



St. Philip Catholic Parish

Crafton, Pennsylvania | Established 1839

Week of April 12, 2020

PASTORAL STAFF

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 3:00pm

Rev. John B. Gizler, III, Pastor
Rev. John E. Forbidussi, Parochial Vicar
Dr. Brian Dougherty, St. Philip School Principal
Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Dir. of Religious Education
Ms. Mary Beth Barsh, Music Director
Ms. Dorothy Mancini, Assistant Organist
Ms. Dorothy Kraemer, Office Manager
Ms. Ursula Eberle, Business Coordinator
Ms. Maureen Takach, Administrative Assistant
& Safe Environment Coordinator
Ms. Linda Bey, Religious Education Secretary
Ms. Michele O'Toole, School Secretary
Ms. Chris Archacki, Maintenance
Mr. Richard Hufnagel, Maintenance
Mr. Brian Cox, Maintenance
Ms. Nancy Mehal, Housekeeping

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Joseph Scheib, St. Philip Rectory

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Robert Bertocchi, Frank Bey, Judi Cagley,
Patricia Cygrymus, Barbara Hendrick,
Joseph Hoover, Dolores Leone, Martin Matko,
Patricia McDermott (Co-Chair), Katie Phillips,
David Pilarski (Co-Chair), Mary Schubert
and Richard Schubert.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Benjamin Bannon, Thomas Hipkiss,
Joseph Hoover, Joseph Rynn, Gary Urbatis

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
parishoffice@saintphilipchurch.org

St. Philip Office (412) 922-6300
St. Philip School (412) 928-2742
St. Philip CCD Office (412) 922-6388
Society of SVdEP (412) 444-8140



EASTER SUNDAY

Download the bulletin at www.parishesonline.com

St. Philip Church

50 West Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Ascension Worship Site

114 Berry Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

St. Philip School

52 West Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
www.spsangelway.org

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: Should be submitted to maureen@saintphilipchurch.org
no later than 12:00pm on Friday to be included in the following week's bulletin.





CONFESSION

Offered Saturdays from 12:15pm to 1:15pm at *Ascension Worship Site*.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: A seminar is required for first-time parents. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 12:15pm at *St. Philip Church* or at the *Ascension Worship Site*. Please call the Religious Education Office at 412-922-6388 for more information.

Matrimony: Priest is to be contacted six months in advance of wedding. Participation in Pre-Cana Program required. Please contact the Parish Priests for more information.

Anointing of the Sick: Following a weekend Mass and on the last Saturday of the month at 8:30am at *Ascension Worship Site*.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Call the Office of Religious Education for more information.

Priesthood/Religious Life: Contact the Parish Priests for more information.

Victim's Assistance Hot-Line: If you are a person who has been hurt by abuse from clergy or others associated with the Church, the Diocese of Pittsburgh offers assistance with counseling, spiritual direction and referrals to other supportive services.

For information, contact our Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 412-456-3093.

Protecting God's Children —
VICTIM HOTLINE: 1-888-808-1235

CHILDLINE: 1-888-932-0313 to report child abuse
Call 911 if a child is in imminent danger.

MASS SCHEDULE

Masses are held at St. Philip Church and Ascension Worship Site

LOCATION	TIME	MASS INTENTION	OFFERED BY
SATURDAY, APRIL 11 — HOLY SATURDAY			
St. Philip	8:00pm (V)	Vigil Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish
SUNDAY, APRIL 12 — EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD			
St. Philip	7:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	8:30am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	10:30am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
St. Philip	11:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
MONDAY, APRIL 13 — MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER			
St. Philip	8:00am	Samuel F. Barker	Family
TUESDAY, APRIL 14 — TUESDAY OF WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER			
Ascension	8:00am	Alice & Ellsworth Wentz	Barbara & Louis Wentz
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 — WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER			
St. Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
THURSDAY, APRIL 16 — THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER			
Ascension	8:00am	Deceased of the Vorbach	Helen Demma
		Family	
FRIDAY, APRIL 17 — FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER			
St. Philip	8:00am	Lucy & Carl Kubiak	Family
SATURDAY, APRIL 18 — SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER			
Ascension	8:00am	Margaret & Paul O'Donovan	Maureen O'Donovan
St. Philip	4:00pm (V)	Peggy Quigley	Dietz & Mozzetti Families
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Stanley & Rose Bajoras	Daughter
SUNDAY, APRIL 19 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)			
St. Philip	7:00am	Mary Lou Meyers	Carol & Michael Anderson
Ascension	9:30am	Paul S. Korol	Wife, Claudia
St. Philip	11:00am	Vincent G. Palmiere	Family

CANCELLATION OF DAILY AND SUNDAY MASSES

Even though the celebration of public Masses in the Diocese of Pittsburgh have been cancelled as per the directive of Bishop David Zubik, **Fr. John Gizler, Fr. Jack Forbidussi and Fr. Joseph Scheib will still celebrate Masses in private at St. Philip Parish. This will satisfy the intentions which you have scheduled for your loved ones and friends.**



Saint Philip Parish is on Facebook! Follow us today to learn about upcoming events and happenings.



From the Pastor's Desk

Emptying Tombs We have followed the terrible Passion and death of Jesus in the liturgy during the past week. Part of our journey through his suffering and death was the challenge we received to identify where we stand on the issue of Calvary. Do we stand with Jesus or against him? Are we Veronica and Simon and the Jerusalem women who helped him on the way? Are we the howling mob, and the hand-washing Pilate, and the weak disciples who only hurt him? We have moved with Jesus, and with that question, through the Passion and death. Now we must move with Jesus from his tomb to the Resurrection, and with another question: the Lord has risen from his tomb; have we risen from ours? The disciple Christian says to himself and herself: "My Lord has risen and is alive. But have I risen from the depth of my sins, and am I alive with his grace on this glorious day?" If you and I have not risen from our own tombs, then the Resurrection of the Lord from his tomb has no meaning in time or eternity for us. On this glorious day of the Lord, we are sure in faith that he is alive and well. We look forward, like him, to the day when we go back to the Father in glory. In looking forward, we are also looking back at what many of us have left behind. Christians of the present time and of the past two thousand or so years have left behind a vast assortment of tombs. Each in his or her own way have faced the question: "My Lord lives; do I?" And they have been able to answer: "Yes, Lord! I have walked my passion and my pain in solidarity with yours. I have been lifted high above the hills of my sins; I have emptied my tomb. I, too, am resurrected, and I am alive and well with you on this great day!" (Fr. Joseph Pollard)

Christ Has Risen! *On the third day he rose again...* Today, together with the whole Church, we repeat these words with particular emotion. We repeat them with the same faith with which they were pronounced the first time. We utter them with the same certainty that was put into the sentence by the eyewitnesses of the event. Behold the day of universal hope. The day on which all human sufferings,

disappointments, humiliations, crosses, violated human dignity, disrespected human life, all are gathered up and associated with the Risen One, and loudly cry out, "To the Paschal Victim, let sacrifice of praise be raised today!" The Risen One does not depart from us. The Risen One returns to us! (St. Pope John Paul II)

Live-Streaming Mass Schedule on Facebook Don't forget to join us on our parish Facebook page for the following live-streaming Masses in April:

- Easter Sunday, April 12: **9:30AM**
- Friday School Mass in the Octave of Easter, April 17: **8:00AM**
- Second Sunday of Easter, April 19: **9:30AM**
- Friday School Mass, April 24: **8:00AM**
- Third Sunday of Easter, April 26: **9:30AM**

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair! We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

- St. Pope John Paul II

The History of Easter The celebration of Christ's resurrection is the culmination of his mission and the foundation of our faith. Easter is also the oldest Christian holiday, one that Pope Leo I regarded as the greatest feast of the liturgical year, a conviction that has since been widely embraced. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith has been in vain" (1 Cor 15:14). St. Bede suggests that the word *Easter* could be related to *Estre*, an ancient goddess of

spring. The more common term for Easter was the Latin *Pasch* or *Passover*. Easter was the *Festa Paschalia*, a name that is plural because Easter is not just a one-day event but includes seven more days of celebration (called the Easter octave). The name *Easter* is also related to the German word for east, *ostern*, where the sun rises. So the associations of light from the rising sun and the new life of spring naturally carry over to our celebration of new life through Christ. The fixing of the date of Easter was complex and somewhat controversial. To the members of the Early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection. When it was determined to single out one day to highlight the feast, there was disagreement to proper date. Some Christians, including St. Irenaeus and St. Polycarp, felt it should coincide with the Jewish Passover, which was determined by the lunar calendar, while others preferred the Sunday celebration date that eventually prevailed when the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD determined that Easter is to be celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the spring (vernal) equinox. (All Saints Press, 2019)



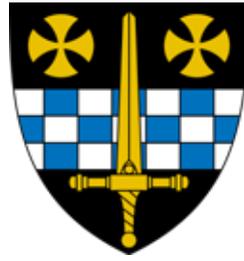
A Prayer for Easter Sunday

O Lord, the day of our longing has arrived! With the dawn comes deliverance. The first ray of light announces the Good News: the Light of Life is now shining, never to set again. The Messiah once dead now lives. The Messiah who went among the dead now reigns at the right hand of the Father. It is wonderful to behold. O Lord, your victory is our hope of glory. We believe in you. We are your brothers and sisters born out of a living faith as you are the Son of God. You who were crucified are now risen. You who were laid in the tomb and went among the dead to announce salvation, live! And because you live we can face tomorrow. Because you live we have hope. O Lord, we are your people sent forth with a message. "He is Risen!" This Gospel is the hope of the world. It has been entrusted to us. It is for us to share with others each day. We are to tell others of the wonders of your love. We are to speak of what your love has done for us. Today, we pass from death to life! Amen.

Easter Blessings to All! On behalf of Fr. Jack Forbidussi, Fr. Joseph Scheib and our entire Pastoral Staff, I would like to wish you and your families a most Blessed and Happy Easter! I pray that these holy days of Easter will bring you much peace and contentment as we celebrate God's eternal love for us in and through the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John Gizler, III
jgizler@diopitt.org



Around the Diocese and Community

SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST

— Bishop Zubik has cancelled ALL celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the month of April. Our parish was previously scheduled to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, April 18 and the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist on Saturday, April 25. We are currently awaiting instructions regarding the re-scheduling of both of these celebrations and we will inform the parish as soon as possible.

APPLY NOW FOR THE OLSH CLASS OF 2024

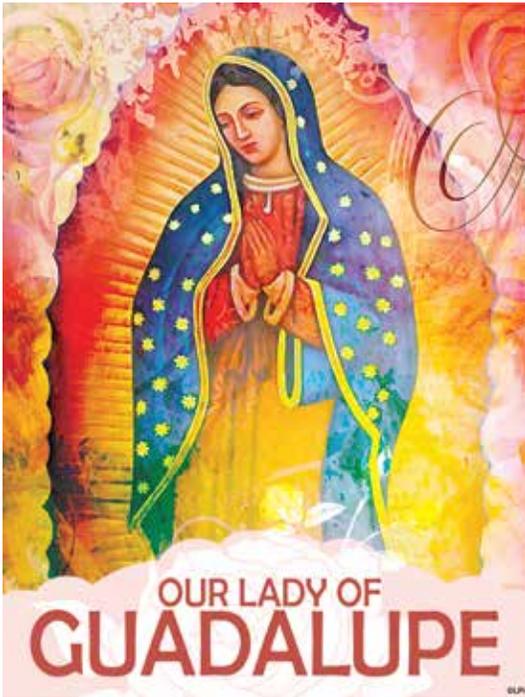
— Learn how an OLSH education can make a difference in your child's life! Prospective ninth grade students for the 2020-2021 school year are invited to submit an application for admission at www.ols.org. Each class is limited to 100 students and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Financial aid and grants are available for a limited time, so start the process today! Questions? Contact the Admissions Office at 412-262-3300.

OLSH NOW ACCEPTING FALL 2020 TRANSFERS

— OLSH accepts a limited number of transfer students to grades 10 through 12 who are seeking an alternative to their current school or environment. OLSH is an independent Catholic high school and ministry of the Felician Sisters, and is excited to offer a broad range of classes, activities, and value-based service opportunities to its students. If you have a high school student who desires an academically-focused, nurturing school environment and would benefit from a transfer, please contact the Admissions Office at 412-262-3300. Financial aid and grants are available for a limited time, so start the process today!

ATTENTION, SINGLES

— Single, 21 and over? Looking for a new way to meet people and have some fun? Check out Catholic Singles Club of Pittsburgh. We offer a variety of different activities including parties, picnics, hiking, volleyball, sports leagues, dinners, trips, community service, and many other great events. For information, visit www.cacpittsburgh.org.



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Our advertisers need your help during these difficult times!

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!



PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, we invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. -USCCB.com

*Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.*

*Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.*

*For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.*

*In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.*

*We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.*

*Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.*

Amen.

-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

Due to the current health crisis the Parish Offices will be closed for all ordinary parish business. However, in case of emergency, please call the parish at 412-922-6300 and the answering service will contact one of the priests.

CANCELLATION OF DAILY AND SUNDAY MASSES

Even though the celebration of public Masses in the Diocese of Pittsburgh have been cancelled as per the instruction of Bishop David Zubik, Fr. John Gizler, Fr. Jack Forbidussi and Fr. Joseph Scheib will still celebrate Masses in private at St. Philip Parish. This will satisfy the intentions which you have scheduled for your loved ones and friends.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

We ask you to please remember in your prayers our RCIA Candidates, and those students in our Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes. Their long-awaited reception of these Sacraments have been temporarily postponed. We look forward to sharing these joyous moments with them very soon.

MARCH MADNESS 50/50!

Since all NBA games have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our previously scheduled March Madness Fundraiser became a 50/50 drawing instead. The pot was \$3,850.00 and our chosen winner was Rod & Sharon Mell! They won \$1,925.00! Fr. Gizler, our Pastor chose their winning block in the Parish Office on Friday, March 27. \$1,925.00 also went to the parish. Congratulations, Rod & Sharon! Thanks to all who contributed to this fundraiser!

ASCENSION AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT

Despite the suspension of almost every aspect of parish life during the Coronavirus pandemic, work has started on the installation of new air conditioning units on the roof of Ascension Church. This project was scheduled long before the pandemic started (because the old air conditioning system stopped functioning last Fall). We are so very thankful for the continued support of our parishioners who have made this important project possible.



WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE IS NO PUBLIC MASS

Sharing in the Eucharist is the heart of Sunday, but the duty to keep Sunday holy cannot be reduced to this. In fact, the Lord's Day is lived well if it is marked from beginning to end by grateful and active remembrance of God's saving work.

-St. Pope John Paul II in Dies Domini (52)

1. Prayerfully watch Mass online and participate as if you were there

There are many options online for watching Sunday Mass live or recorded. Try LiveMass.net, EWTN.com/tv/watch-live, and TheSundayMass.org.

2. Make a Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

3. Conduct an in-home celebration of the Liturgy of the Word

Read the readings and prayers for the day with others in your household. You can download a free missal (magnificat.net/free) or can find the Sunday (and daily) Mass readings at uscgb.org/bible/readings.

4. Pray the Rosary and Liturgy of the Hours

Take time to prayerfully say the Mysteries of the Rosary or join the Church in praying the Liturgy of the Hours throughout the day. You can find the Liturgy of the Hours prayers online at www.ibreviary.org.

Living the **PASCHAL MYSTERY**

Much as it may sound surprising to us, the resurrection of Jesus seemed to be a surprise to his disciples. Mary of Magdala's first reaction is logical: the body was stolen. Peter and the Beloved Disciple see for themselves that the tomb is empty, but only one believes. They did not understand the Scripture. We are reminded that we live by faith and we seek understanding. Easter morning gives us our north star, the guiding light by which we live our lives. The death of Jesus was not his end. He was raised in a wholly unexpected way to new life. His destiny is ours; his new life will be shared by us who seek to follow him. On this Easter morning, may we be open to the unexpected ways that God may work in our lives. (*Living Liturgy*, Liturgical Press, 2019)



GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

How to initiate a Tax Free Gift from your IRA if you are over 70½ years of age.

- Call your IRA fund custodian/investment broker.
- He/she may have a form for you to sign giving instructions regarding the charity(s) you wish to receive gifts and when you wish to make these donations from your IRA.
- The fund custodian will then send a check made payable to the charity from your IRA minimum distribution or principal. (If requested, the check can be mailed to you to send out personally.) To avoid declaring that amount as taxable income, the check must be made payable to your parish/school (or other charity).
- It may be helpful to have the check sent directly to you. You can then send it (with your name and address) to the charity, as many IRA custodians do not identify the donor's name and address when they send the check directly to the charity.

Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **St. Philip** burns

In Loving Memory of John & Claire Beitler

Offered by Karen Beitler

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension**

burns *In Honor of Roseann Crooks*

Offered by Mary Greisinger



HOME IMPROVEMENTS - CALL RODGER

Thank you for helping to underwrite the production of our weekly Parish Bulletin.



St. Philip School News

HAPPY EASTER!!

In this season of Resurrection and Hope, the prayers and thanks of our school families go out to all of our parishioners and friends who continue to support us with their contributions and prayers in this difficult time. God bless!

GRACE PROGRAM

Enrollment for the May GRACE program may be made by placing your request in the collection basket or sending it to the school office at 52 West Crafton Avenue, Pittsburgh 15205. Enrollment Deadline for the May GRACE program on May 1, which will include our May Crowning ceremony and Mother's Day Remembrance, is April 29. Any donation is gratefully accepted and directly benefits the school.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Even though we are not physically in the building, school goes on along with the expenses. Please support our present fundraiser, the purse raffle. Please see the enclosed flier for information on how you can help. Many thanks!

THE SPS VIRTUAL SCHOOL NEWS

St. Philip School students are continuing to learn through on-line presentations, posted assignments and special activities. Each class is finding unique ways of staying connected and having fun in these very challenging times. Some students are doing their own activities and then sharing them with the class like **Katelyn Kelley** who painted a window in her home to remind everyone of Holy Week. Below are just some of the activities that are happening:

Art — **Miss McGaughey** created videos of some fun art projects to do at home such as shaving cream marble paintings and the brown paper bag star. 8th grader, **Keeley Snaidach** took the stained glass window challenge with great results.

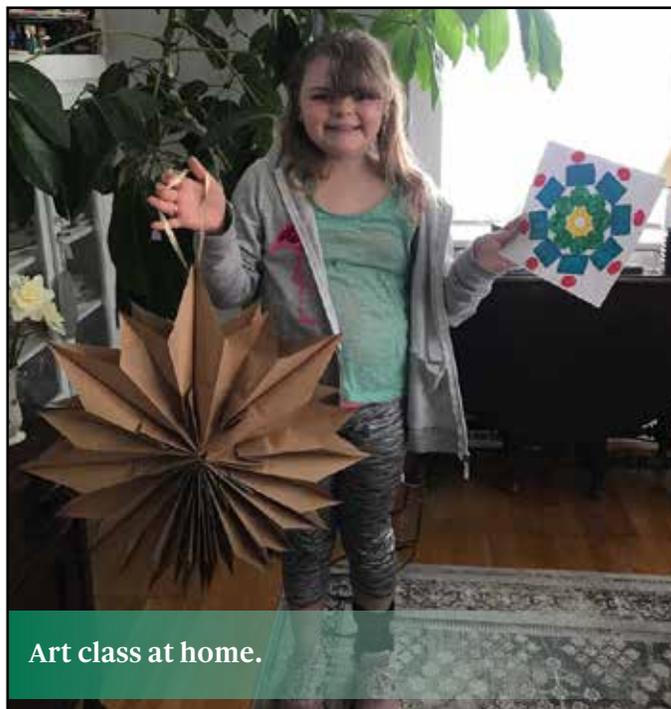
Grade 7 — Students are researching the Presidents and creating PowerPoint presentations for a double grade in Social Studies and Computer.

Grade 2 — During a Zoom session, 2nd grade shared their screen with Mystery Doug who invited students into his home for a LIVE, 20-minute science show. He answered real kids' questions about the current situation we're all dealing with, as well as sharing a few fun surprises.

Computer — Computer classes have been using videos to help them learn the Stations of the Cross and Holy Week and answering questions using on-line quiz forms.

Grade 3 — Students have been able to get right back into their reading and math routine, using online series and the Zoom classroom. Classes are held 5 days a week. We have even added religion, science and social studies to our schedule. Recently each student reported on his or her non-fiction book for the monthly book report. We heard about everything from dinosaurs to D-Day, the Bermuda Triangle, penguins and the Underground Railroad. After the report, the Zoom classroom was open to questions and answers. Needless to say, we learned a lot about a lot of different topics!

Library — **Miss McGaughey** has been reading books online. Kids in all grades love taking a break and listening.



Art class at home.



Stained glass window challenge.



Katelyn showing her school spirit.



Jaworski children enjoying storytime online.



Students showing their creativity at home.



Shaving cream art projects.



More art at home.



Another beautiful stained glass window.

JOIN US FOR MASS ONLINE

Visit our facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/SaintPhilipParishCrafton/live_videos



**FOUR DAYS OF KATE SPADE
Purse raffle to Benefit
ST. PHILIP SCHOOL
Winner based on PA Lottery**

Evening winning number receives a
Kate Spade Purse valued at \$340.⁰⁰



**Monday
April 27**



**Tuesday
April 28**



**Wednesday
April 29**



**Thursday
April 30**

Mid-day winning number receives a
Kate Spade Credit Card Holder and
a \$25.⁰⁰ Restaurant Gift Card.

Contact the School Office at
412-928-2742 or the Parish Office at
412-922-6300 for tickets. If no winner,
nearest number not going over, wins.

DONATIONS \$10.⁰⁰

*Ticket printing compliments of
Hershberger Stover Funeral Home, Inc.*

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

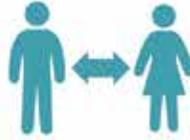


HEALTH & WELLNESS

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



Wash Your Hands

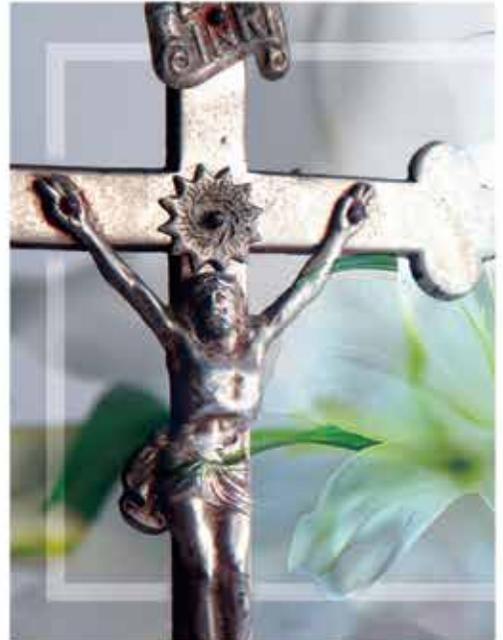
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

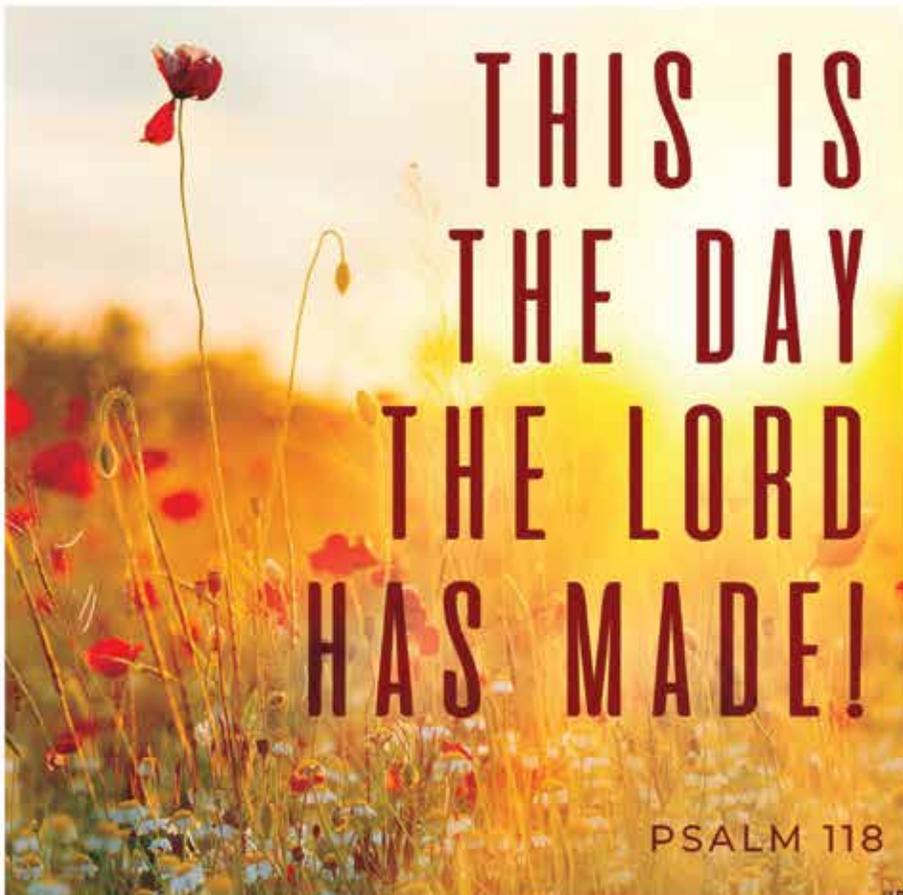
Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



AN EASTER REFLECTION BY ST. GREGORY NAZIANZUS (325-398)

The Resurrection of the Lord!
This is for us the feast of feasts, and the celebration of celebrations, excelling all other feasts! Yesterday the Lamb was slain. Yesterday we suffered on the Cross with Christ; today we are glorified together with Him! Yesterday we were buried with Him; today we rise together with Him!

Let us offer gifts to Him who suffered and rose for us. Do you perhaps think that I speak of gold or silver, or tapestries, or glittering stones of great price? Rather let us offer ourselves, that is, the dearest and most pleasing riches to God. Let us return the glory of our image to the One whose image we are; let us recognize our dignity; let us follow our Exemplar in honor; let us understand the power of this mystery, and for what Christ suffered death.



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2020

SUN 4/12	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
MON 4/13	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-10
TUE 4/14	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
WED 4/15	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
THR 4/16	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
FRI 4/17	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]/Jn 21:1-14
SAT 4/18	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-7
SUN 4/19	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2020

Sunday:	Easter Sunday
Monday:	Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tuesday:	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday:	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thursday:	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday:	Friday within the Octave of Easter
Saturday:	Saturday within the Octave of Easter
Next Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

FIRST READING

"He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10:42)

PSALM

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118) or Alleluia

SECOND READING

When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. (Col 3:4)

GOSPEL

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. (Jn 20:8)

ALTERNATE SECOND READING

1 Cor 5:6b-8

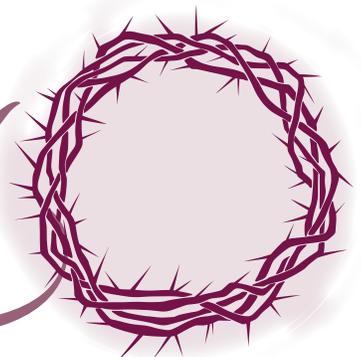
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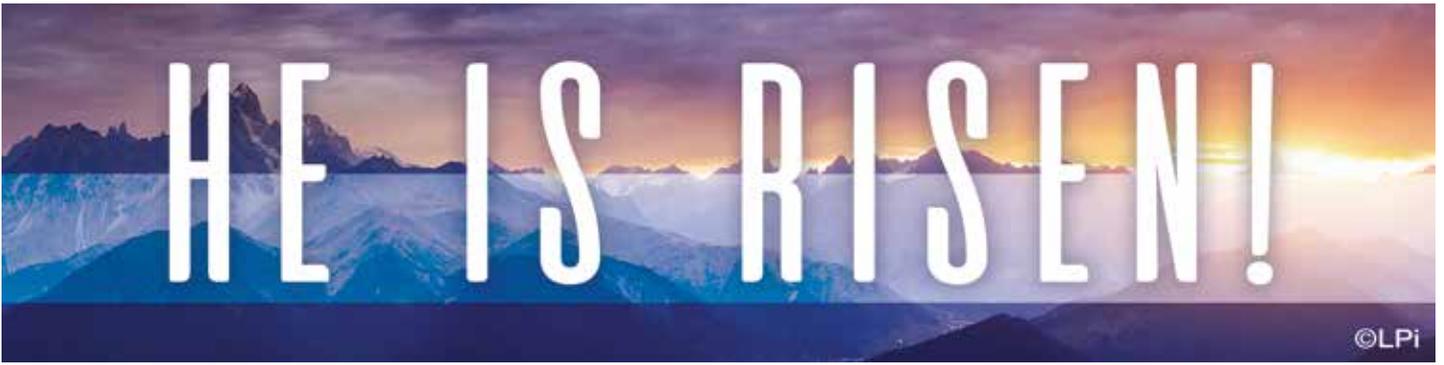
Easter Sunday

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

The Easter Season

Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. Easter is more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early Church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians. Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say "Christ is Risen." It's the season when we remember our baptisms and recognize that through this sacrament we are incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation. (All Saints Press, 2019)



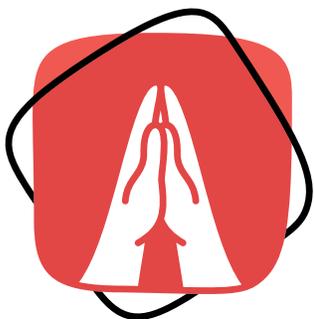


He Saw and Believed

Easter Sunday is more than a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is also an invitation to each of us to take our place in the long line of witnesses to encounters with Him and His risen life. Perhaps this is why we are so awed at the mystery: not just that Jesus was raised from the dead, but that God entrusts us with continuing Jesus' saving mission and with being witnesses to God's mighty deed of resurrection. It appears as though God trusts us a great deal. This trust is like the baptismal waters washing us anew, strengthening us to proclaim the unbelievable - that the tomb is empty; the Crucified One is raised from the dead. Our encounters with the Risen Jesus nudge us from unbelief to belief-acts. Our witnessing to His saving acts move us from our own comfort zones of life to radiating the joy of the Risen One's dwelling within and among us. We witness to Jesus' Resurrection when we faithfully live our baptismal promises, witness to our belief that Jesus is alive and shares His risen Life with us. Believing is radiating the joy of our encounters with Christ, bringing others to encounter Him, continuing Jesus' saving work. Believing is helping others move the large stones that block their growth and happiness. Believing is running to help those in need. Believing is turning our Easter Alleluias into good works that spread joy and hope and faith. Believing is Easter Alleluias lived every day. (*Living Liturgy*, Liturgical Press, 2014)

The Paschal Candle

While the origin of the Paschal Candle is uncertain, it is most likely to have derived from the evening prayer which the early Christians prayed before every Sunday and especially that of Easter. The solemn rite of lighting the Paschal Candle can be traced to the second half of the 4th century. For example, the use of singing a hymn in praise of the candle and the Easter mystery is mentioned as an established custom in a letter of St. Jerome, written in 384 to Presidio, a deacon from Piacenza, Italy. Saints Ambrose and Augustine are also known to have composed Easter proclamations such as the "Exultet," with origins in the 5th century. From the 12th century the custom began of inscribing the current year on the candle. During the rite, five grains of incense representing Christ's wounds are inserted in the form of a cross. An alpha above the cross and an omega below (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet) indicate that Christ is the beginning and the end of all. The Paschal Candle is blessed at the very beginning of the Easter Vigil Mass and takes a prominent place on the altar throughout the fifty days of Easter. During the year the candle is lit at all baptisms and funerals. In this way it symbolizes baptism as a death and resurrection in Christ, and also testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead as well as to the fact that all are alive in the Risen Christ.





Ministries & Societies

COUPON MINISTRY— For the month of April 2020, we were able to donate to SVDP \$261.50 RETAIL value of food/toiletries. Those items on SALE came to \$178.57 and the out of pocket cost was \$86.48. Obviously the pandemic has played a role in my inability to obtain more items. I will need to put the coupon ministry on hold until this threat is over as I will not be able to visit the stores as frequently as I normally would. Continue to pray for each other. These are very difficult times for many in our parish, community and our nation. In the midst of it all we celebrate Easter with the hope and assurance that we will rise again! God Bless. Anita O.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE — Happy Easter from the members of the St. Philip Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul! The Easter season is a time for renewal, joy and hope. We pray that through our work with our friends in need, we are bringing some of Jesus' light and healing into their lives.

Even though this year's Lent and Easter seasons have been and will continue to be very different from the past, the promise of Jesus' resurrection is ever present in our lives. We often notice that, despite their difficult circumstances, our friends in need are very positive and hopeful. We pray that we are all able to keep a positive outlook as we continue to work together by staying apart.

If you or a neighbor are in need of food assistance, please be sure to read our post in last week's bulletin (March 5) for information concerning local food banks. We are so very blessed that there is plenty of food available to help those who are struggling at this time; please do not be silent if you are in need. If you are blessed with more non-perishable food than you expect to need right now, or you have extra laundry detergent, dish soap, bar soap or body wash, and you wish to donate some of these to our conference for use by our neighbors in need, please leave a message with the details of what you would like to donate at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

This past week, your generous donations enabled us to assist four households with a total of \$1,100 toward delinquent rent and we contributed \$500 to the Central Council of Pittsburgh's newly-established Emergency Employee Assistance Fund which will go to help the employees of the thrift stores whom are laid off at this time.

Currently, we are only accepting monetary donations. Donations in the blue bins are not being picked up at this time. Please do not place any donations in or around the blue bins. In addition to mailing monetary donations to the parish office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, donations can now be made online by visiting <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/SaintVincentDePaul>. We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the parish for allowing us to receive donations through its website! We will inform you as soon as we begin accepting other types of donations again.

As always, if you, or someone you know, are in need of assistance, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.

**“I HAVE SEEN
THE LORD.”**