

CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES

MISSION CHURCH OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER

430 South Main Street • Phillipsburg, New Jersey • 08865-3094

OFFICE 908•454•0112 + FAX 454•0125

RELIGIOUS ED 454•7620 + CEMETERY 454•0112 + SAINTS Philip & James School 859•1244

CONVENT 859•0300

Our WEB SITE: SPSJ.org

• MASS IS CELEBRATED -

DAILY - 6:45 & 8:00am & 12:10pm in

Holy Family Chapel (HFC)

SAT. EVE - 4:30pm in the Church

SUN. - 7:00, 9:00, 11:00am, 1:00pm (Spanish),
and 5:30pm in the Church.

• RECONCILIATION IS CELEBRATED -

SAT. - 9:00 to 9:30am & 3:15 to 4:15pm in the Church

• **ADORATION:** Mon. to Sat. 8:30am to 11:00pm

& Sun. 1:00pm to 11:00pm in Holy Family Chapel

• **FOR BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, NEW PARISHIONER**

REGISTRATION, & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

call the Church Office between 8am & 5pm weekdays

✠ PARISH STAFF ✠

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS, Pastor

In Residence

Fr. Vincent P. Chen

Parochial Vicar

Fr. James Kyrpczak

Weekend Vicar

Fr. Patrick Boyle, OFM

Hospital Chaplain

Fr. Robert Dhanaraj

Deacons:

Deacon John Flynn

Deacon Enock Berluche

Deacon George Frank

School Principal

Mrs. Judith Francisco

Parish Catechetical Leader

Mrs. Jo-Ann Scott

Music Director

Mr. Paul Kucinski

Cemetery Superintendent

Mr. Mark Sandt

• Thought for the Week •

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Italian artist Caravaggio painted a dramatic scene of St. Paul's conversion experience along the Damascus road. A dazzling light has just struck him down from his horse. He falls on his back, his hands stretched out as if pleading with an invisible force.

The violent event is like an echo of the emotions that were raging in the heart of the young Pharisee Saul. Seething with hatred for the Christian Church and determined to stamp it out at its beginning, his plan was to persecute its members who had gathered in Damascus. Then came the dramatic intervention, not from a nameless force, but from the person of Christ, who said to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

The words from the heavenly voice were later to have a profound effect on the way St. Paul saw the Christian Church. St. Paul was on his way to persecute a group of worshipping Christians. Christ did not say, "Why are you persecuting them?" He said, "Why are you persecuting me?" The reality was that Christ identified Himself with His followers. He was not a remote figure in a distant heaven, but a living presence in the midst of His believing people. They were the members of His own body. What was done to them was done to Him.

This truth of Christ living among His people is also conveyed in St. Mark's Gospel. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gives to His Church the missionary task of preaching and healing. Using images of snakes and poison as symbols of evil, the Gospel writer describes the Church as having the power to cope with the forces that would attempt to destroy it. It will never stand alone in its earthly mission. Christ will be working through it and in it as it journeys through time.

"Our time is growing short," St. Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth. He is not expressing a defeatist view of earthly history. He sees time as the golden opportunity for the Christian community to spread the good news of God's love for us in Christ until it reaches the whole world. He wants His converts to keep this spiritual view of life amidst all the cares of daily living. He warns them not to be too "engrossed" in the things of this world. This might seem too idealistic and far-fetched for people today who are understandably concerned with such things as raising families, meeting mortgage payments, work problems, the cost of living, as well as a thousand other distractions. However, St. Paul's advice is to have a faith-view of life: to see our difficulties against the background of God's blessings. Later he goes so far as to say, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ."

How can we in the twenty-first century, amidst anxieties over climate change, wars, failing economics and an uncertain future, possibly imitate St. Paul? Like him, we can take responsibility for choosing positive attitudes.

First, he had joy in believing. He saw Christianity not as just another religion, another system of belief among many, but as a wholly new state of things. The believing Christian is "a new creation", a member not just of an organization, but of a spiritual organism that St. Paul refers to as "the body of Christ". He rejoices in the truth that "Christ is in you, the hope of glory". For St. Paul, to be a Christian is to be "in Christ", living a life of union and fellowship with the very person of Christ who dwells within himself and others.

St. Paul also had the joy of belonging. We enter the Church, the family of God, by means of faith and baptism. We are no longer isolated individuals. There is a bond with others, not only of belief, but of worship and service. The Eucharist unites people in praise and faith. As we call to mind Jesus' loving sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection, and rejoice in His living presence, the Christian community offers continuous thanks to God. It also looks forward to the future with a firm confidence in God's goodness and power.

Gratitude for the past and hope for the future are two of the ingredients in St. Paul's faith-attitude to life. They are part of the outlook of the whole family of God. How far do we share in our lives that outlook of gratitude and hope?

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I thank all who made last Sunday's 150th Celebration of Religious Education in our Parish such a success, especially the Committee and the Knights of Columbus.

In your charity, pray for the sick and the lonely—visit them if you can. Also, please remember to pray for all who have wandered from the faith and all who have died, especially Sebastian "Charlie" Fatta, John "Jack" Kays, Ann Castellucci, and the babies who have been killed through abortion and their parents.

May God always be pleased with us!

Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS

Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle • January 25, 2009

● FOR YOUR INFORMATION ●

BINGO WORKERS

1/27 – C. Franceschino, J. Pike, G. Tirpok, M. O’Sullivan;
1/29 – E. Dean, S. Gerhardt, M. DeMonti, B. Morris, K./P. Juliano; **1/31** – E. Hickey, E. Rush, G. Harding, B. Christian, J./B. Roeder, K. Rush

STEWARDSHIP

“Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

2008 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

Continuing the Mission of Christ... Through your gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, you advance the mission and support the many programs and services of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, which include the Ozanam Family Shelter and health centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy. If you have not already done so, please consider making a gift today. Thank you.

2008 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If anyone is in need of a contribution statement for 2008, please call the Church Office.

150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT REMINDERS

St. Philip and St. James is continuing a year-long celebration of its 150th Anniversary with the following events: Beginning Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 25, we will pray a Special Novena of Prayers for the Parishioners, living and deceased. A special Lenten Mission will also be held; On May 3, 2009 we will celebrate the Feast of St. Philip and St. James at all Masses, and parishioners will celebrate Family Day at the Carnival; The Orchestra of Saint Peter By The Sea will celebrate our Anniversary with an evening Concert in the Church on Sun., June 21.

SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration, Saints Philip & James Elementary School will be hosting an Open House from 7:00-8:30pm on Wed., January 28, 2009. Serving families in Warren and Hunterdon counties, as well as nearby communities in Pennsylvania, the school offers a comprehensive Pre-K through 8th grade curriculum. An after-school program is also available. The School is located at 137 Roseberry Street in Phillipsburg. During the Open House, families and their children will have the opportunity to tour our facility and meet with members of our administration and staff. Registration and busing information will also be available. For more information or to request literature by mail, please contact our School at (908) 859-1244.

FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The second collection the weekend of January 24-25, 2009 is for the Foundation for Catholic Education, a Diocesan endowment fund which was established in 1991. Your generosity to the Foundation collection provides tuition

assistance grants to students in financial need in the Catholic elementary and high schools of the Diocese of Metuchen. Without financial assistance, these students might not receive the gift of a Catholic education. Catholic Education today needs the support of everyone if we are to continue to inspire the future with faith, hope, love and knowledge. Please be as generous as your means allow.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY COLLECTION

The monthly “Food for the Needy” Collection will be held on the weekend of January 31/February 1, 2009; February’s needs are: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, tuna fish, canned soups, canned meat, canned fruit, toothpaste, soap, laundry detergent, and deodorant. Life Choices is in need of diapers, formula, and children’s items. Thank you for your continued support.

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Next weekend, January 31/February 1, we will hold our yearly second collection for the Campaign for Human Development and the Church in Latin America. Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources to participate more fully in the life of the church. You have envelopes in your packet for this collection. Please be as generous as you are able.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Postcard Signing Day! Next weekend our Parish will join Catholics across the country in sending a message to Congress: Please oppose the “Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA) and retain laws against government funding and promotion of abortion. You will have the opportunity to send postcards to your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators. Please plan to participate in this important event.

EDGE PROGRAM

Edge meets this Mon., January 26 from 6:00-7:45pm in Mercy Hall. Edge is a catechism program designed specifically for sixth and seventh grade students in our Parish. We are in need of volunteers for the Spring semester. If you are willing to teach or photograph, please call Laura Sretenovic at (908) 859-1913.

COOKS NEEDED FOR SPSJ SOUP KITCHEN

St. Philip and St. James “Meals-On-Us” Soup Kitchen is in need of cooks to help feed the less fortunate. We serve meals on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month. If you would like to help, please contact Debbie Stefano at (908) 859-6580. Thank you!

PARISH FAMILY DIRECTORY HAS ARRIVED!

Thank you all for your patience as we awaited delivery of our 150th Anniversary Parish Family Directory. The directories have arrived! Everyone who had a portrait taken by LifeTouch or submitted a photo may pick it up in the Church Office Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm. There are still a number of complimentary

portraits to be picked up in the office as well. Thank you again. Our directory turned out beautifully because of you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE-THROW CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will be holding a "Free-Throw" Basketball Contest on Sun., January 25, 2009 at Saints Philip & James Elementary School on Roseberry Street. Registration begins at 12:30pm; contest starts at 1:00pm. Open to boys and girls ages 10-14 (age as of 1/1/09).

"COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?"

"Every hour you spend with Jesus will be recorded in heaven and retold throughout eternity"—Mother Teresa. Eucharistic Adorers are urgently needed for Wednesdays at 11am. Phone Camille at (908) 387-0001 for these times or any other time you are able to commit to on a weekly basis. Substitutes are also needed!

ANAWIM COMMUNITY MEETING

The next Anawim Community Meeting will be held on Sun., January 25, 2009 from 2-4pm at St. Rose of Lima Parish Center, 10 Jonestown Road, Oxford, NJ. Please join us as we begin a series of teachings from the book "Mary, Queen of the Poor" by Rev. Barnabas M. Ahern. Talk followed by small faith sharing groups, food and fellowship. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 453-3886.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE!

Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring—your relationship grown cold, distant—thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated/divorced but (both of you) wish to try again? Then the Retrouvaille Program may help you. Retrouvaille (Rediscovery), sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen, consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next program begins the weekend of February 13-15, 2009. All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please call the Family Life Office (days) at (732) 562-1990, ext. 1624 or Tom & Pat McTague at (732) 583-4468.

VOCATION BRIEF

A vocation must be nurtured for a lifetime, not just until ordination or the taking of vows. You can help nurture the vocations of priests, sisters and brothers by praying, listening, and expressing appreciation. A life of service needs support from those served.—*Serra for priestly and religious vocations*

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

There are hungry children in Phillipsburg—you can help feed them. Remember—"Food for the Needy" Collection—*First Sunday of each month.*

● MINISTRY ●

January 24/25, 2009
SATURDAY EVENING

4:30 p.m. (CH)

Acolyte: No Acolyte
Ministers: Joseph Merlo & Ann-Lynn DeGerolamo; C1 – Roger DiVittorio, C2 – Linda McGuire, C3 – Josephine DeMonti, C4 – Melody Talpas
Lector: Lisa DeGerolamo
Commentator: Jack Kocsis
Servers: Jessica Torrey & Rosalind Wilmott

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Anthony Marigliano
Ministers: Joseph Gourmiak & Mary Duaine
Lector: John Bruns
Commentator: Carol Koop
Servers: Justin Marigliano & Sean Frasca

9:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Kayla Krouse
Ministers: Anne Coyle & Edward Socci; C1 – Eileen Catalli, C2 – Samuel Fatta, C3 – James Bramick, C4 – Judy Francisco
Lector: Christy Krouse
Commentator: Cassie Apgar
Servers: Dominic Socci & John Socci

11:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Taylor-Bay Sutton
Ministers: Anna Marie Cervasi & Gloria Cervasi; C1 – Reenie Miller, C2 – Earl Miller, C3 – Theresa Richey, C4 – Pat James
Lector: Mike James
Commentator: Jennifer Anselmo
Servers: Christiana Anselmo & Tanner Sutton

5:30 p.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Kevin Hillhouse
Minister: Dolly Duffy
Lector & Commentator: Rosemary Carnali
Servers: Megan Hillhouse & Emily Hillhouse

NURSING HOME TEAMS

Lopatcong Care Center

1/25/09 – Beth Decker & Rosemary Carnali

2/1/09 – Camilla Jebran & Joseph Merlo

Brakeley Care Center

1/25/09 – Josephine DeMonti & Immaculata Durnin

2/1/09 – Donna & Paul Kucinski

Phillipsburg Care Center

1/25/09 – Eileen Kerrigan & Samuel Fatta

2/1/09 – George Babula & Robert Ellwood

● MASSES FOR THE WEEK ●

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

7:00 – For the People
 9:00 – Harry Angelozzi by Family
 11:00 – Thomas Ference by Sandra Ference
 1:00pm (SP) – For the People
 5:30pm – Santa & Jacinto Pizzari by M/M Philip Pizzari

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

6:45 – John Brown by Marcy Cumbo
 8:00 – Andrew Glackin by Maureen Kehoe
 12:10 – Christopher Piazza by Wife & Family
 7:00pm – For the People

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

6:45 – Robert Marzuoli by Tom Marzuoli
 8:00 – Marietta Corriere by M/M Roger DiVittorio
 12:10 (WH) – Angelina Febbo by Katherine Brunetti

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

6:45 – Gloria Pezzulich by Jo-Ann Scott
 8:00 – Dora Barbadora by Mary Lilly
 12:10 – Donald C. Nattress by Merrill Creek Conservation & Sportsman Assoc.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

6:45 – Jean Lukens by Enock & Ines Berluche
 8:00 – Mary Ganguzza by M/M Stephen Mason
 12:10 – Special Intention

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

6:45 – Bernard J. Rooney by Children
 8:00 – Helen Magyar by Helen Patti
 12:10 – Russell Johnson by Anna Kutashvili

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

7:00 – Elizabeth Flaherty by Sheridan Family
 8:00 – Jane Merlo by Pat & Tom O'Neil
 4:30pm – Frank & Bertha Varone by Joan Varone

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

7:00 – John Dapkiewicz by Judy Leone
 9:00 – Bernard Corona (A) by Family
 11:00 – Gust Rovi & Sarah Locaro by Family
 1:00pm (SP) – For the People
 5:30pm – For the People

● CALENDAR ●

25 - Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle (Special 2nd Collection--Foundation for Catholic Education)

9:00 - CH - Catholic Schools Week Mass
 1:00-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 1:00 - SSPJ - K. of C. Freethrow Basketball Contest
 2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony
 6:45 - MH - No Edge Night

26 - Monday - St. Timothy & St. Titus

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 6:00 - MH - Edge Night & Family PREP Program
 7:00 - HFC - Novena (Day 2)

27 - Tuesday - St. Angela Merici

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 9:30 - MH - Moms & Tots
 4:00 - SSPJ - PREP Grades 1-5
 7:00 - Conf. Room - Liturgy Committee Mtg.
 7:00 - PMR - Hispanic Ministry
 7:00 - MH - Bingo
 7:30 - MH - Boy Scout Troop Mtg.

28 - Wednesday - St. Thomas Aquinas

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 9:00-3:00 - MH - Catholic Charities Project Homeless Connect NJ
 5:30 - MH - Legion of Mary
 7:00 - HFC - Charismatic Holy Hour & Reflection on Scripture Readings for Sunday

29 - Thursday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 7:00 - CH - Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 - HFC - Blue Army
 7:00 - MH - Bingo

30 - Friday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 7:00 - HFC - Cenacles of Life

31 - Saturday - St. John Bosco

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 9:00 - CH - Confession
 9:30 - CH - First Penance
 3:15-4:15 - CH - Confession
 7:00 - MH - Bingo

1 - FEBRUARY - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Food for the Needy Collection (Special 2nd Collection--Campaign for Human Development & Church in Latin America)

9:00 - CH - Scout Sunday Mass & 1st Comm. Prep Mass #2
 11:00 - CH - Baptism Mass
 1:00-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony
 6:45 - MH - No Edge Night

Stewardship of Treasure

St. Philip and St. James

January 18, 2009: \$10,514.00
 Adopt-A-Missionary \$544.00
 Christmas 2008: \$62,701.00

St. Christopher

January 18, 2009: \$180.00
 Christmas 2008: \$355.00

MASS CELEBRANTS ON FEBRUARY 7/8, 2009:

4:30pm – Msgr. Corona
 7:00am – Fr. Kyrpczak
 9:00am – Msgr. Corona
 11:00am – Fr. Chen
 1:00pm – Msgr. Corona
 5:30pm – Fr. Boyle