FOURTH Sunday OF Advent

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39–40
THE MISSION OF OUR PARISH
As members of the Diocese of Joliet, we are a faith community united in Christ by a common bond to the universal Catholic Church.
Our words and actions are a reflection of Christ’s presence among us.
We manifest God’s Word through active participation in spiritual, liturgical, educational, service, and social ministries directed at bringing all people to Christ.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH DIRECTORY & INFORMATION
Rectory Office Hours: Monday through Thursday (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), Friday (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)
Rectory Summer Office Hours: Monday through Thursday (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.); Friday (8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)
Website: http://www.st-phil.org       Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipAddisonIL/

RECTORY OFFICES
1223 W. Holtz Avenue in Addison, IL 60101
Phone #: 630.628.0900     Fax #: 630.543.9858

Reverend Steven J. Bondi, Pastor
(x101); stevo1359@gmail.com

Deacon Sean McGreal, Pastoral Associate/RCIA Director
(x105); smcgreal@st-phil.org

Deacon Philip Heitz, OFS, Marriage/Baptismal Preparation
(x100)

Stephen R. DiBrito, Parish Business Manager
(x103); sdibrito@st-phil.org

Judy Jaskey, Business Office Administrative Assistant
(x102)

Sandi Milazzo & Shar Mirabello, Administrative Assistants
(x100); rectory@st-phil.org

Carol Schubert, Liturgy/Adult Faith Formation Director
(x104); cschubert@st-phil.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society (x1 & then x5)

PARISH CENTER OFFICES
1233 W. Holtz Avenue in Addison, IL 60101

MUSIC OFFICE
Bill Wilder, Music Director
Phone #: 630.543.4015     Fax #: 630.543.4672
bwilder@st-phil.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
Phone #: 630.543.1754     Fax #: 630.543.4672
Nancy McKnight, Faith Formation Director
stphilipre@gmail.com

Barbara Nicolai, RE Administrative Assistant
Editor of Parish Bulletin, Calendar, Website
bnicolai@st-phil.org

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE SCHOOL OFFICE
Phone #: 630.543.4130     Fax #: 630.458.8750
Julie Noonan, School Principal
jnoonan@st-phil.org

Joann Wheeler, School Administrative Assistant
jwheeler@st-phil.org

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS & BULLETIN DEADLINES
Parish staff reserves the right to accept/decline/edit pulpit announcements and bulletin submissions.
Please submit pulpit announcements to Carol Schubert (cschubert@st-phil.org; 630-628-0900 x104) no later than the Wednesday preceding the desired weekend.
Please send bulletin submissions to Barb Nicolai (bnicolai@st-phil.org; 630-543-1754) a week prior to desired publication date.

If you are a new visitor to our church today, welcome! If you would like more information about our church or would like to register in the parish, please contact any of the staff members listed above or fill out a simple on-line registration form at st-phil.org.
The Addison Knights of Columbus will show the movie Unplanned in the St. Philip the Apostle Parish Gym on Saturday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 9, at 3:00 p.m. This is a free movie event; freewill donations for all pro-life charities will be gratefully accepted. This move is rated “R” so people under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Interested in joining the Knights of Columbus? Please call 312-391-3843 or visit http://kofc650.org for more information.
Fourth graders from St. Philip the Apostle School enjoyed visiting the petting zoo that appeared in front of the school during Santa’s Workshop on Tuesday, December 7.

The St. Philip the Apostle School's Parent Association is pleased to present THE SPARTAN GALA on February 18, 2022, at The Empress Banquets in Addison. Enjoy a lavish night of dancing, dinner, and fun! Open bar and a Grand Raffle ticket is included with every $115 admission ticket. If you can't attend, you're still encouraged to purchase a Grand Raffle ticket for $25 each. 1st prize is $2000, 2nd prize is $1000, 3rd prize is $500. Visit the Gala website at https://stphil.home.qtego.net to make a donation, purchase tickets, or get more information. We are also seeking sponsorships from local businesses or donations for our raffle/auction. Please contact Lizzy Roberson at lizzywroberson@gmail.com with any questions.

Masks must be worn at this event, unless eating or drinking (subject to change as COVID guidance evolves).

Fourth graders from St. Philip the Apostle School enjoyed visiting the petting zoo that appeared in front of the school during Santa’s Workshop on Tuesday, December 7.
As part of their preparation for Confirmation, the eighth grade students in the RE Program and St. Philip the Apostle School write letters to the parish to explain why they want to be Confirmed. Below is the letter from religious education student Mary-Terese Tamondong.

As a parishioner of St. Philip the Apostle Parish, I am currently preparing for Confirmation. I am working to fulfill my obligations and aim to become stronger in my faith as I endeavor to fully embrace the Catholic Church. My sponsor is Mr. Tom Deutsch. He has helped nurture my faith ever since preschool. He was present at every bible camp I attended, playing different characters of faith and helping kids grow in their faith, including me. When I was a student attending St. Philip, Mr. Tom was incredibly present in school events. I vividly remember Mr. Tom dressing up as Santa Claus for Christmas events for many years, and he always brought joy to the students he interacted with. I was one of those students, and we ended up forming a friendship that still continues to this day. He was my stand-in grandpa for every Grandparents’ Day at school, as my own grandparents are in the Philippines. I saw him nearly every day at school, and almost every Sunday as I went to Mass. We often exchanged greetings and well wishes before the pandemic. I chose Mr. Tom as my sponsor because he has never faltered in his pursuit of bringing me and many others happiness, whether it be through volunteering for student events or simply being a friendly face offering a warm greeting and conversation. He is a model of faith who used to go to Mass every day and is a very devout Catholic. My family have heavily influenced my faith, giving me the means to attend Mass weekly and guiding me to making the right choices. I cannot lie and say I have always heeded their advice, but they have always been there for me, loving me and forgiving me for the mistakes I make. They guide me to my faith and strengthen it, motivating me to pray daily and allowing me to become more faithful to God. The rest of my family may be oceans away, but love and faith connect us. Despite all of this, however, I still find myself occasionally being led astray from the Lord. Being Confirmed is a large responsibility, but it is one that I see as necessary in order to strengthen my faith in God and my relationship to the Catholic Church. I understand that it will not be easy, and I will find many obstacles I must overcome to truly embrace this process. I see Confirmation not just as a ceremony, but an opportunity for me to reinvigorate my faith. When I was baptized, my godparents and parents made promises on my behalf to God and to the Church and now, as a Confirmation candidate, I look forward to making those promises of my own free will. By taking the holy name of St. Cecilia, I establish my place in the Catholic faith as a devoted follower of God. I hope that, with your approval, I am able to grow in my faith and answer God’s call.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Mary-Terese Tamondong
Relationship is at the core of today’s gospel. Mary travels to be with her cousin Elizabeth to accompany her during her pregnancy. When Mary speaks, John leaps in Elizabeth’s womb. There is a visceral, tangible reaction when the two women embrace. Part of this encounter highlights the significance of the familial relationship between Mary and Elizabeth, where the two offer support and solidarity. Even more fundamental, however, is Mary’s and Elizabeth’s relationship with God. Mary agrees to be the Mother of God, and Elizabeth recognizes this presence of God in her midst. Do we recognize God in our relationships with family members, friends, and co-workers? Do we react when we encounter God in our midst?

Source: Liturgical Press, Living Liturgy 2022

CAROL SCHUBERT
Director of Liturgy & Adult Faith Formation
E-mail Address: cschubert@st-phil.org
Phone #: 630.628.0900 x104

It’s time to sign up for the second part of the Fulfilled Series with Adult Formation. All are welcome to participate in a dynamic discussion about Scripture and gain an understanding of some of the most questioned Catholic teachings. The book is available at Ascension Press for $16.95. Please register with Carol Schubert by calling 630-628-0900 x104 or emailing cschubert@st-phil.org. If you did not participate in the first session, you can still sign up for this one. Sessions will start on Tuesday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1 of the Parish Center.

Meeting dates are:
January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 15, 22

Not Ready? No Problem!
While Advent is a beautiful time to prepare for the coming of the Lord, we often get so caught up in all the things we do to prepare for Christmas that we forget Advent all together. The readings remind us that in spite of the stress we may feel thinking about how close Christmas is, we are called to rejoice for the Lord is near. The stress we feel may be from fear: Fear that I won't get the shopping done by Christmas, fear that people won't like the gifts I bought, or fear that I forgot someone that should be on my list. But did you ever notice how much easier it is when you have someone to shop with you, or write the Christmas cards, or decorate the tree? "Shout for joy...fear not!" says the prophet Zephaniah in the first reading. (Zeph 3:14) He tells us the Lord is not coming to punish us for waiting till the last minute to put up the tree. The prophet says the Lord is in our midst, we are not alone. "He has turned away your enemies" (Zeph 3:15), enemies like fear, doubts, and loneliness. And as if that wasn't good enough, he says that the Lord rejoices over us! How many times have you wondered if you could ask the Lord for help? Zephaniah reminds us that the Lord is happy to help. And St. Paul says the same thing in the second reading: "Have no anxiety at all...make your requests known to God." (Phil 4:6) That is where Advent comes in. We can look forward to the Lord’s presence in our lives. We can be confident of his love for us. That is why faith and hope are central to the theme of Advent. Our faith in God’s love for us gives us hope that he will support us in our weakness and fill us with the joy he has over us.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.
Let us never be so busy as to forget what the focus of Christmas is really about, the new life for all of us that came to be through the birth of the Christ child.

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn’t envy another’s home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn’t yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn’t give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can’t.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

(Author unknown)

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Friday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

**Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

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**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 20 to 26, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>No School from December 20-31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/20/21</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.-St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (R1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21/21</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.-Contempo Choir (CH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22/21</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.-AA Meeting (R2-upstairs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/24/21</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.-Christmas Eve Mass with Contempo &amp; Children’s Choirs (CH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/25/21</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-Christmas Day Mass (CH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/26/21</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.-RCIA (R1)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R1 - Meeting Room 1</th>
<th>LB - Library</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH - Church</td>
<td>FR - Faculty Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GY - Gym</td>
<td>RE - RE Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR - Vesting Room</td>
<td>MR - Music Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>R2 - Meeting Room 2</td>
<td>RC - Rectory</td>
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<tr>
<td>OS - Off site</td>
<td>NX - Narthex</td>
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**JOB OPENING IN THE JOLIET DIOCESE**

- St. Pius X Parish in Lombard is seeking a part-time custodial/maintenance person. This is a non-benefited position of approximately 30 hours per week (must be flexible for the hours). Position requires a team player attitude, attention to detail, and confidentiality. Call Sallie at 630-627-4526 x219 for further information.

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**Monday, December 20, 2021**

- No School from December 20-31
- Parish Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Legion of Mary (VR) at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (R1) at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

- Parish Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Knights of Columbus (RC) Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Contempo Choir (CH) at 7:00 p.m.
- AA Meeting (R2-upstairs) at 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 22, 2021**

- No RE Classes for Grades 6-8
- Parish Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 23, 2021**

- Parish Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 24, 2021**

- Christmas Eve Mass with Contempo & Children's Choirs (CH) at 4:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Mass (CH) at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Mass with Traditional Choir (CH) at 10:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 25, 2021**

- No RE Classes for Grades K-5
- Parish Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

- Parish Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- RCIA (R1) meeting at 11:00 a.m.
**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**
8:00 AM  Anna Serpico

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21**
8:00 AM  Donna Giuseppe

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22**
8:00 AM  (Communion Service)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**
8:00 AM  Pat Mancini

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24**
4:00 PM  (People of the Parish)
6:30 PM  (People of the Parish)
10:00 PM  (People of the Parish)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25**
(The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas)
8:00 AM  (People of the Parish)
10:00 AM  (same names as 8:00 a.m.)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:00 AM  Mary Schubert / Anthony Russo
         Marie Di Fazio / Jean Troksa / Carol P. Baran
         Francesco Savaglio / Charlene Berg
10:00 AM  (same names as 8:00 a.m.)

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Support our local businesses!
We ask that you remember our parish bulletin advertisers in any way you can during and after this difficult time. We want to express our extreme gratitude for everything that they do. They are the financial resource for the bulletin which helps us to stay in touch with you. As you can, please patronize these businesses that do so much for St. Philip the Apostle and our community.
Please keep them in your prayers as well.

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Leaping for Joy.
Let us take our cue from the six-month gestating baby in the womb of Elizabeth leaping for joy on encountering the Lord and the one who brings him. Let us sing again and again all week the antiphon of the psalm, “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”

- How can I keep looking for the face of Christ in those around me?
- Whom will I visit, even virtually if needed, to help in some way?
- How can I get to Christmas Day in peace?

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ABORTION ALTERNATIVES:  Waterleaf (630-701-6270) , Post Abortion Healing (877-467-3463), Birthright (800-550-4900, 24 hours)

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**Please pray for all of our young men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces, especially:**

- Richard Avila, Marines
- Salvador Bonilla Jr., Air Force
- Elijah Burgins, Marines
- Emiliano Carrazco, Marines
- Steven J. DeMarco, Army
- Matthew Deimling, Army
- Jack Domek, Marines
- Adam Domey, Army
- Samantha Fallon, Navy
- Diego Feros, Army
- Blaze Galardy, Air Force
- Martin Garcia, Army
- Mark Jastowski, Marines
- José Juarez, Navy
- Paul Kepler, Navy
- Ben Krause, Marines
- C. J. Loveland, Air Force
- Drew Loveday, Marines
- Kristofferson Marzo, Army
- Andrew Maslanka, Army
- Matthew Maslanka, Army
- Bradley Melson, Marines
- Anthony Milazzo, Navy
- Ryan Mills, Air Force
- Billy Moncatch, Marines
- Jason Okara, Army
- Enrique Ospina, Marines
- Adam Ostrander, Navy
- Cole Parent, Marines
- Randall Petbok, Air Force
- James Roman, Marines
- Ryan Ruizol, Navy
- Andrew Tarchinski, Army
- Patrick Tobias, Air Force
- Isaiah Wuich, Marines

To add a name to the list, please call 630-543-1754 or email bnicolai@st-phil.org.
Baptism Information: Baptisms are celebrated on the second & fourth Sunday of each month. A pre-Baptism program must be attended by the parents. Please call the rectory to register for a program.

Marriage Information: Please call the rectory to make arrangements at least six months (a year is preferred) in advance of the wedding date. It is recommended you do not rent reception facilities until your wedding date is confirmed with the pastor. Your preferred wedding date may be unavailable, and we do not want you to lose your deposit with the reception venue.

Parish Registration: New families are welcome and are asked to register at the rectory. Also, previously registered parishioners are asked to notify us of any address changes.

Emergency Sick or Anointing Calls: Please notify us immediately of any serious illness in your family. If you have a hospitalized loved one who would like a visit, please call the rectory with contact information since the hospitals and hospices no longer notify parishes. Please do not wait until the last minute to have someone anointed. There are always accidents/emergencies, but sometimes there is less panic when the anointing can be done prior to someone passing.

We now have available low-gluten hosts which make it possible for people who have celiac disease or allergies to wheat or gluten to be able to receive communion. If you have celiac disease or an allergy to wheat or gluten, please let us know before Mass so that arrangements can be made for you to be able to receive communion at Mass.