

**St. Philip Neri Catholic Church**

# **Our Ministry of Stewardship**

**2 0 1 9 - 2 0 2 0**



**Let Christ's Light Shine Through You.**





# St. Philip Neri Catholic Church

A SPIRIT OF CARING AND GIVING

292 Munn Road, East  
Fort Mill, SC 29715  
[www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org)  
803.548.7282

## Introduction

St. Philip Neri Church is made up of a vibrant, faithful people who serve our parish and our community in numerous ways, from worship, religious education and formation, sacramental preparation and spiritual development, to community outreach and social activities. We strive to be a welcoming Parish that reflects the heart, mercy and teachings of Christ, the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the spirit of joy manifested by our patron saint St. Philip Neri. We pray you find St. Philip Neri Church a warm, welcoming home and a place where you can deepen your faith and become a special part of our Catholic Community.



Visit us online for more information: [www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org)

# Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration Times

## Mass

### Saturday Vigil

5:30 pm

### Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am

5:30 pm (Contemporary Music)

### Daily Mass

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, and Friday 9:30 am

### Communion Service

Monday 9:30 am

### Live Streaming of the 9:30 am Sunday Mass

[www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org)

## Reconciliation/Confession

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Or, by appointment scheduled  
through a parish priest.

## Anointing of the Sick

Requested through the parish office.

## Eucharistic Adoration

Commences in the Chapel Tuesday  
following the 9:30 am Mass and ends  
Saturday at 5:00 pm.

## Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

## Parish Website

[www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org)

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## St. Philip Neri Catholic Church

A SPIRIT OF CARING AND GIVING

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Welcome to our St. Philip Neri Catholic faith community. We strive to be a welcoming parish that reflects the heart, mercy and teachings of Christ, the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the spirit of joy manifested by our patron saint—St. Philip Neri. If you are new to the parish, we pray you find St. Philip Neri Church a warm welcoming home and a place where you can deepen your faith through spiritual life, practicing the actions of stewardship, and experience the joy of becoming a part of our Catholic community.

Much has been written about engaging the faithful across all age groups including building, or at least sustaining faith of those in retirement age; reaching out to the youth who struggle to live their faith amidst challenges of doubts and disbelief; and recently, we have noted the increase of those falling away from the faith across all ages. Clearly, engaging and sustaining faith strategies across all age groups is so important and our parish has many ministries and programs to support this.

In St. Philip Neri Parish's recent survey of more than 1900 parishioners, two of the top three areas identified as priorities were building and maintaining community, and formation and education. Our experience tells us that these two areas have a common element which is family – your family and our faith family.

This guidebook, “Our Ministry of Stewardship 2019/2020,” provides information about the spiritual life at St. Philip Neri, and the numerous ministries and organizations that serve our parish and the community. We hope that the information provided helps you and your family to discern where your gifts might best be used to further the ministry of Christ while engaging and sustaining your faith. It is my wish that you take the time to review this book and make that commitment.

Thank you for continuing to live as Christian stewards, disciples of the gifts God has entrusted to each of us, and for using those gifts to serve the Lord.

God Bless,

V. Rev. Fr Fabio Refosco, CO, VF

Pastor

# Leadership at Saint Philip Neri

Since its founding in 1993, St. Philip Neri Church has been served by priests that belong to The Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri, a pontifical society of apostolic life of Catholic priests and lay-brothers who live together in community bound together by no formal vows but only with the bond of charity. Saint Philip Neri established this religious community in the 16th century. Members are known as Oratorians and live in Oratory houses throughout the world.

The Rock Hill Oratory is the oldest house in the United States. Oratorians, who use the initials C.O. after their names, carry on Saint Philip Neri's charism of prayer, reflection on Scripture and work with the laity. They commit their lives to serving the faithful by promoting sacramental life and encouraging the faithful to be leaders in the Church.

## Pastor



V. Rev. Fabio Refosco, CO, VF, Pastor

## Deacons

Our deacons assist the priests in serving the spiritual needs of our parish. Deacons can baptize, witness

marriages, perform funeral and burial services outside of Mass, distribute Holy Communion and

preach the homily. Given their spiritual works, our deacons are a vital part of parish life.



Deacon Jon Dwyer



Deacon George Johnston



Deacon Steve Rhodes



Deacon David Bartholomew

# Parish Advisory Councils & Committees

## Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is one of several advisory groups to the pastor of St. Philip Neri. The other is the Finance Council. The Pastoral Council's primary purpose is to represent the parishioners and serve as an advisory council to the pastor on matters related to the parish. Council members are appointed by the pastor and include one member of the Finance Council. Pastoral Council meets every month and on an ad-hoc basis as needed. Members are asked to be active in parish activities and ministries.

## Finance Council

The Finance Council is one of several advisory groups to the pastor of St. Philip Neri. The other is the Pastoral Council. The Finance Council's primary purpose is to serve as an advisory council to the pastor on financial matters related to the parish. Council members are appointed by the pastor. The Finance Council meets monthly and on an ad-hoc basis as needed. The members of the Finance Council are the primary stewards of the parish's financial resources and are accountable for the integrity of the parish's finances.

## Property and Facilities Committee

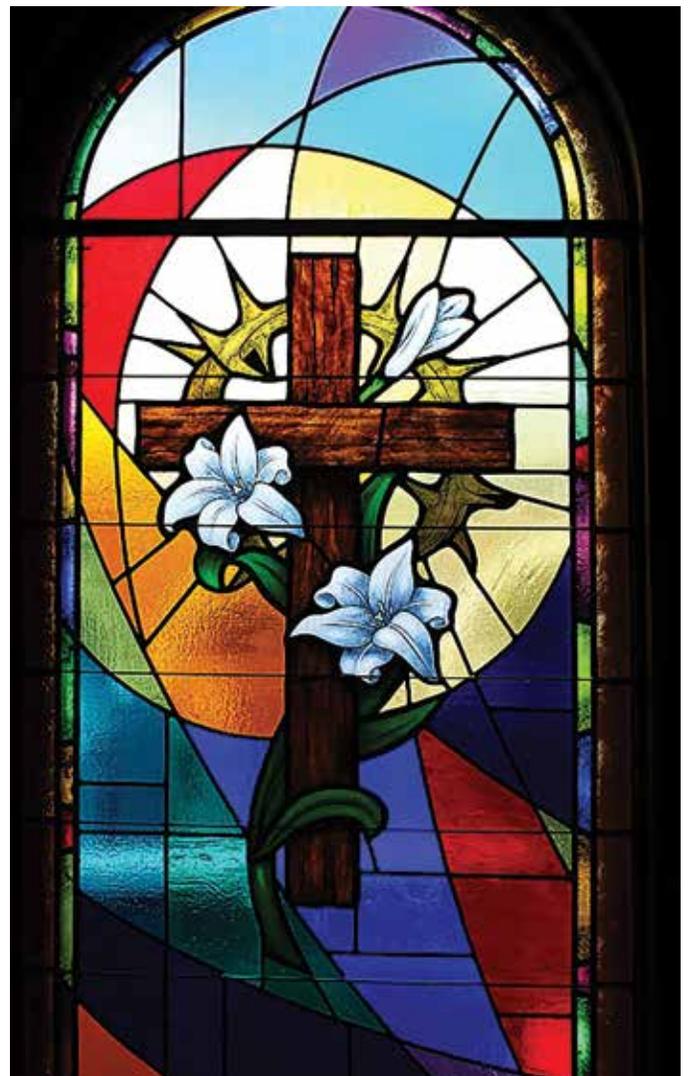
The Property and Facility Committee advises the pastor, Business Manager and Maintenance Technician about the management and maintenance of the church properties. This committee, which assesses the short-term and long-term needs for all facilities, also offers guidance and recommends necessary improvements.

## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee seeks to develop stewardship as a way of life in the parish, with members educating parishioners about the gifts of our time, talent and treasure given to us by God. This committee is instrumental in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the parish's stewardship program.

## Parish Safety Team

The Parish Safety Team, which provides security for the parish at weekend Masses and other events, has established, implemented and continues to assess the parish's safety and security plan. Team members are trained in first aid, CPR, evacuation techniques, safety responses to fire and weather emergencies and church security. In addition, they educate staff members, volunteers and parishioners about safety protocols that relate to the plan.



# Parish Staff

Our parish is blessed with a dedicated and helpful staff that serves our parish community by assisting the pastor and parishioners with the church's day-to-day operations. All

members of the parish staff are ready to assist and welcome you to our parish community. Visit the Parish Directory on [www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org) for contact information.



Lynda Curry  
Business Manager



Isa Montes  
Administrative  
Assistant



Melissa DeLaO  
Bookkeeper



Hanns Braun  
Maintenance  
Technician



Chris Chapman  
Audiovisual  
Coordinator



Jenny Funk  
Volunteer  
Coordinator



Jen Fredenberg  
Communications/  
Social Media  
Coordinator



Linda Liberty  
Director of Music



Audra Hesse  
Director of Child  
Development Center



Mary Harden  
Director of Faith  
Formation & RCIA



Jeanette Swint  
Faith Formation  
Assistant



Tayler Howie  
Director of  
Youth Ministry &  
Confirmation



Beth Donnelly  
EDGE Coordinator &  
Receptionist

# Parish Mission

## Mission Statement

*We are a Catholic community united to form a church family dedicated to continuing the ministry of Christ. We will strive to be examples to others through open minds, open hearts and open arms.*

From our very humble beginnings more than 26 years ago, our church has developed a rich heritage with dedicated parishioners who have generously offered their time, talents and financial gifts to make St. Philip Neri Church what it is today. We have come this far by faith, and as we continue our ministry, we honor and reflect on the past, celebrate the present day and welcome the promise of a future that continues the mission to which we have been called—continuing the ministry of Christ. Today, St. Philip Neri has over 2,751 registered families and we continue to grow.

The cross in the sanctuary, through which Christ's light shines, represents Jesus' crucifixion and His sacrifice to redeem humanity and grace us with salvation. This cross, as we are reminded, should be an inspiration to all to graciously carry the crosses in our own lives, as well as bear one another's burdens with the compassion of our Lord. As a faith-filled community, we will joyfully continue the mission to which we have been called.



## My Church—A Stewardship Prayer

My church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I do.

It will make generous donations to many causes if I am a generous giver of my time, talents and financial gifts.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who help make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of BEING all the things I want my church to be.

Eternal and loving God, we come to you with praise, honor, glory and thanksgiving for 26 years of worship and service. As we celebrate our past and rejoice in the present, we look forward with eager hearts to our future.

# Our Parish Community

Welcome to St. Philip Neri Church. Our parish, founded in 1993, started with 70 families. Today, St. Philip Neri has over 2,751 registered families and we continue to grow while we serve the needs of both our parish and the community through faith-filled actions, prayer, service and fellowship. During the past fiscal year, over 300 families registered with our parish community. We strive to be a welcoming parish that reflects the heart, mercy and

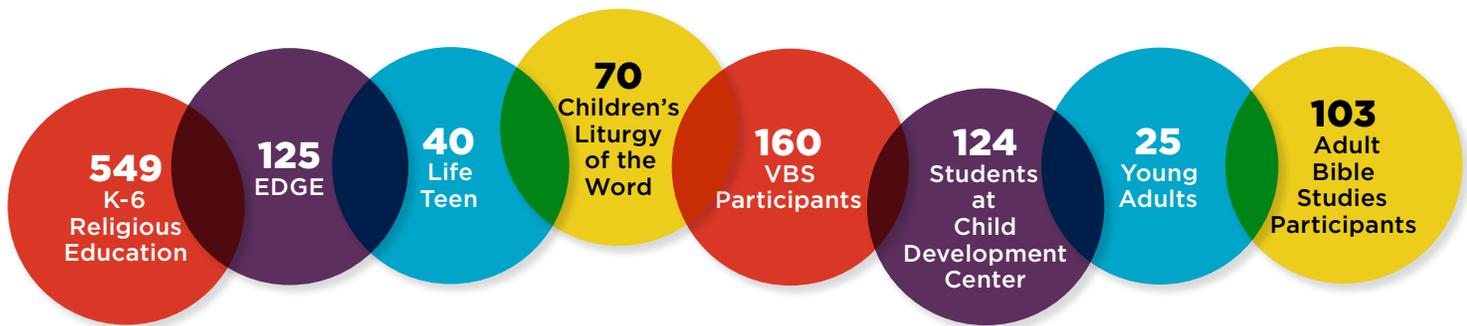
teachings of Christ, the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the spirit of joy manifested by our patron saint St. Philip Neri.

We pray you find St. Philip Neri Church a warm, welcoming home and a place where you can deepen your faith, enrich your spirituality and become a part of our Catholic faith community.

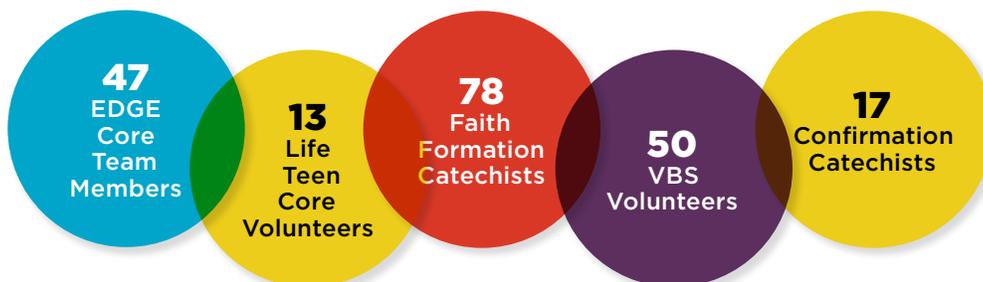
## How We Engage in Ministry Parish Statistics for Fiscal Year 2018/2019



## Formation & Education Programs



## Formation & Education Volunteers for Fiscal Year 2018/2019



# Tithing at St. Philip Neri Church

## Service and Outreach Within and Beyond the Parish

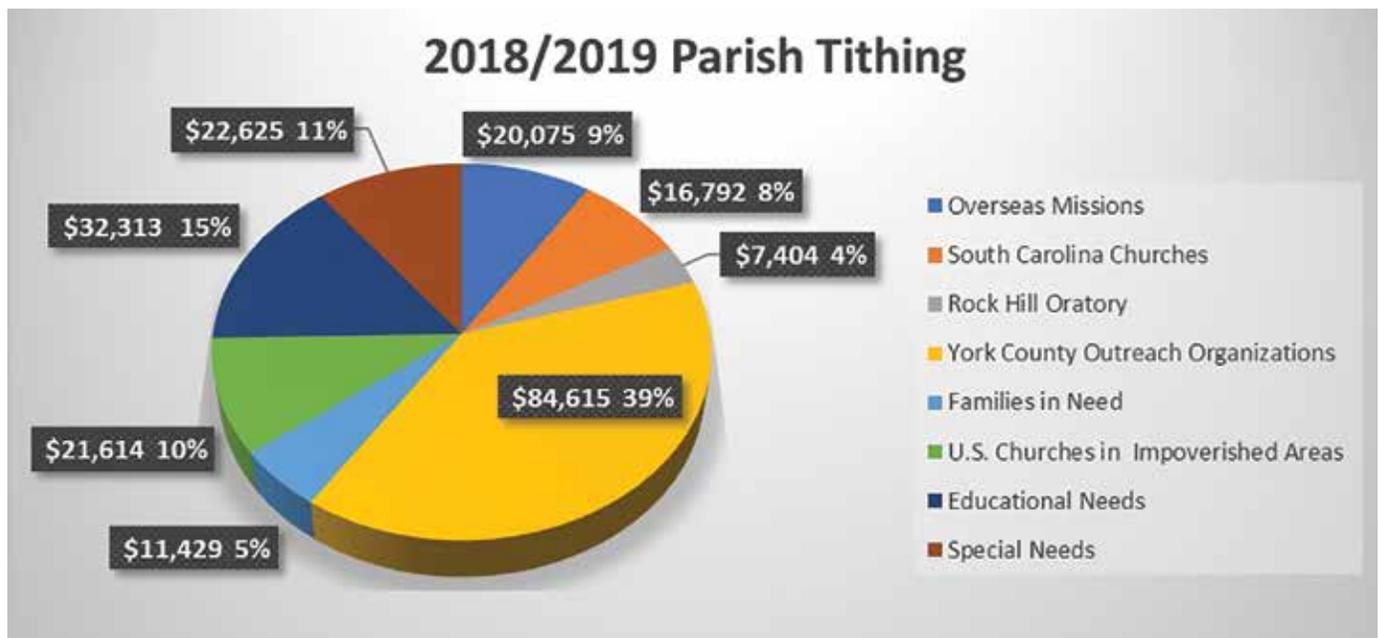


As Catholics, we are challenged to choose stewardship as a lifestyle based on our baptismal call. This is not easy to do in today's world where we are bombarded on a daily basis with messages of consumerism, materialism and individualism. These messages tell us that money will make us happy, that the money we have is ours alone to do with what we want. But the Bible tells us something different. That everything, yes everything, is a gift from God.

The Bible tells us that we are called to be good stewards (managers) not owners of the resources entrusted to us. Conscious that what we have been given by God belongs to Him, we are only giving back what He already owns. Stewardship is a way of life that leads to conversion and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Tithing is one way we acknowledge God's provision in our lives and exercise good management. St. Philip Neri Church is a tithing parish—10% of our offertory is given to charitable causes. This is possible because of the generous financial gifts of our parishioners. For this we are truly grateful.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019, St. Philip Neri Church's tithing totaled \$216,866. Here's an overview of St. Philip Neri Church's tithing donations for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

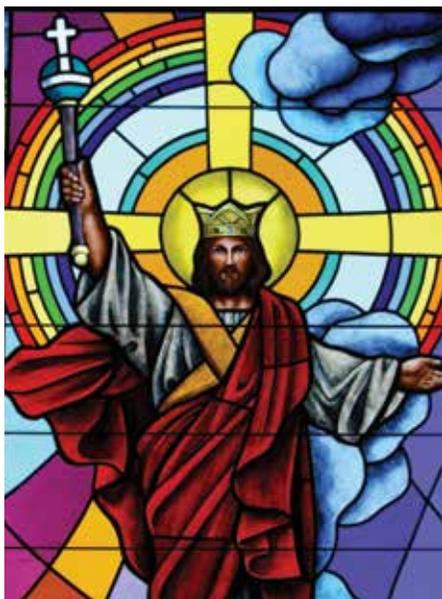


## Joining Our Parish

St. Philip Neri is a Catholic community united to form a church family dedicated to continuing the ministry of Christ. We strive to be examples to others through open minds, open hearts and open arms. We are a welcoming parish that reflects the heart, mercy and teachings of Christ, the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the spirit of joy manifested by our patron saint, St. Philip Neri. All are welcome!

### Register in The Parish

If you are new or have been attending but have not yet joined our parish, we encourage you to register. Parish registration forms are available at the Welcome Desk in the gathering area of the church, in the parish office, or requested online at [www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org). Completed forms may be mailed, emailed or dropped off to the office for processing. This guidebook, "Our Ministry of Stewardship," provides information about the spiritual life at St. Philip Neri Church and the numerous ministries and organizations that serve our parish and community. We are a service-oriented parish with ministries and organizations for all ages. We encourage all parishioners to get involved. Visit [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/) for additional information.



## Becoming Catholic

St. Philip Neri is committed to the presentation of the doctrine of our faith, in a welcoming and understandable manner, to members of our community who have made the decision to seek this step in their personal faith journey. We invite you to join with us as we strive to live the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer, service, outreach, fellowship and a true sense of family as we minister to our community.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process used by the Catholic Church to present the beliefs of this faith to those adults (age 18 and older) who have made a conscious decision to explore coming into full communion with the Church. Programs for teenagers (RCIT: Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens) and children (RCIC: Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) are also available. Spiritual formation and education about our Catholic faith takes place during these rites, which enables individuals to become fully incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church.

RCIA classes begin in September and are held every other Thursday until the Easter Vigil when those joining the Catholic church will be received through the Sacraments of Initiation. If you are interested in becoming Catholic, contact the Director of RCIA at 803.548.7282 or [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org)

**RCIA**  
Christian Formation Process

# The Sacraments

The sacraments are Christ's own gift that provide us with His grace. They are the divine helps which God gave us to enable us to believe the truths of His faith, live according to His moral code and grow in His gift of divine life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) affirms that "the seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments in Christian life. They give birth and increase healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith."

***The sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist—lay the foundations of every Christian life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.***

## Baptism

For Catholics, the sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. It is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God. St. Philip Neri offers the Sacrament of Baptism on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 1:00 pm. Baptisms may also be celebrated during weekend Masses. Parents are required to register for and attend a baptism preparation class. Classes are held at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Please contact the parish office with questions, to schedule a Baptism or to register for a Baptism class.

## Confirmation

Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. By the sacrament of confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. St. Philip Neri offers a two-year Confirmation program



for ninth and tenth grade students. Classes are held the first and third Sundays of the month after the 5:30 pm, September through April.



## Eucharist

As Catholics, we believe the Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus Christ and that He lovingly offers Himself as spiritual nourishment with each celebration of the Mass. This intimate exchange with the Lord strengthens us spiritually and brings us closer to God. Individuals unable to attend Mass may request the Holy Eucharist be brought to them as the need arises.



## First Holy Communion

Children may receive the sacrament of first Eucharist in the spring of second grade or older. For older children and teens who are interested in receiving the sacraments of initiation (baptism, reconciliation and/or first holy Communion), please contact the Director of Faith

Formation, Mary Harden at 803.548.7282 ext. 226. Adults who are interested in receiving the sacraments of initiation (baptism, reconciliation and/or first holy Communion), please contact the parish office at 803.548.7282.

***The sacraments of Healing—  
Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick  
—celebrate the healing power of Jesus.***

### **Anointing of the Sick**

Formerly known as Last Rites or Extreme Unction, Anointing of the Sick is not just for those at the point of death, but may be received by anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age. The ritual of healing is available for spiritual, physical and mental illness. This sacrament may be requested through the parish office, or by asking the priest. This sacrament is offered to all who seek healing for himself or herself, or anyone struggling with a health issue.

### **Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Confession or Penance) brings about a change of heart through God's mercy and forgiveness. The sacrament of Reconciliation has three elements: conversion, confession and celebration. In this, we find God's unconditional forgiveness; as a result, we are called to forgive others. The sacrament is offered every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. In addition, the sacrament is available by scheduling an appointment through the parish office.

***The sacraments at the Service of  
Communion—Matrimony and Holy  
Orders—help members serve the  
community and are directed to salvation  
of others.***

### **Matrimony**

For Catholics, the sacrament of Marriage, or Holy Matrimony, is a sign of God's loving presence in the world. The loving union of a husband and wife speaks of family values and God's values. Couples wishing to get married must contact the pastor at least six months prior to the desired date of the wedding. Preparation classes are held in the parish. Wedding arrangements must be made by calling the parish office at 803.548.7282.



### **Holy Orders**

Holy Orders, or Ordination, is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church. In the sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest who is ordained vows to lead other Catholics by bringing them the sacraments—especially the Holy Eucharist, by proclaiming the Gospel and by providing other means of holiness.

Everyone has something to contribute. When we encourage others to discern if they have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, we show our support for their desire to serve. Our priests and deacons will happily discuss their vocation, offer insight and direction to those interested. Let us extend His call.

# Becoming a Stewardship Family Discerning How and What to Give

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” —1 Peter 4:10*



## Who is a Christian Disciple?

One who responds to Christ’s call, follows Jesus and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ’s. Who is a Christian steward? One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

## A Stewardship Way of Life Leads to Discipleship

The US Bishop’s Pastoral Letter of Stewardship invites all Catholics to invest themselves—time, talent and treasure- in the mission and ministries of the Church. This invitation is a challenge for each of us to live a life of gratitude, accountability and generosity. A stewardship way of life is a way that truly seeks to live as a disciple of Jesus.

Stewardship is based on a biblical view of God as Creator and ourselves as servants. From this perspective we are encouraged to develop or renew the practice of regularly reflecting on God’s love for us and the goodness of our lives. With a sure sense of our blessings in mind we are encouraged to make GRATITUDE the fundamental motive for our giving. The Bible also reminds us that as servants we are accountable to God for the use of our gifts of time, talent and treasure—this is STEWARDSHIP.

Are you ready for the challenge to invest yourself—to give your time, talent and treasure to the mission and the ministries of Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church?

## Stewardship of Talent

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

God So Loved He Gave . . .  
Your talent is God’s gift to you.  
What You do with your talent  
Is your gift to God.

## Stewardship of Talent in Our Parish

Because we recognize that God entrusted to each one of us our individual talents and strengths to help build up His Kingdom, we are all called to give that talent back to God through service and ministry. When you give of your talent in our parish it enables us to carry out our mission more effectively, thus helping build up the Body of Christ.

Please prayerfully reflect on how you will choose to share those gifts given to you by grace and return your Talent/Ministry Commitment as soon as possible.

## Make a Difference—Share Your Talent

God gives it all, then calls us to share. Our personal commitment of ourselves through service in our parish provides a strong and unique connection to God through our community of faith. Committing our God-given talents to ministry at Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church is just as important as Stewardship of Time and Stewardship of Treasure. It is how we gratefully give back to God in thanksgiving for the talents He has given us. There are many needs within our faith community that affords us the opportunity to give. By

giving your talents, we can support our parish's efforts to carry out the mission Christ gave us.

### **Stewardship of Talent Commitment**

Each week at St. Philip Neri, dozens of ministry and outreach groups are working, praying and having fun serving together. There are numerous ways for you to get involved and where you or you and your family can make a difference.

We encourage you to prayerfully discern which ministries God is calling you to, while taking into consideration your unique gifts. We Invite all parishioners to recommit to a ministry that they are already involved with and/or commit to a new ministry. With more than 50 ministries, each person will find a ministry to serve where the talents given by God are used to serve the mission of the Church.

Spend some time reviewing this 2019/2020 Stewardship Book and the Getting Involved section on our website [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/) to identify those that spark your interest.

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Matthew 6:21

### **Why do we share our TREASURE?**

Our money and our possessions—our treasure are gifts from God that we are asked to care for and generously share. It is important to share our money and material possessions for two reasons: first, because all the good things that God has made, including money are meant to be shared; and second, because each of us has a need to give. We need to give our money to individuals and families in need, to the Church, and to other worthwhile charitable organizations because giving money is good for the soul and because we need to return thanks to a loving God for our many blessings.

### **The Need to GIVE is Indisputable**

While our parish has many particular needs for which funds must be raised, we must continue to reflect on the fact that stewardship is different from fund-raising. Stewardship is rooted in one indisputable need—the need to give. Our gratitude can so easily become a matter of words only, unless we are returning to the Lord, the giver of all gifts, a truly grateful share of our time, talent and treasure.

### **Put God First in Your Finances**

Scripture teaches us to give to God our “first fruits” or the first portion. Your financial contribution to the parish is vital to support all operations of the parish, including liturgies, catechesis and outreach activities to the faithful of the community and beyond. Responsible stewardship in this area includes a commitment to your weekly offering, either in your parish envelop or online giving,

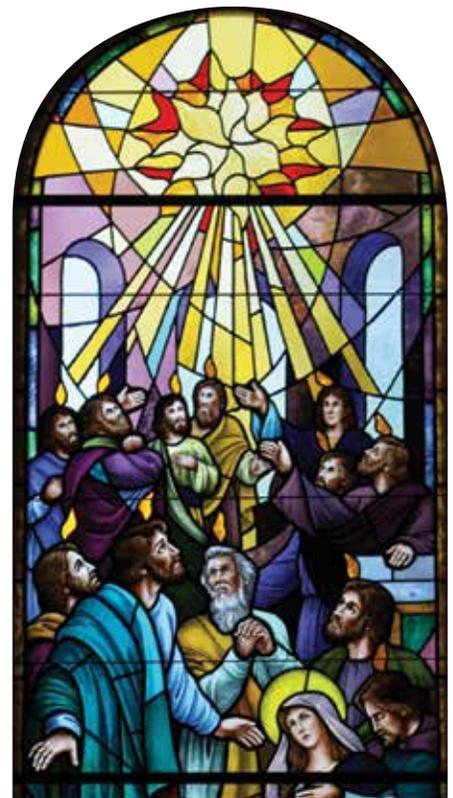
designated or restricted gifts, mention in a will, designate as a life insurance beneficiary, property, stocks and other contributions. In GRATITUDE for God's gifts, please prayerfully consider what your financial contribution to the parish will be.

### **Stewardship of Treasure Commitment Perspective:**

#### **First Fruits vs. What Do I Have Left to Give?**

Our parish is a community that helps carry out Christ's mission. Plan your pledge—for Sacrificial Giving from your first fruits. You may wish to start with giving 1 hour of your wage a week.

A portion of the money collected at our church is given again, as we are a tithing parish, donating to many charitable causes. Our church provides a space and support for



praying, receiving sacraments, evangelizing, spiritual learning, catechesis, ministering to others and gathering in community. All of this requires payment of the same kind of expenses that a home or business incurs—insurance, utilities, maintenance and the like. It requires paying for the expertise of lay leaders who run the day-to-day operations of the church and the priests who celebrate the sacraments with us so that together we can carry out the mission of the CHURCH—sharing the Good News and helping our brothers and sisters in need.

To learn more about how Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church has fulfilled the mission given to us over the years, access the 2018/2019 Annual Report on the website [www.saintphilipneri.org/resources/annual-report/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/resources/annual-report/)

PRAYERFULLY consider your GIFTS OF TREASURE.

## Stewardship of Time

**But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 2 Peter 3:8**

Our time is a gift from God. Stewardship involves spending time with Him. Recognizing that every day is a gift for God, we strive to spend some of each day with Him, through prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration,

scripture reading, quiet meditation and other spiritual activities.

We want to be good stewards of the precious gift of time that God gives us each day. People often say that they “don’t have enough time”—but God gives us all the time that we need. We must ask ourselves:

- How much time am I committing to prayer, worship, adoration and scripture reading to help me grow in my relationship with God?
- How much time am I committing to continuing education of my faith or Bible study to help me grow in my knowledge of my faith, the Church and in His Word?
- What time (quantity and quality) am I giving my spouse, family and friends to help me grow in my relationship with them?
- Am I a good steward of time spent at work?
- How many hours a week do I devote to helping others in need?
- Am I unable to enjoy the present because I am regretting the past or fretting the future?
- Am I abusing time by excessive, or even inappropriate, use of technology?



- Am I a good steward of my body by taking time for exercise, rest and recreation?
- What is one thing I can do today to be more generous with the time with which God has blessed me?

## Stewardship of Time Commitment

Consider giving one hour of prayer, or spiritual reading, listening to a podcast from a religious leader or watching a video that helps you learn more about the faith. Community—in families and in the parish—is basic and essential to living a fully Christian life. You may wish to start by giving one hour of your time here.

## Stewardship Begins at an Early Age

The young people in the parish should be included in the completion of a Total Stewardship Commitment card along with their parents—as a family. Lead by example—just as Jesus did! After prayerful discernment both individually and as a family, make your Total Stewardship Commitment pledge of Time, Talent and Treasure. Teaching children the convictions of Christian Stewardship from an early age, prepares them to serve the mission of the Church as they grow.

Check out the Getting Involved Section of this Ministries of Stewardship Book and on our church website [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/) to learn about the various ministries and organizations and determine which align with your talents and are best suited for you and your family.

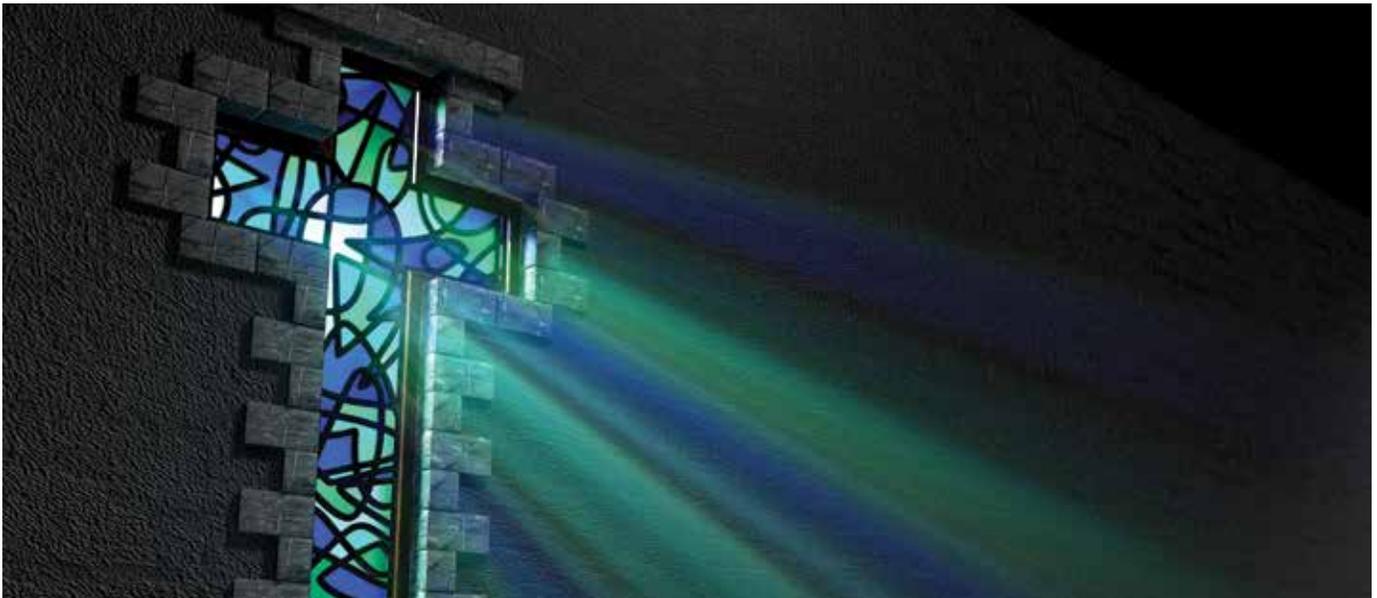
# Getting Involved at St. Philip Neri Church

*“Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.” —1 Peter 4:10*

St. Philip Neri is a service-oriented parish with ministries and groups for all ages. Our more than 50 ministries are grouped into four categories: Hospitality; Formation and Evangelization; Liturgy, Prayer and Worship; and Service and Outreach. Whether you are interested in serving those in need in our local community, passing on the Catholic faith to children or taking part in the Mass, there is a place for

you. This Ministry of Stewardship Book provides an overview of all ministries and organizations that are available at or through St. Philip Neri Church.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and how to get involved, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jenny Funk at 803.548.7282 ext. 229 or [volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org)



**Hospitality  
Ministries**



**Formation &  
Evangelization  
Ministries**



**Liturgical,  
Music &  
Prayer Ministries**



**Service & Outreach  
Ministries &  
Organizations**

# Hospitality—The Cornerstone of Stewardship

At St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, we strive to be a welcoming parish that reflects the heart, mercy and teachings of Christ, the traditions of the Catholic Church and the spirit of joy manifested by our patron saint, St. Philip Neri. We pray that you find St. Philip Neri Catholic Church a warm, welcoming home and a place where you can deepen your faith and become a special part of our Catholic faith community.

Our Hospitality Ministries offer the gift of welcome, communicating to one and all who enter our doors that we are here to serve—not to be served.



## Hospitality Ministries

To learn more about our Hospitality Ministries and how to get involved, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jenny Funk at 803.548.7282 ext. 229 or [volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org)

- Hospitality Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Greeters Ministry
- New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry
- Welcome Desk Ministry
- Ushers
- Funeral Ministry

## Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee welcomes parishioners and guests by making and/or serving refreshments after Masses on Hospitality Sunday, which is scheduled monthly. Volunteers also serve other parish events that include newcomer's luncheons and parish celebrations. Volunteers are welcome.

## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee seeks to develop stewardship as a way of life in the parish, with members educating parishioners about how to live a life of Christian stewardship through the actions of giving, praying and serving. The committee educates and promotes the giftedness of all parishioners and the responsibility of disciples to steward all resources.

The members collaborate with the pastor and staff to develop strategies and practices which invite all parishioners and the parish organization itself to share time, talent and treasure. Time commitment: Ten to 12 monthly meetings per year, plus support of ongoing education efforts and annual stewardship events.

## Greeters Ministry

The members of this ministry help to create a warm and welcoming environment before Masses by greeting attendees as they enter the church.

Greeters also hand out bulletins, assist in the distribution and collection of worship aids and direct guests and new members to the welcome desk in the sanctuary's gathering space. This ministry has no age limitations and volunteers are welcome. Volunteer time commitment: Arrive 20 minutes prior to Mass and stay 15 to 20 minutes after Mass.

## New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

A welcoming climate begins at the curb and continues into the heart of

"I came as a guest, and you received me."  
Mathew 25:35

the congregation. The New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry plays a critical role in setting the tone of welcoming in the parish. These volunteers, known as area reps, follow-up with newly registered parishioners by reaching out to them with a phone call to ensure that they have connected with our faith community and feel welcomed. Time Commitment: 15 minutes per phone call.

### Welcome Desk Ministry

The members of this ministry provide assistance, as needed, before and after the celebration of weekend Masses. Volunteers with a welcoming spirit sit at



the welcome desk in the Sanctuary to welcome parishioners and guests, share information and answer questions. Volunteer opportunities are available. Volunteer time commitment: Arrive 20 minutes prior to Mass and stay 15 to 20 minutes after Mass.

### Ushers

This ministry, open to any interested adult or teen parishioner, provides assistance to the congregation during the

celebration of the Mass. Ushers seat attendees as necessary, assist with offertory collections, count attendance and direct traffic flow as guests proceed to Holy Communion. In addition, they provide other services that may be required to maintain order throughout the Mass. Volunteer opportunities are available for adults and teens. Volunteer time commitment: Arrive 20 minutes prior to Mass and stay 15 to 20 minutes after Mass.

### Funeral Ministry

This ministry provides comfort and compassion to the family and friends of deceased parishioners by coordinating meals and refreshments for receptions after Funeral Masses. Volunteers prepare food, pick up catered food, set up the parish center prior to the reception, serve funeral attendees and clean up after the meal. Volunteers are welcome. Volunteer time commitment: 2 to 3 hours per event.

## Formation—Education of the Mind and Conversion of the Heart



### Formation & Evangelization Ministries

#### Formation and Education:

- Faith Formation (Kindergarten–6th Grade)
- SPRED
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Youth Ministry
  - Edge
  - Life Teen

- Confirmation Preparation
- RCIA/RCIT
- Adult Formation Programs
- FORMED

#### Evangelization Ministries:

- Small Faith Sharing Groups
- Women’s Christian Walk

- Men’s Christian Walk
- Social Justice Ministry
- Respect Life Ministry
- St. Philip Neri Catholic Grandparents Association

To learn more about our Formation and Religious Education Programs contact Mary Harden our Director of Faith Formation at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org).

To learn more about our Youth Ministry Program, contact Tayler Howie, Life Teen Coordinator at [youthministry@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:youthministry@saintphilipneri.org), or Beth Donnelly, Edge Coordinator at [edgecoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:edgecoordinator@saintphilipneri.org).

To learn more about our Evangelization Ministries and how to participate, please contact Jenny Funk our Volunteer Coordinator, at 803.548.7282 ext. 229 or [volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org)

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

This program, offered during non-summer months at the 11:30 am Mass, is designed for children who are at least four years of age through Grade Five. During Mass, children are invited to gather for the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) in the chapel. The CLOW leader presents the Scriptures at the children's level and how it pertains to them in their own life. After the Prayers of the Faithful, the children return to their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. There is no registration required to attend. The following volunteer opportunities are available for adults and teens:

- **CLOW Leader**

Commitment involves lesson preparation and Mass time only. Volunteers receive training and must complete Safe Environment Training. Time commitment: 1 hour per week.

- **Adult Shepherd**

Not ready to be a CLOW leader but still want to get involved? Adult shepherds assist the children during the Liturgy. Volunteers must complete Safe

## Faith Formation

(Kindergarten–6th Grade)

This program introduces our youth to God in a meaningful way and conveys God's love by providing an environment that encourages spiritual and developmental growth. Catechists, who model a living faith while providing creative learning experiences, educate children in the teachings and traditions of our Catholic faith while also preparing them for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Children must complete the First Grade Faith Formation program to enter a sacramental preparation class, with these sacraments then typically celebrated while students are in Second Grade.

Faith Formation classes are scheduled on Sunday morning 10:00 am to 11:15 am; Monday and Wednesday afternoon 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm and Wednesday evening 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm, from September through May. Interested in registering your child? Complete our secure online registration form on [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/formation-education/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/formation-education/). Catechist and volunteer opportunities are available for adults and teenagers. Time commitment: Catechists, 60 hours per year. Volunteers, 90 minutes per week. Contact Mary Harden at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org) or 803.548.7282 ext. 226.

## SPRED

SPRED is a program of religious development

specifically designed to meet the spiritual needs of persons of all ages with developmental disabilities and intellectual challenges. This program, which brings individuals into communion with Christ and the church, enables participants to sense his presence in their lives and experience Christ's love and mercy. Classes are held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from October through April. Catechists meet separately before each SPRED session to plan sessions and pray for our SPRED community members. Volunteer opportunities are available for teens and adults. Time commitment: Catechists, 2.5 hours per week. Volunteers, 2 hours per week. Contact Mary Harden at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org).

Environment Training.  
Time commitment: 30  
minutes per week.

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

Vacation Bible School, which provides a fun and faith filled educational opportunity for children of the parish and community, takes place during the mornings of one week every June. Children learn faith lessons through hands-on crafts, games, music, skits and creative snacks. Children must be at least four years of age (by September 1st) up through a rising 5th grader. Volunteer opportunities are available for teens and adults. Volunteer time commitment: 20 hours per year. Contact Mary Harden at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org).

The Youth Ministry Program at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church focuses on helping our youth to embrace the Catholic faith, to spiritually prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation and to support answering the call to discipleship.

### **EDGE (7th & 8th Grades)**

EDGE, a program for seventh and eighth graders, focuses on Christ's teachings, by providing



a fun and spiritually filled atmosphere that encourages our youth to grow and share in God's love through our Catholic tradition. Faith is put into action, with children taking part in retreats and community-oriented service projects. EDGE meets on the first and third Sunday of each month, 6:45 pm–8:30 pm, September through May. Interested in registering your child? Complete our secure online registration form on [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/youth-ministry/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/youth-ministry/). Volunteer opportunities are available for adults. Contact Beth Donnelly, at [edgecoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:edgecoordinator@saintphilipneri.org).

### **Life Teen (9th–12th Grades)**

Life Teen is the high school youth group open to all teens in grades 9–12. It provides a great opportunity for teens to connect to each other and their faith. The mission of Life Teen at St. Philip Neri is to form intentional disciples of Christ by



creating experiences where high school teens are able to encounter the Lord. This is done through Environment, Evangelization and the Eucharist. Life Teen:

- Provides an environment that allows for the formation of authentic community among teens through planning events that encourage fun and fellowship.
- Evangelizes through sharing the truths of the faith and the Good News of the Gospel in a relatable way.
- Exposes the teens to Christ in the most Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of the faith, on a regular basis.

Volunteer opportunities are available for adults and for parents. Volunteer time commitment: 10 to 12 hours per month. Contact Tayler Howie at [youthministry@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:youthministry@saintphilipneri.org).

### **The Mass— Sundays, 5:30 pm**

At the Sunday 5:30 pm Mass, teens and their families are invited to experience the depth of God's love through the Word, the community, and the Eucharist. All teens are welcome to sit as a community in

one section and are encouraged to participate as lectors, ushers, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. This Mass offers contemporary music. Contact Tayler Howie at [youthministry@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:youthministry@saintphilipneri.org) if you are interested in participating in this Mass.

### **Sacramental Preparation— Confirmation**

For Catholics, the confirmation sacrament is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. By the sacrament of confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. St. Philip Neri Church offers a two-year confirmation program for ninth and tenth grade students. Classes are held the first and third Sunday of each month after the 5:30 pm Mass from September through April. Interested in registering your child? Complete our secure online registration form on [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/youth-ministry/](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/youth-ministry/). Contact Tayler Howie at [youthministry@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:youthministry@saintphilipneri.org) for additional information.



offers a variety of topical group Bible studies and programs which transmit the Gospel and so invite people of all ages to a personal and intentional faith in Jesus Christ.

## FORMED

*The Catholic Faith on Demand*

St. Philip Neri offers you a free subscription to FORMED, a wonderful website that has been called a “Catholic Netflix.” FORMED has inspiring movies and video based programs, audio presentations and e-books from the Church’s most compelling speakers and authors. With your access to FORMED, 24/7 on your television, phone, laptop, iPad or Kindle, you can:

- Prepare for Mass each week by watching an insightful five-minute video entitled Open the Word, on the Sunday Readings.
- Enjoy movies as a family that are both inspiring and entertaining;
- Enrich your marriage with the award winning video program Beloved; and
- Help your children grow in faith and character with engaging children’s materials.

### RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens)

This class is for teens coming into the Church who have not yet received all the Sacraments of Initiation and those who have not been enrolled in Faith Formation for an extended period. Through a relaxed, small group setting, they discover the teachings of the Catholic Church, what it means to live your life as a Catholic Christian, and the beauty and tradition of the Faith. Teens in this program begin classes in September and receive their sacraments at the Confirmation Mass celebration. Contact Mary Harden at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org) or 803.548.7282 ext. 226 for information.

### Other Programs for Sacraments

Classes are occasionally

offered for children in the third grade or above who have not yet received the sacraments of Reconciliation or First Holy Communion in the traditional manner. To obtain details, contact Mary Harden at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org).

### RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process used by the Catholic Church to present the beliefs of this faith to those adults (age 18 and older) who have made a conscious decision to explore coming into full communion with the Church. Spiritual formation and education about our Catholic faith takes place during these rites, which enables individuals to become fully incorporated into the Body of Christ, the

Catholic Church. RCIA classes begin in September and are held every other Thursday until the Easter Vigil when those joining the Catholic church will be received through the Sacraments of Initiation. If you are interested in becoming Catholic, contact Mary Harden our Director of Faith Formation at [faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:faithformationdirector@saintphilipneri.org) or 803.548.7282 ext. 226.

### Adult Formation Programs

God calls us to have a living faith, fully alive and always growing. Bible study keeps our minds and hearts afresh with new knowledge and wisdom. Our journey of faith is lifelong. Faith formation does not end after Confirmation. A maturing faith is a commitment to always learn more about God and His will. St. Philip Neri

## Evangelization Ministries

Evangelization Ministries offer parishioners the opportunity to

- Discover Jesus through a personal encounter with Him.
- Follow Jesus, becoming his disciple.
- To be a witness of Jesus by proclaiming the Good News

### Small Faith Sharing Groups at St. Philip Neri

Join a small group to share friendship, faith, reflections and the messages of Jesus to enrich your spiritual growth while building community.

A small group is a great way to make new friends and connections with St. Philip Neri parishioners and others. Centered in the Scripture, these groups meet in homes, workplaces or any comfortable setting twice a month to reflect on the Sunday Readings, share their insights and experience the grace of Christian community. For information on joining or hosting a group contact Deacon George Johnston at [gajohnston5998@yahoo.com](mailto:gajohnston5998@yahoo.com), or Deacon David Bartholomew at [davidbartholomew91@gmail.com](mailto:davidbartholomew91@gmail.com).

### Women's Christian Walk

Women's Christian Walk is a weekend retreat based on the Biblical account of Jesus' walk with two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The retreat provides an opportunity to leave behind busy schedules and worldly distractions to take time to ponder the ways in which the risen Christ reveals his love for us in the journey of life. After the retreat, participants continue to meet for breakfast once a month to continue sisterhood with each other and to deepen their relationship with God. Visit [www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org) for additional information.

### Men's Christian Walk

This program, available for men 21 years of age and over, provides a weekend to reflect on one's spiritual relationship with Jesus. It is based on St. Luke's account of two disciples



and Jesus as they walked together to Emmaus. These retreats, which offer a respite from the stresses of daily life, help individuals to renew their spiritual life, strengthen their relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and spend time with God. All men are invited to meet Jesus on their personal walk to Emmaus. Visit [www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org) for additional information.

### Social Justice Ministry

The mission of the St. Philip Neri Social Justice Ministry is to foster a visible, active and growing culture of Gospel-centric peace and justice within our parish by providing opportunities for compassionate interaction with, and advocacy for the voiceless and marginalized of our society. All are welcome to participate. The Social Justice Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Visit [www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/socialjustice](http://www.saintphilipneri.org/getting-involved/socialjustice) for more information.

### Respect Life Ministry

The Respect Life Ministry

focuses on increasing the awareness of the dignity and sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. This ministry educates our parishioners about the moral evils of abortion, infanticide, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia and assisted suicide, and to defend and restore the Culture of LIFE through campaigns of prayer and worship. This ministry sponsors projects which protect and defend the unborn, the disabled, the terminally ill and the elderly.

### St. Philip Neri Catholic Grandparents Association

Grandparents' vital contribution to the family, the Church and society was never as important as now. We are living in unprecedented times, with constantly changing social and moral values. At the heart of the Catholic Grandparents Association is the firm belief that it is our duty, our responsibility and our vocation to pray, show the way and pass on our faith. For additional information on the Catholic Grandparents Association visit [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).

# Liturgy, Music and Prayer—Drawing Closer to God

Liturgical Ministries offer parishioners the opportunity to fulfill a special role in Eucharistic celebrations during daily and weekend Masses and other liturgical events. These roles, which may be either visible, or behind-the-scenes, are extremely important to celebration of Mass. Help is always needed, and we gratefully welcome parishioners to become more involved in the Liturgical Ministries that serve the St. Philip Neri faith community.

To learn more about our Liturgical Ministries and how to participate, please contact Jenny Funk our Volunteer Coordinator, at 803.548.7282 ext. 229 or [volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org)



## Liturgical, Music & Prayer Ministries

### Liturgical Ministries

#### Altar Servers

Altar servers assist the priest and deacon during Mass as needed with processions, blessings, rituals and readings. This ministry is open to adults as well as children that have made their First Holy Communion and completed the third grade. Altar Servers must possess the maturity required to respectfully serve on the altar and assist the priest

#### Liturgical Ministries:

- Altar Servers
- Gift Bearers
- Lectors
- Sacristans
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Sound & Video Board Ministry
- Altar Linens & Purificators Ministry

and deacon. Orientation and training are provided, with attendance at one annual meeting required. Time commitment: 90 minutes per liturgy.

#### Gift Bearers

The gifts of bread and wine, along with our weekly offering, are brought to the altar at each Mass on the weekend and Holy Days. The gifts represent the offering of ourselves to our Heavenly Father. The gift bearers represent each one of us as if we each brought our own gift to the altar. Any family, group or individual parishioners may volunteer to bring up the gifts. All are welcome and

encouraged to participate. If you are interested in signing up, contact Jenny Funk, our Volunteer Coordinator.

#### Lectors

Lectors assist in the Mass, as they proclaim the Word of God during the first two Scripture Readings and lead the Prayers of the Faithful. This ministry is open to adults or youths who are articulate in their speech and pronunciations, have a clear voice and feel comfortable speaking in front of the congregation. Orientation and training is required. Time commitment: 30 minutes per liturgy, including preparation.

#### Sacristans

This ministry, which enables an orderly celebration of the Mass, is open to all adults and teens interested in administering several important works before and after the celebration of the Holy Eucharistic. Responsibilities include preparing the altar and credence table before Mass and gathering the vessels necessary for the sacrifice of the Mass. After Mass, sacristans are responsible for cleaning the sacred vessels and utensils that come in direct contact with the Blessed Sacrament and returning all items to their proper place. Time

commitment: Arrive 30 minutes prior to Mass and stay 15 to 20 minutes after Mass.



### **Eucharistic Ministers**

This ministry is open to any devout, practicing Catholic parishioner who is in full communion with the Catholic Church and

has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. They must be at least 16 years of age, be knowledgeable about the mystery of the Eucharist and reverent of the duty and privilege that they perform. Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist at a Mass of their choice and help by taking Holy Communion to parishioners who are homebound, in nursing homes or in hospitals.

Attendance at orientation and training is required.

Time commitment: Initial training—2 hours. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of Mass.

### **Sound & Video Board Ministry**

This ministry is open to all adults and teens interested in operating the soundboard and video systems during the Mass to enhance the worship experience. Orientation and training are required. Time Commitment: Initial training—2 hours. As little as 1 hour per month to as many as 10 hours per month.

### **Altar Linens and Purificators Ministry**

This ministry cares for the sacred linens on a rotating schedule. Training is provided on how to care for these special linens that

contain the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ministry is made up of team members who, behind the scenes in their own homes, reverently launder and care for the purificators and corporals used on the altar at Mass. Time commitment of volunteers is 1 to 2 hours per week.

### **Nursery**

The nursery is provided during the 9:30 am and 11:30 am Masses for children between the ages of 15 months and 5 years. To volunteer, contact Carrie Seekings 803.981.4700.

## **Music Ministries**

Members of the Music Ministries proclaim and share the Word of God in song by participating in various music-related efforts at St. Philip Neri Church. Individuals, who give of their time to offer their God-given musical talents, foster and nurture participation within the worshipping community during weekend liturgies and other special services.

To learn more about our Music Ministries and how to participate, please contact Linda Liberty, our Director of Music, at 803.548.7282 ext. 249 or [musicdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:musicdirector@saintphilipneri.org).

To learn more about our Lifenotes Choir and how to participate, please contact Zinorl Bronola at [zinorl@gmail.com](mailto:zinorl@gmail.com).



### **Music Ministries**

- Mass Choir
- St. Cecelia Choir
- Lifenotes Choir
- Children's Choir
- Consolation Choir
- Handbell Ensemble
- Cantors
- Brass Ensemble & Instrumentalists



### **Mass Choir**

This choir sings every Sunday at the 9:30 am Mass. Participants must be committed, enjoy singing and recognize its importance to the celebration of the Eucharist. Rehearsals take place every Thursday at 7:00 pm. Time commitment: 3 hours weekly (1.5 hours for rehearsal; 1.5 hours to sing at Mass including arrival time 30 minutes prior.) Additional time for holy days and special liturgies.

### **St. Cecelia Choir**

This choir, open to ladies high school age and older, sings at the 11:30 am Mass every Sunday morning. Participants must be committed, enjoy singing and recognize that music is an integral part of the solemn liturgy that assists participants in the celebration of our faith. Rehearsals take place every

Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Time commitment: 3 hours weekly (1.5 hours for rehearsal; 1.5 hours to sing at Mass including arrival time 30 minutes prior.) Additional time for holy days and special liturgies.

### **Lifenotes Choir**

This contemporary ensemble leads the music at the Life Teen Mass that is celebrated weekly on Sunday at 5:30 pm. Rehearsals are held on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm. Time commitment: 2.5 hours weekly (1 hour for rehearsal; 1.5 hours to sing at Mass including arrival time 30 minutes prior.) Additional time for holy days and special liturgies.

### **Children's Choir**

This choir, open to children ages 7 to 12 years old, is an uplifting and positive way to introduce the young child to the church choir.

Your child will strengthen his or her relationship with Jesus through music. This choir sings once every 6 weeks. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 6:15 pm. Time commitment: 2.5 hours weekly (1 hour for rehearsal; 1.5 hours to sing at Mass including arrival time 30 minutes prior.) Additional time for holy days and special liturgies.

### **Consolation Choir**

The consolation choir, which aids the assemblies at funeral liturgies, meets briefly before the scheduled funeral Mass time. This choir, which is open to anyone who is available during the day, is usually notified on short notice when their participation is needed.

### **Handbell Ensemble**

This ensemble, which meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm for rehearsal,

performs at select regular Masses and at special liturgies and services. The ability to read music or prior handbell ringing experience is helpful, but not a requirement. Time commitment: 2.5 hours weekly (1 hour for rehearsal; 1.5 hours to play at Mass including arrival time 30 minutes prior.) Additional time for holy days and special liturgies.

### **Brass Ensemble and Instrumental Soloists**

This ensemble accompanies the liturgy on an as-needed basis, with rehearsals scheduled by appointment. Duo, trio, quartet and quintet ensembles are formed as needed. Woodwind and string players are needed throughout the year as well.

### **Cantors**

Our cantors, who make the congregation's prayer



possible through song at each celebration of the Eucharist, are a vital part of the Mass. They assist the assembly as necessary, such as leading the proclamation of the responsorial song, the gospel acclamation and other liturgical songs.

Cantors must have a strong singing voice, and ability to encourage participants to join in the songs and a dedication to the ministry of music. While cantors are encouraged to join the choir, it is not required.

### **Additional Opportunities**

Instrumentalist are needed at times, with both students and adults invited to participate. Pianist and organists are also occasionally needed to substitute for

regular participants. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Linda Liberty, Director of Music at [musicdirector@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:musicdirector@saintphilipneri.org) or 803.548.7282 Ext. 249.

## **Prayer Ministries**

These prayerful ministries and programs invite parishioners to raise their hearts and minds to God in prayer and enrich their spiritual lives. They support individuals on their journeys to the fullness of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They are designed to build a vibrant faith community of disciples who are equipped to proclaim and share the Good News of Christ.

To learn more about our Liturgical Ministries and how to participate, please contact Jenny Funk our Volunteer Coordinator, at 803.548.7282 ext. 229 or [volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org)



### **Prayer Ministries**

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Centering Prayer Group
- Children's Rosary Group
- JOY in the Spirit
- Legion of Mary
- Pilgrim Virgin Rosary
- Prayers for the Sick
- St. Philip Neri Mom's Group
- Prayers for Our Active Duty Military

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Eucharistic Adoration provides our fellow parishioners a place to offer thanks, petitions, and needs through prayers in

the true presence of Our Lord. Sign up for one or more scheduled hours or drop in. Adoration is held each week in the Adoration Chapel beginning after the 9:30 am Tuesday Mass

through Saturday at 5:00 pm. Contact [spnadoration@gmail.com](mailto:spnadoration@gmail.com) for additional information and to sign up. Time commitment: As many hours as you sign up for.

### **Centering Prayer**

Centering Prayer is a practice that invites us to be present to God as God is present to us. In the silence of centering, we open ourselves to God's action in our lives. It is a process that transforms us and brings inner peace. In each session, we take time for centering prayer, reflection on the process, and encouraging each other to be faithful to the daily practice of centering. The Centering Prayer Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm.

### **Children's Rosary Prayer Group**

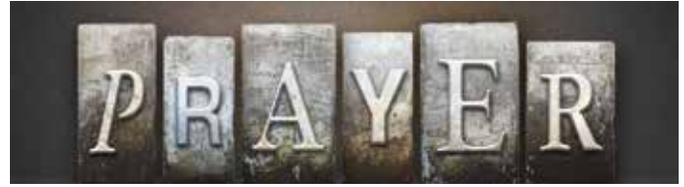
The Children's Rosary is a prayer movement for children between 4 and 18 years of age to pray the Rosary. Children take turns leading the prayers. Adults are welcome to attend. The Prayer Group meets in the Daily Mass Chapel on the first Friday of each month from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm beginning in October through May.

### **JOY in the Spirit**

JOY in the Spirit is a catholic Charismatic prayer group. Members seek to experience a richer and more tangible experience of the Holy Spirit through prayer and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A life in the Spirit Seminar, during which time one is introduced to a greater filling of the Holy Spirit, is scheduled annually. Joy in the Spirit meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 7:00 pm.

### **Legion of Mary**

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, and through collaboration in apostolic and missionary undertakings sponsored by the parish. Members of this ministry also show their devotion to the Blessed Mother by making Rosaries for distribution to various groups within the church community and beyond. This ministry meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am or 7:00 pm.



### **Praying for Our Sick**

The parish staff maintains a list of individuals that are in need of God's grace and healing due to an illness of any kind. This list is regularly placed on the Welcome Desk in the church so that this prayer group is aware of those people in need. This prayer group helps to bear the burdens of members of our parish and beyond through intercessory prayer. Due to confidentiality concerns, please obtain permission from the individual in need of prayer prior to asking a member of the office staff to include the individual's full name of the prayer list.

### **Praying for Our Active Duty Military**

The parish staff maintains a list of Active Duty Military that are family members or friends of our parishioners. This list is regularly placed at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space and in the Adoration Chapel so that the prayer group is aware of those in need of prayer. Contact the parish office at 803.548.7282 to add someone to this list.

### **Pilgrim Virgin Statue**

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue, which represents Our Lady of Fatima, is hosted weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. Participants gather to pray the Rosary, offer intentions and reflect upon the Mysteries of the Rosary.

### **St. Philip Neri Mom's Group**

St. Philip Neri Mom's Group supports the vocation of motherhood by strengthening faith through various readings including Scripture, the Catechism and various books applicable to Christian family life. This ministry engages moms who want to grow deeper in their faith and enjoy fellowship with other moms. St. Philip Neri Mom's Group meets throughout the school year on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:00 am. You can drop in for a session at your convenience or attend them all. All mothers are welcome!

## Service and Outreach—At the Heart of Everything We Do

As Christians, we are called to be disciples of Jesus. St. Philip Neri Service and Outreach Ministries and Organizations reach out to people, both within the parish and in the larger community, who may be challenged by injustices or are feeling powerless to change the circumstances in their lives. By aiding others with their spiritual and material necessities, Catholics grow in conformance to Christ and ultimately receive His Divine mercy.

To learn more about our Service and Outreach Ministries and how to participate, please contact Jenny Funk our Volunteer Coordinator, at 803.548.7282 ext. 229 or [volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintphilipneri.org)



### Service & Outreach Ministries & Organizations

## Service and Outreach Within the Parish

### Health & Wellness Ministry

The Health & Wellness Ministry offers resources that enable parishioners to be better stewards of the life that God has given to each of us. This team of committed professionals and interested health care advocates support and assist the congregation in achieving better health

through education, monthly health checks and other means. This ministry meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am from September through May.

### Rosary Makers Guild

This ministry is devoted to helping our missions and others receive the gift of the rosary, thereby

making their prayers more deeply centered in the life of Christ. The Rosary Makers Guild meets every Thursday at 10:15 am. The ministry always

### Ministries and Organizations Within the Parish:

- Health & Wellness Ministry
- Rosary Makers Guild
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Homebound Ministry
- Bereavement Ministry & Support Group
- Pet Ministry
- Martha's Meals Ministry
- Take Them a Meal Ministry
- Veteran's Ministry
- St. Philip Neri Women's Group
- Creative Art Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Wise Owls
- The Polish Group
- Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH)
- Rose Garden Guild
- Senior Moments Ministry

### Ministries and Organizations Beyond the Parish:

- Knights of Columbus Council 12366
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- NAMI
- ALPHA
- Toastmasters
- Overeaters Anonymous
- Cub Scout Pack 219
- Boy Scout Troop 219
- Boy Scout Troop 219
- Pinochle Club
- Saints & Sinners Bowling League
- Careers in Transition (CIT)
- Red Cross Blood Drive

has openings for people devoted to helping our missions and others receive the gift of the rosary. Training is required and all materials are provided.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The members of this ministry personally hand-knit or crochet prayer shawls for St. Philip Neri parishioners, participants in the Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, and others in the community. Given to individuals in need of comfort and prayer, these handmade "gifts of love" provide a tangible symbol of the loving embrace of a praying community. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am.

### **Homebound Ministry**

Through home and hospital visits, Eucharistic Ministers provide the sick, elderly and homebound with companionship and the Holy Eucharist. Volunteers live their faith by taking Christ to others while they fulfill a vital corporal work of mercy, visiting the sick. Time Commitment: 1 hour per visit.

### **Bereavement Ministry & Bereavement Support Group**

At St. Philip Neri, we believe that in our faith community, no one should grieve alone. St. Philip Neri Bereavement Ministry gives emotional support and practical help to parish families going through the grieving process. Members of this ministry send cards, make calls and visits, host the Annual All Soul's Day Mass and ensure the availability of the Parish's Book of the Names of the Dead. This ministry also sponsors grief support groups that help fill the loneliness and manage the emotions of a changing lifestyle. The Bereavement Ministry meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. The Bereavement Support Group meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

### **Pet Partners Ministry**

This ministry responds to God's call to visit and comfort the sick and lonely. Pet owners and their dogs visit nursing homes, hospitals, childcare centers and hospice facilities. The dogs must be friendly, mild mannered and have a gentle temperament. Volunteers that serve this ministry may be adults and teens. This ministry is also suitable

for a family with children. Time commitment: As many hours as you'd like to volunteer.

### **Martha's Meals Ministry**

This ministry is devoted to providing lunches on Saturday mornings to shut-ins in the local community. The cooks prepare meals in the church, with the drivers paired in twos for each individual delivery route. Volunteers, who typically serve one Saturday per month, are scheduled on a rotating basis. In addition, other volunteers are needed to provide freshly baked cookies.

### **Take Them a Meal**

At times, life can make it a challenge to cook meals for your family. Welcoming a newborn, dealing with an illness or surgery, or dealing with a loss could present a need that this ministry can serve by preparing and delivering meals.

### **Veteran's Ministry**

The Veterans Ministry focuses on providing fellowship, support and service to past and present members of the armed forces at St. Philip Neri. The Veterans Ministry meets on the third Tuesday of each month.



### **St. Philip Neri Women's Group**

This group, which is open to all interested women of the parish, actively engages women in a shared spiritual and social life. The members use their God-given talents to serve in the community and raise money for selected charities. The Women's Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month, August through May at 7:00 pm.

### **Creative Arts Ministry**

The Creative Arts Ministry gathers anyone who would like to use their creative gifts for the service of the church. Artistic expression comes in a variety of ways and can enrich the ministries of our Parish. The Creative Arts Ministry meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

### **Young Adult Ministry**

St. Philip Neri Young Adult Life Ministry provides young adults (20s-30s), single or

married, opportunities to grow in their faith and be active in the St. Philip Neri community through spiritual, service, and social activities. We welcome all young adults, members or non-members of St. Philip Neri, to join us for our events. Information



about upcoming events can be found at York County Young Adults on Facebook. Contact Tayler Howie at youthministry@saintphilipneri.org

### Wise Owls

This ministry, which brings together members of our parish age 55 and above, focuses on fellowship and companionship. Our motto of “Make Memories, Spread Happy” explains our goal of providing an atmosphere of congeniality where those of like interests can get to know one another and spread the sense of community. The Wise Owls meet on the first Friday of each month, September

through May for lunch and a program.

### The Polish Group

The members of this group, which all have Polish ancestral roots, seek fellowship and community. Members take part in lively discussions about ancestors, Polish customs and present-day Poland. They also enjoy traditional music and food during Christmas and Easter celebrations. The Polish Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 12:45 pm.

### Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

This group, which is part of the nation’s oldest Irish Catholic fraternal organization, is open to all women of Irish descent that practices the Catholic faith. Building upon the principals of friendship, unity and Christian charity, members foster the ideals, promote Irish culture and embrace the history and traditions of Irish people. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm from September through May.

### Rose Garden Guild

The St. Therese Rose Garden, which was developed by the Rose Garden Guild in 2016,

beautifies the landscaping on our parish grounds while also offering parishioners a place to pray. Members offer their gifts of service and time to care for this garden that honors St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus. Time commitment: As many hours as you’d like to volunteer.

### Senior Moments Ministry

Given the number of assisted living facilities in our area, the Senior Moments ministry was conceived to spend quality time with senior citizens who are lonely or just interested in fellowship. The time can be spent playing cards, reading a book to them, partaking in their favorite activity, or just engaging in heartfelt conversation. Seniors have so much to share based on their life experience, and this ministry gives those without immediate family in the area or regular companionship a chance to do just that. Time commitment: 1 hour per visit for as many visits as you’d like to volunteer for.

## Service and Outreach Beyond the Parish

### Knights of Columbus Bishop Denis J. O’Connell— Council 12366

The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic Men’s fraternal organization in the world. We were founded on four main principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. The order has been called “the strong right arm of the Church,” and has been praised by popes, presidents and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement, and aid to those in need. Here at St. Philip Neri we help in many ways. We organize blood drives; Habitat for Humanity projects; raise money for people with intellectual disabilities; and support many pro-life causes. As Catholic men, we are called to do more. The



Knights can help you answer that call. We will connect you with opportunities to make an impact in your community and we will help you grow deeper in your faith. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to practicing Catholic men who are at least 18 years old. If you are interested to learn more, please contact Carson Luger at [carsonluger@yahoo.com](mailto:carsonluger@yahoo.com).

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a worldwide organization for Catholic adults that desire to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbors in need. Members, who grow spiritually during participation in the organization's efforts, provide food, clothing, financial assistance and spiritual support to the needy, aged and/or lonely individuals or families that are facing a desperate situation. All work is done on a confidential basis and in a manner that upholds the dignity of those in need. St. Vincent de Paul meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Established in 1988, Habitat for Humanity of York



County is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. As a Faith Group Partner for Humanity of York County, St. Philip Neri participates in several Faith Builds throughout the year to help local families in need of safe, affordable housing. These faith builds offer many volunteer opportunities.

### **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**

MANI is the nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans challenged by mental illness. The

local affiliate works in the community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need. The group serves to educate, advocate for, listen to and lead those individuals and families affected by mental illness. Additional information is available at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

### **Alpha Group**

The Alpha Group, a local chapter of Sexaholics Anonymous (SAA), is a support network of men and women who gather to share their experiences, courage and perseverance as they strive to overcome sexual addiction and help others recover from sexual addiction or dependency. Using a 12-step program, the organization's primary goal is for members to stay sexually sober and help others to recover and achieve sexual sobriety. Additional

information may be obtained at <http://saa-recovery.org>.

### **Toastmasters**

The affiliate of Toastmasters International, a world leader in communication and leadership development, provides parishioners with a forum to learn and practice skills such as public speaking. Members, through the offered programs, become more effective in serving God, the church, their family and the community. Toastmasters meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 pm. Additional information is available at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

### **Overeaters Anonymous**

Overeaters Anonymous offers physical, emotional and spiritual recovery programs for those individuals who want to stop eating compulsively. It is a safe, encouraging community where one can share struggles and celebrate victories over addictions with compulsive overeating, under-eating, food addiction, anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, or over-exercising. This organization meets weekly on Saturdays at 11:00 am. Additional information is available at [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org).

### **Cub Scout - Pack 219**

Membership in Pack 219, open to all boys in Grades One through Five, helps individuals grow into honorable men. The focus lies upon each boy's experiences with respect to religion, the outdoors, sports, citizenship and integrity. Growth, advancement and celebration are achieved through activities and monthly meetings. Cub Scout Pack 219 meets every Monday at 6:30 pm



### **Scouts BSA— Troop 219**

BSA Troop 219, chartered by St. Philip Neri Church in 2005, is open to all boys who have completed at least the 5th grade, have received their Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award, or are at least 11 years of age. This organization teaches young men about the outdoors, leadership and citizenship. Boy Scout Troop 219 meets every Monday at 7:00 pm.



### **Scouts BSA— Troop 220**

BSA Troop 220 is a year round program for girls ages 11 to 17 that provides fun, adventure, learning, challenge and responsibility to help them become the best version of themselves. This organization teaches

young women about the outdoors, leadership and citizenship. BSA Troop 220 meets every Monday at 7:00 pm.

### **Pinochle Club**

The mission of this club is to provide fun and fellowship for church members and community residents who enjoy playing pinochle. We gather on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please join us! To join or for more information, contact Joe Zocco at 203.414.3098.

### **Saints and Sinners Bowling League**

This recreational league, which uses a scoring system based on an individual's handicap, is made up of parishioners from local catholic Churches that enjoy friendship and community along with a good bowling match. Mixed couples can join, as well as individuals or partial teams that are paired with other participants. The league meets every other week from September through April, excluding the holidays.

### **Careers in Transition**

This organization is a mentoring and networking group for people who are in transition with their professional career. The group offers support, encouragement, advice, skill building and networking opportunities through guest speakers and mentors who have career search experience and expertise. Careers in Transition (CIT) meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Conducted on a quarterly basis, the blood drive provides community members with the opportunity to donate the "gift of Life." Signup sheets are typically available after all Masses two weeks prior to a planned drive. Volunteers are also needed to baked cookies for the blood donors.

# Preschool at St. Philip Neri Church's Child Development Center



Every child is unique and a special gift from God, with each individual possessing special talents and gifts. The Child Development Center, operated by St. Philip Neri Church, seeks to nurture each child's academic and social skills through a developmental hands-on approach to learning. The Center fills a substantial need of both our parish and the community by preparing preschool-aged children with the abilities necessary to enter kindergarten. It also offers children the experience of a Christian way of life.



**St. Philip Neri**

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Playing! Learning! Growing!  
In the Joy of God's Love

The goals of the Child Development Center, which are designed to be age and developmentally appropriate to optimize the preschoolers learning experience, include:

- To provide a safe, nurturing and child-centered environment for all children.
- To play and create a program based on the developmental milestones in a young child's life, using appropriate lessons and activities to foster his or her developmental growth.
- To provide a program that will nurture confidence, learning and caring.
- To show children and their families how special they are to us and God.

The curriculum is designed to encourage growth and learning across several developmental areas including spiritual growth, cognitive development, social skill, speech and language, self-help skills, gross motor skill and fine motor skills.

This program is open to children that are two, three or four years old. Attendees must be age-appropriate by September 1st. Sessions take place from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Monday through Friday during the months of September through May.

Visit [www.stphilipneripreschool.com](http://www.stphilipneripreschool.com) for additional information.

# St. Anne High School at St. Philip Neri Church Campus



Since August 2017, St. Anne High School of Rock Hill, South Carolina has been located in the Ministry Building of St. Philip Neri Church.

## The Mission, Vision and Philosophy of St. Anne High School

St. Anne High School unites the long-standing, bountiful tradition of Catholic Education with a personalized learning experience. Students, who are strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, are empowered to develop their potential as a human being, become virtuous leaders within the community, and constructive, active participants in the life of the Catholic Church. The school proclaims the Catholic way of life as manifested in the Scripture, the principles of moral values and practices of faith, as it fosters individual growth in the virtues of faith, hope and love.



The administrators and faculty of St. Anne School inspire excellence by educating the whole child—the intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural dimensions of his/her personality.

St. Anne School leaders believe that each of their students is called to serve humanity, with each administrator and teacher able to prepare students for this service by providing a strong academic foundation, a desire for knowledge and a sense of community.

For more information visit [2016.stanneschool.com](http://2016.stanneschool.com)

# Italian Festival

The Italian Festival, St. Philip Neri Church's biggest fundraiser, is held each May. Celebrated for over 20 years, 24 to be exact, the festival has grown into one of the largest community events in Fort Mill, annually attracting an estimated 10,000 visitors. The festival offers 3 incredible days and nights of non-stop festivities. Arguably, the best part of any festival is the food, and the Italian Festival delivers, with more than 20 different festival favorites and specialties there for the tasting.

This event, built upon a "Spirit of Caring and Giving," would not be possible without the considerable generosity and support of our volunteers, local area businesses and festival attendees. Festival proceeds support the Church's mission, with a portion of the Cannoli Run profits given to a local community outreach program.

It takes over 650 volunteers each year to accomplish such a successful event. Our volunteers are people like you, parishioners who recognize the importance of stewardship, and are called to serve our parish and our community.

Why so many volunteers? The Italian Festival is really that big! We have something for everyone who attends to appreciate, including authentic homemade Italian food, live music and entertainment, the Cannoli 5K Run and Family Walk, the Festival Fun Zone, live and silent auctions,



charitable drawings, wine tastings, the Children's Benvenuti Parade, the Italian Idol Talent Contest, local artisans and vendors, and much more.

Not only do all of these events have to run smoothly, we have to ensure that all of the numerous tasks to prepare for, run and clean-up the festival do too. Activities such as marketing the festival, finding local businesses to provide sponsorships, planning, organizing and implementing, preparing, cooking and serving the food, decorating, cleaning up, setting up and tearing down require volunteers and provide numerous

stewardship opportunities.

You can join the Festival Committee and help to lead and organize, or you can join one of the teams in an area that strikes your interest—perhaps making lasagna, baked ziti, cookies, meatballs or sausage. If you don't have a lot of time, sign up to help in any way you can on a day or two of the Festival. It really does take 675 volunteers to make this Festival successful. So please consider volunteering no matter how big or small your commitment may be. Your help is a huge part of our success. Grazie Mille!

Visit [www.spnitalianfestival.com](http://www.spnitalianfestival.com) to learn more.

# St. Philip Neri

## The Patron Saint of Joy/Apostle of Rome

### Facts

Feast day: May 26th

Patron of Rome, US Special Forces,  
Humor, Joy

Birth: July 21, 1515

Death: May 26, 1595

Beatified By: May 11, 1615 by Pope  
Paul V

Canonized By: March 12, 1622 by  
Pope Gregory XV

Over 500 years ago, in AD 1515, a man was born whom the world would come to know as the Apostle of Rome and one of the Church's funniest saints. In an age that badly needed holy men and women to rise above the spiritual squalor and needed reformers among its priests to counteract clerical corruption, he is known not only for his holiness but also for his humor. While the Council of Trent (AD 1545-1563) was addressing the scandalous confusion of the Protestant Reformation, he was winning friends by his contagious delight in the Gospel of Jesus.

The secret to St. Philip Neri's impact on the City of Rome, and cities and villages far beyond, was his keen awareness of the greatest roadblocks to finding happiness in life.

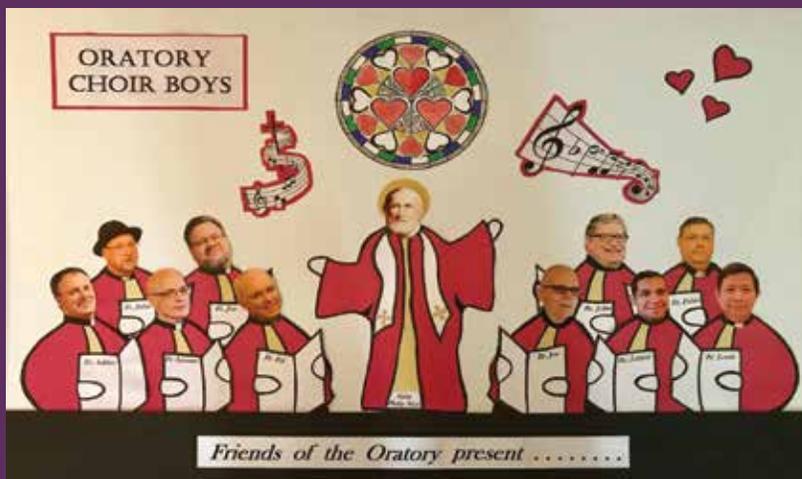
Impediments to joy. The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five impediments to joy: indifference, ingratitude, lukewarmness, spiritual sloth and hatred of God (CCC 2094).

### Friends of the Oratory Ministry

The Friends of the Oratory ministry began under the leadership of Fr. Joseph Wahl, CO to raise awareness of the presence of the Congregation of the Oratory in York County, SC. Today, the members of the Friends of the Oratory are spread out in five parishes administered by the Rock Hill Oratory.

The Friends of the Oratory ministry strives to help the Rock Hill Oratory find ways to meet its financial needs and other non-financial requirements. The ministry endeavors to create and maintain awareness among parish parishioners of what the Oratory is, what it does, and how it benefits the parish churches - spiritually and financially. This ministry also sponsors and supports projects and the annual Oratory Valentine Dinner - the main fund raising event.

This ministry invites you to join the "Friends of the Oratory" to grow closer to the Lord following the charism of their founder, St. Philip Neri. Their purpose is to build relationships with one another based on the common bond of charity and friendship with the Lord. For additional information about the Friends of the Oratory visit <https://web.rockhilloratory.net>about-the-oratory>friends-of-the-oratory>.



Many people in the 16th century, as today, failed to grasp the wisdom of this teaching, and thus failed to recognize the holiness of Philip Neri. But it mattered little to him whether he was laughed at or laughed with; what mattered was helping others to discover how virtue and laughter walk together hand-in-hand.

The poet Phyllis McGinley called Philip Neri “the merriest man alive” during the troubled times of the Protestant Reformation and Catholic Counter-Reformation. He was a man of mirth because he delighted every day in the wondrous love of God. He took time to notice and to praise God for His charity in all His dealings with the human family. From experience, this saintly priest knew how easy it is to overlook the goodness of the Lord, to fall into a steady diet of pessimism, and to succumb to self-pity; so he fought with dynamic stamina of soul and a smile on his face against this and the other four impediments to joy.

### **Founder of the Oratory**

In order to share his happiness with others and to bear even more convincing witness to the joy of the Gospel, St. Philip Neri, at the urging of his confessor, accepted ordination as a priest and soon became well-known as an outstanding confessor. He had the gift of being able to see through the pretenses of penitents and, with

**Prayer to St. Philip Neri**  
Here is a short prayer to St. Philip Neri that can help a soul weighed down by the anxieties of the world see the joy of the Gospel in a new way.

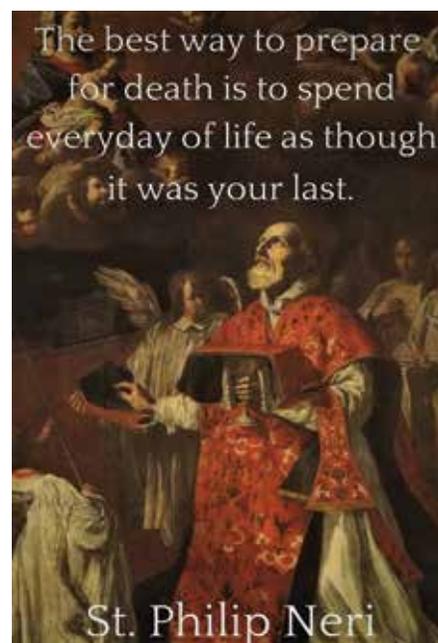
*O holy St. Philip Neri, patron saint of joy, you who trusted Scripture’s promise that the Lord is always at hand and that we need not have anxiety about anything, in your compassion heal our worries and sorrows and lift the burdens from our hearts. We come to you as one whose heart swells with abundant love for God and all creation. Hear us, we pray, especially in this need (make your request here). Keep us safe through your loving intercession and may the joy of the Holy Spirit which filled your heart, St. Philip, transform our lives and bring us peace. Amen.*

charity and even humor, lead them to genuine conversion.

Gradually, a number of men seeking holiness of life were attracted by his gladsome way and formed a community around him in which they shared all things in common. Some of these followers eventually joined with him in founding what he called the Oratory, a Clerical Society of Apostolic Life. While not a religious institute, it is comparable in many ways, having the traits of common life, common prayer, and mutual encouragement of one another in the service of God and neighbor.

In an age of irony and sarcasm, St. Philip Neri was a sign of contradiction just because he was happy, always rejoicing in the Lord and leading others to discover His joy. Since, deep down,

every person wants to be happy, but often doesn’t know how, his cheerful demeanor moved many to ask, “What’s his secret?” His secret was a humble and grateful heart that loved God and served Him with good cheer.





# **St. Philip Neri Catholic Church**

A SPIRIT OF CARING AND GIVING

292 Munn Road, East, Fort Mill, SC 29715  
[www.saintphilipneri.org](http://www.saintphilipneri.org)  
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