



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER LEWIS

Saturday, December 5

9:00 am George W. Hill + | Bundy Family  
 5:00 pm Marion L. Starck + | Bundy Family

Sunday, December 6 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

9:00 am For the Parish  
 11:30 am E. Anthony Smith | Bundy Family

Monday, December 7 (Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

8:30 am Brother Ambrose Okema

Tuesday, December 8 (The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

8:30 am Marvin Aguilar + | Bundy Family  
 7:00 pm Patricia Lewis +

Wednesday, December 9 (Saint Juan Diego)

8:30 am Ethan & Mariam Rudman

Thursday, December 10

8:30 am Daughters of St. Anne

Friday, December 11 (Saint Damasus I. Pope)

8:30 am Alberta Magnani + | Young Family

Saturday, December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

9:00 am Jerzy Karlowicz + | DiSalvo Family  
 5:00 pm Dave Olson + | Margaret Hunt

In our hectic, distracted world, many people have an unmet need to connect with another person. Our world is filled with children who feel ignored, parents who are caught up in frenetic activity, and elderly who feel abandoned. People jump in and out of romances, hoping that this might be the one who will fill the void of unmet connection. People zip around trying to fill every moment, fearing what they might discover if they slow down. The year 2020 has forced many people to slow down, but has also added to the hectic nature of many people's lives. Advent is the season that is all about slowing down.

The great figures of Isaiah and John the Baptist interrupt our busy-ness with their pronouncements about the coming of the king. "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight!" In the final weeks of Advent, we will turn to Joseph and Mary – who are the first to encounter Emmanuel through the birth of Christ.

As you decorate, I hope you remember to put up a nativity scene. The nativity scene is perhaps the best reminder of what the season is all about. Even small children can enter into the experience of expectation by looking at the nativity. The image of a baby lying in the manger awakens wonder at the generosity of a God who is so great that he would become so small. Advent and Christmas take hold of our imaginations, imprinting in our minds two realities the can only be united in Jesus Christ – the mighty power of God and the vulnerability of a new baby.

Slow down! Open your heart in expectation. The grace of expectation stirs up the gift of hope, the hope that every longing will be fulfilled – and child-like joy might once again flood the soul. The soul was not made to be alone. The soul was not created for the fleeting loves of this world. The soul was made for communion with God, only discovered in the gift of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ.

**School News****Christmas Program | December 11 at 7 PM**

Please join STPA Virtually on Friday, December 11th at 7:00 pm for our Virtual Christmas Program.

Please call the school office to be provided the link..



**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM:**

Duffy Askin Family, Bradley Baker, Evan Beck, Pat Brooke, Counihan Family, Phil Eppard, Martin (Red) Fahey, Walter Harley, Lukas Hjort-Tyson, Hoehl Family, Art Grenier, Mary Gressett, Bert Latimer, Tonya Lee, Ralph Loveless, MacMannis Family, Lina Maralit, Jennifer Whipple-Marciano, Leondre Massey, Denise McHale, Grace Mueth, Nancy Palmedo, Deborah Pritts-Murray, Joe Norris, Shannon O'Connell, Matthew Pineda, Father Michael Quill, Barbara Ruf, Robert Wayne Saul III, Dolores Steinhilber, John Tierney, Elijah & Marilyn Thorne, Eva Thorne, Nellie & Ruth Wade, Suzanne Walters, Shawn & Tommy Webb, Dineen Whipple, Bee Duncan, Alma Streicher, Shoko Ferguson, Ryan Murray, and Patrick Baggott

**Angel Tree Weekend December 12-13**

We will be collecting Angel Tree gifts next weekend. The collection will be handled in a socially distant manner. Gifts are to be new and unwrapped and are for all ages. We understand that these are trying times for everyone and any little bit that you can donate is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Suzy Giroux [suzygiroux@verizon.net](mailto:suzygiroux@verizon.net)

**2020 Christmas Flowers**

Please use the Christmas Flower envelope in your monthly packet to make donations in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Please print clearly. As always, thank you for your support!



**2020 Retirement Fund for Religious**

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

**St. Philip the Apostle Holiday Mass Schedule**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
 Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
**Mass | 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM**

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Christmas Eve  
 Thursday, December 24, 2020  
**Mass | 8:30 AM, 5:00 PM**

Christmas Day  
 Friday, December 25, 2020  
**Mass | 10:00 AM**

**Remembering St. Philip's School's early years, part XVIII**

Under the guidance of Principal Linda Cullinan, many new things happened, the biggest, of course, was the junior high wing. But, also, air conditioning, new PA system, phone system, clocks and electronic bell system, TVs, VCRs, new computers (replacing Apples), computerization of the library, Smart Boards, Quick Pads, LCD projectors and new desks and chairs for teachers and students.

Also: new doors and windows, additional lighting in the hallway, cameras and door releases added to front doors and Social Hall door, and landscaping.

Academically, there was a website with homework on-line, aides in pre-K, K and 1st grade, a shared aide for 2nd and 3rd, and advanced math opportunities.

St. Philip's National Junior Honor Society was formed in 1989 when Jeanette Zak received the first charter for the school. It's comprised of 8th graders who have maintained a 3.0 GPA (grade point average) in all major subjects during 7th grade and who give witness to the five qualities required for membership: citizenship, scholarship, service, leadership and character.

By the 1990s, teachers with longest tenure had included Patricia Lyall, Louise Mihalchik, Linda Holsonbake, Jan Roe, Jeanette Zak, Connie Madden (who, sadly, died of Covid this year), Mary McHale, Dolores Steinhilber and Linda Cullinan. Other long-serving personnel included Nina Fisher, secretary, and Richard Robinson, custodian.

In March 1999 it was announced that, at the end of the school year, Dolores Steinhilber would be leaving her position as teacher at St. Philip's School to become an assistant to Father McCann.

As the 1990s drew to a close, St. Philip's School began to plan for a whole new century.

Offertory Summary for November 28 & 29  
 Parishioner Contributions: \$4,026.00