

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.

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.

Next 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?

ADVENT SEASON OPPORTUNITIES

- Advent Spiritual Sessions
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
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday, December 17
Adoration 7:00PM
Reconciliation 7:30PM

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 21st to the Giving Tree location.

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 above schedule for "Advent Opportunities". The topic will be "Your Gift is Wrapped in Prayer". Everyone is welcome!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Sessions are held on Mondays at 11 AM and 7 PM. We are discussing the Gospel of St. Luke and how we can relate with Jesus. We continue classes until December 15th and all are welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY & SCHOOL NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

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

December 7 Christmas Pageant, 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 4th
- Thursday, December 18th 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.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COLUMBIETTES

BLANKET MINISTRY

The blanket ministry will meet on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. This will be the only meeting in December. If you want to make a yarn donation or have questions, call Cathie at 973-471-1265.

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Monday Night Group will be meeting on December 8th & 22nd at 6:30 PM. The New & Recently Bereaved Group will meet on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00 PM.

PRIME TIMERS

IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

Deposits are now due for Finnegan's Wake at the Brownstone. There is a waiting list. Please send in your \$45.00 to Sr. Chris - 797 Valley Rd. as soon as possible. December 2nd is the last call. March 11, 2015: Tim Finnegan's Wake at the BROWNSTONE - Show & Dinner: \$45.00 (No Refund) Make checks payable to Prime Timers.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saint Philip Preparatory School's Annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale will be held on Saturday December 6, 2014 from 9 AM - 4 PM. Free Admission! Over 40 Vendors!

ANNUAL BOY SCOUT WREATH SALE

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be holding their annual wreath and grave blanket sale after masses on November 29th & 30th and December 6th & 7th. Wreaths will be sold outside of the school auditorium.

SEPARATED & DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP

The Saint Philip the Apostle Divorce Healing Group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Molloy Center. For information call Joanie at 973-641-6339.

IRELAND TRIP

Brochures for the August 1-11, 2015 trip are now available at the Parish Office. You may call and stop by during office hours – the trip is now 60% full!

DIOCESAN & COMMUNITY NEWS

DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All are invited to join Bishop Serratelli and the faithful of the diocese for our annual Christmas Concert on **December 7 at 4:00 PM at St. Peter the Apostle Church** in Parsippany.

HOLIDAY MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have recently experienced the death of a loved one. Please join us as we open our door to those individuals for our annual Special Holiday Program at Marrocco Memorial Chapel, 470 Colfax Ave., Clifton on Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:15 PM. Everyone is welcomed to attend the program - families we have serviced as well as to others in our community.

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 6/7, 2014

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

PARISH GIVING

Last year – Total Sunday Collection	
November 24, 2013	\$ 13,554.00
November 23, 2014 Sunday Collection	
Envelopes	\$ 11,062.00
Cash	\$ 1,511.00
Online Giving Donations	\$ 1,905.00
TOTAL	\$14,478.00
2 nd Collection:	
Catholic Home Mission Appeal	\$ 2,205.00

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: Jennie Muzzarini

For the newly married:

Jenny Lavandero and Alex Smith
Michelle Silvestro and Lucas Prata-Puig

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2014

8:00 David Manning
10:00 Imre Karaszegi, Sr.
Ella DeBenedetto
Robert Shaughnessy
Charles Marvin
Lucas Alan Peterson
12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014

7:00 Eleanor M. Collier – 11th Anniversary
9:00 Charles Marvin

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014

7:00 Anna Semeniak – 1st Anniversary
9:00 Mary Liegey – 1st Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014

7:00 Baby Lucas Alan Peterson
9:00 Robert Quinn

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

7:00 Carmela DiGori
9:00 Charles Marvin

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2014

7:00 Giuditta Nastasi – 15th Anniversary
9:00 Deceased members of the Marschalk Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

9:00 AM Thomas Chidiac – 12th Anniversary
5:30 PM Deceased members - Mazzarino & Maffei Family
Mary Ellen Valentin
Helen Marth Toth

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Jose M. Crisostomo – 10th Anniversary
Edward Yobs
Kenneth Comtois
Giuseppe Cuffari
Alicia Bocanegra
12:00 Ruth Cox

Sanctuary Candle: IN MEMORY OF
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE MARSCHALK FAMILY

OFFERTORY GIFTS: IN LOVING MEMORY OF
FRED ANTHONY
FROM DOT ANTHONY & FAMILY