

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Family!

**Reflection:** Christmas for Christians is a day of gratitude. Gratitude leads us to prayer, where our hearts are filled with wonder and praise. Christmas leads us to the sense of wonder. God presents himself as tiny, fragile, vulnerable, and dependent. Compared to the strong, muscular, powerful, parenting and patronizing people we are in front of God.

We often see parents and friends finding similarities between the child and parents. This child Jesus not just resembles certain features, rather is the ultimate replica of God the Father. This child is not a super child in any way: it cries, disturbs the parents middle of the night, and also smiles beautifully, holds our finger tight, kicks with both the legs to show excitement. He is confused, anxious, and fearful, always in need of the warmth of the mother. Christmas makes us wonder in a new way. God so weak and vulnerable is asleep with his creation which is strong and powerful.

If there is no Christmas, we would not have experienced this sense of wonder at all: we would have missed touching his soft little cheeks, fingers and toes; missed to see him sleep peacefully, see him cry, see him reach out to his mom, his confused looks and his innocence. This brings in a great lesson of all time: to reach at the cave of one's heart, one must become childlike. A child has a great power to draw our attention completely. God not only became childlike, but God also became a child. This proves that God will go all the way, take any risk, sacrifice any level, and give up anything to reach the cave of our hearts.

How do we stand near the Nativity Scene? What goes on in our minds and hearts as we see this child in the manger? I too want others to know that I can be liked, loved and I want others to know that I can love affectionately too. Do I see others as lovable and wanting to be loved? Am I ready to present myself lovable; childlike? Christmas is indeed tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. I wish you all Merry Christmas!

**Thank you:** A sincere thanks to our School Community especially our children in putting up the **Christmas Show at School** last week. What better way to celebrate Christmas than our Children leading us to the Child Jesus and teaching us to pray like children! Also, a great thanks to our Fundraising Committee for hosting the **'Breakfast with Santa'**. Thank you for your participation and support! The parish depends on our **Christmas and Easter collections** as part of Budget. I thank you for your generous support in providing for our parish especially in these important collections!

**Eucharistic Revival Seminar:** As we journey with our '72 Disciples' ministry, I continue to encourage community learning as it is indispensable for our faith. The next seminar will be on January 10th, 6:30pm. The Vicar General Fr. Jay Tabrowski will be our next presenter. Please come with your family!

**Bible Study:** Every Wednesdays at 5pm in Mercy Hall. All are welcome! **Our last Bible Study was on the 20th, 5pm in Mercy Hall. We will be learning "On the Way of Discipleship (8:27 - 10:52).** After Christmas break we will resume on the 3rd of January. Please join us! We have two more important chapters to complete the Gospel according to Mark. This will immensely help you with your Sunday Mass experience as Year B reflects on Mark.

**New Employees:** We have hired a new Maintenance person for our School, **Janusz Cichowski**, and a part-time janitorial support **Collette Clothilda** for the school along with Rosanna Caprio our regular support staff at the School. We also hired a new Maintenance person **Steve Webber** for our Cemetery and Lawn Care. We hope and pray all our properties are well taken care off by our staff and wish them well!

Be assured of my love and prayers for you and family!

Fr. Antony

## Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00am – Joseph Rafferty by Daughter Mary Duaime  
 9:00 – Kathleen Farley & Anna Dorsey by Gomes Aversa Family  
 11:00 – Tracy Stallings by Mom & Family  
 1:00pm (SP) – Rosa Elvira Ortiz by Fr. Gilbert

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00pm – Mark Reda by Family  
 7:00pm – Deceased Members of the Casey Family by Casey Family  
 Midnight – Diane Wilton by Dawn Peppe

### MONDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup> – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7:00am – Bishop Edward T. Hughes (A)  
 9:00am – Enzo & Yola Marinelli by daughter Lisa Marinelli  
 11:00am – Mark Reda by Linens Ministry  
 1:00pm (SP) - \*Sp. Int. Jenni Chapoñan

### TUESDAY, December 26<sup>th</sup> - St. Stephen

6:45 – For the Deceased Deacons of the Parish  
 12:10pm – Mark Reda by Volk Family

### WEDNESDAY, December 27<sup>th</sup> – St. John

6:45 – Mariela Rios by Family  
 12:10pm – Mary Gureczynski by Rita Gureczynski

### THURSDAY, December 28<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Innocents

6:45 – \*Sp. Int. Nelly Espinal by Family  
 12:10pm – Shannon Starosciak by Terri & Dan Starosciak

### FRIDAY, December 29<sup>th</sup> – St. Thomas Becket

6:45 – Luis Espinal by Family  
 12:10pm – Marion Boyle by Michael & Maryann Boyle

### SATURDAY, December 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – Allan Jones by Ron Rossini  
 4:30pm – Edward & Veronica Casey by the Casey Family

### SUNDAY, December 31<sup>st</sup> – The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

7:00am – \*Sp. Int. for the Voelker Family by Hoffman Family  
 9:00 – Joseph Todaro by Family  
 11:00 – Glenn & Margaret Clark by Family  
 1:00pm (SP) – \*Sp. Int. Patrick & Joseph Giannotta by Brother Michael  
 5:30pm - \*Sp. Int. Jenni Chapoñan

## Liturgical Ministry Schedule



December 30<sup>th</sup>

4:30pm	Acolyte	Nicholas Socci
	Lector	Mary O'Sullivan
	Minister	Immaculata Durnin
	Minister	Edward Socci
	Server	Chimbuzo Odemma
	Server	Chiezimuzo Odemma

December 31<sup>st</sup>

7:00am	Acolyte	Brett Bruckman
	Lector	Lisa DeGerolamo
	Server	Oliver McKenna
	Server	Anthony Stefano
9:00am	Acolyte	Aiden Hayes
	Lector	Christina Anselmo
	Minister	Michael Duffy
	Minister	Julie Duffy
	Server	Gavin Hayes
	Server	Gabriel Sretenovic
11:00am	Acolyte	Cael Troxell
	Lector	Henrietta Schupper
	Minister	Carol Bevilacqua
	Minister	Eileen Catalli
	Server	Grace Troxell
	Server	Brook Troxell
1:00pm	Lector	María Rubí
	Minister	Oscar Dilone
	Server	Miguel Quizhpi-García
	Server	Jackie Quizhpi-García
5:30pm	Acolyte	
	Lector	Marianne Palos
	Server	
	Server	

## NURSING HOME ASSIGNMENTS

**Lopatcong Nursing Home:** 12/24 Eileen Catalli & 12/31 Ron Rossini.

**Barkeley Nursing Home:** Deacon Francisco.

**Phillipsburg Care Center:** 1/7 Judy Leone, 1/14 Lisa Spanopolous & 1/21 Beth Dispoto.

## Stewardship

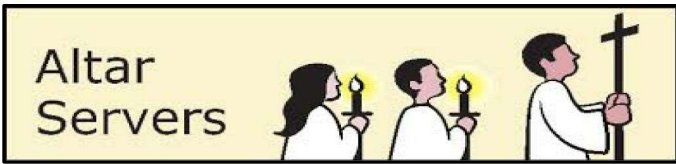
The Stewardship information will be included in the next bulletin.



Monday, December 25, 2023 &  
 Monday, January 1, 2024

The Church Office and Adoration will be closed.

## Around the Parish



We are looking girls and boys, who have received their First Holy Eucharist, who are willing to make a commitment to become a member of our wonderful Altar Server team! What a GREAT way to teach your children the concept of "Stewardship." Open to all children of the parish and school (who have received their First Holy Eucharist). Parents, please send an email to [eduran@spsj.org](mailto:eduran@spsj.org) to be added to the list.

### Pray for the Sick

*James Tersigni, Jamey Perrone, Thomas Ernest, Lorraine Wonder, Rosa Zevallos, Manuel Venegas, The Pulecio Family, Jasmin Tricoche, Charlotte Meglic, Shirley Emery, Ernest E. Finizio, Sr, Paul Montrim, August Vinti, Theresa Adams, Brett Marino, Irene Benatti, The Quesada-Rocha Family, Sharon Donovan, Janet Duran, Bob Hoesley, Jacob Hille, Steven Hille, Frances Fulse, Bill Coyle, Laura Rinaldi, & Richard Dalrymple.*

### Pray for our Military

*Christian Finizio, Jack Pike, Michael Vega, Gianni Luzzetti, Lt. Abigail Gage, James B. Collins, Spec. Theodore Bill, Billy Erz, Andrew N. Zellers, Seth Reyes, Bryan Malizzi, Paul C. Hesch, Corporal Ryan M. Bell, Luis Quizhpi, Jason Erz, & Kevin Jirole.*



Please help us keep both prayer lists up to date, contact the parish office when changes occur. Thank you and God Bless.

### SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

The dedicated volunteers of the St. Philip & St. James Soup Kitchen handed out 144 meals to 36 families in our community this past weekend. A big thank you to all the volunteers and donors!! The Soup Kitchen is in need of Peanut Butter and Jelly; as well as store brought cookies or puddings. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**SPSJ**  
**SOUP**  
**KITCHEN**

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th, at 3 PM, for our Christmas Dinner in Mercy Hall. Do not sit at home alone. Come celebrate Christmas with some of your parishioners. Call for reservations at 908-454-9880 & leave your name & phone number. Walk-ins are welcome, too.

### PRAYERS FOR LIFE, LIBERTY, & MARRIAGE

Join us on Saturday, December 30, 2023, after the 8AM mass for prayers for life, liberty, and marriage. Let us pray for our families for reconciliation & peace.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLY HOUR & MIDNIGHT MASS

On New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023, we will have a special Holy Hour starting at 11:00 PM. 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 2024. Confession will be available. Midnight Mass will be celebrated.

### NEW YEAR'S DINNER

Come celebrate the New Year, Monday, January 1, 2024, at 3PM, in Mercy Hall. We will have our traditional pork dinner for all those who are alone or without family on the holidays. Come & join us!! Call for reservations at 908-454-9880 & leave your name & phone number.

### BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

You are cordially invited by the Parish Family of St. Philip and St. James to attend the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 9:00am in celebration of your Baby's First Christmas. At this Mass, your child will receive a special blessing. If you are able to attend this Mass, please contact Melody Talpas at (610)-442-5555 or [melodytalpas@gmail.com](mailto:melodytalpas@gmail.com) by January 2, 2024.



## **EUCCHARIST REVIVAL TALK**

Fr. Gilbert Starcher was our guest speaker for the Eucharistic Revival lecture series on Wednesday December 13, 2023. He started off with the hymn *O Sacrum Convivium* or *O Sacred Banquet*, which is a title of a text of St. Thomas Aquinas rejoicing in the fact that we encounter Christ's saving love in the Eucharist: Holy Communion. Traditionally it is a prayer honoring the blessed sacrament. What are the effects of receiving the Eucharist? We can receive eternal life if we stay close to Jesus in this sacrament. Jesus enters our souls; he cleanses us of past sin and preserves us from future sin. Reference Gospel of St. John 6:48-59, I am the bread of life.....When we receive the body of Christ, he stays with us for about 15 minutes, we receive the graces of deepening our union with Christ, separating us from sin and strengthening our charity.

**Sacraments Summary:** Eternal sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

Holy Eucharist lasts 15 minutes, Matrimony lasts until the death of a spouse, Anointing of the sick lasts until death or the recovery from an illness, Reconciliation until another mortal sin is committed. So, we are most closely united to Jesus through the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Our blessed mother had a profound sacrificial love for God. The 7 sorrows of Mary are a window in sharing of her suffering. We should strive to live life like the Virgin Mary so we can progress to holiness.



*Fellowship with perishoners.*

### **2023 Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
4pm, 7pm, 12 midnight in English



**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
7am, 9am, and 11am in English  
1pm in Spanish

### **OVER 50's CLUB**

The Over 50's Club meets the first Wednesday of every month in Mercy Hall at St. Philip and St. James Church. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 3, 2024. The Executive Board meets at 12pm and the club business meeting begins at 1pm. We have coffee, dessert and bingo after the meeting. New members are welcome. Any questions, call President, Dolly Loiacono at 908-454-1067.

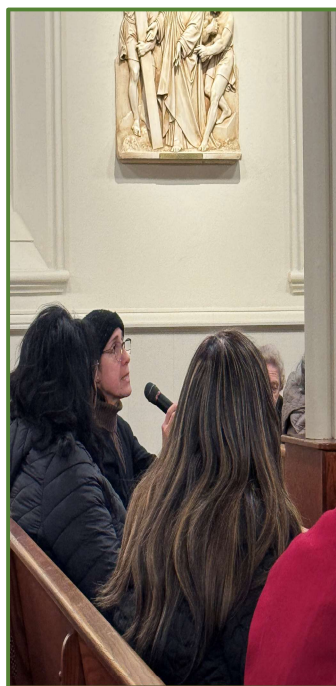
**New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31, 2023**  
7am, 9am, 11am, 5:30pm, & Midnight in English  
1pm in Spanish



**New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024**  
9am & 11m in English  
1pm in Spanish



*Guest speaker*  
**Fr. Gilbert Z. Starcher**



*Questions from the attendees.*

## **ST. MARK BIBLE STUDY**

### **RECAP OF 12-13-23**

This lesson focused on the **Triumph Over Death, Unbelief at Nazareth, the Mission of the Twelve** and the **Beheading of John the Baptist**.

The following reflections are from *The Gospel of Mark by Mary Healy*.

- The **Raising of Jairus's Daughter** is the climax of a series of miracles. Each one increasingly reveals Jesus' power to overcome death. He has rescued His disciples from near-certain death on the storm on the lake, delivered a man whose existence was living death as he was possessed by demons, restored to health a hemorrhaging woman whose life was draining away and raised a dead girl to life. In each case the way to experience Jesus' saving power is to **reject fear and yield to faith**, a deeply personal faith that comes into living contact with Jesus Christ. The Evangelist, Mark, is preparing his readers to grasp the magnitude of Jesus' ultimate conquest of death in His resurrection, the prelude to the resurrection of all believers to eternal life.
- The episode of **Unbelief at Nazareth** reveals the "extraordinary ordinariness" of the Son of God. Jesus lived a life so lowly, unassuming and unremarkable that the possibility that the omnipotent God was present in Him was simply incomprehensible to many who knew Him. He was rejected not only by neighbors and friends, but also by family. It is not the first time that the lowly ways of God have perplexed and disconcerted His people. Isaiah had prophesied a **Suffering Servant of God** who, before His great work of atonement, would grow up unrecognized in the midst of the people. God has always sought to identify with us and desired His work of redemption, the reconciliation of humanity with Himself, to come not from without but from within; our Redeemer is one with us.
- **During the Mission of the Twelve** Jesus summoned the Apostles and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey, but a walking stick. A stick or staff is a biblical symbol for authority. The lack of a sack meant that they could not even accept provisions from others for the journey. Because the apostles were occupying themselves with God's work, the exchange was that God would occupy Himself with their daily needs and they learned to **totally rely on God!** Their bare simplicity of life would help them stay free of distraction and focus wholly on their mission to preach the Kingdom of God. Their job was to carry out their mission obediently; success is in the hand of God as no one can be compelled to accept their message. Yet their message, like that of Jesus, carries authority; it is accompanied by works of power that serve as visible signs of confirming its truth.
- **The Beheading of John the Baptist** is the only sustained narrative in Mark's Gospel that is not directly about Jesus. Herod's actions show the snowball effect of unchecked sin, a common biblical theme. From adultery, Herod progressed to debauchery and ultimately, via his rash oaths, to murder. Like Pilate, later in the Gospel, Herod holds no malice toward his victim, yet cowardice and excessive concern for his own reputation lead him to bloodshed. Each player in this drama is complicit in the evil; Herod's scheming wife, Herodias, her lascivious daughter, Salome, the ruthlessly efficient executioner, and even Herod's dissipated guests, who raise no protest against the death of the innocent. Similarly, all the players in the Passion of Jesus, and by extension, all of sinful humanity are complicit in the death of the Son of God. Jesus, like John, will meet His end because He confronts people with the hard but beneficial truth about God's claim on our lives and the call to repentance, which is the doorway to salvation!
- **Jesus, I Trust in You!**

## **MEMORIALS AND FEASTS THIS WEEK**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Dec 24 Sunday)**

#### **December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

Why did the Word become flesh?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (456-460, 466),

**456** With the Nicene Creed, we answer by confessing: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

**457** The Word became flesh for us *in order to save us by reconciling us with God*, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world", and "he was revealed to take away sins".

**458** The Word became flesh so *that thus we might know God's love*: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."<sup>72</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

#### **December 26 - Memorial of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr**

"On the day after Christmas the liturgy has us celebrate the "birth into Heaven" of the first martyr, St Stephen. "Full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6: 5), he was chosen as deacon in the Community of Jerusalem, together with another six disciples of Greek origin. Stephen worked numerous miracles with the power that came to him from God and proclaimed the Gospel in the synagogues with "inspired wisdom". He was stoned to death outside the city gates and died like Jesus, praying for forgiveness for those who killed him (see Acts 7: 59-60). The deep bond which links Christ to his first martyr Stephen is divine Charity: the very Love which impelled the Son of God to empty himself and make himself obedient unto death on a Cross (see Phil 2: 6-8) later spurred the Apostles and martyrs to give their lives for the Gospel." (Pope Benedict XVI - Angelus on Dec 26th, 2007)

#### **December 27 - Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

"The first thing St. John helps us to grasp is the reality of the Incarnation. St. John was writing to Christians at a time of the Gnostic (docetist) heresy that believed that all matter was evil and hence taught that God could have never assumed matter to himself. Therefore, they taught that Jesus only appeared to have a body but was more like a disincarnate ghost. He only appeared to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. He only appeared to eat. He couldn't have given us his body and blood to consume because he didn't have real body and blood. For the Gnostics, the incarnation was a philosophical impossibility. St. John wrote underlining the sensible reality of the Incarnation. He said, "What was from the beginning, what we have *heard*, what we have *seen* with our eyes, what we *looked upon* and *touched* with our hands concerning the Word of life, for the life was made visible, we have seen it and testify to it." During these days of Christmas, it's key for us to use the senses God gave us to grow in faith."(Fr. Roger Landry)

#### ***December 29 - Optional Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr***

### **MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP**

Come join us for the March for Life in Washington, DC, on Friday, January 19, 2024. Join a half million people who are standing up for life! Bus leaves from St. Philip & St. James Catholic School at 6:30am. Mass in the church at 6:00am. For those who cannot walk, you can visit the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 908-454-9880 and leave a message.

### **HOME ENTHRONEMENT FACILITATED BY LEGION OF MARY**



Invite Jesus to reign in your heart, life and home. Schedule a Home Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and/or the Pilgrim Virgin Statue visitation by contacting Gwen at 973-769-3011.



## **DEACON'S CORNER**

### **A Surprised funeral Continued**

**If you haven't had the chance to read the article on this subject from last week, I recommend accessing it first before proceeding. You can find the article online on our website's bulletin section. Reading the article will provide you with important background information to better understand the content that follows.**

Brothers and sisters, as we continue our journey together, I have had the privilege of speaking to you over the past three weeks about the importance of your participation in keeping our church alive and thriving. Some of you may feel that you have already given enough, and that is truly commendable. However, I want to encourage you to consider the possibility that God may be calling you to do just a little bit more.

Perhaps He is nudging you towards greater participation in our liturgy, inviting you to contribute a little bit more financially, or encouraging you to engage more deeply in the activities and initiatives within our parish. The best way to discern what God is calling you to do is to surrender to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to lead and guide you. For apart from Him, we cannot do anything of lasting significance.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the gentle whispers of the Holy Spirit, for He is our source of wisdom and discernment. Through prayer and reflection, allow yourself to be receptive to His guidance, and be willing to step out in faith, knowing that He will equip you for whatever task or calling He has placed on your heart.

Remember, God does not call the equipped; He equips the called. Trust in His provision and guidance and be open to the ways in which He may be inviting you to deepen your commitment to our parish and to the service of others.

As we continue on this journey of faith together, let us support and encourage one another, recognizing that each of us has a unique role to play in the life of our church. Your willingness to respond to God's call, no matter how big or small, will contribute to the vibrancy and strength of our community.

I encourage you to take some time in prayer and reflection, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you discern how you can further contribute to the life of our parish. Let us remain open to His leading, trusting that He will illuminate the path before us and empower us to fulfill the purpose for which He has called us.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to our church. Together, let us move forward with hearts open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, ready to embrace the opportunities for growth and service that lie ahead.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our parish. With your continued support, our church will not only survive but also continue to grow and flourish as a beacon of light and love in our community.

Remember that Jesus loves you and so do I.

Cheers

Deacon Enock

## **NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL**

### **HORARIO DEL MINISTERIO LITÚRGICO**

#### **31 de diciembre de 2023 - 1:00pm**

##### **Lectores**

María Rubí  
Giovanni Lam

##### **Ministro**

Oscar Dilone

##### **Anuncios**

Anyelina Rodríguez

##### **Servidores**

Miguel Quizhpi-García  
Jackie Quizhpi-García  
José Jauridez

#### **1 de enero de 2024 - 1:00pm**

##### **Lectores**

Iván Lam  
Laura García

##### **Ministro**

María Rossenouff

##### **Anuncios**

Jaime Rocha

##### **Servidores**

Miguel Quizhpi-García  
Jackie Quizhpi-García  
José Jauridez



**Lunes 25 de diciembre de 2023 y**

**Lunes, 1 de enero de 2024**

**La Oficina de la Iglesia y la Adoración estarán cerradas.**

## DEL ESCRITORIO DEL P. ANTONY

¡Querida familia!

**Reflexión:** La Navidad para los cristianos es un día de agradecimiento. La gratitud nos lleva a la oración, donde nuestros corazones se llenan de asombro y alabanza. La Navidad nos lleva a la sensación de asombro. Dios se presenta como pequeño, frágil, vulnerable y dependiente en comparación con las personas fuertes, musculosas, poderosas, paternas y condescendientes que somos frente a Dios.

A menudo vemos a padres y amigos encontrar similitudes entre el niño y sus padres. Este niño Jesús no sólo se parece a ciertos rasgos, sino que es la réplica definitiva de Dios Padre. Este niño no es un súper niño de ninguna manera: llora, molesta a los padres en mitad de la noche y también sonríe hermosamente, nos aprieta el dedo y patear con ambas piernas para mostrar emoción. Está confundido, ansioso y temeroso, y siempre necesita el calor de su madre. La Navidad nos hace preguntarnos de una manera nueva. Dios tan débil y vulnerable está dormido con su creación que es fuerte y poderosa.

Si no hubiera Navidad, no habríamos experimentado esta sensación de asombro en absoluto: habríamos extrañado tocar sus suaves mejillas, sus dedos de manos y pies; Extrañaba verlo dormir tranquilo, verlo llorar, verlo acercarse a su mamá, sus miradas confusas y su inocencia. Esto nos trae una gran lección de todos los tiempos: para llegar a la cueva del corazón, uno debe volverse como un niño. Un niño tiene un gran poder para llamar nuestra atención por completo. Dios no sólo se hizo niño, sino que también se hizo niño. Esto prueba que Dios irá hasta el final, correrá cualquier riesgo, sacrificará cualquier nivel y renunciará a cualquier cosa para llegar a la cueva de nuestros corazones.

¿Cómo nos situamos cerca del Belén? ¿Qué pasa en nuestras mentes y corazones cuando vemos a este niño en el pesebre? Yo también quiero que los demás sepan que puedo agradar y amar y quiero que los demás sepan que también puedo amar con afecto. ¿Veo a los demás como adorables y con ganas de ser amados?

¿Estoy listo para presentarme adorable? ¿infantil? En efecto, la Navidad es ternura por el pasado, coraje por el presente y esperanza por el futuro. ¡Os deseo a todos Feliz Navidad!

**Gracias:** Un sincero agradecimiento a nuestra comunidad escolar, especialmente a nuestros niños, por organizar el espectáculo navideño en la escuela la semana pasada. ¡Qué mejor manera de celebrar la Navidad que nuestros Niños llevándonos al Niño Jesús y enseñándonos a orar como niños! Además, un gran agradecimiento a nuestro Comité de Recaudación de Fondos por organizar el "Desayuno con Santa". ¡Gracias por su participación y apoyo! La parroquia depende de nuestras colectas de Navidad y Pascua como parte del presupuesto. ¡Les agradezco su generoso apoyo al ayudar a nuestra parroquia, especialmente en estas importantes colectas!

**Charla de Avivamiento Eucarístico:** A medida que avanzamos con nuestro ministerio de los 72 Discípulos, sigo fomentando el aprendizaje comunitario, ya que es indispensable para nuestra fe. La próxima charla será el 10 de enero a las 6:30 pm. El Vicario General P. Jay Tabrowski será nuestro próximo presentador. ¡Por favor ven con su familia!

**Estudio Bíblico:** Todos los miércoles a las 5pm en Mercy Hall. ¡Todos son bienvenidos! **Nuestro último estudio bíblico fue el día 20 a las 5 pm en Mercy Hall. Estaremos aprendiendo "En el camino del discipulado (8:27 - 10:52).** Después de las vacaciones de Navidad reanudaremos el 3 de enero. ¡Por favor únete a nosotros! Nos quedan dos capítulos más importantes para completar el Evangelio según Marcos. Esto te ayudará enormemente con tu experiencia en la Misa dominical mientras el Año B reflexiona sobre Marcos.

**Nuevos Empleados:** Hemos contratado a una nueva persona de mantenimiento para nuestra escuela, **Janusz Cichowski**, y a una empleada de limpieza a tiempo parcial, **Collette Clothilda**, para la escuela junto con Rosanna Caprio, nuestro personal de apoyo habitual en la escuela. También contratamos a una nueva persona de mantenimiento, **Steve Weber**, para nuestro cementerio y cuidado del césped. ¡Esperamos y rezamos para que nuestro personal cuide bien todas nuestras propiedades y les deseamos lo mejor!

¡Tenga la seguridad de mi amor y mis oraciones para usted y su familia! P. Antony

### **Misas de Navidad 2023**

**Nochebuena, domingo 24 de diciembre**  
**4:00pm, 7:00pm, y 12:00am en inglés**



**Natividad del Señor, lunes 25 de diciembre**  
**7:00am, 9:00am y 11:00am en inglés**  
**1:00pm en español**





## ***Saints Update***

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### **MONSIGNOR SHEEHAN SCHOLARSHIP:**

Give the gift of a Catholic education! Contributions are awarded each July to families who otherwise could not afford a Catholic school education. To contribute, simply place your donation in the collection basket inside a clearly marked envelope. Making online donations? Please consider adding the scholarship fund to your monthly donations.

Interested in contributing to the Saints Fund with a donation toward the general operating costs of Saints Philip and James School? Visit [sspjnj.org](http://sspjnj.org) and click the gold donate button located on the top right of the home page to contribute to the fund. Thank you for your support of Catholic education!

## ***Merry Christmas***

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Merry Christmas from everyone at Saints Philip and James School! Thank you to all of our school families, students, faculty and staff, and to the many friends of SSPJ for the continued support. May your lives be filled with hope, peace, love, and joy during this Christmas season and beyond.

### **NATIVITY SHOW**

Thank you to everyone who came out to see our talented students in our annual Christmas Nativity show. Special thanks to our director, Mrs. Marianne Cicalese, as well as Mr. Matias Demichelis. Without their time and talents, and dedication to the arts, this production simply would not have been possible.

### **HELP WANTED**

SSPJ School is currently in search of a school custodian. All clearances required. Black Seal certification preferred. Please contact our school principal, Mrs. Bell, at [bell.patricia@spsj.org](mailto:bell.patricia@spsj.org) or (908) 859-1244 for more information or to apply.





ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH  
WELCOMES YOU

# *Eucharistic Revival*

Please join us in  
this exciting journey to grow as a  
Eucharistic Community!

This Eucharistic Revival is organized “to form, heal, convert, unite and send out the People of God through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist”  
(National Eucharistic Renewal)

## 9<sup>th</sup> Talk

The Vicar General Fr. Jay Tabrowski

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Mercy Hall  
then at 7pm in the Church for the talk.**

At Our Church, 430 Main St., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865