

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.

DEEDS DONE WITH LOVE: WRAP ALL WORK IN PRAYER

By JEAN VANIER

One of the signs that a community is alive can be found in material things. Cleanliness, furnishings, the way flowers are arranged and meals prepared are among the things which reflect the quality of people's hearts. Some people may find material chores irksome; they would prefer to use their time to talk and be with others. They haven't yet realized that the thousand and one small things that have to be done each day, the cycle of dirtying and cleaning, were given by God to enable us to communicate through matter. Cooking and washing floors can become a way of showering our love for others. If we see the humblest task in this light, everything can become communication and so celebration – because it is celebration to be able to give.

It is important, too, to recognize the humble and material gifts that others bring and to thank them for them. Recognition of the gifts of others is essential in community. All it takes is a smile and two small words – "Thank you."

When we put love into what we do, it becomes beautiful, and so do the results. There is a lack of love in a dirty or untidy community. But the greatest beauty is in simplicity and lack of affectation, where everything is oriented toward a meeting of people among themselves with God. The way we look after the house and garden shows whether we feel really at home, relaxed, and peaceful.

The house is the nest; it is like an extension of the body. Sometimes we tend to forget the role of the environment in liberation and inner growth.

Our lives in L'Arche are disarmingly simple. We often say that half the day is taken up with dirtying things and the other half with cleaning up! That is not entirely true because we also have work, celebrations, meals, and prayer. But that does say something about the littleness and ordinariness of our lives.

Jean Vanie, born in 1928 is a Canadian Catholic theologian and the founder of the L'Arche community.

THE 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 18. Don't forget to attach the tag to the gift!

*All gifts need to be returned by the 12:00 PM Mass on **December 18.***

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18 following 8:00 AM Mass in the Auditorium with refreshments

LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Youth Choir, Adult Choir and Handbell Choir of St. Philip the Apostle will present the *Annual Service of Lessons and Carols* on **Sunday, December 18** 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. Please join us for an afternoon of readings from scripture and singing of hymns and carols in celebration of this most joyous season.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues during the Advent Season on **Mondays** at 11 AM in the Molloy Center. Our final session for this year will be on Monday, **December 19th.**

PRAYER OPPORTUNITY: MEDITATION HOUR



"Lead me, Lord!"

Begin your year on a path of prayer. Join us on **Thursday, January 5** at 7:00 PM in the Russo Room for prayer, guided meditation and reflection.

RCIA

RIGHT OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Our next session of the **RCIA** is **Monday, January 9th** at 7 PM in the Russo Room. We will discuss and reflect on the Gospel of John. All are welcome and invited to join us. For more information about RCIA please call Donna Scancarella at (973) 779-6200.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES SCHEDULE

Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6: December 18, January 8

Grade 2: December 18, January 8, 22

Grades 7, 8: January 22

Confirmation Grade 9, 10: January 22

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

- The Monday Night Group: **January 9th & 23rd** at 6:30 PM in the *Left Conference of the Molloy Center.*
- The New & Recently Bereaved Group: **Wednesday, January 11th & 25th** at 7:00 PM.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 5, 2017** at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome. Blankets are donated to hospitalized children, chemotherapy patients, needy children, and the homebound of the community. For donations or further information, call Cathie Murtha at 973-471-1265.

SAINT PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Open House

Catholic Schools Week

January 30th – February 3rd, 2017

Tours by Appointment

973-779-4700

YOUTH MINISTRY

12/22 Christmas Party 7-9 PM in the Youth Room

1/12 Movie Night 7-9 PM in the Youth Room

Our Seven Retreat team meetings will begin on **Sunday, January 8**. If you are a high school student and you have been confirmed and are interested in helping lead the Retreat, please contact Andrew ASAP for more information!

DIOCESAN NEWS

CERTIFICATE IN CATHOLIC EVANGELIZATION

St. Paul Inside the Walls is accepting applications for the next three year program for a **Certificate in Catholic Evangelization**.

Any interested candidates should email Allan Wright at awright@patersondiocese.org for an application and information. Or you can visit insidethewalls.org/leading-others.

PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Joan Hughes, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Ryan G. Micale, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinisi, Barbara Sikora, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Linda Brady, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Setters, Mary Ellen Stanton, Alexander Bancey, Josephine Pipitone, Zigrig Roman, Derrick Medeiros, Maria Ligato, Philip Kutzenco, Susan Russell, Evelyn Wescott, William Steckowich, Ana Cabezas, Theresa Buhler, Alton Ferry, Annette Wanamaker

RECENTLY DECEASED: Paul Unis, Dorothy Hofmann, Gloria Kolodziej, Rev. Charles Parr

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

William Joseph Carafello, Jr. child of William Joseph & Kelly
Elizabeth Maureen Kennan, child of Andrew & Mary Elizabeth
Ela Madison Spidle, child of Sean & Elizabeth

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 24/25, 2016

4:00 PM	Fr. Joe	8:00 AM	Fr. Kevin
6:00 PM	Fr. Miguel	10:00 AM	Fr. Julio
10:00 PM	Concelebrated	12:00	
N	Fr. Joe		

PARISH GIVING

Total Sunday Collection: Dec. 13, 2015

\$16,911.00

December 11, 2016

Envelopes

\$10,773.00

Cash \$
1,436.00

Online Giving donations \$
4,039.00

Total

\$16,248.00

2nd Collection: Project Faith \$
2,394.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Many Masses are available in 2017 as early as January. Mass intentions are \$20.00 each. The Sanctuary Candle and Offertory Gifts are also \$20.00.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 John F. Trommelen, Jr.

Charles Braunlich

Patricia Braunlich

John Herald

Justina Cruz

12:00 John Kilrow

Deceased family members Sieminski &

Farrelly Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016

7:00 Dorothy Hofmann

9:00 Regina Pellegrino

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016

7:00 Claudia Pugliese

9:00 Irene Marschalk – 5th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

7:00 Eva Seratelli

9:00 Margaret Rosa

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

7:00 Carolyn Destasio

9:00 Catherine "Kitty" Makowski

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2016

7:00 Msgr. David L. Mahon

9:00 Richard Gorman

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2016: CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM John Sonn

6:00 PM Charles Marvin

10:00 PM Emily & Andrew Sokerka

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016: THE NATIVITY OF
THE LORD**

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Deceased members: Angeles & Conocer
Family

Deceased members: Moises & Santo Family

Nick Quintavella

Anna Chase – 20th Anniversary

12:00 Joseph Scafidi

Marylou Hauser

The Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory of Irene Marschalk

The Offertory Gifts:

In Memory of Andrew & Emily Sokerka