

CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES

430 South Main Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Phone: (908) 454-0112 Fax: (908) 454-0125 Website: spsj.org
For Emergencies, please call (908) 455-4346.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday - 8am-4pm (closed for lunch from 12-1:15pm);
Also, Monday - 5pm-8pm

Priests: Fr. John J. Barbella, Pastor, ext. 407
Fr. Tom Ganley, ext. 402
Fr. Leo Salvania, ext. 403

Deacons: Deacon John Flynn, Deacon Enock Berluce, Deacon Larry Bevilacqua,
Deacon Rob Fisher

Parish Secretary: Cathy Steigerwalt

Bookkeeper: Maria DeSapio

Saints Philip and James School
(908) 859-1244
Mrs. Donna Kucinski, Principal

Religious Education (CCD)
(908) 859-1244, option 9
Mrs. Jo-Ann Scott, Director

Sacred Music
Mr. Paul Kucinski

Parish Cemetery
Mr. Mark Sandt, Superintendent

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: 9am-9:30am and from 3:15pm-4:15pm or by appointment with one of the priests.**

FOR MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION: *Please call the Church Office.*

DEVOTIONS: Adoration: Monday-Saturday: 8:30am-11:00pm; Sunday: 1:00-11:00pm (Chapel)
Novena (Miraculous Medal): Monday at 7pm (Chapel)
Charismatic Prayer: Wednesday at 7:00pm (Parish Meeting Room)
Legion of Mary: Tuesday at 9:00am & Thursday at 5:30pm (Mercy Hall)

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: Mondays Only from 1:30pm-7pm. Services are provided in English and Spanish. For information, please call (908) 454-2074.

HOLY MASS

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

Saturday Evening: 4:30pm (fulfills Sunday obligation)
Sunday: 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (*Spanish*), and 5:30pm
Daily Mass: Monday through Friday: 6:45am & 8am & 12:10pm in the Church; Tuesday: 7pm (*Spanish*) in the Church - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month; Saturday: 7am & 8am in the Church



4th Sunday of Advent + December 23, 2018

● FOR YOUR INFORMATION ●

FROM FR. JOHN'S DESK...

I want to begin by thanking all those who took tags and brought gifts for the Giving Tree. Your generosity provided gifts for some 200 children – and many elderly parishioners, too. It is a testimony to your charity and faith!

Thanks also to the Boy Scouts, who kept moving the gifts to Mercy Hall for safekeeping all weekend. Their efforts ensured that the many gifts did not start blocking the aisles and become a hazard! It is also an example of how many groups and people work together to make good things happen here at St. Philip and St. James!

Last Friday I had a great time at our Parish School's Nativity Pageant. The students told the story of Christ's birth – with lots of beautiful singing. They also acted out scenes like the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, and Epiphany – to name a few. It was a wonderful, joy-filled telling of the holy story of Christmas! Thanks to all who were involved!

Over the years my celebration of Christmas has changed in some ways – and stayed the same in others. As a child, I used to wake my younger sisters early in morning, before dawn. We would race to see what Santa had brought, and were never disappointed. My poor parents, who probably hadn't been in bed very long, would come down to join us as we opened presents and played with new toys.

We would go to Mass that morning (remember, the only Christmas Eve Mass back then was Midnight Mass). After that we'd have an early dinner – Italian food that my mother had been working on for days! Then we'd pile in the car and head to New York to visit my maternal grandparents. Somehow, Santa would stop there, too, and leave some presents. We would see all our aunts and uncles and cousins, and often stop at the homes of some great aunts and uncles, too. It was a long day – filled with family, friends, and, of course, faith.

Today my Christmas is filled with celebrations of Holy Mass. I am awed to have the privilege to offer Holy Mass on Christmas Eve and Day, and wouldn't trade it for the world. My excitement these days comes from seeing all of you at Holy Mass, and from praying and celebrating with you. The Solemn Mass at Midnight – that I was too young to attend as a child – has become the very center of my Christmas celebration! I hope that many of you will join me at the Solemn Midnight Mass.

After all the Masses are over on Christmas Day, I visit family. Instead of visiting grandparents, I usually wind up at the home of my sister, Christine, on Christmas. My mom is always there, enjoying her family the way her parents enjoyed their family years ago. After a wonderful meal, I head back to Phillipsburg, filled with the joy of another Christmas.

I hope your Christmas is filled with family, friends, and the joy that Christ's birth once brought to Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds! Let's pray for each other on Christmas and always!

Merry Christmas!

Fr. John

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

The Mass schedule for Christmas is as follows: **Christmas Eve** – 4:00pm (preceded by the Children's Christmas Pageant), 7:00pm, and Midnight; **Christmas Day** – 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, and 1:00pm (Spanish). There will be no 5:30pm Mass. The Mass schedule for New Year's is as follows: **New Year's Eve** – 4:30pm; **New Year's Day** – 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am. Please share this information with your family and friends.

MASS CELEBRANTS

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2018

4:00pm – Fr. Tom

7:00pm – Fr. Leo

Midnight – Fr. John

Christmas Day – December 25, 2018

7:00am – Fr. Tom

9:00am – Fr. Leo

11:00am – Fr. John

1:00pm (Spanish) – Fr. Leo

BINGO

12/27 – No Bingo; **12/29** – No Bingo

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

Let's celebrate Christmas together on Tues., December 25th at 3pm in Mercy Hall. Call (908) 454-9880 and leave your name and phone number.

SPECIAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION HOURS

Eucharistic Adoration will close at 4pm on Christmas Eve and be closed all day on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. (This is revised from last week.)

NEW YEAR'S EVE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration will be extended to Midnight on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2018, with a special Holy Hour in the Church starting at 11:00pm in the Church. You are invited to come to spend the last hour of the year with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to thank Him for His blessing for the past year and receive His blessing at the very beginning of the New Year 2019. Confession will be available. No Mass at Midnight on the 31st.



Saints Philip and James School

137 Roseberry Street
Phillipsburg, NJ08865
(908) 859-1244 – <http://sspjni.org/>
Follow us at: [facebook.com/sspjschool](https://www.facebook.com/sspjschool)

Saint Update:

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we would like to thank our families, teachers, staff and community for making Saints Philip and James School the wonderful place that it is. This is a special time of year for our students and families; it centers on giving back through service and celebrating the many blessings of our school. It is such a blessing to be able to share with our students the true meaning of Christmas and Advent.

December has been such a wonderful month at our school. The students performed a beautiful Christmas Show. We are so proud of all of their hard work. We also had wonderful Advent celebrations in our classes prior to the Christmas break. School will resume on January 3, 2019. We wish all of our students and families a wonderful Christmas and a healthy New Year. We look forward to all that 2019 will bring.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Last weekend we welcomed into our Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism: LILY JANICE VAN NOTE, daughter of M/M Evan Van Note

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE, MARRIAGE & RELIOUS LIBERTY

A Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty will be held on Sat., December 29th at 8:30am in the Chapel. Please join us to pray for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, the preservation of marriage, and for our nation that it will remain “one nation under God” with Godly principles and morals.

SPSJ YOUTH GROUP

Our youth are an important part of our Church Family. Students from grades 8-12 are welcome to join us. This will give us the opportunity to grow in understanding of and love for God. We also encourage our teens to build significant relationships with other students and to share our faith with others. Here is the good news...we will be starting Youth Group every other Saturday starting in December, from 6-7:30pm. The next meeting will be December 29th. Any questions, please contact Kathleen Munoz at spsj2017@hotmail.com.

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

On Sun., December 30, 2018 at 11:00am, there will be a special Mass for all babies celebrating their first Christmas. Anyone who is interested in attending, please contact Melody Talpas (mtalpas@rcn.com or 610-253-8646) or call the Church Office (908-454-0112).

"COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?"

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." (Saint Padre Pio) **Eucharistic Adoration hours currently in need: Mondays at 8pm, Wednesdays at 5pm, Fridays at Noon, 5pm, 6pm & 10pm, Saturdays at 3pm, and Sundays at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm...or an hour of your choice and/or on our Substitute List.** Phone Camille at (908) 387-0001.

THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD DVD SERIES

Come and join us in learning more about St. John Paul II as we watch the DVD series by Fr. Michael Gaitley of the Divine Mercy Shrine in "The Second Greatest Story Ever Told". We will be meeting for 10 weeks in the Church Conference Room beginning on Sun., January 6th at Noon.

DISCOVER WHY IT'S GREAT TO BE A SAINT!

Saints Philip & James School currently serves students in Pre-K 2, 3, and 4 year old classes through grade 8. We pride ourselves on providing students with a solid education rooted in both academics and faith. We strive to cater to each student's individual needs, and provide small class sizes so that each student receives personalized attention. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Saint, please contact (908) 859-1244 to schedule a tour.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Substitute teaching position available. All clearances and certifications required. Also, full/part time teacher for Pre-K 2 and 3 year old class. Please contact Mrs. Kucinski at (908) 859-1244 to apply.

SSPJ OPEN HOUSE / INFORMATION SESSIONS

Saints Philip & James School will be hosting Open House and Information Sessions on the following dates: January 17th from 1-3pm; February 9th from 10am-1pm; March 10th from 1-3pm; April 7th from 1-3pm. These sessions are great ways to learn more about our school and all it has to offer. You can also view our facility, meet some of our awesome teachers, learn more about financial aid, and more. We look forward to meeting you!

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

G.I.F.T. Ministry is pleased to announce that a monthly Fellowship Sunday will take place after the 9am Mass the first Sunday of the month, January through June! Everyone is invited to stop by, enjoy a donut, a cup of coffee, and spend some time socializing with your fellow parishioners. We are looking forward to seeing you on January 6th!

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP

Join us for the March for Life in Washington, DC, on Fri., January 18th. Come and walk with us to the Capitol to stand up for Life! It is an amazing experience to walk with over a half million people. Bus will leave Saints Philip & James School on Roseberry Street at 6:30am. We will stop for dinner, and arrive back around 10:30pm. To reserve a seat, call (908) 454-9880 and leave your name and phone number.

BLESSING IN THE BAG WINTER COAT COLLECTION

The Blessing in the Bag Ministries will be endeavoring to collect winter coats for the school children of Phillipsburg. We will be doing this in January. More details will be forthcoming in the bulletin.

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. (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. After that, you should be in!

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held January 25-27, 2019. Early registration is advisable as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for registration and information.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Jesus said: "Feed the hungry." (It wasn't just a suggestion.) Remember – "Food for the Needy" Collection – First Sunday of each month.

● **MINISTRY** ●

December 29/30, 2018
SATURDAY EVENING

4:30pm

Acolyte: Vince Bedoya & Brianna Moyer
Ministers: Frances Ludwig & Ronald Rossini; C1 – Robert Ellwood, C2 – Eileen Dean, C3 – Keith Gallagher, C4 – Margie Markus
Lector: Louis Moyer
Servers: Brett Bruckman & Mathias Gahles & Joshua Romero

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00am

Acolyte: Lucas Anmolsingh
Ministers: Patricia Flynn & Joseph Gourniak
Lector: Geraldine Bowie
Servers: Isabella McKenna & Sofia Grimshaw

9:00am

Acolyte: Zackary Payran
Ministers: Melody Talpas & Eileen Kerrigan; C1 – Donna Kucinski, C2 – Charlene Hummell, C3 – Mario Madawela, C4 – Eileen Catalli
Lector: Yvonne Montague
Servers: Mark Talpas & Paxton Payran & Allan Palos

11:00am

Acolyte: Jason Divinagracia & Michael Juliano
Ministers: Judy Leone & Elizabeth Divinagracia; C1 – Paul Juliano, C2 – Samuel Fatta, C3 – Pat James, C4 – Karen Juliano
Lector: Carol Bevilacqua
Servers: Jack Juliano & Joseph Cruz

5:30pm

Acolyte: KJ Kassick
Minister: Yakubu Miles & Kevin Kassick
Lector: Denise Kassick
Servers: Lacey Allen & Zakery Allen & Isaiah Miles

NURSING HOME TEAMS

Lopatcong Care Center

12/23/18 – No Service (Christmas)
12/30/18 – No Service (New Year's)

Brakeley Care Center

12/23/18 – No Service (Christmas)
12/30/18 – No Service (New Year's)

Phillipsburg Care Center

12/23/18 – No Service (Christmas)
12/30/18 – No Service (New Year's)

● MASSES FOR THE WEEK ●

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 – Amy Plevyak by Szumiloski Family
9:00 – Oreste & Mary Simone by Rosemary Carnali
11:00 – John E. Pavkovic by Family
1:00 (SP) – For the People
5:30pm – Rose Gambello by Husband, Henry

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:45 – Brigitte Sullivan by Margaret Rocca
8:00 – Joseph Rafferty by Daughter
12:10 – No Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE:

4:00pm – Reenie Miller by SPSJ CCD Staff
7:00pm – Laura McDonald by Charbel & Miray Boudaher
Midnight – For the People of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

FEAST OF CHRISTMAS

7:00 – Bishop Edward T. Hughes (A)
9:00 – Samuel Indorato by Carol & Ron Moser
11:00 – Deceased Casey Family Members by Veronica George
1:00pm (SP) – For the People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

6:45 – Deceased Mountaineer Priests by Fr. John J. Barbella
8:00 – Eugene Woolley by Catalli Family
12:10 – Luis Espinal by Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:45 – Special Intention of Armando & Sue Espinal by Family
8:00 – Marianne Conkey by Joanne McTague
12:10 – Henry Gambello by Frank & Grace Stettner

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

6:45 – Arthur Pasquarelli by Debbie Pasquarelli
8:00 – Deceased Members of Bronico Family by Tom & Fran
12:10 – Peter Knapp by Patrick & Joseph Giannotta

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:00 – Carmella Piperata by Colleen Wolters
8:00 – Joseph Young by Denise, Zackary & Paxton Payran
4:30pm – George Chando by Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00 – Millie Piperata by Claire & Grace Russo
9:00 – Rosita Aversa by John & Joanne Donofrio
11:00 – William & Elizabeth Witterschein & Thomas Carroll by Family
1:00 (SP) – For the People
5:30pm – Mick Payran by Denise, Zackary & Paxton Payran

● CALENDAR ●

23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

1:00pm-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony

24 - Monday - Christmas Eve

8:30am-4:00pm - HFC - Adoration
7:00 - HFC - Novena (Day 8)

Evening Mass Schedule: 4:00pm (preceded by Children's Christmas Pageant), 7:00pm, Midnight

25 - Tuesday - Feast of Christmas

Christmas Mass Schedule: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm (SP)

No Adoration
3:00 - MH - Parish Christmas Dinner

26 - Wednesday - St. Stephen

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
10:15 - MH - Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00 - HFC - Flame of Love Devotions (Holy Rosary)
7:00 - PMR - No Divine Mercy Prayer Group Mtg.

27 - Thursday - St. John

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
5:30 - MH - Legion of Mary
7:00 - CH - Choir Rehearsal
7:00 - HFC - Blue Army
7:00 - MH - No Bingo

28 - Friday - Holy Innocents

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration

29 - Saturday - St. Thomas Becket

8:30 - HFC - Eucharistic Holy Hour
8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
9:00 - CH - Confession
11:00 - HFC - Cenacles of Life
3:15-4:15 - CH - Confession
6:00-7:30 - OUR - Youth Group Mtg.
7:00 - MH - No Bingo

30 - Feast of the Holy Family

11:00 - CH - Baby's First Christmas
1:00pm-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony

Stewardship of Treasure

December 16, 2018: \$11,138.75
Adopt-A-Missionary: \$835.00

Parish Capital Campaign

Total Pledged as of 12/17/18: \$1,488,502.00
Total Collected as of 12/17/18: \$538,308.60

Have you considered on-line giving?

If interested in signing up for on-line giving, please go to:

<https://spsj.churchgiving.com>

MASS CELEBRANTS FOR DECEMBER 29/30, 2018

4:30pm – Fr. John
7:00am – Fr. Tom
9:00am – Fr. Pat
11:00am – Fr. John
1:00pm (SP) – Fr. Leo
5:30pm – Fr. Leo