

# Church of St. Philip the Apostle

est. 1898

Diocese of Charlotte

P.O. Box 882  
525 Camden Drive  
Statesville, North Carolina 28677

Office/Fax Phone (704) 872-2579  
Rectory Phone (704) 681-4860  
E-mail: [stphilipapostle@bellsouth.net](mailto:stphilipapostle@bellsouth.net)

Website: <http://stphilipapostle.com>



## Second Sunday of Advent

**Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Kessler, *Pastor***

**Rev. Mr. Charles Brantley, *Deacon***  
**Ms. Regina McCollum, *Secretary***  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kermes, *Food Closet***

**Mrs. Mary Brown, *Faith Formation Director***  
**Mrs. Norma Echevarria, *Faith Formation***  
**Mrs. Raquel Swierczewski, *R.C.I.A.***  
**Mrs. Anita Lund, *Youth Director***

### **Marriage - Baptism**

Call the church office. Marriages, call at least 6 months in advance.

### **Reconciliation**

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. on Saturday or by appointment.

### **Pastoral Council**

Meetings are 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. September thru May except National Holidays.

### **Religious Education**

Children, grades 1-Confirmation, are required to attend religious education classes. Call the office to register your children. Adult classes also available.

### **Parish Registration**

We welcome new parishioners to the parish and we ask them to register as soon as possible. Parish registration is important and necessary. Also, if you move away from the Parish please notify the office. Thank you.

## Mass Intentions

### From the pastor...

The 2nd Sunday of Advent – “I’ll be home for Christmas” – In today’s first reading, Baruch is anticipating the joy, as God leads the Jewish people, who were exiled from their homeland, and now are on their way home to the holy city, Jerusalem. Baruch holds out God’s promise of transformation, when misery will change to joy.

“I’ll Be Home For Christmas” is a promised soaked in nostalgia and wishful thinking. God’s promise of homecoming is offered in the quiet of our hearts by prayer, word, sacrament and community.

St. Paul’s prayer for the Philippians in today’s second reading is and apt prayer for us as well – “the one who began this good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” We need to be attentive to the second half of St. Paul’s prayer as well, to discern what is of value so that we can live lives that are good and holy. With a life of holiness and peace, wherever we may be, *we will be home for Christmas.*

**December 9th is the Feast of Juan Diego** – Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to this humble man on this date in 1531. God counted on Juan Diego to play a humble yet huge role in bringing the Good News to the people of Mexico. Overcoming his own fear and the doubts of Bishop Juan De Zumarraga, Juan Diego cooperated with God’s grace in showing his people that the Good News of Jesus is for everyone.

**Next Sunday** is the **3rd Sunday of Advent**. The readings at Mass will be taken from Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18. Advent means “to come”, we are preparing for our annual celebration of the coming of our Lord at his birth. Come prepared.

**The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** is this Wednesday, December 12th. Prayers and hymns will be accompanied by the music of the Mariachis at the Mañanitas at 5 a.m. in the church, followed by refreshments in the social hall. At 6 p.m. there will be a Mass followed by an outdoor procession (weather permitting) and then a wonderful fiesta in the social hall. Everyone is invited and welcome at this glorious celebration. Non-speaking Spanish parishioners are always glad they came.

**The Angel Tree Program** – Thanks to all who organized and participated in this year’s Angel Tree Program. “*Whatsoever you do for the least of my people, that you do for me.*”

**Thanks to all** who have contributed and made memorials for the **Christmas flowers**. Those envelopes can be dropped in any collection basket. Thanks again.

**Flowers are normally not permitted** in the church during the Seasons of Advent and Lent. There are exceptions – like the feasts of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and funerals, etc.

**The Catholic Daughters** will have their **Christmas Basket Raffle** after the Masses next weekend.

**WOW!** – The **Forward With Christ** building campaign has done quite well. Without a capital campaign we are only \$6,773.00 short of our \$2.5 million dollar goal. Hopefully and by the grace of God, we’ll receive the shortfall prior to the end of the year. Thanks so much for your generosity.

### Saturday, Dec 8th

9:00 a.m. Antonio Caballero Jr. † by Paula Castillo

5:00 p.m. George Johnson † by Ed & Pat Johnson

### Sunday, Dec 9th

8:00 a.m. Edgar & Angela Merrifield † by Gary & Mary Cannady

10:30 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving for Dr. Robert Wodecki by  
Tatiana & The Wodecki Family

12:30 p.m. Pro Populo

### Monday, Dec 10th

9:00 a.m. Joseph J. Guzzi † by Gill Family

### Wednesday, Dec 12th

6:00 p.m. Diane Healy by Carol Micalizzi

### Thursday, Dec 13th

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Johnson † by Ed & Pat Johnson

### Friday, Dec 14th

9:00 a.m. Jody Harris † by Bill & Toni McEvelly

### Saturday, Dec 15th

5:00 p.m. Clare Kane † by The Girls

### Sunday, Dec 16th

8:00 a.m. Jody Harris † by Ellen Upton

10:30 a.m. Larry Martini † by Stickle Family

12:30 p.m. Felipa de Jesus Perez † by Amelia Vera

### READERS

Dec 15 5:00 p.m. Heather Bradford

Dec 16 8:00 a.m. Rockne Burns

10:30 a.m. Kathleen Little

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dec 15 5:00 p.m. M. Rhodes (H), B. Bailey, P. Daly,  
J. Danckert, A. Eisele

Dec 16 8:00 a.m. C. DiFulvio, N. Echevarria, R. Echevarria  
10:30 a.m. C. Bennett (HM), T. Bennett (HA),  
T. Bradford (HC), L. Ortiz, K. Parker,  
J. Rafols, A. Sadowski

### ALTAR SERVER

Dec 15 5:00 p.m. Beni J., Corey H.,

Dec 16 8:00 a.m. Troy C., Brock C.

10:30 a.m. Eli W., Isaac W.



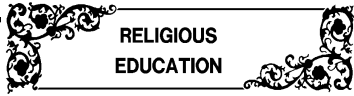
### Happy Birthday 12/9/2018-12/15/2018

**12/9** Hayden Arrington, Kevin Arrington, Todd Bradford, Danielle Papandrea **12/10** William Brown, Carlos Estrada, Russell Maus **12/11** Grant Cotton, John Pas-sant, Frances Perry **12/12** Jose Guadalupe Camarillo, Patricia Lepiarz, Ryan Lipski **12/13** Enrique Camacho Vargas, Brooklyn Ford, Emmanuel Gonzalez, Julian Guadarrama, Gordon Moore, Sean Smith **12/14** Donna Greco, Luis Mendez, Jose Rivas **12/15** Caroline Boris, Blanca Chavez, Greg Jones, Charles Kelley, Nathan McElwee, Keven Mendez Vital, Nicholas Moore, Daniella Serna

### Happy Anniversary 12/9/2018-12/15/2018

**12/12** David & Janeen Highman

**12/13** Kevin & Nancy Burns



RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

**Mrs. Mary Brown:** If you need to contact Mrs. Brown, Faith Formation Director, please call or text 704-929-0152 or email her at [faithformationdir@att.net](mailto:faithformationdir@att.net) or if you need to contact **Mrs. Norma Echevarria** please call the office at 704-872-2579 or email her at [echevarria\\_norma@yahoo.com](mailto:echevarria_norma@yahoo.com).

**All sacramental year students** must have a copy of their Baptismal Certificates. All Confirmation students should also have a copy of their First Communion Certificates in their file. Please see Mary or Norma with any questions.

**All sacramental year students** must attend Mass and see the table in the gathering space after Mass to get checked off. Please see Mary or Norma with questions.

**The St. Philip's Christmas Pageant** will be on Sunday, December 16th at 3:00. All are invited to attend! Please send in or bring a dessert for the end of the performance.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Sunday, Dec 9th**

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Spanish Faith Formation

**Monday, Dec 10th**

- 9:30 a.m. Holy Rosary

**Wednesday, Dec 12th**

- 11:15 a.m. Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. No Faith Formation
- 6:45 p.m. No RCIA

**Saturday, Dec 15th**

**CDA Christmas Basket Raffle Weekend**

**Sunday, Dec 16th**

**CDA Christmas Basket Raffle Weekend**

- 9:00 a.m. No Faith Formation
- 11:00 a.m. No Spanish Faith Formation
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant

**The Catholic Daughters** have some **extra Butter Braids** for sale. Please call Regina in the office if you are interested, they are \$14 each. Thank you.

**St. Philip's Adult Dinner Group** will meet Sunday, December 30th at 5 p.m. Bring your favorite foods to share as we celebrate the New Year. **ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOMED!** Call Norma Gasset at 704-380-4125 or email at [bdgasset@aol.com](mailto:bdgasset@aol.com) to RSVP.

PARISH SUPPORT  
CHURCH YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019

**Collections last week**

**Regular**

5:00 p.m.....	\$3,957.74
8:00 a.m.....	2,402.25
10:30 a.m.....	2,527.14
12:30 p.m.....	1,196.62
Total.....	\$10,083.75

**Food Closet**

Total.....	\$100.00
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**Forward With Christ**

Total.....	\$8,394.51
T-Shirts.....	98.00

**Christmas Flowers.....**\$304.00

**Spanish Food Fundraiser FWC**

Total to date.....	\$21,509.06
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**Collections Year to Date**

	Last year	This Year
Regular	\$171,084.82.....	\$167,304.64
Forward With Christ	.....	1,493,226.93
Food Closet	7,278.00.....	8,196.00

*Thank you for returning some of God's gift to you to His Church.*

**Thank you** to all the parishioners for the Angel Tree donations this year. Your generosity is appreciated. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

**St. Philip Book Group** will meet on Wednesday, December 19th at 6 p.m. Our December book will be "A Christmas Pearl" by Dorothy Benton Frank. **ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOMED!!** Call Norma Gasset at 704-380-4125 for location & book availability.



**At home..** Richard Homola, Lillian Alvey, Anna Eisele Shingleton, David Eisele, Jessica Allison, Jessica Crosso, Andrew Gulley, Jackie Mejia, Angela Moreno, Howard Stewart, Rick Stoup, Robinette Tilley, Alan Eisele, Joe Stallings, Arthur & Marion Weber, Joan Chiodo, Nelson La-Clair. **Iredell Skilled Nursing**-Frank Bollero, **Bryan Center**...Marion Kelly Culler.. **Autumn Care**-Monica Charles, Bettye Byers.. **Please pray for the intentions on Our Prayer Tree. To place a name on the Prayer Tree, please sign the Prayer Book in the Lobby or e-mail: [grammad1229@gmail.com](mailto:grammad1229@gmail.com)**