

An illustration featuring five lit candles of varying heights. The two shortest candles on the left have flames with radiating lines, while the three taller candles to their right have simple flame shapes. The candles are set against a background of stylized green foliage, including ferns and leafy branches. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Preparation
means to
'get ready'.
"Help us to be
ready to
welcome
YOU, O GOD!"

Luke 3:4-6



Church of Saint Philip
Pennsburg, PA
December 10, 2023

Rev. Anthony Hangholt, Pastor
Msgr. Charles Vance, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Michael J. Franks
Deacon Matthew A. Horvath
Rev. John J. Scarcia, Pastor Emeritus
John Duffner, Business Manager
Shirley Misiak, Office Manager
Catherine E. Faust, Director of Music
Marlene Leidy, Parish Outreach Coordinator
Wendy Benner, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED
Barbara Jaruszewski, Safe Environment Coordinator

Parish Phone Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.9275
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.7839
Youth Ministry/Safe Env.	215.679.9275
Parish Hall	215.679.8116
Deacon Mike Franks	215.679.9275 X107

Parish Staff Email addresses:

busmgr@spnparish.org
ofcmgr@spnparish.org
deaconmike@spnparish.org
deaconmatt@spnparish.org
musicdirector@spnparish.org
parishoutreach@spnparish.org
prep@spnparish.org
safeenvironment@spnparish.org

Fax Numbers:

Rectory **215.679.0386**

Church & Rectory Address:

1325 Klinerd Rd; Pennsburg 18073
Hours: **9:30 AM – 4:30 PM**
Email Address: **ofcmgr@spnparish.org**

Website Address:

www.spnparish.org

Religious Education Office Hours:

1325 Klinerd Rd.; Pennsburg
Monday & Friday: **Offices are closed**
Tuesday & Thursday: **8:00 AM – 4:00PM**
Wednesday: **12:00 PM – 8:00PM**

ROSARY: Prayed in the Saint Anne Chapel
Monday's at 1:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in St. Anne Chapel

Monday – Friday:
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Saturday's:
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

9:00 AM: in Church
Adoration: 10AM – 7:00PM in Chapel.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar, please call the rectory.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 4:00 PM
Sunday – 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM
Holy Day Masses as announced

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Masses are celebrated in the Saint Anne Chapel.
Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday; Friday – 8AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:00 – 3:45 PM
OR at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT.

PRE-JORDAN BAPTISMAL CLASSES

Call the rectory office to register for classes between 10AM & 4PM.

BAPTISMS

Call the rectory office to register your child for baptism between 10AM & 4PM.

SPONSORS

Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation need to be at least 16 years of age, be baptized and received the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass weekly; and if married, be in a valid Marriage.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least SIX MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Stop by or call the rectory between 9:30AM-4:30 PM. Also, children who turn 26 years of age or complete higher education and continue to reside within our area should become individually registered parishioners.

SHUT-INS

Call (215 679 9275) OR email the Parish Outreach Office: parishoutreach@spnparish.org.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call or email the Rectory Office.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

Mass Intentions

Sunday: December 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM – Karen & David Pierson

7:30 AM – Jack Hetherington

10:00 AM – Living/Deceased Parishioners.

Monday: December 11, 2023

SAINT DAMASUS I, POPE

8:00 AM – Peggy Bambrick, (Joe Stem)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Adoration in the Chapel

1:00 PM – Holy Rosary Hour

Tuesday: December 12, 2023

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – Dorothy Smith,
(Mary R. & Jim Giambrone)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

Wednesday: December 13, 2023

SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – Betty Jane Boyer,
(Don & Gail Fillman)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

Thursday: December 14, 2023

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – Arlene Miller, (Tony Bauer)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

Friday: December 15, 2023

ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:20 AM – Holy Rosary

8:00 AM – Bruno Lacroce, (Paul & Maureen Moser)

9:00 AM – 7:00 PM: Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday: December 16, 2023

ADVENT WEEKDAY

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Adoration in the Chapel

4:00 PM – Kenneth Miller, (Jeanette Miller)

Sunday: December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM – JoAnn Putera Dymek,
(Tom & Irene Putera)

10:00 AM – Fifteenth Anniversary, Noreen Bauer
(Tony Bauer)



WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes, also for their caregivers; and all those we hold close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for:

Christine Abate; Amanda Azure; Walter Belsky; Bonnie Boro; Paul Bowen; Grace Brenner; Dorothy "Dottie" Busfield; Allison Brick; Mila Burnett; Adam Canigiani, Jr.; Christian Vincent Caparra; Carol Clunk; Angela Desmond; Dolores Duffy; Lou Fahs; Gene Falasco; Liz Fronheiser; Frances Gibbs-Kail; Helen Gibbs; Kerry Goodwin; Robert Hale; Charlene Hamilton; Al Hammer; Bill Hanney; Estelle Haney; Catherine Hangholt; Kitty Heebner; Timothy Kail; Christine Kemp; Little Leo Kushnir; Hadley Ludwig; Caroline Marks; Mary Ann Moneghan; Maura Murphy; Francis M. Robinson; Marine Corporal Eugene Ruduski; Denise Shaw; Dick Stemp; Moira Stephens; Patty Sweeney; Christopher Szymkiewicz; Ray Szymkiewicz; Eunice Wagner; Nancy Walker; William Walker; and Frani Zappala.

For those who have died, and in particular for **Alberta Gleason**, grant them eternal rest and peace.



The center arrangement of Flowers are in Honor of **Jim & Annemarie Quigley** on their Wedding Anniversary.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Fourth Quarter 2023 – December 17th

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM:

Servers: Alexa Bretz; Jackson Bretz; John Hunsberger
Lectors: Susanne Hunsberger; Mike Misiak
Eucharistic Ministers: Maureen Moser; Paul Moser;
Annemarie Quigley; Jim Quigley.

7:30 AM Mass

Servers: Adults

Lectors: Bill Gillespie; Bob Leidy

Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bowser; Cameron Bowser; Rich Sahlender; Mary Weber.

10:00 AM Mass

Servers: Avery Davis; Nathaniel Davis; Samuel Davis.

Lectors: Linda Chapelle; Barbara Lear.

Eucharistic Ministers: Ken Mayer; Marilynn Mayer;
Marlene Leidy; Theresa Walker.

Liturgical Ministers needed for Christmas Masses

We are requesting assistance from Altar Servers; Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers at all of our Christmas Eve (4:00PM; 7:00PM and Midnight) and Christmas Day (7:30AM and 10:00AM) Masses. Please contact Deacon Mike Franks by phone or email. Cell number is: 484.919.9603; email: deaconmike@spnparish.org OR deaconmikefranks@verizon.net. **Please let us know as soon as possible and NO later than December 15th.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

If you have questions about any of our Faith Formation activities, please **Contact: Eileen Koch-adultfaithformation @spnparish.org OR 215-696-2089**

BIBLE STUDIES – Beginning the second (2nd) week of January, we will be offering the following Bible Studies. Please choose the topic, day or time that works best for you and join us! We will have sign-ups for all sessions after all masses the weekend of December 16-17. If you are not able to sign up on these days, or you need a different day or time, please contact Eileen at 215-696-2089.

ASCENSION PRESS Sessions:

TUES 10AM – topic: How to Pray Like Mary – Six (6) sessions for women and men

TUES 7PM – topic: No Greater Love: A Biblical walk through Christ's Passion – Five (5) sessions for women and men.

THUR 6:30PM – continuation of Study of the Gospel of Matthew – Men's group

LITTLE ROCK Sessions:

The following three (3) groups will be studying The Gospel of John – Eleven (11) Sessions

TUE 10AM – Women's Group

WED 7PM – Women and Men

THUR 10AM – Women and Men

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Pope Francis has said, "In spiritual direction, I must examine what is happening in my heart, where the Spirit is moving, if I feel desolation or consolation... these are things to talk about with my Spiritual Director." Spiritual Directors are honored to journey with you in your efforts to deepen your relationship with God. Please consider contacting one of these Spiritual Directors:

Peg Choinski, CSD: 610.850.1869;
pchoinskisd@yahoo.com

Heather Makowicz, CSD, LSW, MSW: 484.919.9808;
allowinggodtocomeclose@gmail.com

LECTIO DIVINA - Reflection on Gospel and Readings for the coming Sunday. Meets every Thursday at 10:30AM. All are welcome! Facilitators Lino and Nancy Viola. For additional information, please contact Eileen Koch per above.

SPN Parish Council Holy Moment Thought...

"Above Everything, Pray for the Holy Spirit"

Jesus gives one of His most profound and beautiful teachings on the Prayer of Petition.

#1. Prayer works more than most people believe.

#2. One of the greatest and most consequential falsehoods of Satan is that God does not answer prayers. So why bother praying.

#3. Ask the Lord to open your mind and heart and show you how many of your prayers have been answered. Many times, there seems to be a lag between the time of your petition and the answer. Remember, God's timing is always perfect and complete even though we may not be patient enough to wait for it.

#4. God's commitment to answer prayers is ironclad. This is the unanimous teaching of the Sacred Magisterium, all the Church fathers and doctors and all the saints...and above all, Sacred Scripture. You will be amazed by God's mighty, merciful and mysterious providence when it comes to prayers. God regards it an injustice to promise answers to our prayers and then fail to do so. (Ref Luke 18: 1 - 8).

So...what is the best and highest thing to pray for...THE HOLY SPIRIT...THE HOLY SPIRIT...THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!

Prayer is the Activator of Power. Power is the dominant attribute of the Holy Spirit. Prayer and the Holy Spirit are like inseparable twins. Therefore, taste and see that the Lord is good. If you do not pray habitually, you will never be able to taste much less attest to the truth that God is good. Do not be unbelieving. Believe and experience the joy of answered prayer. It is sweet and it is good!

Please consider saying the following prayer..."Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you all my being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love. (Prayer of Anselm, 1033-1109 AD) "

PARISH OUTREACH - FRIENDLY VISITORS:

The Friendly Visitor Ministers of St. Philip Neri will bring Holy Communion while providing companionship and someone to talk to on a regular basis to homebound members of our parish. If you or someone you know can benefit from this ministry, please contact Mary Souder, Ministry Leader at 215.518.1341 or email Parish Outreach at parishoutreach@spnparish.org.



SAINT PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Wednesday - December 20th:

7:00 PM in Church

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23rd - 4:00 PM

December 24 - 7:30 AM & 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2023

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM

7:00 PM &

MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30 AM & 10:00 AM

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

December 30th - 4:00 PM

December 31st - 7:30 AM & 10:00 AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

December 31st - 4:00 PM

January 1st - 9:00 AM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION-A GIFT OF LOVE!



Eucharistic Adoration-A Gift of Love!

Have you ever wanted to help someone but weren't sure what to do? Or perhaps you wanted to give a gift to someone but didn't know what to get? Consider sending a Eucharistic Adoration-A Gift of Love card to that person. Spend an hour of your time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicate your hour of Eucharistic Adoration for a special person and his/her intentions. When finished, pick up a Eucharistic Adoration-A Gift of Love card to send to that person letting them know of your gift of prayer. A Gift of Love card is available at St. Anne's Chapel.

PREP RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW): On the second and fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:00AM Mass, Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place. Children ages 4 through 7, are encouraged to participate. CLOW is designed to share the WORD with our children in a way that they can relate to the message. Your child should be able to attend this without the need of parental support and be able to participate in a small group setting. You do not need to register for this Program. We look forward to serving the children of SPN. Any questions, you can contact Wendy Benner at 215.679.7839 or prep@spnparish.org



GIFT OF LOVE TREE

The Gift of Love Tree is set up in the Sanctuary of the Church. All parishioners are welcome to take a tag and purchase a gift to be donated to one of four Charities. Please securely affix the tag to the Gift or Gift Card and place under the Giving Tree by Sunday, December 17th no later than 10:00AM. There will also be a box for Gift Cards.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS AND DO NOT USE GIFT BAGS. WRAPPING AND GIFT BAGS SLOW THE SORTING OF GIFTS AND ARE THROWN AWAY.



"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor"

Proverbs 22:9

Listed below are the non-perishable donation requests for delivery to the Mother of Mercy House on Wednesday, December 13th.

Canned meats,also canned Vegetables and Fruits,and Beans any variety

Dry Cereal (reg size) oatmeal and peanut butter and jelly.

Pasta and sauce, Macaroni and cheese, stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, instant mash potatoes.

Diapers: 3 to 5

If doable, please donate an unwrapped toy for the children. Alex from M.O.M.H. IS TRYING TO HAVE TOYS FOR ALL AGES INFANT TO 14YRS. This will allow families to come and pick up a toy for their children.

Please drop off your donations in one of the totes at each side door of the church or on the wooden box in the narthex. All donations need to be received by this Sunday, December 10th; thank you for your generosity.

Remembering Life throughout The Liturgical Year

December 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This patronal feast of the United States of America is a perfect time for all who profess the Gospel of Life to ask God to make our laws just and protective of every one of our citizens from conception until natural death. Every year, the Holy Father places a wreath at the foot of the statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception at the Piazza di Spagna in Rome. Last year, as he placed the wreath, he prayed to the Blessed Virgin a prayer that we might make our own: "Watch over all families in a special way: May love sealed by the Sacrament ever reign between spouses, may children walk on the paths of goodness and true freedom, and may the elderly feel surrounded by attention and affection."

December 9th: Feast of Juan Diego

At the canonization of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, the Holy Father asked the new Saint, who brought the image of the Blessed Virgin to America, to intercede for this very cause: "Happy Juan Diego, true and faithful man! We entrust to you our lay brothers and sisters so that, feeling the call to holiness, they may imbue every area of social life with the spirit of the Gospel. Bless families, strengthen spouses in their marriage, and sustain the efforts of parents to give to their children a Christian upbringing. Look with favor upon the pain of those who are suffering in body or in spirit, on those afflicted by poverty, loneliness, marginalization or ignorance.

May all people, civic leaders and ordinary citizens, always act in accordance with the demands of justice and with respect for the dignity of each person, so that in this way peace may be re-enforced."

December 12th: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

She is the patron of all the Americas, through whom the faith was first brought to this land. She is, likewise, the patron of the Gospel of Life, through whom the weak, the poor, the forgotten, and the dispossessed may know love and the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

PARISH OUTREACH - FRIENDLY VISITORS:

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SHARE A RIDE TO CHURCH

There are St. Philip Neri Parishioners who may not be able to drive to church but truly desire to attend Mass in person. We are looking for people to offer a fellow parishioner a ride to church. This would be someone in your neighborhood that would attend the same Mass time as you regularly attend.

If you would like to offer someone a ride, please contact Marlene Leidy, Parish Outreach Coordinator, at 215-679-7333 or email at parishoutreach@spnparish.org. Thank You!

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Collection for November 26, 2023

Week 23

Sunday Collection

Sunday Collection for

Weekend of November 26th \$9,876

Diocesan & Extra-Diocesan Collections

**Parish Fiscal Year Goal
information will be published at
a later date.**

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:

Because of the early Bulletin Transmittal schedules, the collections for December 3rd will be published on December 17th.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:

Any parishioner who would like to receive a copy of their Contribution Statement for 2023, please email Shirley at the rectory office (ofcmgr@spnparish.org) or call; if no answer, leave a detailed message. Statements are mailed out upon request only.

PARISH HALL:

- Thanks to the generosity of a number of Parishioners, we have been able to replace three 100 cup coffee urns, two waffle makers, and 4 sets of stainless-steel pots and lids. We also presently are holding donations to cover 7 of the 25 needed tables.

Donations are still be accepted for the following:
Tables @ \$190.00 each; Pots @ \$80.00 per set;
Coffee urns @ \$200.00 per unit; Water Pitchers @
~ \$10.00 per

Volunteers Needed

- **Bingo:** We are always open to additional floor workers and kitchen help. Join a team, and volunteer 3 Sundays per year. Our main kitchen team will be retiring in June 2024. Looking for individuals, couples, families, interested in taking on this role
-
- **Breakfast:** Always looking for new volunteers to make monthly breakfasts buffet successful. Openings for Thursday morning potato duty Saturday morning prep and set up
- Sunday morning cooks, servers, and clean up. Shifts are available to share the work.
- Youth are encouraged to volunteer, and this time is good for Community Service Time for school.
-
- **Fish Fry:** Holding three Friday evening Fish Fry again in 2024. Shifts are available - Set up Noon - 3:00 PM, Cooking and food prep 3:00 - 7:00 PM, Clean up from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.
-
- Due to continued delays, it has been decided that our monthly Parish activities will not be scheduled until all repairs/replacements are completed.
- We will inform all, as soon as we have a firm delivery and Installation date.
- Thank you for your patience.

Please contact our Hall Facilitator, Bill Robinson @ hallfacilitator@spnparish.org or 215-896-5949.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Saturday, December 16 7:00-9:00PM

Living Drive-thru Nativity

Come experience the miracle of the Christmas story presented with live characters and animals. Plus receive a bag of homebaked Christmas cookies! This is a free event.

Location: Grounds of Nativity of Our Lord Parish. 605 West Street Rd., Warminster.

More info contact: Ann Marie Gervino, agervino@noolp.org

Sunday, December 17 (12:30 PM to 2:00 PM)

Event: Children's Advent Celebration

Celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent with some fun and faith-filled activities at the National Centre for Padre Pio. Invite your young children, grandchildren, Godchildren, or nieces and nephews. Older siblings are welcome to join their younger siblings to act as their *Guardian Angel*. We'll view a movie on the big screen, read a story, enjoy a "Meet and Greet" with Saint Nicholas, complete a simple Advent craft project, and eat a sweet treat! There is no cost to attend this *Advent Celebration for Children*; however, it is a ticketed event. Register

at www.padrepio.org by clicking on the event calendar for December 17th. Registration opens on November 17th.

Location: National Centre for Padre Pio – 111 Barto Road – Barto.

More Information: Contact angela@padrepio.org



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

Sunday, Dec 10, 2023

A voice cries out

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 75. The world could use a reminder that human rights belong to each of us and must be defended without exception. We live in an age marred by misinformation. Attacks on others grow more destructive online and in our common spaces. Climate change, hunger, and poverty are unequally borne by those whose rights are not recognized or protected. Advent is the perfect time to identify the rights that resonate most powerfully for you. Claim them. Discover ways to stand up for them. Create alliances with those whose rights are in jeopardy.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). "In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"

Monday, Dec 11, 2023

Backstory on the Bible

The 73 books in the Catholic Bible were written hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years before they were officially compiled. It wasn't until the late fourth century that the Catholic Church decided upon the list of sacred scripture to be included. Pope Damasus I presided over the Council of Rome of 382 that determined the scriptural canon, and he commissioned Saint Jerome to translate these texts from Greek into Latin. This collection of sacred books is the inspired word of God, reveals the truth of Revelation, and forms the core of Catholic beliefs. Pass on the Good News!

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE
TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."

Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023

Mysterious mother of the Americas

On a wall, under glass, is the life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—enshrined in the Basilica of Guadalupe, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in December 1591. As mysterious and symbolic as the Woman of the Apocalypse described in Revelation 12, it continues to defy human explanation, including analysis from a NASA scientist. The humble cactus fiber cloak it appears on hasn't deteriorated in more than 400 years, nor has the image, which experts from Kodak likened to a photograph though photography wasn't invented yet. Countless miracles are associated with Guadalupe, but the greatest is the conversion of an entire continent. Pray for the people of the Americas with the Center of Concern prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe that begins: Hail Mary, Lady of Peace, We pray for the peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun."

Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023

Keep your eye on the divine

Like many early Roman saints, little is known about Saint Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed in an act of torture before her death for being a Christian. As such, she is the patron saint of the blind. We often take sight for granted, but Lucy should remind us, especially in hard times, to look beyond our own vision—and see with God's eyes. The reward for our faithful acts is the beatific vision. Or as Saint Paul puts it: "We see now in a glass darkly, but then face to face" (I Cor. 13:12). Work to improve your vision.

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). "Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things."

Thursday, Dec 14, 2023

He wasn't afraid of the dark

Today is the memorial of Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite mystic, poet, and reformer who died in 1591. He may be best known for *Dark Night of the Soul*, which develops the idea that suffering—including the sense of God's absence—can actually lead to unity with God. "The endurance of darkness

is the preparation for great light," he wrote. John came to his insights through experience, having been maltreated and even imprisoned by his own religious community. If God ever seems far away, let John of the Cross guide you to the light.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Friday, Dec 15, 2023

The secret to our success

Damned if you do, damned if you don't. That is Jesus' complaint about public opinion. John the Baptist fasted and they called him crazy. Jesus feasted and they called him a glutton and drunkard. We've all been there. The best response to criticism is success. What is success in the spiritual life? "In God's will, there is great peace" is the answer Saint Josephine Bakhita offers. Wise words. Ignore your critics, and follow Jesus' path to peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). "Wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023

Modernism gets its say

Maude Petre, who died on this date in 1937, was a British writer and religious sister best known for her work on Catholic modernism. She was a prolific author, writing on a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, politics, and literature. She openly supported women's suffrage, which the church opposed at the time. Her 1907 book *Catholicism and Independence* got her kicked out of her order and she was refused the sacraments by her bishop. Her views were controversial, but they helped form Catholic thinking for the Second Vatican Council. Prayerfully consider that the Catholic controversies of today may lead to the church of tomorrow.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come."

Expectant Mother's Mass



On *Sunday, December 17th during the 10:00 am Mass*, there will be a special blessing for expectant mothers. If you are expecting or know someone who is, please call the Parish Office at 215-679-9275 or email Marlene Leidy at parishoutreach@spnparish.org. Thank You!



Blessing of the Bambinelli

A beloved annual tradition at the Basilica in preparation for Christmas, is the Blessing of the Bambinelli, first instituted by St. John Paul II. On the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (**Bambinelli**) from each of their Nativity sets to St. Peter's Square. Following the Sunday Angelus address, the Pope blesses the figurines. Now celebrated in churches around the world, this Advent tradition is a way for children to connect their Nativity scene at home to the celebration of Christmas at their church.

On Saturday, December 16th and Sunday, December 17th, at all Masses, join us for the Blessing of the Bambinelli. Everyone is invited to bring the Baby Jesus figurines from their home Nativity sets for this special blessing.



**SPN SENIOR CLUB
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
TUESDAY - DECEMBER 19th**

**PLEASE NOTE: LUNCHEON WILL BE IN
OUR PARISH HALL!**

**COME AND ENJOY,
SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
BY THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR
FROM ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



PRICE OF THE LUNCHEON IS \$6.00 PP

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
CALL RITA at: 215.679.7009**

Deadline: December 15th

Kathy Clancy

STATE FARM INSURANCE

AUTO • LIFE • HOME • HEALTH

(215) 541-4114

669 Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073



Mullaney Law Offices

598 Main Street • Red Hill, PA 18076

(215) 679-7931

Christopher P. Mullaney, Attorney

Parishioner

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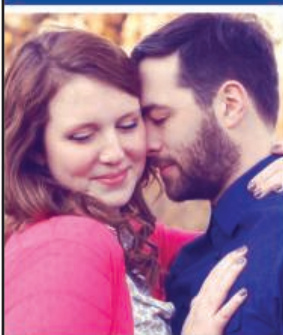
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