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

March 26, 2017  Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

“I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

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
Stations of the Cross After 8:00 a.m. Mass on Fridays during Lent

725 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114  Phone 415-282-0141  Fax: 415-282-8962
As our Lenten journey progresses, we strive to improve the manner in which we “see” with our hearts, hoping that, in the light of Christ, we can truly come to see the world as God does.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Dear Parishioners and Guests,

The Church’s liturgy, on this the fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the ‘man born blind’. It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ.

This Sunday was formerly called "Laetare Sunday" since its mood and theme was one of hope and rejoicing that Easter was near. In the reformed calendar this Sunday is not different from the other Sundays of Lent even though the entrance antiphon for the day still begins with the Latin word "laetare.” If rose colored vestments are available those are worn in lieu of the violet.

The second creation account in the book of Genesis tells us how “the Lord God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life.” God was the first potter! God was the first to have the pleasure of taking dust and water, mixing it and smoothing it, and then drawing it into a divine image into which God breathed God’s very own life. This Sunday’s gospel tells of another divine potter—Jesus, the Son of God—who uses his own saliva to mix with the dust of the earth, make clay, and use it to bring new seeing and believing out of a blind beggar. All the man needed to do was to obey Jesus’ command to “Go wash.” He did so, and was recreated to see with the new eyes of faith.

Through baptism we come to a new seeing and we are recreated into being more perfect members of the Body of Christ, more truth-filled images of God. Our own believing responding to Jesus continually recreates us with new spiritual insight, with deeper believing, with more sure understanding of who Jesus is for us and who we are to be for others.

This long gospel intertwines many conversation-encounters on many levels. There is the conversation-encounter of the miracle: Jesus touched, the man “went and washed.” There are the conversation-encounters of relationships: the disciples and Jesus, Jesus and the blind man, the neighbors and the blind man, parents and the Pharisees, Pharisees and the bland man, Pharisees and Jesus. There are the conversation-encounters about seeing: gaining sight, resisting sight; coming to faith, resisting faith. Lent invites us into the same conversation-encounters with Jesus, in which we choose either to be drawn toward Jesus or to turn away from him. Which do we choose? This is our lifelong baptismal challenge.

The miracle recorded in this gospel is less about a blind man receiving his sight than it is about the openness of the blind man to having an encounter with Jesus, his willingness to enter into conversation with him, and his readiness to believe and respond in worship. This gospel challenges us to deepen our faith so that we, too, are recreated with ever new Life. Then, like the blind man who Jesus helps to see, we can exclaim “I do believe” and worship with raised hearts and voices.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Baptism is a ritual sign of coming to believing, admitting us to full participation in worship. This statement doesn’t imply that those who have not been baptized or fully received into the church haven’t worshiped God. They have or they probably wouldn’t be seeking to be initiated into the Catholic Church. Initiation changes the way one can worship and the sign of this is admittance to Eucharist and reception of the Body and Blood of our Lord.

Worship, however, is far more than attendance and engagement in ritual acts, as important as that is. Worship includes a mission to reach out to others who are in need of spiritual insight, of a more sure believing, of a deeper conversation with Jesus that brings recreation and life. Authentic worship always requires a response of charity on behalf of others. Authentic worship includes an encounter with the One who gives us sight and a conversation that recreates us to full stature in Christ.
Tuesday's Choir Practice

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

Remember the Sick 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, Kain Chiu  Patricia Crowley  Mary Deke  Laura Garcia  Mary Deke  David Dickey
Agnes Piva  Danica Linnemann  Dolores Martin  John Bamber  Leo Juarez  Gina Wood
Fred Jungmann  Archbishop Emeritus John R. Quinn
Archbishop Emeritus George H. Niederauer

For Those Who Have Died.
May the Perpetual Light Shine upon them.

For those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage
Jason Cannata & Rochelle Mercurio

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

03/26  Second Collection to support the Catholic Relief Services.
03/26 Hospitality Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, hosted by our Kindergarten School families
03/30 Lenten Parish-wide Reconciliation Service, 7:00 p.m., Church
03/31 Stations of the Cross, 8:30 a.m., Church
04/05 Saint Philip’s Lenten Sacred Space, Parish Hall open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with Prayer service the last hour.
04/06 Chrism Mass, 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral

Lenten Speaker Series Saturdays
At Cathedral

Saturdays, March 11 - April 8, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon
St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street,
San Francisco  -415-567-2020
stmarycathedralsf.org

The Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption offers six noted speakers in a series of reflections during Lent 2017. The presentations are each Saturday morning at 10:30, from March 4 through April 8. Admission is free, and all are welcome. For more information, see above.

April 1: “Meditations on the Seven Last Words,” a guided meditation by Fr. Victor Sczurek, O.Praem., Headmaster, Saint Michael’s Abbey Preparatory School, Silverado

April 8: “Penance: Its virtue, practice and role in the spiritual life.” Fr. James Garcia, Archdiocese of San Francisco
### Lenten Activities

**Lent calls us to return to the image of God that we were fashioned to reflect. In other words, to be Holy People.**

During the Lenten Season, feel free to make use of the pamphlets and resources, which will be available to you in the church at a table by the St. Joseph statue area. May these Lenten activities and others be of assistance to you as your embark on your Lenten Journey.

**Lenten Fridays—Stations of the Cross after the 8:00 a.m. Mass—Led by the laity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 30</td>
<td><strong>Communal Penance service</strong> with opportunity for individual confession, 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 5</td>
<td><strong>Sacred Space, Parish Hall</strong> 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Confessions at 1PM in the Sacred Space  Closing Prayer service at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 9</td>
<td><strong>Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion</strong> Saturday, April 9 Vigil Mass, 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 9, Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.</td>
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### Celebrating Reconciliation & Healing

**Saint Philip Parish –wide Penance Service is on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in our church**

Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. For those of us who are Catholics, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's reconciliation. We used to think of this sacrament as only about "confession" - that it was like a dumping ground for my sins, where I got forgiven, and I had to "pay a toll." One of the great recoveries in our Christian history is to re-discover the meaning of this sacrament.

It is God who forgives sins. And God forgives us the very moment that we come to the experience that we need forgiveness (which itself comes through God's grace). At that moment, I feel sorrow and a desire for forgiveness and healing. In that moment, I am reconciled with God. The reunion, the bond, the connection, the joy are all there. Three more things remain: to receive it deep within my heart, to celebrate it, and to participate in the healing process.

When I experience God's forgiveness and love, I am invited to savor it and let it touch me deeply. **Experiencing compassion, patience, understanding, and forgiveness is itself transforming.** If I fail to appreciate what I have just received - freely and undeserved - then I will take it for granted and risk moving on without a real healing happening.

Then, I need to **celebrate** the reconciliation I have received. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation - individually or in common - I have the wonderful opportunity to ritualize that celebration. In the Sacrament, my personal journey is joined with the mystery of God's saving love, as seen in the scriptures, and in God's desire to save us all. There, in ritual form (even if it is just me and the priest) I "step forward" and admit that I am a sinner, express my sorrow, and I name the places in my life where God is shining a Light into what I have done and what I have failed to do. Then, God's forgiveness is proclaimed "out loud" - for me to hear and rejoice in: "May God grant you pardon and fill you with God's peace."

An integral part of the reconciliation involves the healing process. If I sprain my ankle, the doctor will offer me a number of therapies for healing - ice, for the first 24 hours to reduce the swelling, wrapping it, elevating it, and then gradually and carefully using it, until it is healed and strong again. Part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to seek and practice a "remedy" or "medicine" for the healing I desire. Often that will simply be prayer. Often, expressing my gratitude to God is one of the most important steps on the road to recovery from my independence from God. Sometimes, I will need to practice a therapy that is more carefully planned - making choices about what I can practice doing and what I can practice avoiding.

May our Lord grant us all the gift of reconciliation, and may we all receive it and celebrate it well during this Holy Season.

---

### Silence is the Language of God

**Silence is the language of God; all else is poor translation.**

By Rumi
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

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL
2017 LIVING FAITH

Let your light shine before all people...and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

It is with sincere gratitude to see the list of donors continue to increase in support of the 2017 annual appeal. **We are not that far from reaching our half-way point!** We are striving for 100% participation in order to ensure we meet our obligation of **$39,879.00.**

If you did not receive a brochure, we have some available at the back of the church and pews for your convenience.

We have been successful previously, and we remain confident we can do it again! Prayerfully consider making a contribution.

We express our thanks to the following supporters thus far:

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- Carmen Vargas

Our current balance due is: **$23,749.00**

Please keep in mind we receive the donors report from the Archdiocese Development Office on Tuesday evenings after our bulletin is sent to the printer. If you have kindly supported this appeal, your name will appear on a following bulletin. Your understanding is appreciated.

THE LENTEN SACRED SPACE RETURNS TO SAINT PHILIP!

Once again, we are offering you **an additional sacred space** other than our church setting for reflection, prayer & activity.

Lent is a season to consciously allow time to encounter God. It is a time for our relationship with God to grow. It’s no secret to our heavenly Father that our lives are busy, and we feel we don’t have enough hours in the day just to get through our day-to-day living; yet, our gracious God will patiently wait for us.

Do consider visiting our Sacred Space this year at a time that is convenient for you. Stay as long as you wish and engage at the various prayer/reflection stations. We will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5th in the Parish Hall. We will also conclude the day with a simple prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

In addition, we will be offering private reconciliation at 1:00 p.m.

All ages are welcome. The only pre-requisite is attending in silence so you and others can lend their ears and hearts to hear God’s voice.

“Create in me a clean heart O Lord”

COMPLETE LENTEN FAST & ABSTINENCE INFORMATION

Abstinence: Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

Fast: Everyone eighteen years of age and older but under the age of sixty is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days, the law of fast allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a priest assigned to pastoral ministry or confessor should be consulted. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.
March 29 - Saint Ludovico of Casoria

Born in Casoria, near Naples, Archangelo Palmentieri was a cabinet-maker before entering the Friars Minor in 1832, taking the name Ludovico. After his ordination five years later, he taught chemistry, physics, and mathematics to younger members of his province for several years.

In 1847, he had a mystical experience which he later described as a cleansing. After that, he dedicated his life to the poor and the infirm, establishing a dispensary for the poor, two schools for African children, an institute for the children of nobility, as well as an institution for orphans, the deaf, and the speechless, and other institutes for the blind, elderly, and for travelers. In addition to an infirmary for friars of his province, he began charitable institutes in Naples, Florence, and Assisi. He once said, “Christ’s love has wounded my heart.” This love prompted him to great acts of charity.

To help continue these works of mercy, in 1859 he established the Gray Brothers, a religious community composed of men who formerly belonged to the Secular Franciscan Order. Three years later, he founded the Gray Sisters of St. Elizabeth for the same purpose.

Toward the beginning of his final, nine-year illness, Ludovico wrote a spiritual testament which described faith as “light in the darkness, help in sickness, blessing in tribulations, paradise in the crucifixion, and life amid death.” The local work for his beatification began within five months of Ludovico’s death. He was beatified in 1993 and canonized in 2014.

New Archdiocesan Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Amanda George, Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry 415-614-5595
gorgea@sfarch.org

The Archdiocese of San Francisco welcomes Amanda George as Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Fr. Charles Puthota, director of the Department of Pastoral Ministry, says, “It has been a deeply felt desire that we need more youth and young adults engaged in the life of the Church. I have asked Amanda to go out to parishes and deaneries and explore ways of preaching the good news to youth and young adults.”

Amanda George is a parishioner at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park. She has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Sonoma State University, and her professional background is in operations, information technology, and web development. She says, “I’ve done youth ministry with St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Palo Alto, St. Joseph in Cupertino, and at the Echoes of Worth teen retreat in 2015 and 2016. I’ve done young adult ministry with Goretti Group and Young Catholic Professionals Silicon Valley. Through discernment I concluded God was inviting me to leave the web development job that I enjoyed and enter into full-time ministry working for the Church. My top priorities are supporting parishes in their youth and young adult ministry efforts, offering archdiocese-wide opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in our love of God, understand our faith, and foster deep Catholic identity, and helping to plan and promote cross-diocese youth and young adult ministry events.”

Meatless Fridays

Here’s another meatless recipe worth trying (Garlic Shrimp with Tomatoes, Peppers, and Feta)

You’ll need: 2 lbs large or jumbo shrimp (peeled and deveined), 4 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, 6 cloves of garlic (minced), zest from 1 lemon, salt and pepper to taste, cayenne to taste, 1 medium to large Vidalia onion (chopped), 1 green bell pepper (seeded and chopped), 1 red bell pepper (seeded and chopped), 1 tsp red pepper flakes, 3-4 Cretan tomatoes (peeled and chopped, reserve juice), 1/4 cup dry white wine, 4 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley, 8 oz. feta cheese (crumbled), 3-4 tbls Ouzo (optional)

1. In a medium-sized glass mixing bowl add the shrimp, 1-2 tbsp. olive oil, 1-2 tsp garlic, lemon zest, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/4 tsp black pepper, and 1/8 tsp of cayenne. Mix well.
2. Heat a large, heavy-bottomed skillet over medium to medium high heat. Add 2-3 tbsp. of olive oil. When the oil is hot, add the onion, red, and green bell peppers. Sprinkle with salt and stir. Sauté until the vegetables have softened (about 10 minutes). Stir occasionally.
3. Add the remaining garlic and red pepper flakes. Continue to sauté. Stir frequently.
4. Add the tomatoes, reserved tomato juice, and white wine. Increase heat to medium-high and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium and simmer for 8-10 minutes. Stir in 2 tbsp. of parsley and season the sauce with salt & pepper to taste.
5. Reduce heat to medium-low and add shrimp and marinade to the sauce. Mix well. Stir occasionally until the shrimp are cooked through.
6. Remove from heat and top with crumbled Feta. Serve over rice with olive oil and a pinch of parsley. Enjoy.

PARISH REGISTRATION

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

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.
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.

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

Wedding Anniversary Blessings

Did you know you can have your wedding blessed and renew your vows in a celebration of a milestone anniversary?

It is a lovely gift you can bestow on your Sacrament of Marriage as you renew your vows of love and faith with each other. Call the rectory office for more information at 415-282-0141

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP
MONTHLY: FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS, 7:30-9:00 PM
ST. STEPHEN CHURCH, O'REILLY PARISH CENTER
451 EUCALYPTUS DRIVE, SAN FRANCISCO
FR. AL GROSSKOPF, S.J. 415-422-6698

Support groups are part of the Separated and Divorced Catholic Ministry in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. This group meets the first and third Wednesday of the month. Gatherings begin with prayer, introductions, sharing around what is going on in everyone's lives, and closing with prayer. It is a drop-in support group. If you have any questions, contact number shown above.

RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE WEEKEND IN SAN FRANCISCO
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 28-30

Retrouvaille is a weekend program that helps couples heal and renew their marriages. Retrouvaille is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marital relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program. The next weekend program coming up in San Francisco is April 28-30. For information contact: retrouvaille.org or 800-470-2230

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Online marriage Prep can be found at: http://www.catholicmarriageprep.com. The cost is $175.00 and is available in both English and Spanish.

Contact: Ed Hopfner with questions at: hopfnerE@sfarchdiocese.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Are you interested in have 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.
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