



CHRISTMAS 2017

Holding Hands at Christmas

A delightful custom of the Swedish Christmas season is the touring of carved ice castles.

As a father and his young daughter walk through the sculptured corridor the power fails. Standing in the dark, the father reaches for his cell phone, lighting the way as he feels along the frozen wall. Speaking reassuringly to his daughter he hears her whisper, "Daddy, I'm afraid." "I am right here," he responds, "you can hear my voice and you can see me." "I know," answers the little girl, "but I'd feel better if you would hold my hand." As soon as their hands meet the little girl is at peace and filled with joy. She cries out, "This is the best Christmas ever!"

Holding hands at Christmas makes it the best ever! For centuries God spoke through the prophets and the Scripture so that we could hear the good news of God's love. People have always been blessed to see God's providence at work in the beauty of our world and even better in the wonder of the creation of their own lives. At Christmas, we celebrate the best truth in the birth of Christ, who shares our humanity so that we might hold God's hand and share in Christ's divinity.

God is here with us as Emmanuel, providing good news, providing life and love and holding our hands while leading us by God's holy light through this world and one day into the next.

For 75 years our faith community of Saint Philip the Apostle has continued Christ's work of handholding with God and with each other through spiritual, service and social ministry.



This Christmas you will receive a commemorative brass Christmas ornament celebrating our parish's 75th Jubilee Year.

On the reverse side of the ornament it reads – Your Gift Is Wrapped In Prayer.

Know that your priests and staff have wrapped the ornaments, you and your loved ones in prayer this Christmas season.

When you return home to place your Jubilee ornament on your tree read the inscription on the back of the gift box and pray Our Jubilee Prayer.

As a Christmas gift to you and as a way to thank God for the double gift of holding our hands and enabling us to hold the hands of one another, pray Our Jubilee Prayer.

Our Jubilee Prayer

Rejoicing in you, O Lord, with thankful hearts
we pray as . . .

We Remember gratefully our past companions
on the journey whose sacrifice inspires us.

We Celebrate the good news of love in action
that empowers spiritual, service and social ministry.

We Believe in God's providence as faithful
stewards who continue Christ's work using the Keys
to the Kingdom.

Amen

This Christmas, may we hold both God and each
other's hand:

Remembering..... that Christ is by our side.

Celebrating.... that Christ holds our hand through
every moment of our lives.

Believing.... that Christ is the light that leads us to
our eternal home.

Please know that you as God's giftare wrapped in
prayer.

75th JUBILEE YEAR
ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
1943 – 2018

WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE

The word **Jubilee** meaning a special anniversary of an event has deep Biblical roots. In the Hebrew Scripture a ram's horn *yuhel* or *yuvel* was sounded like a trumpet heralding a special year of restoration, equitable distribution of lands and release for captives and slaves (Leviticus 25). Jubilee is a Latin translation of the Hebrew word for ram's horn which is *shofar* in English. The prophet Isaiah (61) proclaims a beautiful vision for a year of favor from the Lord.

In Luke's Gospel 4 we learn that in Nazareth, Jesus was handed a scroll of Scripture to read in the synagogue. He chose Isaiah 61 which announces a Year of Favor from the Lord.

Throughout the ages the Roman Catholic Church has a joyous history of celebrating various Jubilee Years, most recently the Year of Mercy 2015 – 2016.

JUBILEE YEAR 2018

The Year of our Lord 2018 is our parish Jubilee commemorating 75 years of fulfilling our mission of *Opus Christi - Christ's Work*. During the decades our parish has been love in action, bringing good news through spiritual, service and social ministry.

Jesus said to our parish patron St. Philip,
"Whoever believes in me will do the works I do and even greater works."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The next class for grades 1 – 6 is **January 7**
The next class for grades 2 and 7 – 10 is **January 21**

Denise Pannullo for Grades 1 - 8 at 973-779-1439
Victoria Velasco for Confirmation at 973-798-8772

YOUTH GROUP

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

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

MONDAY NIGHT WIDOW & WIDOWERS GROUP:

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

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings of the blanket ministry will be Thursdays, **January 4 and 18, 2018** at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. For fabric or yarn donations, call Cathie 973-471-1265.

PRAY FOR

THE DECEASED: Frank Bendl, Kathleen O'Donnell, Florence Bonaccolta

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 Kutzenco, 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 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, Alan Graf, Rita Latona

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 26, 2017
UNTIL JANUARY 2, 2018.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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- 3rd Anniversary
10:00 PM Malcolm Hall

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

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017

9:00 Joseph Fasiska

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017

7:00 Deceased members Alphonse & Jennie Seiffert Family
9:00 Ann Profita

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

7:00 Helaine Pohle
9:00 Guy Giordano

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017

7:00 Alfonso Magliacane
9:00 James Elbert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

9:00 Joan Farinella
5:30 Kerry Rivera
Michael McNicholas
Jesse Solorzano

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

8:00 Stephen Nugent
10:00 Vincent & Sandra Borgese
Angelo Terranella
Donald Muller
Thomas J. & Ruth C. Mullin
12:00 All the People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of
Fred Anthony
From His Family

PARISH GIVING

TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 18, 2016	\$20,887.00
DECEMBER 17, 2017	
Envelopes	\$13,942.00
Cash	\$ 1,804.00
Online Giving Donations	\$ 4,770.00
Total	\$20,516.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 30/31, 2017

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

