

**PARISH ADVENT PROGRAM**  
**WRAP YOUR GIFTS IN PRAYER**

*"When I become conscious of God's actions, no matter how dimly, then I am praying even if I do not say a word."*

William Barry S.J.

Unwrap the gift of God in Prayer. In the midst of Advent and Christmas busyness, we offer you a way to pray and to discover our God who is with us. Each season the preparation for gift giving can be a source of stress. This year can be different. Our Christmas practice of gift giving is intended to be a visible symbol of love and Christian service in action. Why not use our gift giving as a form of prayer? Wrapping your gift in prayer can add a spiritual dimension to an ordinary task.

***Wrap Your Gift in Prayer***

As you choose your gift, ask for God's guidance and bring a prayerful awareness to the exchange. When you actually wrap your gift, whether in wrapping paper or in a gift bag, pray for the recipient. Ask God to fill them with light, love and the peace of Christmas. Cards and electronic greetings may also be wrapped in prayer.

**Prayer Method Choices**

- **Imagine** - visualize the person for whom you pray. Picture the Lord blessing them.
- **Speak** - pray out loud, "Lord surround (name) with your light, fill him/her with your peace."
- **Sing** - a Christmas carol.
- **Gesture** - dedicate the use of your hand motions in wrapping as your prayer.
- **Hear** - simply repeat the person's name knowing that the Lord hears our every word.
- **Recite** - a pre-written prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Rosary . . .
- **Act** - reach out to someone in need of the gift of your care.

***Sharing your Prayer with a Gift Tag***

After wrapping your gift in prayer attach a gift tag that will be provided for you.



Witnessing to your prayer by means of a **Gift Tag** is like giving an additional gift because it may lead the receiver to become more aware of God's presence in her or his own life.

**Gift Prayer Tags** are available at the doors of the church. Attach the **Gift Prayer Tag** to a gift, group of gifts or gift bag. You may also wish to duplicate the gift tag sheets on your own computer by visiting our website [www.stphilip.org](http://www.stphilip.org).

**Advent Hymn**

**Emmanuel** is a Hebrew word that means: **God is With Us**

Our Advent practice of wrapping our gifts in prayer may lead us into a deeper experience of how very near the Lord is to us in every moment.

A new verse has been composed for the Hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and will be sung as part of the processional at the Eucharist during the Advent season.

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,  
Deep within, as gift, your Spirit dwells.  
With Advent's dawning light, draw us near.  
Teach us to love as peacemakers here.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
May This Our Gift Of Prayer, Your Glory Tell.***

You are invited to use these words and familiar tune as part of your prayer and reflection.

**Weekend Scripture Reflection**

- Isaiah speaks God's tender words and casts a vision of hope for the day when the Spirit of the Lord will bestow wisdom, understanding, strength, justice and peace.
- Peter's second letter affirms that God desires to be in relationship with all people and patiently seeks us. We are encouraged to eagerly seek the Lord's presence.
- John the Baptist cries out to awaken all for the renewal of mind, heart and action that prepare the way of the Lord.

**Reflection on Gift Giving and Prayer**

Gifts speak for us. Gifts reveal our thoughts and feelings; they communicate our friendship, love and gratitude. Gifts are freely given symbols that wrap our relationships in lasting bonds. Gifts when seen with the eyes of faith reveal God who is the Giver of all gifts.

Prayer is the gift that uncovers God's thoughts, feelings, friendship and love for us. Prayer is the way that we express our gratitude to God. Prayer is a gift we give for each other that wraps our relationships with lasting bonds of God's eternal grace. Prayer awakens the gifts of wisdom, encouragement, renewal and peace. Prayer is the way we unwrap and experience the gift of God in the here and now. May this our gift of prayer, God's Glory Tell.

## Reflection Questions and Activity

1. What are some of the gifts in my life? Who is gift?
2. Speak to God about your gifts. Listen. What thoughts, feelings or ideas are present. Share with God.
3. What is God showing you through your gifts?
4. What is challenging or difficult in my life? Share this with God. What gifts from God may you need to help you with your life?
5. What one thing can you do to share one of your gifts with another person this week?

### Spirituality Workshops

We will unwrap the gift of God's presence in our lives through Scripture, our Church's rich tradition and by learning new ways to pray. Our session will help us to reflect and recognize our God who is always with us.

Sunday, December 7 at 11 AM - Russo Room **OR**

Tuesday, December 9, at 7:00 PM - Marian Hall

**&**

Sunday, December 14 at 11 AM - Russo Room **OR**

Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 PM - Russo Room

### Advent Season Opportunities

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 14 at 3:00PM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 17

Adoration 7:00 PM

Reconciliation 7:30 PM

## PRAYER AND SERVICE - GIVING TREE

The giving tree will be placed near the front entrance of the church holding Gift Tags that specify the needed gift for people served by Catholic Family & Community Services, Martin de Porres Village, St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly and Mt. St. Joseph Children's Center. Purchase your gift, wrap it, pray for the recipient and attach the **Gift Tag**.

Some of the Tags are for **Food Certificate Gift Cards or other stores** with various predetermined amounts. Place cash or check in the envelope and pray for the recipient. Return your gift in the collection basket and we will convert it into a food certificate. Your gift wrapped in prayer will be given in the same envelope, as a witness to your prayer.

**Remember to wrap your gift in prayer. All gifts need to be returned by the 12 Noon Mass on December 21<sup>st</sup> to the Giving Tree location.**

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

St. Philip's Adult Choir, the Youth Choir and the newly formed Bell Choir will present its annual Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 3:00 PM in the Church. Admission is free, however, a free will offering is appreciated to help support the efforts of the Music Ministry Program.

A Light reception will follow in the auditorium for all!

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study discussion on Luke's gospel: on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM and 7 PM in the Molloy Center. All are welcome.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION/RCIA

This year we are offering opportunities for Adult Faith Formation in conjunction with the RCIA. We invite everyone to take advantage of these spiritual and educational sessions which address a specific part of our faith. We are all on a journey of faith. Strengthen your faith by joining us for these sessions. Please see schedule for "Spirituality Workshops". The topic will be "Your Gift is Wrapped in Prayer". Everyone is welcome!

## YOUTH MINISTRY & SCHOOL NEWS

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

**Grades 1 - 6: 8:00 AM Mass followed by class until 10:30 AM**

January 11, February 1, March 1, March 29, April 19, May 17

**Grade 7, 8 & CONFIRMATION: 8:00 AM Mass followed by class to 10:30 AM**

December 13 Seven Retreat (9th Graders), December 14, January 25 February 8; February 27 – March 1 Antioch (10th Graders), March 15, April 26

**Confirmation Practice: May 13 Confirmation: May 14**

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is open to all young men and women in high school. Upcoming Youth Group Meetings are in the Youth Room on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Youth Group is great way to interact with other teenagers, learn about your faith, and have opportunities to serve. Please join us for our next meetings.

### ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This past week the Christmas Show took place on Tuesday. It was an eventful day and evening. Students in grades Pre K-3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade performed in the morning. They had many songs that were about the religious aspect of Christmas. Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> performed Tuesday evening at 7 PM. This show was a great culmination of all the student's talents. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades used the hand chimes while grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> performed a tribute to Christmas all over the world. It was a huge success!

This Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Saint Philip Preparatory will be making their reconciliation. This is a very important time for them as they take the steps to making their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. We wish all the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders the best of luck as they make their reconciliation and hope it brings them closer to God.

Finally, the club Super Sleuths ended this past week. They had to solve a mystery by using keen observation skills. They also completed many labs to uncover clues. Maggie Beck a 5<sup>th</sup> grader said, "It gave us great insight into how detectives really work. It was awesome!" After school clubs are offered throughout the year and help the students to learn about many different things.

As we approach the Christmas holiday the students will be learning about Advent and the Immaculate Conception. This is a joyous time in which we reflect on the birth of Jesus!

## MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary Society Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM. Don't forget to bring hats, mittens and scarves for kids. All are welcome!

### WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Monday Night Group will be meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM. The New & Recently Bereaved Group will meet on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

### ANNUAL BOY SCOUT WREATH SALE

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be holding their annual wreath and grave blanket sale after masses on December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths will be sold outside of the school auditorium.

### SEPARATED & DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP

The Saint Philip the Apostle Divorce Healing Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Molloy Center.

### IRELAND TRIP

Visit the Emerald Isle August 1-11, 2015 – stay in an Irish Castle and kiss the Blarney Stone. There are now 2 places left. Brochures are available at the Parish Office.

### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE DECEMBER 13/14, 2014

5:30 PM	Fr. Jared	8:00 AM	Fr. Joe
10:00 AM	Fr. Joe	12:00 NOON	Fr. Kevin

### PARISH GIVING

Last year – Total Sunday Collection	
December 1, 2013	\$ 12,551.00
November 30, 2014 Sunday Collection	
Envelopes	\$ 10,213.00
Cash	\$ 1,467.00
Online Giving Donations	\$ 1,975.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,655.00</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection:	
Project Faith	\$ 2,562.00

### *Pray for*

**Those who are ill:** Rose Innocenti, Ryder Joseph Sasso, Maria Ganwoski, Tom Egan, Nicole Porto, Esther Benard, Brad McNamara, Stella Bulna, Donna Delventhal, Margaret Schweighardt, Barbara Patierno, Kara O'Donnell, Carol Flynn, Eileen Kirchner, Christopher Kelly, Charles Robert & Barbara Fazio, Skip Goltz, Nicholas Cichella, Jessica Dehart, Valerie Davies, Dawn Nesto, David Grelli

**For the recently deceased:** George Bednarz,  
Joanne Koval, Vicky Meany

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

**8:00** All the People of the Parish  
**10:00** Jose M. Crisostomo – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Edward Yobs  
Kenneth Comtois  
Giuseppe Cuffari  
Alicia Bocanegro  
**12:00** Ruth Cox

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**7:00** All the People of the Parish  
**9:00** Mary Addeo  
**7:00 PM** Fred Siwiec

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

**7:00** Paul Marschalk  
**9:00** Gene Grady

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014

**7:00** David Manning  
**9:00** Charles Marvin

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

**7:00** Dec'd members: Alphonse & Jennie Seiffert Family  
**9:00** Helen Argalas – 24th Anniversary

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

**7:00** Judith A. Puzio  
**9:00** James Downey

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

**9:00 AM** Francesco, Angelina & Baby Gianfranco Castaldo  
**5:30 PM** John J. Butz – 9th Anniversary  
Helen Marth Toth  
Herbert Vroeginday

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

**8:00** Marilyn Callahan  
**10:00** All the People of the Parish  
Charles F. Marvin  
Marianna Psaila  
DeBiasi & Kimberley Family  
Nancy Lisanti  
**12:00** Dec'd members of the Farrelly & Sieminski Family

**Sanctuary Candle:** IN MEMORY OF  
MARY ADDEO  
FROM VIRGINIA MOLINARO