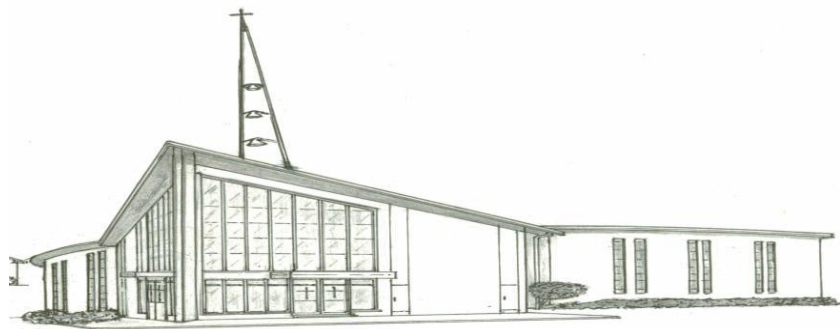


Church of Saint Philip Neri
Pennsburg, PA 18073
Jan. 24, 2016



Rev. Robert A. Roncase, Pastor
Rev. Raymond W. Smart, retired; resident
Deacon Michael J. Franks
Deacon Mark J. Meinzer, Business Manager
Rev. Edmond J. Speitel, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. John J. Scarcia, Retired Pastor
Shirley Misiak, Office Manager
Catherine E. Faust, Director of Music
Wendy Benner, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED
Tom Dewees, Director Catholic Family Life Center
Diane Cunningham, Adm. Assistant CFLC
Anita Fuhs, Youth Minister
Sister Patricia Kelly, M.S.B.T., Parish Outreach

Parish Phone Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.9275
Youth Ministry	267.733.2572
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.7839
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.2237
Parish Hall	215.679.8116
Parish Outreach	215.679.2282
Neri Center	215.679.6490

Fax Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.0386
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.8370
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.8370

Church & Rectory Address:

1325 Kliner Rd; Pennsburg 18073

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Email Address: smisiak@spnparish.org
Website Address: www.spnparish.org

Religious Education Office address & hours:

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Monday & Friday: Offices are closed
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Email address: spnprep@comcast.net

Neri Center Address

575 Main Street, East Greenville, PA 18041

Catholic Family Life Center Address

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Email address: tdewees@spncflc.org
Website Address: www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com

Youth Ministry Office hours: (East Greenville)

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Email address: spnym@comcast.net

ROSARY: Prayed in the Chapel

Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass
Monday at 1:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

1st Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Chapel,
followed by Benediction.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar,
please call the rectory.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 5:00 PM
Sunday – 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 AM
Holy Day Masses as announced

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE - St. Anne Chapel

The Chapel is open Monday thru Saturday until
7:00 PM for your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass is celebrated in the
Chapel attached to the rectory:
Monday - 5:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM
Saturday - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 4:00 – 4:45 PM *or*:
at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT anytime.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Rectory to schedule
2nd Sunday Baptisms are held **at** the 11 AM Mass
3rd Sunday Baptisms are held at 12:30 PM

SPONSORS: Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation
need to be at least 16 years of age, to be confirmed,
attend Mass weekly, and if married, be in a valid
marriage.

PRE-JORDAN CLASSES

1st Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the
Rectory meeting room.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least SIX
MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to your new home!
Please stop by or call the rectory between 9:00 am -
4:00 pm to fill out a registration card.

SHUT-INS

Please call the Parish Outreach Office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Rectory.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

Serving at Mass Extraordinary Ministers

5:00 pm - Dawn Ellis
Bob Ellis
Priest
Deacon
Lee Johnson
Catherine Cahill
Dave Boone
Teri Boone
John Burke
Linda Franks
Claire Holcombe
Marci Jaman

7:30 am - Lori Brozena
Trish Dornisch
Priest
Deacon
Mary R. Giambrone
Barbara Jaruszewski

9:30 am - Christine Kemp
Marianne Peters
Priest
Deacon
Joan Pongia
Terry Quatrani

11:00 am - Doug DiTondo
Linda DiTondo
Priest
Deacon
Andrew Souder
LaRue Emmell

Jan. 31 Lectors

C. Highleyman
Janine Warnas

B. Bowser
C. Bowser

Eileen Koch
Bob Keeley

Mary Souder

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24, 2016

Monday, January 25, The Conversion of
Saint Paul the Apostle
5:00 pm - August Sadorf, (Cleta Sadorf)

Tuesday, January 26, Saints Timothy & Titus
8:00 am - Joseph Josko III,
(Joanna Zappala & Rose Devitt)

Wednesday, January 27, Saint Angela Merici
8:00 am - Zoltan Kren, (Adam Dickmann)

Thursday, January 28, Saint Thomas Aquinas
8:00 am - Jim Brady,
(Bob & Dawn Ellis)

Friday, January 29
8:00 am - Jim Brady

Saturday, January 30
9:00 am - Joseph Kirsch,
(Roland Spaar & Jeanne Bishop)
5:00 pm - Stella Roney,
(Bill & Rosemary Miller)

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 31, 2016

7:30 am - Jason Shellaway,
(The Holzman Family)
9:30 am - Eleanor Smart,
(Andrew & Mary Souder)
11:00 am - For the living and deceased
Parishioners of the Parish.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The roses placed at the Sacred Heart Altar are in memory of **Thomas Virus**; requested by, Wife Judi, daughters and grandchildren.

WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes, also for their caregivers; and all those we hold close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for **Elizabeth Brinckman & Dawn Marie Rush**.

For those who have died, and in particular for **Don Lammers** (husband of Marge Lammers) & **Arlene Leidy**, (mother of Bob Leidy), grant them eternal rest and peace.

JANUARY 2016: This week at a glance

Sunday - January 24

Children's Liturgy of the Word	at the 9:30 am Mass
Little Church	9:30 am Parish Hall
Men's Basketball	8:00 pm Parish Hall

Monday - January 25

Holy Rosary Mass	1:00 pm Chapel
SPN Quilting	1:30 pm Parish Hall

Tuesday - January 26

Boy Scouts	7:00 pm Parish Hall
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Wednesday - January 27

PREP/Religious Education	6:30 pm SPN CFLC
Senior Club Gathering	11:30 am Parish Hall

Thursday - January 28

Men's Basketball	8:00 pm Parish Hall
NO RCIA	

Friday – January 29

Frontier Girls Camp Weekend 6:30 pm Parish Hall
SPN Quilting 1:00 pm Parish Hall

Saturday - January 30

Frontier Girls Camp Weekend Parish Hall

Sunday - January 31

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass
Frontier Girls Camp Weekend Parish Hall
Little Church 9:30 am Parish Hall
Men's Basketball 8:00 pm Parish Hall

Upcoming Meetings

Holy Rosary Hour - Monday, February 1 - 1:00 pm - Chapel
Pre-Jordan Baptismal Class - Monday, February 1 - 7:00 pm - Rectory Meeting Room
SPN Quilting - Monday, February 1 - 1:30 pm - Parish Hall
Boy Scouts - Tuesday, February 2 - 7:00 pm - Parish Hall
PREP - First Penance - Tuesday, February 2 - 7:00 pm - Church
PREP/Religious Education - Wednesday, February 3 - 6:30 pm - SPN CFLC
Men's Basketball - Thursday, February 4 - 8:00 pm - Parish Hall
RCIA - Thursday, February 4 - 7:00 pm - Rectory Meeting Room
First Friday - February 5 - 9:00 am Mass in Church
Frontier Girls - Friday, February 5 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
SPN Quilting - Friday, February 5 - 1:00 pm - Parish Hall
Charismatic Prayer Group - Saturday, February 6 - 10:00 am - Chapel
Saturday, February 6 - Parish Hall is NOT available
Bingo - Sunday, February 7 - 1:00 pm - Parish Hall
Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday, February 7 - at 9:30 am Mass
Little Church - Sunday, February 7 - 9:30 am - Parish Hall Meeting Rooms
Men's Basketball - Sunday, February 7 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Parish Hall

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, February 5th is First Friday. Mass is in Church at 9:00 AM.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Chapel from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM followed by Benediction.
Please commit to spend some time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

PARISH NEWS

St. Philip Neri Parish Council Members at large welcomes any questions or comments you may have.

Names/email addresses:

Tony Bauer ajbauer337@gmail.com
Matthew Fuhs matthew.fuhs@comcast.net
Dave Klauder stickman@enter.net
Marlene Leidy marleneleidy@comcast.net
Ed Tryon greeneng2001@yahoo.com
Theresa Walker cheg1978@comcast.net

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

January 18, 2015	January 17, 2016
Envelopes: \$ 4,226.00	\$ 6,627.50
Online: 1,665.00	1,674.00
Loose: 1,398.00	438.00
Children's: 57.00	23.00
Total: \$ 7,346.00	\$ 8,762.50

SECOND COLLECTIONS

this weekend: January 23/24

Catholic Relief Services - There will be a second collection; this is a Diocesan collection which will take place immediately after the first collection. An envelope was included in your envelope packet.

weekend of January 30/31:

We have been asked by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to take up a collection on the weekend of January 30/31 to aid those affected by the major storms and severe flooding that have hit the South and Midwest regions of the country. This collection will take place immediately after the first collection.

There is no envelope for this collection. If donating by check, please make out the check to St. Philip Neri. A notation can be written on the check: Flood Relief!

Special Second Collections:

January 2016

For those who do not receive Sunday collection envelopes or if you are an On-Line giver, the following second collections are: **Catholic Relief Services & Sharing Our Blessings 100th Anniversary.**

ONLINE GIVING

Go green with St. Philip Neri Church by signing up for **Online Giving**. Online giving is a secure and personalized way to give to the parish. It also can stand on its own as a means of a donation or can be used in conjunction with your offering envelopes. You have the option to keep receiving your regular offering envelope packets if you wish. (www.spnparish.org)

Give a St. Philip Neri Building Memorial

For a donation of \$35 or more, there is a beautiful Folder recording the gift and donor to be presented to the family.

In memory of **Karl Heebner**; requested by:
SPN Daily Mass Attendees.

In memory of **Don Lammers**; requested by:
John & Helen Burke and Frank & Delia Grim.

In memory of **Stella Roney**; requested by:
Charles & Donna Pope, Amy & James Dykie,
Sandra & Tony Shellaway, Albert & Elaine
Berner, Carol Anne Mayernik, James & Paula
Scheffey, Robert & Donna Engler and Harold
& Martha Swartley.

We also have "Living Memorials" for those special occasions in life.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - 2015

Any parishioner requesting a copy of their contribution statement for 2015, is asked to call the rectory office between 10am-4:30 pm or email to smisiak@spnparish.org. Statements are mailed upon request only.

PARISH OUTREACH

Friendly Visitor Annual Report

Thirteen active Friendly Visitors have answered their Baptismal Call by visiting their fellow parishioners in their homes or the local Nursing Home throughout the year on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Friendly Visitors provide emotional support and true friendship. In 2015, Friendly Visitors made 248 visits and provided 281 hours of companionship. If you would like to learn more about becoming a Friendly Visitor, call LaRue Emmell at 215.679.3086 or email to: lemmell2@comcast.net.

H.O.P.E.

The H.O.P.E. Ministers have provided services for many in our Parish Community in the past year. They responded to their Baptismal Call to service by giving 214 hours of service in giving 121 rides. They use their own money for gas.

PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish Breakfast was held on Sunday, January 10 with 305 people in attendance. There were three winners for a free breakfast; they are:

Andy Souder, Bruce Davis & Sharon Rielli.

The next breakfast is February 14 in our Parish Hall from 7:00 am - 12:30 pm. Save the date!

Also . . . donations of baked goods are needed for our monthly bake sales held at the breakfast. Can you help? If so, call Rita Latshaw at 215.679.7009.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Curious about Children's Liturgy of the Word? CLOW takes place during our 9:30 am Mass. Children ages 5-9 (1st-4th grade) are invited to gather in the center aisle and then are escorted to a meeting room off the Sacristy, to hear and share the Good News in a child friendly environment. Our volunteer staff reads the Word to the children and then they explore its meaning. There is no fee and no registration required for this Program. Please consider encouraging your child to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you are interested or have questions about this Program, call Wendy Benner at: 215.679.7839.

LITTLE CHURCH

Curious about Little Church? This is a Program that takes place during our 9:30 am Mass. Children ages 3 - Kindergarten are invited to participate. This Program teaches the children about Mass and they participate in a weekly Service where they hear the Good News, explore its meaning and interact with parts of the Service. There is no fee for this Program; however, registration is necessary. Call Wendy Benner if you are interested at 215.679.7839.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Ash Wednesday is February 10th; Masses are 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM in Church.

LENTEN FISH FRY

SPN Parish Hall

EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT

LUNCH EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

February 19 - March 25

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Orders taken during Fry Hours: 215.679.8116

DINNERS:

February 19, 26

March 4, 11 & 18

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH

HOAGIE SALE

CHEESE, HAM, ITALIAN or TURKEY

TUESDAY - March 1

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

COST: \$5.00

Orders due: February 22

Call Rita: 215.679.7009 or

Pat: 215.679.5675



SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS

The newly elected Officers of the Senior Club are as follows:

- President: Dawn Ellis
- Vice President: Tony Bauer
- Secretary: Denise Walsh
- Treasurer: Lee Johnson

Beginning February 1, 2016, the only way to make a lunch reservation will be to call Rita Latshaw: 215.679.7009.

BIBLE STUDY:

The Holy Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has focused on the theme of God's mercy since the beginning of his Pontificate. Now he has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, a Holy Year which began in December 2015. We have been given an opportunity to participate in this Holy Year in a meaningful way.

For eight weeks beginning Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 pm and Friday, January 29 at 9:00 am, we will read Gospel passages, followed by a homily on that passage given by Pope Francis. Questions for reflection and discussion focus on both the Scripture text and the homily. Please join us in this meaningful Study.

Cost of Study Book: \$15.00
Contact Joan Lampart: 215.529.5686 or: jmlampart@verizon.net
Venue: Neri Center

SPN Catholic Family Life Center

215.679.2237

Registration for the Spring Programs are now open. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible as the Programs begin February 1.

Also, there are still tickets available for the trip to PPL Center to see the Phantom's play Utica on Saturday, February 27. We will leave the CFLC at 5:00 PM. Cost is \$36/adults and \$33/children (12 & under). This includes transportation and tickets. Return is immediately after the game.

We are also planning a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show for Friday, March 11. Departure time from CFLC will be 12 Noon - returning at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$35 for transportation and admission.

Make your reservations for these two Events as soon as possible. Space is limited!

For more information, call the CFLC at the number above or check out the website: www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com.

FOOD for FAMILIES



St. Philip Neri Knights of Columbus Father Letterhouse Council 6614 is running a Food Drive on the weekend of March 12/13 and we need your help to stock the shelves at the Open Link's Food Cupboard!

Join in our efforts by donating canned goods and non-perishable food items such as: boxed meals, canned vegetables, juice, soup/stew, canned meats, canned pasta, boxed pasta, canned fruits, cereal and peanut butter. We will also be accepting monetary donations that will go directly to Open Link. Together we can make sure that NO child, adult or senior in the Upper Perkiomen Valley goes hungry.

Collection sites: SPN Church after Masses; in the Parish Hall at the monthly Breakfast; or at the Catholic Family Life Center in East Greenville.

Questions, call Joe Dusko: 215.679.4881 or email to skippyfish@comcast.net.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe

(sponsored by the Respect Life Ministry)

You are invited to join us on a 6 Day Pilgrimage (May 16 - 21, 2016) to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Mexico.

Only 25 seats are available on a first come basis. A \$300 deposit is needed to reserve your place of this Pilgrimage.

Cost of \$1,695 includes:

Airfare from Philadelphia

5 nights of lodging at Casa Blanca Hotel

many sites will be visited on this Pilgrimage

Daily Mass at different locations

2 meals/day (breakfast & dinner)

All ground transportation, fees & gratuities

For more information there are brochures at the SCRIP table, rectory office or call Mark: 610.754.7185.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood

Some calls are meant to be answered.

www.HeedTheCall.org.

VATICAN SPLENDORS

The beauty of Vatican City is currently being hosted at the Franklin Institute with the once in a lifetime exhibit, Vatican Splendors. From the sights and sounds of the grand Basilica to a touchable cast of St. John Paul II's hand, embark on a journey through the ages of artistic expression and religious iconography. Many of the items have never been seen outside of Vatican City. The Franklin Institute is offering tickets that are discounted; call 215.448.1200; use promo code ARCHPHL and organize your trip today!

Art Show at Malvern Retreat House

More than 100 of the region's best artists are preparing their works for Art Show 2016 at Malvern Retreat House. This year the juried fine art show will be held from Wednesday, February 3 - Sunday, February 7 and will include a special focus on glass art, along with art forms ranging from painting and photography to jewelry and sculpture. Overall, more than 2000 fine art pieces will be for sale. The event will include a complimentary wine and cheese social on Thursday, February 4 from 5pm-8pm when attendees can meet the artists. Regular show hours are 10am-7pm - Wednesday-Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. There are NO admission fees. This event will be held in the beautiful McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center that can be accessed through Malvern Retreat House's entrance B at 315 S. Warren Avenue. visit malvernretreat.com/artshow or call 610.644.0400. All proceeds benefit the retreat house.

About Malvern Retreat House - owned and operated by Catholic lay leadership since 1912, it is the oldest and largest Catholic retreat house in the country - hosting 20,000 people annually at 250 retreats on 125 acres. You are invited to come and reflect, refresh and rejoice in your faith. To find a spiritual retreat that is right for you, call the number above or MalvernRetreat.com.

Women's Weekend Retreat:

Mother Boniface Spirituality Center

WHEN JESUS SPEAKS

February 19 - 21

Jesus speaks with His disciples often in Scripture. Do we, in the 21st Century recognize that He is speaking those same words, asking those same questions, to us? Jesus wants to be an intimate friendship with us - we just need to learn how to listen. On this retreat, we will look at seven questions Jesus asks and explore how to move from those questions to a personal response.

Presenter: Anne Trufant

Fee: \$165* (includes a \$40 non-refundable deposit.

*\$155 reduced rate for those who mail registration/deposit by Feb. 1

Call: 267.350.1830 or 267.350.1835 for more information or to register.

MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal

Registration is OPEN! Calling moms of all ages and types: new moms, seasoned moms, grandmothers, step mothers. Even if you are not a mom, you are still welcome! Start your Lenten season by replenishing your spirit. Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers...Renee Eells and Kathi Clapham on February 13, 2016 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at Sts. Simon and Jude Meehan Center in West Chester. See our registration form for all details at: www.momheartofthehome.org/events.html or call: 484.798.7368.

AREA PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church

CYO 2016 Dances: \$7.00/ticket

There will be three dances this school year on the following dates: January 30; March 5 and May 7. Call Lynn at: 610.283.5494 or email to lynnearl@comcast.net. Check out the website by going to the CYO Dance Registration for more details.

Come See Us!

Catholic Schools are committed to nurturing the Gospel message of God's love to families valuing their Catholic Faith!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

THE PLACE TO LEARN

THE PLACE TO PLAY

THE PLACE TO PRAY

THE PLACE TO BE!

Catholic Schools Week is:

Sunday, January 31 - Friday, February 5

AREA NEWS

Thank you from Birthright of Pottstown

Dear Birthright supporters, Birthright is most grateful for your generous Christmas donations. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity St. Philip Neri showed in the selection of items for our babies. Thank you on behalf of all the new moms and babies who will be enjoying your gifts this year! May God Bless you.

Gratefully,
Carol Bell
co-Director

Thank you from St. Mary's Shelter

Dear Friends, Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generosity to St. Mary's Shelter during this holiday season. Our shelves have been restocked of all the items we need each day to keep our place in tip top shape. The Gift cards are greatly appreciated for those items that we might not have on hand but are needed at times. They assist our guests while they are here and allow us to give them an extra boost when they move into their apartment. We are all set for another year, due to your generosity. Our house has been quite busy and full in these past months; therefore, all the items you unselfishly gave will assist many people. We hope all of your families have a year full of many blessings and good health. God Bless!

Kate Garges, residents & Staff of St. Mary's

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Make lasting connections

Pope Francis has more than 7 million followers on Twitter and loves to take selfies. But while he's harnessed social media to broaden his reach as he spreads the Good News, he worries about the "radical loneliness" in a society that chases validation online and fears making real commitments. Jesus didn't need the Internet to accumulate "followers" or for his message to "go viral," and the Holy Father urges everyone not to worry about getting "likes" on Facebook but instead to forge close bonds. "Friending" people in real life means investing in meaningful relationships. Make a down payment today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 (69).* "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region."

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

Patron saint for the conversion of religious zealots

We live in an age of religious extremism—on the one side Taliban and ISIS, on the other home-grown extremists who shoot at synagogues, attack Muslims at prayer, or firebomb churches. Saint Paul towers over our tradition with his early and vast contribution to Christianity. But the part of his story that came before he was a saint is also noteworthy, as a case study in how *not* to express your faith! Saint Paul, pray for us and our divided world!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:3-16;

Mark 16:15-18 (519). "For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

FEAST OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS

Faith has no minimum-age requirement

Both Timothy and Titus were companions of Saint Paul. At a young age, Timothy was entrusted with serious responsibilities in the early Christian community but apparently was not taken seriously because of his youth. Paul wrote "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." Titus may have been born a Gentile, but Paul led him to Christ and they became fellow missionaries. Paul addresses Titus with affection: "Paul to Titus, my own true child in our common faith." Two early Christians remind you that we can't journey to Christ alone. Today, encourage a young person.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8 OR Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35 (520; Gospel 518).* "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

FEAST OF ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Love is blind

Can you imagine if you set out on the trip of a lifetime—a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, no less—lost your eyesight on the way there and regained it on the way back? Most people would feel cheated. But not Saint Angela Merici. She didn't need to see the holy sites to experience them in her heart. What she did see, back in her hometown in Italy, were poor, uneducated girls. She founded the

Ursulines to serve them. The next time you volunteer, ponder what Saint Angela told her sisters of the poor: “You have a greater need to serve than they have of your service.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Samuel* 7:4-17;

Mark 4:1-20 (319). “. . . some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit.”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

FEAST OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Know your own measure

In the canon of great theologians and Doctors of the church, none outshines Thomas Aquinas, who has influenced thinkers of all disciplines, religious and secular alike, since the 12th century. Yet this great man left his greatest work, the *Summa Theologiae*, unfinished. When asked why he stopped working on it, he said, “I cannot go on. . . . All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me.” It is good to strive to create works of lasting significance. It is also good to realize that in the end, in the pure light of the Divine, our greatest works do indeed pale.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Samuel* 7:18-19, 24-29;

Mark 4:21-25 (320). “A lamp to my feet is your word, a light to my path.”

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Live on the edge

Farmers have to have a high tolerance for uncertainty, and that hasn’t changed since the time of Jesus. An unpredictable storm, an early frost, an unseen blight could ruin a crop, a season, a livelihood, then and now. Yet farmers keep farming (and the rest of us hungry souls are grateful they do!). Where in your own life is the edge of uncertainty, the scary place where you can no longer fool yourself into believing that you are

fully in control? That is where you are likely to find God, who comes at what theologian and storyteller John Shea called the “hour of the unexpected.” Embrace your uncertainty, God will meet you in the midst of it.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Samuel* 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; *Mark* 4:26-34 (321). “If a man were to scatter seed on the land . . . the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.”

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

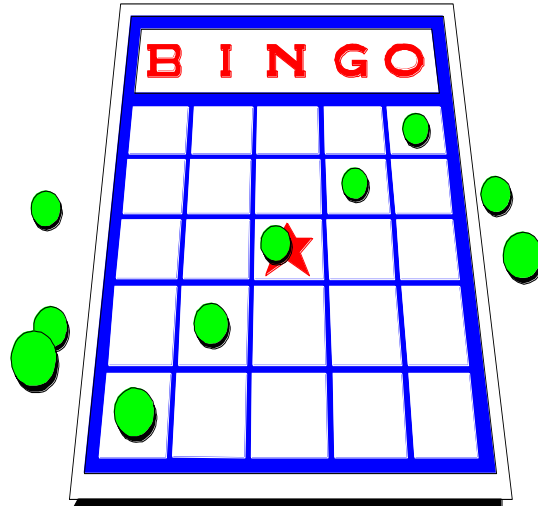
Your life is an act of God

According to the Genesis creation story, God made the natural world with loving, deliberate care. And indeed, the earth is a delicately balanced ecosystem, in which even destructive natural forces—what insurers call “acts of God”—can serve a necessary purpose. The same goes for human experience. When your life is hit by storms, you may not know God’s intentions, but rest assured that by trusting God you will find the strength to weather whatever comes your way. And when the clouds break, open up to the possibility of seeing new horizons.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Samuel* 12:1-7a, 10-17;

Mark 4:35-41 (322). “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

ST. PHILIP NERI – SUNDAY BINGO



February 7, 2016

Working Team #2

Bingo begins at 1PM;

Doors open at 12 NOON

Parish Hall

1325 Kliner Rd – Pennsburg

215.679.8116

All Regular Games Prize is \$50

Final Cover All-Special – Prize is \$500

Great food available!