We are a welcoming inter-generational community united through our faith in Jesus Christ, demonstrating our love to others through service and charity.

St. Philip the Apostle Church
725 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Phone: 415.282.0141
Fax: 415-282.8962
www.saintphilipparish.org
Email: info@saintphilipparish.org

December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent
"By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being"

PASTORAL STAFF
Rev. Stephen Howell, V.G., Pastor
Rev. Brendan McBride, In residence
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center
Rio Stefanus, Finance/Business Manager
Mary Dante, Bookkeeper
Sandra Kearney, Pastoral Associate
Tony LesCallet, School Principal
Rachel Williams, Pre-School Director

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.
           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

ST. PHILIP PRE-SCHOOL
Phone: 415.282.0143

ST. PHILIP SCHOOL
Phone: 415.824.8467
Fax: 415.282.0121
Find Us Ready

Good and gracious God,
who sent the angel Gabriel to announce the
gift of your Son,
your love for us has no limits and
endures forever.
As we prepare for the coming of Christ,
eliminate within us all sin and fear,
giving us pure hearts to receive him.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with your grace,
just as Mary was so filled,
and find us ready to stand in your presence
to serve you.
Keep us faithful to the covenant you made
with our ancestors.
May your joy saturate our beings as we go
forth proclaiming your salvation,
so that, on that final day, we will forever sing
your goodness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 24, 2017
Mystery Revealed

Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38. The readings proclaimed at the liturgy today invite us to ponder the mystery revealed in the birth of Christ. David wishes to build a proper house for the ark of God. The prophet Nathan reveals that God has a much bigger plan: to establish a house for him. God will build up the nation to prosper until the end of time. Because of the Incarnation, we are heirs to this promise and are members of God’s household. As the psalm states, God has made a covenant with his people and we continue the song of praise and thanksgiving.

This promise cannot be fulfilled without Mary’s yes. Since the time of the fall, all creation has waited for Mary, God chose her to bear his Son, the Messiah who establishes the Reign of God. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to give up everything (die to self) for another, especially for God’s will? Here is a young woman whose whole life changes when she humbly says, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Tomorrow, the Christian world celebrates the birth of Jesus. The season of Christmas, challenges us to grow deeper in faith. Jesus reveals the Father’s love and mercy. At every liturgy, the Church celebrates this mystery and receives the presence of God’s own Son. We are to become what we receive—the Body of Christ. Take time today to reflect on your yes and see in what ways God has revealed himself to you.
### Masses for the Week

**December 23, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Masses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/23 Saturday</td>
<td>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. † Roger, Cecilia, Thomas, Michael, William and Margaret Furey (by: Helen Furey)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m. † Nerio Plondaya, Jr. (by: Plondaya Family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/24 Sunday</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of Advent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christmas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 p.m. Intentions of the Celebrant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 p.m. Intentions of the Celebrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/25 Monday</td>
<td>The Nativity of the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/26 Tuesday</td>
<td>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. The intentions of S. H. Howell</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/27 Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. † Arthur McGuigan (by: Helen McGuigan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/28 Thursday</td>
<td>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. † Patrick &amp; Grace Maughan (by: Maughan Family Trust)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/29 Friday</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. † Adele Franco (by: Carolee Lubin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/30 Saturday</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. † Lucille Taft (by: Anne Holman)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving (by: The Cagalingan Family)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31 Sunday</td>
<td>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. Rev. Tony P. LaTorre (Spl. Intentions) (by: Carol Cagalingan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

- Patricia Crowley
- Laura Garcia
- Agnes Piva
- John Bamber
- Fred Jungmann
- Ron Ramirez
- Mow, Kain Chiu
- Mary Deke
- Marian Dickey
- Bill Matthews
- Leo Juarez
- Chloe Smith
- Mary Crowley
- David Dickey
- Dolores Martin
- Michael Brust
- Corrado DeMartini
- Father Paul Rossi

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 17, 2017 Collection</th>
<th>Online giving</th>
<th>Total Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online giving</td>
<td>$2,586.00</td>
<td>$3,656.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Collection</td>
<td>$1,070.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24, 2017**

**Vigil of Christmas**

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

**Christmas Day - Monday, December 25, 2017**

**Mass of the Lord’s Nativity - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Regular weekend Mass schedule**

**Monday, January 1, 2018**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**Epiphany of the Lord - Regular weekend schedule**

### Year End Tax Contributions

This is the time of year when you may be reflecting on catching up on your charitable contributions for the 2017 tax year.

If you plan to add Saint Philip to your list, please make sure your donation is dated by December 31, 2017 in order to receive credit for 2017. As always, year-end tax contribution letters are available to you by request.
Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

Having heard the good news from the angels of heaven, the shepherds quickly make their way to find the infant Jesus. He was in “swaddling clothes” (2:12), an ancient and still used practice of wrapping an infant in garments that restrict the movement of the limbs. We can imagine a newborn wrapped, as they typically are, to resemble something akin to a burrito!

The shepherds find Jesus in a stable. As we know, Mary and Joseph could find no room at the inn and were reduced to having their baby in a stable, dirty with animal droppings, feed, animal bedding, and various creatures that we might expect in such a place. This was a far cry from palatial stables seen on TV during the Kentucky Derby. The ancient stable was often unkempt, certainly not a place for a new-born, or even a family. It would be more akin to a “chicken coop” or perhaps a “doghouse” today. The point is, there is no pageantry surrounding his place of birth. The family is one of migrants, on the move, without access to something as basic as a bed, or as sanitary as a bathroom. Modern depictions of the stable of Jesus’ birth are often so sanitized that we can miss the scandal of such a place. But it is precisely the scandalous conditions of his birth that is such a critical piece of the story.

This “king” is not born in a palace, but in a stable. The reversal is a common gospel theme, especially for Luke. It was prefigured in Mary’s canticle (Luke 1:46-55) when she said, “He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones / but lifted up the lowly” (NABRE). The one who has no place to lay his head has been lifted up by God. In short, God’s ways are not our ways.

Jesus comes to us as one who is lowly. The infant wrapped in blankets that restrict his movement is laid in a manger. A manger, of course, is not simply a pretty place to lay a baby. In fact, a manger is a “feed-box.” Such a depiction is quite deliberate on Luke’s part. Jesus will be bread for the world, food for the world as is foreshadowed by his being laid in a feed-box. Jesus is the nourish-ment that will sustain the world, as echoed in the multiplication of the loaves (Luke 9:10-17). The manger foreshadows the Passover meal at which Jesus will say, “This is my body, which will be given for you” (Luke 22:19, NABRE). After the resurrection, the disciples will come to know Jesus in the “breaking of the bread” (Luke 24:35). The next generation of Christians too will know Jesus in the breaking of bread (Acts 2:46; 20:7), for Jesus is food for the world.

This morning’s story, then, is not so much about a cute baby, but about the incarnate God choosing to be born in lowly and migrant conditions, placed in a feed-box, foreshadowing the nourishing, life-giving role he would have for centuries to come. The story should cause us to reconsider how we think of the lowly, for they will be lifted up. God’s ways are not our ways. We may look to and admire the powerful, the moneyed, the purveyors of influence. God, on the other hand, casts down those from their lofty places and instead lifts up those who have little to no standing in this world. The birth of Jesus signals a major reversal that was foretold by Mary herself. May we be ready for the upheaval that reversal will bring.

Glory to God in the Highest!
Parking will be available in the school parking lot.

Come and join in some fun, merriment, good cheer with old friends and new friends.

Popcorn and Refreshments will be made available too.

RSVP at 415-282-0141

Parking available in the Cathedral parking lot, across the street from the school.

Admission: $7.00

Tickets can be purchased online at: sfarch.org/basketball

12/25-26 Parish Office Closed for the Christmas Celebration
12/28 Annual Christmas Movie, 12Noon, Parish Hall
01/01 New Year’s Day Mass at 9:00 a.m., There is no 8:00 a.m. Mass
01/01 Parish Office Closed for the Holiday

Come cheer on the priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of San Francisco as they face off in this second annual event!

Half-time entertainment for all ages. Bring family and friends to Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep's gym (Sister Teresa Piro, DC Student Life Center) on Friday, January 5 at 7 pm.

Traveling during the Christmas Season? Visit: www.masstimes.org to find a local catholic church near your travel destinations. It really works!

The Parish Office Staff
Wish You and Yours a Most Blessed and Holy Christmas

Parish Office Closed for the Christmas Celebration
Annual Christmas Movie, 12Noon, Parish Hall
New Year’s Day Mass at 9:00 a.m., There is no 8:00 a.m. Mass
Parish Office Closed for the Holiday

Traveling during the Christmas Season? Visit: www.masstimes.org to find a local catholic church near your travel destinations. It really works!

Parish Office Closed for the Christmas Celebration
Annual Christmas Movie, 12Noon, Parish Hall

The Parish Office Staff
Wish You and Yours a Most Blessed and Holy Christmas

Save the Date
Thursday, December 28th at 12:00 noon
Annual Christmas Movie! Parish Hall FREE
A little Christmas fun with this Gospel Crossword
Solution will be found in next week’s bulletin—Good Luck!

ABC4c Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus, Luke 2:15-20
Christmas Dawn Mass

On Christmas Day many people visit relatives and friends to celebrate the gift that God the Father gave us, Jesus Christ. Next time you visit someone, pray that God bless them with love and peace.

Across
4. as soon as
5. understood
6. surprised
7. form of be
10. human pump for blood
12. entire
14. people who protect sheep
18. owned
19. not at home
21. detected sounds
22. objective case of they
24. memo
26. the other one from that
27. left
29. giving praise
31. used eyes to witness
33. shining back
34. hurry

Down
1. spouse of Mary
2. used to be
3. flat on your back
4. question word to find out the item being talked about
5. held onto
6. spiritual workers of God
7. town where Jesus was born
8. discovered
9. created
11. observe
13. maker of heaven and earth
15. place where God and angels live
16. giving approval
17. said
20. pronoun for people
22. items
23. brought back
25. baby
28. mother of Jesus
30. fair
32. which person

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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 normally take place the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.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 OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
415-282-0141 Fax: 415-282-8962
www.saintphilipparish.org — info@saintphilipparish.org

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
Tony LesCallett, Principal
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 Tuesday of the Month 7:00 p.m. (Rectory by appt.)
Belfry Society
Adult Choir Thursday 7:00 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 Association (PTA)
RCIA (Adult Faith Instruction) Sunday 9:15 (Resource Center)
Rosary Makers Second & Third Thursday, 11:30 a.m., (Hall 3)
School Board
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 Al-Anon 7:00 p.m. Lyons