

## 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.
- **Bless** - 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](http://www.stphilip.org).

### Reflection On Prayer

God desires to be in a close and personal relationship with us. Prayer unwraps God who is always with us. Prayer directs our attention to God who can be found in all things. The Spirit of God dwells within us; prayer is the inner journey to discover the gift of God within. St. Paul challenges us to rejoice in God's presence in all circumstances, (1Thessalonians5:16). William S. Barry S. J. in his book *Praying the Truth* (2012) gives a simple definition of prayer:

"By prayer I mean what occurs when I am conscious in some way of God's presence. Ignatius of Loyola is known for wanting to find God in all things – that is, to be able to do all things while, at the same time, being conscious of God's presence. In other words, he wanted to be prayerful at all times. A tall order, you might say, but Ignatius believes that a person could come close to this with the help of God and by the regular practice of paying attention to what happens in daily life. He could hope for such a state because of his Christian belief that God, the Creator of the universe, is never absent from any part of this universe. Hence, whether we are aware of it or not, we are always in God's presence no matter what we are doing. All that is required (for prayer) is that I am conscious of God's presence and whatever activity I engage."

Our Advent Program, *Your Gift is Wrapped in Prayer* is an opportunity for us to encounter God in our daily lives.

### Reflection Questions and Prayerful Activity

- When have I felt closest to God?
- What does God's desire to be in a personal relationship with me mean? What does this invite me to do?
- What people, places or things awaken my awareness of God?
- The gifts in my life for which I am grateful are.... Share your thoughts and feelings about these gifts with God.
- One way that I will share the gifts that God has given to me with another person this week is....

### Additional Confession Opportunity

December 22 10:00 AM – 12:00 N

### HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

**NO 10 AM OR 12 NOON MASS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>.**

**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

### 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.

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!

Parents, please remain with your child/children for the duration of the Mass and Pageant as it will not be a full class session.

All are invited!

Refreshments will be served following the pageant.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The next class for grades 1 – 6 is **January 7**

The next class for grades 2 and 7 – 10 is **January 21**

**December 17 - Christmas Pageant**

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

Victoria Velasco for Confirmation at 973-798-8772

### GIVING TREE

Thank you for helping with our annual **Giving Tree!** In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "it is in giving that we receive."

If you have not already returned your gift, make sure to drop it off in the vestibule by **the 12:00 PM Mass on Sunday, December 17**. Don't forget to attach the tag to the gift!

### ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

With the holidays almost upon us we here at St. Philip Preparatory School want to take the time to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas.

The Student Council ran a fund-raiser to collect items to send to our soldiers overseas for Christmas. They received all kinds of goodies and were able send many boxes. In Digital Arts, the students are creating digital photo Christmas cards from the school so don't be surprised if you see one in your email! The Christmas Show was a wonderful success and we thank all who attended. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year!

### YOUTH GROUP

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

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

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) through the month of December. Each project is unique and one of a kind for a very affordable donation.

#### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

##### MONDAY NIGHT WIDOW & WIDOWERS GROUP:

A social group for widows and widowers. Next meeting: **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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, January 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the RUSSO ROOM. Contact Dr. Rachel Rengifo at 201-500-2068

#### FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI

The celebration (Mass of the Night or evening) sponsored by the Diocese of Paterson for Catholic Filipino Ministries will take place at St. Philip on **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM. A light dinner will follow mass in Marian Hall. For more information contact Gloria Baum at 973-777-9558 or Tet Bulacan at 973-742-3357.

## PRAY FOR

### THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

William James Young, child of Alexandria and William

### THE DECEASED: Alfonso Magliacane, Guy Giordano, Joseph Fasiska

**THE SICK:** Joan Hughes, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Ryan G. Micale, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinisi, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, 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 Duynes, Dave Miller, Sr. Giovanni Aiazzone, Maya Hilario, John Pepe, Ron Kuruc, George Biondi, Jack Jaeger, Bill Brady, Samantha Calderone, Katie Gerber, Theresa Buhler, Chloe LoPresti, Cathy Papuzenski, Roberta & Al Dressner, Eloise Stampoulos, Pina Basile, Joseph Pagani, John Hughes, Jim Weis, Loretta Latona

### PARISH GIVING

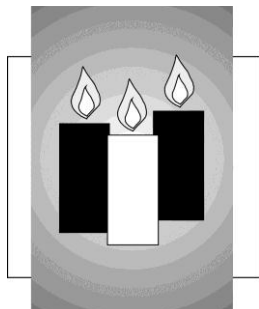
TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 11, 2016	\$12,209.00
DECEMBER 10, 2017	
Envelopes	\$11,167.00
Cash	\$ 1,306.00
Online Giving Donations	\$ 4,886.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,359.00</b>
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,448.00

### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 23/24, 2017

5:30 PM Fr. Julio                      8:00 AM Fr. Matt

### HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin information for the weekend of **December 24<sup>th</sup> AND December 31<sup>st</sup>** must be received THIS WEEK no later than **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

- 7:00** Josephine Morrissey  
**9:00** Margaret Hreha

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

- 7:00** Robert J. Calderaro – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**9:00** Giovanna Caradonna

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

- 7:00** John Finley  
**9:00** Claudia Pugliese

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

- 7:00** Irene Marschalk – 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**9:00** Deceased members of the Schmidt & Kovach Family

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017

- 7:00** Lucia & Cristoforo Orlando  
**9:00** Catherine (Kitty) Makowski – 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

- 9:00** Vittoria Masucci  
Gertrude Hughes
- 5:30** Chester Pivinski  
Bruno Marino  
Anna May Wozny

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017: CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00 PM** John Sonn  
Helen Veliky
- 6:00 PM** Charles Marvin- 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary
- 10:00 PM** Malcolm Hall

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- 8:00** Angelo Coffaro  
Jerry Pischeria
- 10:00** Nicholas Quintavella  
John E. Trommelen, Jr.  
Charles & Patti Braunlich
- 12:00** Joseph Scafidi  
Danielle LaFaso

**The Sanctuary Candle:** In Memory of  
Irene Marschalk