

PARISH ADVENT PROGRAM WRAP YOUR GIFTS IN PRAYER

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.

For difficult relationships pray: *Lord bless (name) and transform me to set me free.*

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.

This weekend **Gift Prayer Tags** will be 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.

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.

Reflection Questions and Prayerful Activity

Carefully read each line of the Hymn Text.

1. How do these words apply to your life?
2. How is God with you in this Advent moment?
3. What can you do to become a peacemaker, at home, at work, in the world?

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THERE WILL BE MASS AT 5:30 PM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD AND 8:00 AM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.

NO 10 AM OR 12 NOON MASS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH.

CHRISTMAS: THE CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE WILL THEN BEGIN: 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM AND 10:00 PM (PRECEDED BY CAROLS AT 9:30PM)
CHRISTMAS DAY: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM AND 12:00 NOON

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us *this weekend, Sunday, December 10, 2017* at **3:00 PM** for a service of Lessons and Carols. Hear readings and beautiful music provided by our **Adult** and **Youth Choirs** and **Handbells**.

Come meditate on the spirit of Christmas with us!



GOOD NEWS FOR PARENTS

Join us this **Sunday, December 10th** at 9:00 AM in the Russo Room for parents to hear about how we can help you as people both in your lives and in your roles as parents. Julia Gabriele, Family & Executive Coach, will facilitate along with members of our Pastoral Staff. Future session dates:

January 21, February 11, March 18, April 22, May 6

When was the last time you had a moment to take care of yourself? All are welcome

PRAYER OPPORTUNITY: MEDITATION HOUR



"O, Come All Ye Faithful!"

Join us for prayer, guided meditation and reflection on **Thursday, December 14th** at 7:00 PM in Marian Hall.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2017

The Confirmation and Youth Group students will present a Christmas Pageant for our students **on Sunday, December 17** in the school auditorium following the 8:00 AM Mass. Parents, please remain with your child/children for the duration of the Mass and Pageant as it will not be a full class session.

Grades One and Two students are invited to dress as angels, shepherds, or stable animals for the Christmas Pageant. If you choose not to come costumed, please wear Christmas colors and remember to bring your cameras!

All are invited! Refreshments will be served following the pageant.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The next class for grades 1 – 6

December 17th - Christmas Pageant

The next class for grades 2 and 7 – 10 is **December 10th**

Denise Pannullo for Grades 1 - 8 at 973-779-1439

Victoria Velasco for Confirmation at 973-798-8772

GIVING TREE

Pope Francis challenges us to answer God's call to be protectors *"showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about."*

The holidays give us the perfect opportunity to answer the call to help people in our very own community in need of help. After Mass, today, please make a stop at our **Giving Tree** in the vestibule. Participating is simple!

- Pick up a tag from the tree.
- Purchase the specified gift.
- Wrap the gift in prayer.
- Pray for the recipients of the gift.
- Attach the same gift tag to the wrapped gift.
- Place your wrapped gift with the specified gift tag under the tree.

All gifts need to be returned by the 12:00 PM Mass on **December 17**.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Our students, teachers, and staff are prayerfully awaiting the celebration of the birth of Christ during this Advent season. There is an Advent wreath displayed in our auditorium, and the children participate in special Advent prayers and projects in the classrooms. We wish everyone the same joyous anticipation of Christmas Day.

In our school the students have performed for family and friends at the annual Christmas Show. The students of all grades took to the stage with song and dance to help ring in the Christmas season. It was a splendid success.

Our Student Council has sponsored a Holiday Fundraiser collecting donations from our school community to package and send to Poland to our Military troops serving there.

Some of our teachers have begun to utilize a new series in literature, "Great Books," a series focusing on true comprehension enhancing reading and writing skills. Use of Chrome books is incorporated with the program. The use of Chrome Books is occurring in many classes in various subject areas.

YOUTH GROUP

The Christmas party will be **Wednesday, December 20th** at 6:45 PM.

Beginning in January, the Youth Group meetings will be moved to Sundays at 11 AM: **January 7th and 28th**.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COLUMBIETTES

The Columbiettes and Hamilton House Museum invite the parishioners of St. Philip to view their handcraft items at the Main Memorial Library (2nd floor) through the month of December. Each project is unique and one of a kind for a very affordable donation.

ROSARY NEWS

The next meeting of the Rosary Society will be our Christmas Party on **Monday, December 11, 2017** in Marian Hall. The meeting will begin with the Rosary at 6:30 PM followed by Mass. **Bring your favorite Christmas mug or cup.** All are welcome!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

MONDAY NIGHT WIDOW & WIDOWERS GROUP:

A social group for widows and widowers. Next meeting: **December 11th** at 6:30 PM in the Molloy Center.

SPOUSE BEREAVEMENT GROUP:

A support group for people grieving the death of their spouse. Next meeting: **Tuesday, December 12th** at 7:00 PM in the RUSSO ROOM. Contact Dr. Rachel Rengifo at 201-500-2068

PRAY FOR

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED: Eula Milena Kulig, child of John & Kelly

THE DECEASED: Lucia Orlando, Cristoforo Orlando, Joan Farinella

THE SICK: Joan Hughes, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Ryan G. Micale, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinisi, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Sister Beverly Aiazzino, Linda Brady, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Setters, Alexander Bancey, Josephine Pipitone, Derrick Medeiros, Maria Ligato, Philip Kutzenko, Evelyn Wescott, Ana Cabezas, Annette Wanamaker, Daniel Marty, Virginia Mascolo, Christine Carpenter, Robert Wagner, Mildred Nerone, Eugene & Lorraine DeBellis, Bob Rose, Jack Steffans, Barbara Ferry, Fred Van Duyne, Dave Miller, Sr. Giovanni Aiazzino, Maya Hilario, John Pepe, Ron Kuruc, George Biondi, Jack Jaeger, Bill Brady, Samantha Calderone, Katie Gerber, Jim Cupo, Theresa Buhler, Chloe LoPresti, Cathy Papuzenski, Roberta & Al Dressner, Eloise Stampoulos, Pina Basile, Joseph Pagani, John Hughes

PARISH GIVING

TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 4, 2016	\$17,201.00
DECEMBER 3, 2017	
Envelopes	\$16,687.00
Cash	\$ 1,661.00
Online Giving Donations	\$ 4,440.00
Total	\$22,788.00

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

- 8:00** Joan and Joseph Sidor, Jr.
Ted Stefaniszyn – 2nd Anniversary
- 10:00** Lawrence Levanti
James Lacava
Giuditta & Nicole Ruggiero
Josephine Morrissey
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017

- 7:00** Margaret Cornwell
- 9:00** Maria Hanckoba – 1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

- 7:00** Philip Colombrito
- 9:00** James Downey

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

- 7:00** Stephen Nugent
- 9:00** Dominick Pagano

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

- 7:00** Nancy Chopko
- 9:00** Charles & Angela Hux

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017

- 7:00** Special Intention: Daniel Mahoney
- 9:00** Danilo V. Caparaz

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

- 9:00** Jim Loftus
- 5:30** All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

- 8:00** Elena Parillo Bridi
Domenico Pagano
- 10:00** Marie Leather – 1st Anniversary
Deceased members of the Kerner Family
Joyce Marino – 7th Anniversary
Elena & Carmine Monzo
- 12:00** Nick Marolda
Kris Thiruvathukal

The Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of
Lucrezia Spagnoletti
From Nick & Anna Caradonna

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 16/17, 2017

5:30 PM	Fr. Joe	10:00 AM	Fr. Matt
8:00 AM	Fr. Julio	12:00 Noon	Fr. Kevin