

# ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

430 SOUTH MAIN STREET · PHILLIPSBURG, NJ 08865



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · JANUARY 30, 2022

Fr. John J. Barbella-----Pastor / ext. 407  
Fr. Gilbert Z. Starcher *Parochial Vicar* / ext. 403  
Deacon John Flynn  
Deacon Enock Berluche  
Deacon Larry Bevilacqua  
Deacon Rob Fisher  
Nancy Ensley-----Parish Secretary  
Maria DeSapio-----Bookkeeper  
Mr. Paul Kucinski-----Sacred Music  
Mr. Michael Clark-----Parish Cemetery  
Superintendent

Phone: 908-454-0112

Fax: 908-454-0125

Website: [spsj.org](http://spsj.org)

#### Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am -  
4:00 pm (closed for lunch  
from 12:00 - 1:15 pm)

Also, Monday - 5:00 - 8:00 pm

#### Saints Philip & James School

908-859-1244

Mrs. Donna Kucinski, Principal

#### Religious Education (CCD)

908-859-1244, option 9

Mrs. Jo-Ann Scott, Director

## HOLY MASS

Every Catholic who is able has a serious obligation to worship God at Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening.

### Saturday Evening

4:30 pm (fulfills Sunday obligation)

### Sunday

7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am; 1:00 pm (Spanish)  
& 5:30 pm

### Daily Mass

Monday - Friday: 6:45, 8:00 am &  
12:10 pm in the Church

Serra Club Mass: 1st & 3rd Tuesday at  
6:00 pm

Tuesday: 7:00 pm (Spanish) in the Church  
(2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month)

Saturday: 8:00 am in the Church

## BAPTISM

Infants should be Baptized as soon as possible. Please call the Church Office to make arrangements.

## CONFESSION

Pope Saint John Paul II, of blessed memory, said: "Anyone who goes frequently to Communion, must also go frequently to Confession." Saturdays, **9:00 - 9:30 am** and from **3:15 - 4:15 pm** or by appointment with one of the priests.

## FOR MARRIAGE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION

Please call the Church Office.

## DEVOTIONS

**Adoration:** Monday - Saturday, 8:30 am-11:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00 pm-11:00 pm (Chapel)

**Novena (Miraculous Medal):** Monday at 7:00 pm (Chapel)

**Divine Mercy Prayer Group:** Wednesday at 7:00 pm (Parish Meeting Room)

**Legion of Mary:** Tuesday at 9:00 am & 5:30 pm (Mercy Hall)

**Alimenta de Vida RCC:** Tuesdays at 7:00 pm (Church)

**Blue Army Prayer Group:** Thursday at 7:00 pm (Chapel)

**Cenacles of Life:** Tuesday at 7:00 pm and Saturday at 11:00 am in the Chapel

## RCIA

Anyone interested in becoming Catholic should contact the Parish Office about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults—a process which helps adults and older teens learn and ultimately enter the Catholic Church. Fr. John directs this process in our Parish and will be happy to help you in this regard.

## IMMIGRATION SERVICES, CATHOLIC CHARITIES - DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

Office has relocated to 700 Sayre Avenue, Phillipsburg, NJ. Hours are Mondays only from 1:30 - 7:00 pm. Services are provided in English and Spanish. For information, please call 908-777-3730.

## January 29 – 30, 2022 Catholic Schools Week

I recently read a column in one of the New York newspapers about the state of history in some of our nation's schools. The columnist had interviewed a number of parents who complained that their grade school children knew very little about history in general and US History in particular. One of them even said that his daughter knew about George Washington "only because she's heard the soundtrack of the musical Hamilton."

As I read, I was happy to know that the situation is very different in our parish elementary school. Every year, the eighth graders in our school participate in the National History Day competition. The students are asked to research and do a project on a specific topic. For the past several years some of our students went all the way to the state and National finals. This year's topic is 'Debate and Diplomacy in History' – a good topic for our times!

Today we begin Catholic Schools Week, a time to celebrate the contributions our Catholic Schools have made to our children, Church, and society. Our own parish school has been a vital part of our parish since 1875. In addition to fine academic programs like National History Day, the students learn in a faith filled environment.

Daily Religion classes are just the beginning of this. Our students learn their faith by living it each school day. They learn to pray quietly by attending Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each month. They go to Confession monthly, too. Each day begins with prayer, and prayers are said before and after lunch, reminding our students to be grateful to God for all they receive. They learn to practice Christian Charity through activities that allow them to serve others, especially the poor.

I have a list of my favorite things about our school. One is saying School Masses. Seeing all those young people pray and celebrate Mass is very uplifting to me. Another is teaching religion once a week to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Still another is getting to know so many of the young members of our parish so well by eating with them in the lunchroom, greeting them when they arrive in the morning, and just having them walk up and begin talking with me when I'm at the school.

This Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the Feast of St. Blasé, the day when it is customary for Catholics to have their throats blessed. This blessing is a prayer asking God to protect us from illness and evil. Throats will be blessed at the 6:45 & 8am and the 12:10pm Masses that day, and at a brief Prayer Service in the Church at 7 PM. If none of those times work for you, give me a call and we'll find a time to bless your throat.

Please say a Hail Mary for me today, and every day this week. Please also pray for our second grade school and CCD students, who will make their First Penance on Saturday. May this important step on their way to First Holy Communion help them build a wonderful friendship with Jesus.

Have a great week!

Fr. John



**St. Philip & St. James School**  
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Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
(908) 859-1244 –  
<http://sspjnj.org/>

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### **SAINTS UPDATE:**

Enrolling now! Saints Philip & James School is rich in tradition and academic excellence. We educate students in Pre-K through grade 8. We offer small, safe class sizes, where your student will receive individual attention. Our classes are taught by dedicated, compassionate, certified teachers. In addition, we are pleased to offer the St. Bernadette Program for students who need additional help in reading and or math. To learn more about the Saints difference, please email Mrs. Kucinski at [Kucinski.donna@spsj.org](mailto:Kucinski.donna@spsj.org).

### **MONSIGNOR SHEEHAN SCHOLARSHIP:**

Give the gift of a Catholic education! Contributions to the fund are awarded each July to families that otherwise could not afford a Catholic school education. To contribute, simply put your donation in an envelope marked for the scholarship and place it in the collection basket. Do online donation? Consider adding a scholarship fund to your monthly donations.

### **THE SAINTS DIFFERENCE**

Interested in learning more about the Saints' difference? Join us for a tour at one of our upcoming information sessions. We ask that you register in advance for this event at: <https://forms.gle/DbWYNTvw5ZoctFOBA>. The next information session will take place on January 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm.

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2022. Application are available in English and Spanish.

### **LEGION OF MARY LIBRARY**

January is the month of Holy Name of Jesus. Legion of Mary Library has a wonderful selection of books & videos for the entire family to choose from. Although the library is currently not opened, please see information on Formed.org where similar resources can be found.

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Last weekend we welcomed into the Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism, Jacinta Tosado daughter of Mr. Jovanni Tosado and Ms. Gabryal Bennett.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous...” 1 Corinthians 13:4*

*Do you get jealous? Do you focus more on the things that other people have than on the gifts that God has given to you? Are you pompous? Do you acquire more possessions to impress others? At times we are all guilty of these things. Pray for more humility. Humility helps us become less “self-centered” and become more “God-centered” for the sake of others.*

## FORMED...A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH!

FORMED is a collection of Catholic Bible studies, talks, movies, and other programs for people who want to learn more about their Catholic Faith. Anyone in our parish can access it by following three simple steps: (1) Google [formed.org](http://formed.org). (2) Scroll down to where it asks if your parish already subscribes and indicate yes. It will ask you to enter your parish code, which is GMKZ4Q (all capitals). (3) You will then be asked to set up your own account by establishing your own password.

## CONFIRMATION DATE

The Confirmation Date for this year's CCD Students is February 10, 2022 at 5pm. Practice for this event will take place on Wednesday February 9, 2022 at 6pm in the Church. Please make sure all paperwork is turned in ASAP. If there are any questions please contact Mrs. Escarlen Duran at 908-454-0112 ext. 406.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel is now open from 8:30am – 11pm, Monday through Friday. The list of closings for the Holidays is posted at the entrance of the chapel. We are in need of adorers to complete a team of 2 for each hour. Please call Deacon Enock at 908-310-8990 or Camille 908-319-2719 to schedule an hour of your choice and/or be added to our Substitute list.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is in immediate need for volunteers at the Food Pantry and Thrift Store in Phillipsburg. Days and times are negotiable. If you are interested, please call Sister M. Michaelita at 908-859-5447. Thank you.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2022-2023 TUITION ASSISTANCE

### ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmtg.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **MARCH 31, 2022**. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

## FAITH AND SERVICE DINNER

The third time is the Charm – Saturday April 30, 2022. We are pleased to announce the Faith and Service Dinner to honor Mrs. Mary Lilly and Mr. Paul Juliano will take place on April 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm. The cost for the dinner is \$60.00 and includes Cocktail Reception starting at 6:00pm and a hot dinner buffet including two entrees at 7:00pm. To reserve your seat please contact [markus.margie06@gmail.com](mailto:markus.margie06@gmail.com) at by calling 908-859-1244.

## LIFE CHOICES IS HIRING

We are looking for the right person to help provide infant care. Full time hours Mon. through Friday, 8am to 4:00pm. Also needed part time evenings 5 to 9pm working with new moms and infants. Pay based on experience. If interested email [joan@lifechoicesonline.org](mailto:joan@lifechoicesonline.org).

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Our First Saturday Devotion will be on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, after the 8am mass, which includes the Rosary, reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Confessions at 9am. Our Blessed Mother promises that those who do the First Saturday Devotions for 5 consecutive months will be granted the grace of eternal salvation.

## SYNOD 2023 - LISTENING SESSIONS POSTPONED, ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE NOW AVAILABLE

Due to ongoing concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic, the Synod 2023 Listening Sessions originally scheduled to take place on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, have been postponed. More information and the new date(s) for the Listening Sessions will be announced in the coming weeks. In the meantime, all are invited to visit the Diocese of Metuchen's website, [diometuchen.org/synod2023](http://diometuchen.org/synod2023), to share their feedback by completing the online questionnaire.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

January 23, 2022: \$12,227.75

Food for the Needy: \$85.00

SPSJ School: \$615.00

Together in Charity: \$105.00

Foundation for Cath. Ed.: \$983.75

Ash Wednesday: \$13.00

December Online Contributions: \$17,509.50

### Parish Capital Campaign

Total Pledged as of 1/7/2022: \$1,529,268.66

Total Collected as of 1/7/2022: \$1,427,033.94

Have you considered online giving? If interested in signing up for online giving, please go to: <https://spsj.churchgiving.com>

January 20, 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we begin a new calendar year, we always make time to recognize our Catholic schools. Unfortunately, again this year we are challenged to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (January 30 – February 5, 2022) in the midst of rising COVID numbers and the disruption that has resulted. But, as always, our schools will rise to the challenge. I was very proud that our schools were able to offer in-person education last year to those families that wanted to have their children in school. In addition, for those families that preferred to have their students remain at home, a very successful virtual learning opportunity existed in every school. It was a great blessing to be able to serve our families, and I am so grateful to the pastors, principals and teachers that made it happen. The students were most cooperative too. Without a doubt, being able to keep our schools open during that challenging time was certainly a blessing.

While we all had hoped that this school year would be a bit easier, that has not proven to be the case. Once again, our schools have adapted to the needs of the school community. They are providing virtual learning to those that must quarantine, being attentive to health and safety requirements, and enjoying as many school activities as possible. There are school Masses celebrated, plays being performed, school clubs have resumed and outreach to others remains a hallmark of a Catholic school.

In my recent Pastoral Letter on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Metuchen, I asked that we embrace three priorities that will enable us to answer the Lord's call even more effectively: increased prayer, works of mercy and vocations. During this anniversary year, I am looking forward to learning how these priorities will be met in the schools. There are many liturgical celebrations during the year in every school, Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, special devotions, and daily prayer.

This year, there will be an increased focus on prayer, the quiet time that our students need to be with God. The campus ministry programs at our high schools have many good activities taking place. Recently, given the number of young priests we have ordained, we are blessed to again have some young priests assigned full time to our high schools as Directors of Catholic Identity and as teachers, who I hope and pray are able to foster the prayer lives of our students and faculties. Our schools are such an important part of our evangelization efforts, as they assist our students in not only learning about Jesus and the Church but in deepening their friendship with Him. I hear from our school parents how grateful they are as our schools not only offer a great education for their children but also enable our families to live Gospel values proudly at a time when that is becoming more and more challenging.

I am always so impressed, too, by the outreach and acts of mercy that our school communities do within their school and parish, but also for others. From Appalachia to Haiti and beyond, students and their families are encouraged to reach out and act in the name of Jesus. This year, I am asking that our students, just like everyone else in the diocese, perform 40 acts of mercy in honor of our anniversary year. So often when students participate in outreach of any kind, the entire family becomes involved, and that is such a blessing.

The third priority we are embracing during this anniversary year is the need for vocations. We must constantly pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It is difficult in today's noisy and fast paced world to create a culture that allows young men and women to be able to even hear God's call. Our Catholic schools must be such places. I was delighted to hear that each of our schools has "adopted" one of our seminarians. In some schools, the seminarian has visited, either virtually or in person, to discuss his spiritual journey and vocation with the students. It is good to know that there are so many prayers coming from our students in support of our seminarians and praying for more young men and women to answer God's call to serve as priests and religious.

As a product of Catholic schools, I know what a blessing they are, and am so grateful to my parents for having always sent me to Catholic schools. I was not as aware then of all the significant sacrifices people make for our Catholic schools but have certainly learned that, so I want to thank all those who make our schools possible. We here in the Diocese of Metuchen are blessed by the leadership of Ellen Ayoub who serves as our Secretary for Schools. Her love of our Lord and His Church is evident, and she knows well the value of what our schools do. We are grateful for her dedication to our school families. I am grateful, too, for all our religious sisters and brothers who have taught with our dedicated lay teachers, our principals, administrators and staff and I truly appreciate all the dedicated supporters of our schools.

I am very thankful that quite a few of our pastors have told me that in these past two years more people are choosing to send their children to our Catholic schools. I know from my own experience and from what I see, they will not regret it.

While I have the great privilege of learning about our school communities through by visits to them, even now as we are being more careful, I invite you to visit the Office of Catholic Schools' website to learn more about our wonderful schools. Check our social media, too, to see what is happening in the schools.

So, as we journey into a new year, please join me in praying for our youth as well as our schools and all who make them possible. Know of my love and prayers for you always and may all of you have a Blessed 2022.

With renewed best wishes, I remain  
Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA  
Bishop of Metuchen

### ***Mass Schedule***

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>Fr. John</b>
<b>7:00am</b>	<b>Fr. John</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Fr. Pat</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Fr. Pat</b>
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Fr. Gilbert</b>
<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Fr. Gilbert</b>

**+ MASSES FOR THE WEEK +**

**SUNDAY Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time**

7:00 – Gregorio Fodero by Deacon Rob  
 9:00 – Robert C. Emery, MD by Mary Emery & Family  
 11:00 – David Luecke by Cynthia Pope & Amelia Cuneo  
 1:00 (SP) – For the People of the Parish  
 5:30pm – Rosemarie Shakal by Family

**MONDAY, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> St. John Bosco**

6:45 – Donna Rossini by Ron Rossini  
 8:00 – **Mass Association Mass**  
 12:10pm – Amy Plevak by Martha Richline

**TUESDAY, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

6:45 – Theresa Seiker by Fr. John Barbella  
 8:00 – Dot McCoy by George Babula  
 12:10pm – Peter Pursell by SSPJ School

**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> The Presentation of the Lord**

6:45 – Betty Ann Russomano by Michael & Nick Russomano  
 8:00 – Irene Zerfass  
 12:10pm – Catherine Savin by Kucinski Family

**THURSDAY, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Blaise**

6:45 – John Commandini by Fr. John Barbella  
 8:00 – Frank Rosnagle by Granddaughters & Family  
 12:10pm – Joseph Riotto by Catholic Daughters Court Warren #389  
 7:00pm – Prayer Service

**FRIDAY, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> First Friday of the Month**

6:45am – Virginia Tarsi by Fr. John Barbella  
 8:00 – Augusto & Stella Pasquini children, nephew & grandchildren by Jean Pasquini  
 12:10pm – Robert Peterson by Betty Bevins

**SATURDAY, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Agatha**

8:00am – Roger Buchko & Family by Gomes Aversa Family  
 4:30pm – Helen F. Flynn by Nieces & Nephews

**SUNDAY, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:00 – Malley Fisher by Deacon Rob  
 9:00 – Yola Marinelli (A) by Children  
 11:00 – Margaret Petchonka by Bruno & Frances Romagnoli  
 1:00 (SP) – For the People of the Parish  
 5:30pm – Patricia Haviland by Family

**+ MASS ASSOCIATION INTENTIONS +**

**Monday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> St. John Bosco**

**Paul Leone, Jr. by Judy Leone**  
**Joyce Olivi by Eileen Catalli & Family**  
**Protection of Babies in the Womb & their families by The Flaherty Family**  
**Joseph Redondo by SPSJ Choir**  
**Richard Kassick, Sr. by Socci Family**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Feb. 5<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Nicholas Socci</b>
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Lisa DeGerolamo</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Ed Socci</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Margie Markus</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Erin Giacalone</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Emma Giacalone</b>
<b>Feb. 6<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>7:00am</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Dominic Russo</b>
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Lucas Anmolsingh</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Brett Bruckman</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Anthony Stefano</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Chiazam Odimma</b>
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Henrietta Schupper</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Thomas Casey</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Maria Gural</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Andrew Sretenovic</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Adam Sretenovic</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Peter Diaz</b>
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Carol Bevilacqua</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Eileen Catalli</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Robert Hopkins</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Anthony Diaz</b>
	<b>Server</b>	<b>Nicholas Diaz</b>
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Maria Cristina Rossenoff</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Martha Lam</b>
	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Geovanni Lam</b>
<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Judy Leone</b>

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**All care Centers – No services will be held**

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Phillipsburg  
**908-760-6522**

Low Prices  
Weekly Sales  
New Items  
Arriving Daily  
Men's, Women's, & Children's Clothing  
Household Items & More  
Monday-Friday  
10am-4pm

The One & Only Polish Store in the Area!  
**Krakus**  
Polish Restaurant & Deli LLC

Kielbasa, Ham, Cakes, Breads, Pierogies and other Polish foods!  
**908-387-0774**  
600 Elder Avenue  
Phillipsburg, NJ

Ask Us About Our Catering!  
Check out our specials on Facebook!  
Hours: Sun 12pm-4pm; Mon-Sat 10am-6pm