



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

Luke 3:4-6

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**SAINT PHILIP NERI CHURCH
LAFAYETTE HILL, PENNSYLVANIA 19444**

**SAINT PHILIP NERI CHURCH
DECEMBER 6, 2015**

Second Sunday of Advent

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND
Retired Fund for Religious**

PLEASE PRAY for the sick so that they may be comforted by the concern and love of their families and the family of the Church: Jose Alvarez, Bella Jones Borkowski, Dolores Bucci, Kathy Caputo, Bill Coogan, Howard Daywalt, Mary DiDonato, Lillian Doherty, Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores (Dee) Downs, Phyllis Galanti, Christopher Greuters, Larry Falkowski, Jean Keenan, Pat Kost, Patricia Kucheruk, Nicholas Lannutti, George and Molly Lozinak, Phyllis Luther, James Maggetti, Sue Male, Joan Marine, Barbara Martinick, Toby Merrill, Julia McLaughlin, Stephen Merlin, Melanie Moletsky, Joe and Betty Mulligan, Joan Murphy, Catherine Niche, Lisa O'Brien, Baby Addison Pfeffer, Baby Harper Ann Renshaw, Sue Rocca, Xavier Ross, Tim Schwartz, Eva Seeton, Kristin Shearon, Robert Smith, Janice Swan, Kena Thompson, Mike Whitaker and for all those who are hoping and praying for organ transplants.

The Children's Advent Celebration

Monday, December 7th, 7:00 pm

St. Philip Neri Church and School Cafeteria
Celebrate the reason for the season! Please bring a gift (marked with AGE, and either BOY, GIRL or NEUTRAL) that your child can present during the Offertory. This Mass will fulfill the obligation for Tuesday's Holy Day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Jenn Fioravanti at 215-901-4122 or jlfior@outlook.com.

Pastor's Note...We will have a Special Blessing for Expectant Mothers at the 10:00 AM Mass on December 28th. If you wish to receive this blessing, please call the Church Office 610-834-1975.

A Special Thank You to the 8th grade classes for changing the Liturgical Mass Missals for the new church year.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday

6:30 AM John Catania
8:30 AM Frank and Mary Fulginiti

Tuesday

6:30 AM Stephen Petrokubi
8:30 AM Mary and Anthony J. Basile, Sr
12:05 PM Alex Wawer
7:00 PM Sonnie and Stella Travagline
Johnnie and Pauline DiCiurcio

Wednesday

6:30 AM Thomas Kopach
8:30 AM Frank English

Thursday

6:30 AM Jack Dergarabedian
8:30 AM Tullio Leomporra

Friday

6:30 AM Henry and Cecelia Kropp
8:30 AM Joseph Januzelli

Saturday

8:30 AM Margaret and Charles Ponietowicz

Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be held at 6:30AM, 8:30AM, 12:05PM and 7PM

**2015 ANNUAL CENSUS/
BLOCK COLLECTION REPORT
TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED FAMILIES
2068**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CENSUS ENVELOPES
RETURNED
587**

Please remember to fill-out and return your census envelope as soon as possible. It can be returned by mail to the church office or may place it in the collection basket on Sunday.

PREP Volunteer position available

There is an opening for a Grade 4 catechist for Monday afternoons. Please call Dane Connelly at 610-834-9868 or 610-828-3082 ext. 2 or email d.connellyspn@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.



THE GIVING TREE

During the holiday season it is more rewarding to give than to receive. This year, our giving tree is filled with names of less fortunate children, from St. Frances Cabrini Regional Catholic School located in Philadelphia and The Devereux Kanner Center, a facility for developmentally disabled children in West Chester.

Please pick a name off the giving tree. Go shopping for that child, pick out a gift and return the wrapped gift with the tag attached to the back of church as soon as you have it.

Please make sure if you take a tag you return a gift. All gifts are to be.....

RETURNED NO LATER THAN, Dec. 14th.

This will give us time to sort and deliver the gifts before Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support for this wonderful cause in bringing joy to a child.

Don't Stall, Just Call Tuesday, December 22, PM 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Please join Mary Ciammetti as she shares her story about the tragic loss of her son due to binge drinking. We encourage all adults and young adults to attend. This is life saving information – you do not want to miss! For more information, contact maryc@dontstalljustcall.org

**Saint Philip Neri
Home and School Association
Presents
TRIVIA NIGHT XIII**

Save the Date: January 22 2016
LuLu Temple in Plymouth Meeting
Registration begins
Monday, December 7th at 8 AM
via www.triviaevents.net

Confessions:

Saturdays, Noon to 2:00PM
Monday, December 21st
7:00 PM
Saint Philip Neri Church

Join Us As We Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00 PM Children's Mass

5:45 PM Mass

7:30 PM Mass

Adult Choir - Choral Prelude 7:15

Midnight Mass

Teen Schola - Choral Prelude 11:45

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2015

7:00 AM

8:30 AM

10:00 AM

11:30 AM

BAPTISMAL INSTRUCTIONS are scheduled for Monday, December 14th at 7:30 PM in the Rectory Conference Room. Your baby is always welcome in Church, however, for the instruction itself, please try to schedule a babysitter so you may be free to concentrate. Also, please call the Church Office at 610-834-1975 for sign up purposes.

We welcome Madeline Grace, daughter of Jeffrey and Sarah Ford, Patrick McAndrew, son of Timothy and Molly Reilly, Carter James, son of Todd and Monica McMullen, Oliver Dawson, son of Scott and Catherine Buckman, Joey Catherine, daughter of Joseph and Jordan Brogan, Ryan Joseph, son of Michael and Joan Cavallaro, Alice Katherine, daughter of Jonathan and Katie Mayer, and Connor James, son of James and Jill Duffy into the Saint Philip Neri Church community.

These children were recently baptized.



Please support our local Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 12 is having their annual Christmas Tree Sale. Please consider purchasing your tree from the scouts.

This is their only fundraiser and the proceeds will send the scouts to summer camp. There are many boys from our school and parish in this troop.

Tree sale is running from November 29, 2015 through December 24, 2015 (or until they are sold out). Trees are being sold from the lower parking lot at Miles Park.

Hours of operation are:

Monday through Friday 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.
Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

H.O.P.E. If you, or anyone you know, needs transportation to a doctor or dentist appointment, or to Church on Sunday, please call Anne or Bill Franks at 610-828-2530 or email: ann59bil@gmail.com, or Loretta Zych at 215-836-1127. Additional weekday drivers and group leaders are needed

The Philippians An organization for senior citizens fifty years and older that offers trips, programs, service projects and entertainment. New members are always welcome. For information on becoming a member, please contact Angela Berry (610) 260-1211.

ARE YOU A PARENT WHO HAS LOST A CHILD? An informal group of Moms and Dads get together to talk or just listen to others who understand how you feel. For more information contact: Marianne O'Connor 610-825-4975 or Rosemary McNichol 215-247-2267. This group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Rectory Conference Room.

Women's Prayer Group The next meeting will be Thursday, January 7th in the Rectory Dining Room from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. All are invited! Join us and bring a friend. Sister Therese Michele, SSJ.

SPN FLEA MARKET -

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th -9:00am - 12:00pm

Do you feel like you have too much "stuff"? Are your garage, attics and closets packed? Rent a table at the SPN Flea Market and sell your unwanted items to someone who does. At the end of the flea market, a truck from a charity will be there to take anything you would rather donate than bring back home. Table rentals are \$25 each. Contact Marianne McLaughlin at mclaughlinmarianne@hotmail.com or 215-508-5887 to reserve one. A limited number of tables for sale so get yours now! Table sales benefit the SPN Theater Company.

For the Season of Advent, Fresh Brew Bible Study is presenting, "Angels are everywhere...including at your side". Our next meeting will be in the SPN Rectory Basement, Wednesday December 2nd from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We will be discussing Guardian Angels. For additional information, contact Joe Banecker at 610-828-0344 or josephbanecker@aol.com. Walk-ins are welcome!!!

Frozen Casseroles for St. John's Hospice

Could you find time to make a casserole for the homeless of St. John's? Pans, lids and recipes are available in the Church Office and at Barbara McCarthy's (610-828-2058). Frozen casseroles are brought to Barbara's house by 9:00 AM. The next delivery date is January 6th.

Archbishop Carroll Theater Society Presents



Showtimes are:

**Thursday, December 10th -7:00 pm
Friday, December 11th -7:00 pm
Saturday, December 12th -7:00 pm
Sunday, December 13th -2:00 pm**

General admission tickets at the door are \$10.00

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Franciscan Friars Serve the Hungry in Full-Service Restaurant



By Maggie Lane

Quick, how do you serve 350+ people in two hours in a dining hall that seats only 48 at a time? If you were a restaurant consultant looking to save time and build profits, you'd probably set up a cafeteria-style line service.

But if you were a Franciscan Friar, living in one of Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods, you'd have a maître d' to greet and seat and a full wait staff to serve. Fr. Michael Duffy, OFM, co-director of the St. Francis Inn, laughs that their system for feeding the hungry is "less efficient, more Franciscan." St. Francis Inn in Kensington, an area northeast of Philadelphia, has been a restaurant for the poor for nearly 35 years. The Inn operates in what was once a neighborhood bar, a long narrow building with a corner entrance. The Inn still functions as a local gathering place, but all other vestiges of its former use are gone: outside, a hand-painted sign featuring the Eucharistic meal of bread and wine now graces the old bricks, and inside, a statue of the Blessed Mother sits on a shelf that once housed whiskey and gin.



Starting at 4:30 every afternoon, 365 days a year, hungry people form a line outside. 80% are regulars: single mothers, senior citizens on fixed incomes, alcoholics, people who are mentally ill, families who in Fr. Duffy's words are "just plain poor," and drug addicts—some from the suburbs, and once one who had played professional football. Guests are handed a ticket with a number and are served in shifts. Inside, they're seated at tables of four, with real plates and silverware; on holidays and special occasions, the tables are decorated with centerpieces and placemats made by local schoolchildren.

Unlike the typical soup kitchen, where guests are hurried along a cafeteria line, the set-up at St. Francis Inn allows staff time to interact with guests, to play with children, to check in on the needs of the elderly. Using a maître d' and wait staff, explains 74-year old Fr. Duffy, preserves the human dignity of those who find the "American Dream" out of reach. And the four-top tables encourage fellowship among the guests themselves. That fellowship explains why there's little waste of food at St. Francis Inn: if a guest doesn't like an item on the full plate they're served, "they're very good about sharing," Fr. Duffy says.

The permanent staff is made up of five Franciscan Friars, two Franciscan Sisters, and five lay people. A steady stream of local and long-distance volunteers from businesses, high schools, and colleges assist. Some volunteers, like the college graduates from the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry, stay for a year. Staff and volunteers live simply among the people they serve every day. As Fr. Duffy explains in a video made by Temple University's Multimedia Urban Reporting Lab, "One of our guidelines says we don't seek to serve the poor, we seek to *be* the poor, and serve our brothers and sisters."

That theology has been at the heart of the Inn since it was founded by three Franciscan brothers from New York in 1979. The Franciscans wanted to establish a presence in Philadelphia, and asked for permission to move there from New York City with no particular idea of what they would do when they arrived. In an effort to discern their mission, one of the brothers lived on the streets of Kensington for two weeks. He learned that the common need among the poor was decent food. What Philadelphia does not need, he told his fellow Franciscans, is another church where someone *talks* about the gospel. They need to see the gospel. And so the order bought a corner bar in Kensington for a couple thousand dollars and opened in December with just five guests.

Those numbers have grown exponentially. These days the Inn is serving between 350-450 guests a day. Three days a week they also offer a take-out breakfast of Danish, coffee, and cereal at the back door for 250 people. Between breakfast and dinner, the Inn served 141,483 meals last year alone. Private donors keep the Inn operating. No funds come from the state or archdiocese, and all food comes from local groceries, meat packers, and bakeries. The menu varies, depending on what's in the pantry, but always includes a meat, vegetable, starch, and dessert. True to their Franciscan roots, the staff never turns anyone away. If food runs out, says Fr. Duffy, "We'll slap together some peanut butter and jelly."

At this intersection of food and faith, even a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich serves a greater purpose. "The crowning glory of our work," says Fr. Duffy, "is for people to feel loved by God." Because the Franciscans aren't trying to convert their guests, and because no one is required to listen to a homily or go to Mass at the Inn's chapel in order to be fed, success in feeding the spiritual needs of the Inn's guests can only be measured by God, says Father Duffy. "We just love others and let God take care of the rest," he said.

St. Philip Neri parishioners, you are a huge part of the success of The Inn with your steadfast support!

May God Bless You Abundantly, The Franciscans

Our Winter Needs ~

Cold Weather Gear:

THERMAL UNDERWEAR – tops & bottoms, men's and ladies', Clean, warm Coats, hats, scarves, gloves & boots, clean blankets, throws, comforters, new white athletic socks, new ladies slippers

Paper goods:

Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues (individual pocket packs to large boxes,) large size paper lunch bags, snack size zip lock bags, recycled plastic grocery bags (Target, Giant, etc.), paper plates & napkins, 13 and 30 gallon trash bags, metal dinner forks and soup spoons

Cleaning products:

Liquid laundry detergent, brand name dish soap, bleach, "PineSol," hand soap

Baby Products:

Disposable diapers-preemie/newborn and size 5/6 only, baby wipes, baby formula, baby food & cereal

Bath products:

Soap, shower gel, moisturizing lotion, shampoo, conditioner, DEODORANT, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, shave cream, powder, perfume samples and after shave, dental floss. Hotel sizes of these products are needed for the Homeless Shower Bags! Wash cloths, towels

Pantry needs:

Coffee, tea bags (large & regular size,) SUGAR, iced tea, powdered milk, hot cocoa mix, regular 5-minute oatmeal, sugared cereal, peanut butter and jam, tuna, canned chicken, chili, SpaghettiOs, pasta, spaghetti sauce, large cans of crushed tomatoes/tomato sauce, rice, ketchup, macaroni and cheese

For the Clinic:

Cough drops, Chapstick, Generic 1-a-day vitamins, Generic Tylenol, Advil & Aleve, 500mg Vitamin C, Generic Cough Syrup (similar to Robitussin DM without alcohol,) Vaseline, hand sanitizer, feminine pads, tampons, band aids, reading glasses

Extras:

Postage stamps, SEPTA tokens, "Popular" paperback books, costume jewelry, religious medals and prayer cards

For more information on the workings of ***The Inn***, visit www.stfrancisinn.org

or contact Kathy Muller @ mullerkathleenb@gmail.com

Donations are delivered weekly, along with peanut butter and jam sandwiches.

St. Philip Neri Women's Guild

20th Annual

Cookie & Sweets Exchange

Sunday, December 13, 2015

2:00pm

School Hall/ Cafeteria

BRING:

Seven dozen cookies/sweets

(6) dozen wrapped separately

(1) dozen for tasting

Beverages will be provided

One wrapped present (\$15-\$20 value)

For Yankee Swap

Michelle Abiuso (610) 828-1850 or Abiusophl@aol.com

SPN Home & School Association presents

Trivia Night XIII

January 22, 2016

LuLu Temple in Plymouth Meeting

Trivia Night is an informal and fun annual competition where SPN teams assemble and battle to see who has the greatest knowledge of all matters trivial. General knowledge and trivial interest questions are asked by a professional trivia host and the team which has correctly answered the most questions at the end of the night is crowned SPN Trivia Night Champions. You don't have to fill a table of 10 to play. You can be teamed up with fellow trivia players to fill a table. This is one of the premier fundraising events on the SPN calendar and not to be missed!

**Registration begins
December 7 at 8am via
www.TriviaEvents.net**

SPN Trivia is powered by



McM Entertainment (484) 999-0180 / www.McMEnt.net

SPN Home & School Association presents

Trivia Night XIII

When: Friday, January 22, 2016

Where: LuLu Shrine Ballroom, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Mtg

Time: Doors open: 6:15 p.m. Trivia begins at 7:30 p.m.

Price: \$50 per ticket; After 1/8/15 - \$65 per ticket (price includes: dinner, dessert, beer and soda)(BYO wine and spirits)

Register quickly and pay online via www.TriviaEvents.net or send contact name, phone number, mailing address, email and name of team members with payment to Kristi Johnson c/o SPN School or SPN Church Office.

Only payments received will hold your spot at the table. A confirmation email will be sent when your reservation with full payment is processed.

Questions??? Contact Kristi Johnson at 267-716-4540 or KristiJohnson615@comcast.net.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!

- **\$175 Bar or Buffet Sponsor** - Great food and spirits! No one will miss your support of SPN Trivia with your name/company proudly displayed at the bar or buffet.
- **\$50 Table Sponsor** - For a nominal donation, you can have your name/company/team name advertised on one of the 50 tables.

SPN Parishioners!

Christmas is just around the corner... please include SPN SCRIP GIFT CARDS in your plans!

No need to DASH to the mall to buy gift cards - SCRIP gift cards are sold after the weekend Masses and during church office hours. (Besides, all that running around could turn you into a **GRINCH**!)

Buying SPN SCRIP gift cards will give you...
... **CHRISTMAS CHEER** because every purchase magically donates to SPN (at no cost to you)!
... a **JINGLE** of extra cash in your pocket (earn FREE gift cards or tuition credits)!
... more time to string popcorn, cut out **SNOWFLAKES**, and bake **CHRISTMAS COOKIES**!
... more gasoline for **SLEIGH RIDES** (since you'll use less for Christmas shopping)!



Buy **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** now with your Kohl's charge.
Pay the bill later with SCRIP gift cards!

Use SCRIP to buy ALL your groceries, including carrots for the **REINDEER** and goodies for **SANTA**!

The SPN SCRIP Gift Card Program wants to be
your Christmas helper!

Please see the reverse side for more info...



DON'T STALL

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE ...

Save a friend or family member's life!

Learn the signs of alcohol poisoning and what to do
in case of such an emergency.

Please join Mary Ciammetti as she shares her story about
the tragic loss of her son due to binge drinking.

We encourage all adults and young adults to attend.
This is life saving information-- you do not want to miss!

St Philip Neri Church
Tuesday, December 22, 2015
7:00PM- 8:00PM



For more information, contact: maryc@dontstalljustcall.org

Want to stress LESS during the Christmas season?

Join the new Inter-Parish Young Adult Ministry for our inaugural prayer series—StressLESS in Advent



Are you a young adult between 18 and 40 looking for ways to give back to the community and deepen your spiritual life? The Sisters of St. Joseph are teaming up with young adults from local parishes to form a group focused on service and prayer. Please join us for our kickoff event series—StressLESS in Advent—which will take place on Thursdays during Advent.

December 3rd—Having an Attitude of Gratitude

It's too easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our busy lives and look past all that God has blessed each of us with. Learn how to cultivate an attitude of gratitude and practice mindfulness using techniques taught by a professional yoga instructor (leave your mats and gym clothes at home...this will be easy stuff).

December 10th—Being Present with The Rosary

Do you have a million things on your mind? Do you find it impossible to shut off your brain and relax? The Rosary is both a powerful prayer and wonderful way to clear your mind and be present in this moment, focusing solely on prayer. Join us to pray The Rosary in celebration of Mary's feast day on December 8th and learn how prayer can be an effective way of letting go of the stresses of the day.

December 17th—Priorities and The Nativity

We all wear a lot of hats in life. We are parents, children, husbands, wives, employees, friends, christians, and the list goes on. How many of those things can we possibly be AND be our best at? We'll examine how we prioritize our lives and how reordering (and sometimes changing) our priorities can alleviate much of what stresses us. We will explore how the nativity story shows how our priorities can change and how having less can lead to having so much more.

WHEN: 7:00PM, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th

WHERE: Medaille Center on Chestnut Hill College Campus

(campus map available at <http://bit.ly/1Sv1H1H> [PDF])

***And since “stressed” is “desserts” spelled backwards,
we’ll have cookies and light refreshments.***

Questions? Contact Hannah Morrison at hannahm062@gmail.com