fullness of the kingdom of God.

While this longing for God’s kingdom is a theme of the season of Advent, we must not stop there but also embrace the slow work required to bring about this kingdom. St. James uses the image of the farmer who “waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it, until it receives the early and the late rains.”

We cannot force growth or compel other natural processes to adapt to our expedited timelines. Instead, like the farmer, we are called to the work of cultivation and to nourish the kingdom of God in every small and seemingly insignificant act of loving-kindness and compassion.

Today’s first reading from Isaiah, depicts what true worship looks like when all the earth takes part. The desert and the dry places “exult”; the grasslands “rejoice” and bloom in “joyful song” (Isaiah 35:1-2). In God’s reign, all creation will be united in praise to God who comes to save us.

Now take note of the result of true worship: blind eyes are opened; deaf ears hear; stiff legs and backs bend in dance; the silent sing. It is not an action done for itself but on behalf in need, for it must result in relationships made right.
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Third Sunday in Advent</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong> Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants currently seeking shelter around the world. <strong>17</strong> Today, begin adding the O Antiphons to your daily prayer until Christmas Day.</td>
<td><strong>18</strong> We are reminded in Advent that Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus were refugees. Learn more about how you can support migrants and refugees here in the U.S. by getting involved in the USCCB’s C.A.R.E. program. <strong>19</strong> In today’s Gospel, we learn of Elizabeth’s miraculous conception of her son John. Say a prayer for life with your family today.</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Make this Friday night a family movie night, and watch a Christmas classic together. <strong>21</strong> We learn in today’s Gospel that Mary spent three months with her kinswoman Elizabeth before returning home. How will you invite family and friends into your home this Christmas season?</td>
<td><strong>December 2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advent Calendar</strong></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Fourth Sunday in Advent</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong> According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, or the Feast of the Presentation. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing. <strong>24</strong> Depending on when you attend Mass to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the Scripture read will be different. <strong>25</strong> “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CON- CIVE AND BEAR A SON, / AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EM- MANUEL, which means ‘God is with us.’” (Mt 1:23)</td>
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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 Monday, 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.

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**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 the Parish Office, 415-282-0141.
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.**

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**Are you planning a spring 2020 wedding?**

If so, now is the time to contact the church’s rectory office and discuss your plans with our Administrator and reserve the church.

Keep in mind Archdiocese guidelines require couples contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date to begin the Pre-Cana preparation.

Call our parish office to schedule your initial meeting at **415-282-0141**

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

Parents are required to meet with Father John Mary Chung prior to attending a preparation session.

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 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Rectory.**

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**Traveling during the Christmas Season?**

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

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**Year-end Tax Contributions**

This is the time of year when you may be reflecting on catching up on your charitable contributions for the 2019 tax year.

If you plan to include St. Philip’s to your list, please make sure your donation is dated by December 31, 2019 in order to receive credit for 2019. As always, year-end tax contribution letters are available to you by request.

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**GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Did you know that our parish school can earn cash by collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education?

You may recognize the logo noted above on several products you purchase throughout the year. All you need to do is clip that little logo, collect several and turn them in to the school or rectory office. It’s that easy.

Watch for those logos on various baking item goods as you start your holiday baking goodies!
PARISH RESOURCES

PARISH OFFICE
Mary Dante, Administrative Assistant
Email: mary.dante@saintphilipparish.org
Brendan Scharetg, Parish Maintenance
Email: btscharetg@aol.com
Gilberto Mancia, School Maintenance
Mercedes Alvarez, Housekeeper

MUSIC MINISTRY
Carlton White, Music Director

DEVOTIONS
Rosary & Holy Hour: Monday - Saturday After 8:00 a.m. Mass
Sunday After 10:30 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
Ms. Mary McKeever, Principal
Phone: (415) 824-8467
www.saintphilipschool.org
Email: info@saintphilipschool.org

PRE-SCHOOL
 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
Adult Choir Tuesday 7:30 p.m. (Church)
Children Choir Tuesday 4:00 p.m. (Hall 1)
First Communion Instruction Sundays 9:15 a.m. (chapel)
Confirmation Instruction Sundays 9:15 a.m. (Lyons Rm)
Liturgy Committee
Parish Council Third Monday of the month
Parent Teacher Group (PTG)
RCIA (Adult Faith Instruction) Sunday 9:15 (Resource Center)
Rosary Makers Third Thursday, 11:30am, (Hall 3)
School Consultative Board
Young at Heart (Senior Club 50+) 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 Alano 7:00 p.m. Lyons

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN
If you believe you are a victim of sexual abuse, please call our secure and confidential hotline of the Archdiocese of San Francisco at 415.614.5506

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. 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, held in the Lyons Room. 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 4:00—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