We are a welcoming inter-generational community bonded together through our faith in Jesus Christ, striving to live by the Word, demonstrating our love to others through service and charity.

St. Philip the Apostle Church
A refuge to renew your spirit and heal your brokenness

info@saintphilipparish.org
www.saintphilipparish.org

January 1, 2017  The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

PASTORAL STAFF
Rev. Stephen Howell, Pastor
Rev. Brendan McBride
In residence
Irish Pastoral Center

LITURGIES
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.
           9:00 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

725 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114  Phone 415-282-0141  Fax: 415-282-8962
The Word of God comes to us through the Scriptures. May the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds and hearts to respond to the gospel teachings.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Dear Parishioners and Guests,

We never quite lose our need for affirmation. This can be a destructive need or a healthy need. A destructive need for affirmation, for example, might present itself as seeking inordinate approval, or manipulating others for underserving compliments, or wangling to be the center of attention. A healthy need for affirmation might present itself as seeking the counsel of another to know we’re making good choices for our everyday living, or reflecting on how we interact with others, or recognizing our contributions to family, work, neighborhood. Both the shepherds and Mary show a need for affirmation in this gospel. A healthy need, to be sure. A need that shows their encounter with the “infant lying in the manger” makes them who they are and calls them to hear and see beyond their expectations to embracing the newness of Life.

The shepherds came to the manger, encountered the newborn infant, left the stable to make “known the message,” then “returned, glorifying and praising God.” The passage is unclear about to where they “returned.” Probably, they returned to their flocks and fields, the same shepherds yet different for all they had “heard and seen.” Possibly, however, they returned to the stable seeking further affirmation for “all they had heard and seen,” once again encountering this “infant lying in the manger” who surprised them, affirmed them, and called them to proclaim to all they met a most astounding message. The shepherds show us how to be affirmed in our own encounters with Jesus the Christ and how we are to reflect on this mystery of Jesus’ birth and life. Before we can make “known the message,” we must encounter Jesus. To affirm that it is his message we make known, we must keep coming back to him to encounter him anew.

Mary’s need for healthy affirmation is evidenced by her taking the events surrounding the birth of her firstborn Son into her heart and reflecting on them. This mother evidences contemplative love flowing from her heart. Mary was present to her Son and present when the shepherds encountered him. Likewise, Mary is present when we encounter her Son, reflect on the Good News in our hearts, and make known the message of Life to all we meet. Mary is not only the Mother of God. She is the mother of the shepherds. She also is our mother who mothers us into contemplative love, who mothers us into the affirmation that we too can make “known the message” that the Savior of the world has come.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Mary faced a great mystery she could not understand, reflected on God’s will for her, and was affirmed in her yes to become the mother of the Savior. We face many challenges during life, must ponder God’s will for us, and be affirmed in our yes when we encounter the One who comes to save. The name Jesus (+savior) already points to a life of self-giving and suffering that Mary as Jesus’ mother will experience. The surprise suggested by the first two readings is that we who are God’s children (second reading) also participate in this experience of self-giving and suffering; this is how we receive blessing (first reading). The yes all of us must make to do God’s will necessarily means that we cannot escape dying to ourselves. We are affirmed by this festival’s readings, however, in that we are given the grace to place ourselves in God’s hands and do God’s will. Like both the shepherds and Mary, we seek healthy affirmation by returning over and over again to encounter the divine Son.

If you haven’t heard, our parish will soon offer Online Giving, a web-based electronic contribution application. We are providing this convenient service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your offering envelopes. This service is safe and secure and has been vetted by our Archdiocese. Of course the regular offertory envelopes will still be available for those wishing to use them. Stay tuned for actual launch date during January, 2017!
**MASSES FOR THE WEEK January 1, 2017**

12/31 Saturday  
*Saint Sylvester I, Pope*  
8:00 a.m. † Pauline O’Sullivan  
(Willie Tobin)  
5:00 p.m. † Tony LaTorre, Sr.

01/01 Sunday  
*Soumnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
8:00 a.m. † Thomas Hooker  
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

01/02 Monday  
*Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church*  
8:00 a.m. Mary Tom (Spl. Intention)  
(by: Mary Tom)

01/03 Tuesday  
*The Most Holy Name of Jesus*  
8:00 a.m. Maggie Tom (Spl. Intention)  
(by: Mary Tom)

01/04 Wednesday  
*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
8:00 a.m. † Shu Fong Tom  
(by: Mary Tom)

01/05 Thursday  
*Saint John Neumann, Bishop*  
8:00 a.m. Bonney Tulloch (Spl. Int.)  
(by: Mary Tom)

01/06 Friday  
*Saint Andre Bessette, Religious*  
8:00 a.m. † Richard Castro  
(by: Todd & Linda Siemers)

01/07 Saturday  
*Saint Raymond of Peñaflor*  
8:00 a.m. † Harrison Chen (Spl. Int.)  
(Mary Tom)  
5:00 p.m. Mary Schroer. (Spl. Int.)  
(by: Mary Schroer)

01/08 Sunday  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*  
8:00 a.m. † Prudencio Cagalingan  
(by: The Cagalingans of San Francisco)  
10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

As an early bulletin deadline submission was requested from our printers, your offerings will be reported in a future edition.

We are sincerely grateful for your supporting Saint Philip and its ministries

**Priesthood Discernment Retreat**

**WHEN:** Friday through Sunday, January 27-29  
**WHERE:** St. Patrick’s Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

St. Patrick’s Seminary is hosting its annual discernment retreat for men who are interested in exploring the vocation to the priesthood. The retreat includes time to meet men already studying to be priests, listen to the experience of this call to the priesthood, and see what life is like at the seminary.

The retreat is open to young men over 18 years of age, and is free. For more information or to register, please contact the Directory of Vocations, Fr. David Schunk at 415-614-5684 or email vocations@sfarch.org

**Remember in your Prayers…**

Let us remember the sick, homebound and elderly of our Parish that they may find comfort and healing in Christ.

 Isabel Juarez  
 Mary Kow, Kain Chiu  
 Mary Crowley  
 Patricia Crowley  
 Mary Dekle  
 David Dickey  
 Laura Garcia  
 Douglas Martin  
 Dolores Martin  
 Agnes Piva  
 Bill Matthews  
 Mary Leung  
 John Bamber  
 Leo Juarez  
 Gina Wood  
 Fred Jungmann  
 Tom Welch

Those Who Have Entered Their Eternal Rest.  
May the Perpetual Light Shine upon them.

For those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

**Tuesday’s Choir Practice**

*Adults  Tuesdays, 7:30PM in the Church*  
*Children’s Choir - Tuesdays 4PM in the Parish Hall*

**MEETINGS & EVENTS**

01/02/17  
Parish Office closed in Observance of New Year’s Day

01/04  
Boy Scouts Den #10 Meeting, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall #3

01/06  
Friday 7th Grade Epiphany Mass, 8:45 a.m.

01/08  
School Second Collection

01/08  
Mass of the Epiphany Family Mass, 7th Grade hosting & hospitality follows the 10:30 a.m. Mass

01/22  
Boy Scouts Pack Mtg #7, 6-8, Parish Hall

**SAVE THE DATE, 1/28/17—CRAB DINNER!**

The Annual Walk for Life West Coast, which draws 50,000 participants each year, takes place on January 21, 2017. Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone begins the day with a special Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral at 9:30 am.

The Walk for Life Rally begins at 10:45 am at the starting point of the Walk, at Civic Center Plaza. There the archbishop will announce the recipient of this year’s Saint Gianna Molla Award for Prolife Heroism. The walk from Civic Center Plaza to Justin Herman Plaza at the foot of Market Street begins at 1:30 pm.

Fellow parishioner Daniel Roddick is hoping to get a St. Philip’s group to walk, as other parishes do. Please contact him at danielroddick@hotmail.com if you’re interested in meeting there and walking as a group. Either way we hope you will attend. See the Walk For Life website for details, speakers, and event schedule.

www.walkforlifewc.com
Making and Keeping New Year's Resolutions:
A New Beginning, with a New Relationship with Jesus

Why should I make any New Year's Resolutions? I never keep them.
Almost all of us have had the experience of wanting to begin a new year resolving to improve, to do some things better than we have before. It is natural to have hope, to want to believe we aren't stuck in the ways we currently behave, and yet, all of us have the experience that we haven't done too well with our past resolutions. In fact, at this time of the year, the newspaper cartoons almost always point out the humorous side of our trying to make resolutions that don't seem to have a chance of succeeding.

Why do our resolutions so often fail?
So often our good intentions fail and fail quickly. There are many reasons, of course, and some of them relate to how realistic our resolving is, but sometimes, we resolve to end addictive behavior without really giving it a chance. Most of the time, most of our resolutions are our best attempts at just having stronger will power. Though there are outstanding examples of heroic virtue, and some people really do quit addictive behavior "cold turkey," there are far too many examples of failure.

While it is good to develop stronger will power and self-control, real change in our lives actually happens most reliably when it comes from our deepest desires. Ignatius knew, from his own experience, just as we often discover in therapy, in spiritual direction, upon reflection on our own experience, that we usually do what we want to do. We rarely do what we don't want to do. The secret to change is to reform our desires - discovering what our deepest desires are and trying to change or re-form them. This was no self-help process for Ignatius and many of the Saints. It was the process of getting to know Jesus and falling in love with him. Once we fall in love with someone, all our desiring changes.

Don't I already know Jesus? Don't I already have a relationship with him?
Often this sounds too simple to us. Don't I already know Jesus? Haven't I already fallen in love with him? Of course, hearing the invitation at the beginning of this new year to examine our relationships with Jesus and let them be renewed this upcoming year, begins with the freedom to acknowledge that there is room for growth here. And, it starts with something of an attraction, a small desire, even a bit of curiosity that wonders, "What more can I discover? How might my heart be more captured by Jesus?"

Love always directs our hearts. But, there are other spirits, too. At times we discover the sad reality that falling out of love changes our hearts dramatically, too. Once we lose that affection, that attraction, that draw, then trouble begins. Whereas before we experienced a wonderful energy that wants to spend as much time as we can with someone we love, and wants to do anything we can for the one we love, now we experience a coolness, an emptiness, a distance, and unfortunately, at times, the other starts to annoy us. Sometimes we say, "it just happened," but upon reflection, we realize sadly that there was sin involved. We made some bad choices, some selfish choices. We stopped contributing to the relationship. What isn't growing is usually dying. And, of course, sin is contagious and we live in a culture that doesn't support self-less loving. There are the messages: What about me? What about my needs? We tend to keep score. There are bad spirits among us that seem determined to make loving difficult, that seem to prevent wounds from healing, that seem to promote division, highlight differences and ultimately lead to war. This whole pattern, which we have understood as "Original Sin," has described for us what we is overcome by Jesus' coming, and by his life, death, resurrection and gift of the Spirit. Jesus destroyed sin and death's power over us. Re-connecting with him this new year is re-connecting with his power to free our hearts to love again.
How do we get to know and fall in love with Jesus?

Getting to get to know Jesus in a new way, at a deeper level is just like getting to know anyone. We begin by spending more time with a person. We pay attention to him/her. We get to know the story of that person more completely. Eventually, we become more and more curious and more and more fascinated by how the person acts, what motivates that person, how he or she thinks. Of course, the key here is not only to learn more about Jesus, but to come to really know him, to experience a relationship. It is easy to imagine that Jesus knows me. It is more difficult to imagine that I am in a relationship with Jesus, and we know each other and there is something special about this relationship. For example, some of us will get to know Jesus and become really fascinated by his mother and father and that will shape our sense of who he is and our relationship with him. Some of us will come to love the way he chooses and interacts with his disciples. Many of us will learn a great deal about Jesus from how he tells stories and reveals things about God and about the Kingdom of God. Still others of us will become engaged by how Jesus interacts with and heals sinners and sick people. Perhaps we will identify with this or that story which will characterize our particular relationship with him.

What about my resolutions?

While we are getting to get to know the Lord, the things we may have been tempted to resolve begin to change. We may still need to lose weight and exercise more, but what will inevitably rise to the surface are patterns that are like his. Attraction so naturally leads to imitation. Jesus is our friend, a wonderful Lord with a powerful way of loving and surrendering his life to the plan of his Father -- that he be Servant for us. The more we open our hearts to a deeply personal friendship with Jesus, the more we will open our hearts to ask the Father to use us, to be servants, too.

Then our desiring starts to be transformed. We will gradually and more deeply begin to ask for the graces we need - which is a more humble place to begin than making bold promises. We'll ask our Lord to purify our desiring. We will ask to for the grace to be drawn into the pattern of Jesus' loving and forgiving. We'll ask for the desire to surrender more, to let go of our own needs more completely so that we can give ourselves to the needs of others first. We will begin to see the people closest to us with Jesus' eyes, with Jesus' heart. Our love for them won't depend upon how much they please us or even how much they reciprocate our love. That isn't the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us because we are sinners. Jesus loves us because we need forgiving and healing. Jesus loves us because we need loving.

Gradually, our resolutions get freer and more about self-donation. We open our hands in prayer and say, "Lord, these are my desires and I am asking you for the grace to live them." Gradually, the other spirits lose their power, their attraction. As Jesus confronts and contradicts the values of our culture in us and around us, the sillier all that kind of desiring becomes. We don't change our way of consuming, our way of seeing our role in the world or hear the cry of the poor day after day by strengthening our own will power.

Our life style and our choices really become transformed when we become people who know, beyond anything else, that we are loved unconditionally by our God. When we become lovers of Jesus, we will naturally love the way he loves. When we become followers of Jesus this will be a blessed new year, indeed. And those who are sinners among us, the poor around the world, and those who suffer the tragic effects of sin, division and war, will experience the difference.
Saint Basil the Great

Basil was on his way to becoming a famous teacher when he decided to begin a religious life of gospel poverty. After studying various modes of religious life, he found what was probably the first monastery in Asia Minor. He is to monks of the East what Saint Benedict is to the West, and Basil’s principles influence Eastern monasticism today.

He was ordained a priest, assisted the archbishop of Caesarea (now southeastern Turkey), and ultimately became archbishop himself, in spite of opposition from some of the bishops under him, probably because they foresaw coming reforms.

One of the most damaging heresies in the history of the Church, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ, was at its height. Emperor Valens persecuted orthodox believers, and put great pressure on Basil to remain silent and admit the heretics to communion. Basil remained firm, and Valens backed down. But trouble remained. When the great Saint Athanasius died, the mantle of defender of the faith against Arianism fell upon Basil. He strove mightily to unite and rally his fellow Catholics who were crushed by tyranny and torn by internal dissension. He was misunderstood, misrepresented, accused of heresy and ambition. Even appeals to the pope brought no response. “For my sins I seem to be unsuccessful in everything.”

He was tireless in pastoral care. He preached twice a day to huge crowds, built a hospital that was called a wonder of the world (as a youth he had organized famine relief and worked in a soup kitchen himself) and fought the prostitution business.

Basil was best known as an orator. Though not recognized greatly in his lifetime, his writings rightly place him among the great teachers of the Church. Seventy-two years after his death, the Council of Chalcedon described him as “the great Basil, minister of grace who has expounded the truth to the whole earth.”

CELEBRATING OUR SAINTS

January 2—Saint Basil the Great

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Are you interested in having your son/daughter baptized at Saint Philip?

Please call the parish office at 415-282-0141 to reserve your spot for any upcoming Tuesday evening preparation session.

Are you planning a spring or summer wedding?

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

Feel free to call our parish office to schedule your initial meeting at 415-282-0141.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR DIVORCED OR SEPARATED CATHOLICS

Under its Ministry tab for “Marriage and Family” the archdiocesan website has many resources and much information. Now it includes a new page title “Divorced Catholics,” with information about local support groups and links to many other resources.

If you know of additional support groups or resources that might be included, please contact Ed Hopfner at 415-614-5547 or by email at: HopfnerEsfarchdiocese.org

The new web page is sfarch.org/divorce

“COME-AND-SEE DAYS” FOR WOMEN AT CORPUS CHRISTI MONASTERY

215 OAK GROVE AVE., MENLO PARK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Praising unceasingly. Blessing by intercession. Preaching through a life of contemplation. Single, Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 38 are invited to experience a taste of the life of a cloistered Dominican nun.

Contact Sister Joseph Marie, O.P., vocation directress as noted below.

Visit the website to learn more and to register for an upcoming “Come and See” Days, January 21, m 2017; Saturday, July 15, 2017 and Saturday, October 21, 2017.

Space is limited and fills fast.

Sister Joseph Marie can be reached at: 650-322-1801, Ext. 19
Email at: vocations@nunsmelo.org
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center Seeks Volunteers
Looking to make a difference? Become a volunteer with the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center (IIPC) in San Francisco. Through its range of programs and services, the IIPC is often the first port of call for advice for those who have just arrived from Ireland, as well as those who have been here for years but are seeking help in times of stress or difficulty. Being an IIPC volunteer is a rewarding experience. In particular, people are needed during business hours to help with office support on a regular or semi-regular basis. Please call or e-mail the office, 415-752-6006 or info@sfiipc.org

PARISH RESOURCES

PARISH OFFICE
Rio Stefanus, Financial/Business Manager
Email: rio.stefanus@saintphilipparish.org
Carol Cagalingan, Parish Administrative Assistant
Email: carol.cagalingan@saintphilipparish.org
Sandy Kearney, Parish Pastoral/School Administrative Assistant
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 K-8
665 Elizabeth Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
Phone: (415) - 824-8467 • Fax: (415) 282-0121
Tony LesCallett, Principal
www.saintphilipschool.org
Email: info@saintphilipschool.org

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

PARISH OUTREACH
Belfry Classes • First Tuesday 7:00 p.m. (Rectory)
Belfry Society • Tuesday 7:00 p.m. (Church)
Children Choir • Tuesday 4:00 p.m. (Hall 1)
First Communion Instruction
Confirmation Instruction
Liturgy Committee
Men’s Club
Parish Council
Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
RCIA (Adult Faith Instruction) • Sunday 9:15 (Resource Center)
Rosary Makers • Second & Third Thursday, 11:30 a.m., (Hall 3)
School Board
St. Vincent de Paul Jr.
Young at Heart (Senior Club) • 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 • 6:00 p.m. Hall 3
Wednesday Alanon • 7:30 p.m. Hall 1
Saturday A.A. Meeting (Mixed) • 8:30 p.m. Hall

PARISH REGISTRATION
Our parish is blessed and enriched by the presence of new parishesioners.

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

Our hope is that you will find our parish a supportive and healing place, a nurturing spiritual environment and a place to celebrate the sacraments as you and your families grow in your journey of faith.

Who is an Active Parishioner?
♦ Regular attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
♦ Registered in the Parish, receiving and using weekly envelopes, supporting the Parish according to the best of one’s ability.
♦ Volunteers and participates in Parish activities with time, talent, and resources as means permit.
♦ Trying to live the Catholic Faith as best they can with God’s help and the support of family and friends at home and in the Parish.

Interested in our Parish School?
If you would like to arrange a school tour, please call our office at 415-824-8467.
Tours are conducted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.
www.saintphilipschool.org

2017 Mass Requests
Those who wish to have Masses offered during 2017 for your friends and family members our 2017 Mass Intention Book is now open for reservations. Offering a Mass for a dearly departed one or special intention for a friend is a wonderful gift to present.

Masses can bring comfort for those physically or emotional ill in need of healing and prayers. Masses are also a thoughtful gift to celebrate a birthday or special milestone. Drop by the rectory office between the hours of 9-5 on weekdays and we will be happy to assist with your request.