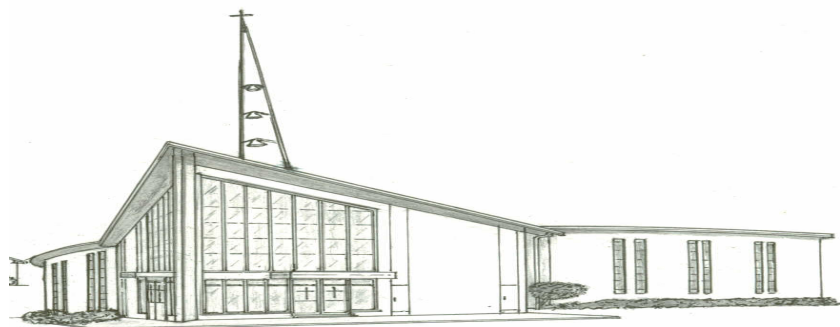


Church of Saint Philip Neri
Pennsburg, PA 18073
December 18, 2016



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
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 Klinerd Rd; Pennsburg 18073

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Email Address: ofcmgr@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: prep@spnparish.org

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: youthministry@spnparish.org

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 AM; 10:00 AM; 5:00 PM
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
Sundays: 9:15 - 9:45 AM; 4:15 - 4:45 PM or:
at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT anytime.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Rectory to schedule
2nd Sunday Baptisms are held at the 10 AM Mass
3rd Sunday Baptisms are held at 11:30 AM

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

Call the Rectory Office to schedule.

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.

SAINT PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1325 KLINERD ROAD

PENNSBURG, PA

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve, December 24th:

5:00 PM

8:00 PM

10:00 PM

Christmas Day, December 25th:

9:00 AM

Vigil Masses: December 31st:

9:00 AM

5:00 PM

January 1st:

Mary, Holy Mother of God

7:30 AM

10:00 AM

**We wish you a Blessed Christmas
and a Holy New Year!**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

On Wednesday, December 21st Fr. Roncase and Fr. Smart will be hearing Confessions from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in Church and also on Thursday, December 22nd from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in Church.

DECORATING the CHURCH for CHRISTMAS

We will decorate the Church for Christmas only, Friday, December 23rd at 6:00 PM. Pizza will be provided.

Everyone is welcome to come out and join in on the fun; so mark your calendar and save the date!

Christmas Eve

Serving at Mass

Extraordinary Ministers

Dec. 24

Lectors

5:00 pm - Paul Moser
Maureen Moser
Priest
Deacon

Terry Benner
Wendy Benner

8:00 pm - Amanda Charlton
Maryanne Charlton
Priest
Deacon
Kevin Charlton
TBD

Matt Horvath
Judy Horvath

10:00 pm - Pat Kennedy
Barbara Jaruszewski
Priest
Deacon
Dawn McCausland
Bob Schwind
Barbara Schwind
Marci Jaman
Linda Franks
TBD

C. Bowser
B. Bowser

Christmas Day

Serving at Mass

Extraordinary Ministers

Dec. 25

Lectors

9:00 am - Janet Kendra
Marianne Peters
Priest
Deacon
Marlene Leidy
Keith Greczek
Stephanie Greczek
Andrew Souder
Mary Souder
Pat Kennedy
TBD

M. Gehringer

* Servers: Please be in the Sacristy no later than 30 minutes before Mass time for instructions.

** Lectors: Please report to the Deacon prior to Mass so we know you are here.

FIRST QUARTER LITURGICAL SCHEDULES

The First Quarter Liturgical Schedules for 2017 are available for pick up in the small room in the Vestibule for those who do not have Computer access.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016

Monday, December 19
9:00 am - 5:00 pm - Adoration in Chapel
5:00 pm - Rachael Henry, (Cias family)

Tuesday, December 20
8:00 am - For the living and deceased Members of the Parish.
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel

Wednesday, December 21, Saint Peter Canisius
8:00 am - Rachael Henry, (Anne Dykie)
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Parish Confessions in Church

Thursday, December 22
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel
8:00 am - Rachael Henry, (Bob & Marlene Leidy)
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Parish Confessions in Church

Friday, December 23, Saint John of Kanty
8:00 am - Fourth Anniversary, Gerald Mullaney (The Family)
9:00 am - 7:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24
10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Adoration in the Chapel
9:00 am - In Thanksgiving to God, (Peggy Bambrick)
5:00 pm - No Intentions
8:00 pm - No Intentions
10:00 pm - No Intentions

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2016

9:00 am - No Intentions

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The center arrangement on the Altar is in memory of **Gerald Mullaney**; on his Fourth Anniversary; requested by The Family.

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:
Mary Felicia Iski, Darrin Kelly, Jim Kline, John Metzinger and Michael Quigley.

For those who have died, grant them eternal rest and peace.

DECEMBER:

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday - December 19
Adoration in the Chapel: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tuesday - December 20
Adoration in the Chapel: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Parish Hall

Wednesday - December 21
Adoration in the Chapel: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Parish Confessions 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Church
PREP/Religious Education 6:30 pm CFLC

Thursday, December 22
Adoration in the Chapel: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Parish Confessions 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Church

Friday - December 23
Adoration in the Chapel: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Decorating the Church for Christmas at 6:00 pm
NO Frontier Girls Meeting
Rectory Offices are closed

Christmas Eve, Saturday - December 24
Adoration in the Chapel: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Christmas Eve Masses: 5PM; 8PM & 10PM

Christmas Day, Sunday - December 25
Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 am in Church
NO Children's Liturgy of the Word
NO Little Church
NO Men's Basketball

PARISH NEWS

SPN AT LARGE PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

SPN Parish Council At-Large Members welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Tony Bauer: ajbauer337@gmail.com

Ray Carr: bigdaddy2530@gmail.com

Matthew Fuhs: matthew.fuhs@comcast.net

Karen Katrinak: karenkat1@verizon.net

Bill Robinson: wcrobinson2@hotmail.com

Theresa Walker: cheg1978@comcast.net

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Our Sunday collections for December 11th will be posted in the December 25th Bulletin.

ONLINE GIVING

Go green with St. Philip Neri Church by signing up for **Online Giving**.

This is a secure and personalized way of giving to the Parish.

You have the option to keep receiving your regular offering envelope packets if you wish.

Special Second Collections:

December 2016

For those who do not receive Sunday collection envelopes or if you are an On-Line giver, the following special collections are:

Christmas Flowers; Immaculate Conception; Christmas and 100th Anniversary.

SCRIP

SCRIP will not be available for purchase next weekend (December 24th/25th)

Give a St. Philip Neri Memorial Gift!

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 **Francine Moore**; requested by: Ralph and Margaret Miller.

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

PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish Breakfast was held on Sunday, December 11th and 420 people attended!

There were four (4) Winners for a FREE breakfast:

**Ray Carr, Karen Katrinak
Jenn Moore & Chuck Rodgers**

The winner of the Children's Basket was:
Joshua Hakes

The winner of the Adult Basket was:
John Bowers

Congratulations to all of our lucky winners!

Saint Philip Neri, East Greenville

STUDENTS EXCEL AT:

Pope John Paul II High School

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our High School Students on the First Quarter Report.

We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence!

Students who achieved First Honors include:
Ian Stephens '17 & Thomas Heibeck '19.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet on Monday, December 26th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

HOMEMADE EGG ROLLS

These delicious Egg Rolls that can be purchased at every Parish Breakfast can be ordered for your holiday Celebrations! Orders of fifty (50) or more can be placed by calling or emailing the rectory office. Egg Rolls are one (1) dollar each. These homemade Egg Rolls of almost all pork freeze nicely; they are cooked and simply need to be heated in the oven.

Call or email the rectory office to place an order; (215.679.9275 or ofcmgr@spnparish.org). give a few days for orders to be filled. These egg rolls are not pre made, but made when ordered, by a parishioner who very generously gives all profits to the Parish.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: 2016

Any parishioner requesting a copy of their Contribution Statement for 2016, is asked to call the rectory office between 10:00 am & 4:00 pm or email to: ofcmgr@spnparish.org. Statements are mailed upon request only.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CatholicPhilly.com

Stay informed, educated and inspired by visiting CatholicPhilly.com every day. Discover Catholic news, photos, videos and columns on Catholic Life and Spirituality. Help CatholicPhilly.com spread the Good News by becoming our fan on Facebook and following us on Twitter.

ARCHDIOCESE of PHILADELPHIA

Office for the New Evangelization

Ninth Annual Men's Spirituality Conference - March 4, 2017 at St. Joseph University Hagan Arena; the men of your parish are invited to join Catholic Men from throughout the Archdiocese for the 9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference. Speakers include EWTN's Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, inspirational Speaker, Kevin Reilly, former Philadelphia Eagle whose career was ended by a rare cancer that led to the removal of his left arm, and Damon Owens, director of JoyTOB and international Speaker on the Theology of the Body. Acclaimed Irish Tenor, Mark Forrest, will provide inspirational accompaniment during a special directed Eucharistic Adoration.

Register now and save \$10 (Early Bird Special) at: manupphilly.com.

Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood

Make a difference: Consider the Priesthood. www.HeedtheCall.org.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR TRIBUNAL?

The Tribunal is a group of specially qualified Catholics whose responsibility is to come to the help of people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Catholic Church.

When a divorce occurs, the Catholic Church always seeks to balance two realities. One is the unbreakableness of the bond of marriage. This is God's law. It cannot be broken by human intervention. On the other hand, the Church is concerned about the spiritual welfare of the people involved. Was this a true marriage? Even though a Catholic marriage was celebrated, was there perhaps some deficiency in the consent of the parties involved? The annulment procedure addresses this problem.

If you are divorced and want to marry in the Church or remarried outside the Catholic Church, please telephone the Tribunal Office:

222 N. 17th Street
Philadelphia PA 19103
215.587.3750

AREA NEWS

METANOIA YOUNG ADULTS: EVENTS

Tuesday, December 20: Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Company, Collegeville, 7:30pm (If you wish to eat dinner beforehand please arrive at 7pm)

Tuesday, December 27: Holy Hour @ Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales, 7:30pm

INFO: metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com

"Pro-Life Articles":

Abortion discriminates against the poor:

Margaret Sanger, founder of International Planned Parenthood, the world's largest abortion provider, was a proponent of eugenics. She believed in eliminating the poor and minority communities in America through contraception and sterilization. For example, she argued in 1922 that "all our problems are the result of over-breeding among the working classes." (Cited by Steve Mosher and Michael W. Bird in their review of Margaret Sanger's, *The Pivot of Civilization*). And today, Planned Parenthood continues to target those very communities with abortion services (though they contend that this has nothing to do with eugenics). A very high percentage of Planned Parenthood abortion mills are located in poor and minority communities. It's no wonder that although abortions have decreased in America over the last few years, Planned Parenthood's abortion numbers continue to go up. Planned Parenthood has argued that abortion is "cost effective" because "for every \$1.00 spent by government to pay for abortions for poor women, about \$4.00 is saved in public medical and welfare expenditures incurred as a result of an unintended birth." (*Bad Science in the Service of a Lethally Racist Ideology*, Angela Franz. Cited on the nrlc.org website). The truth is that abortion and the promiscuous society that it encourages results in increased poverty and other social ills. The "sex without consequences" mentality leads to one-parent families, a breakdown in the family unit and all the adverse social consequences that this entails.

Pro-Life Articles":

How do we change our Culture of Death?

Pope John Paul II noted that the structure of man's sin is characterized or manifest on a universal scale in our Culture of Death. He pointed out that the powerful are easily able to manhandle the weak (e.g. abortion and euthanasia).

The culture of death is not the result of philosophy or decrepit ethics or political theory. The culture of death is a result of sin committed freely by persons.

Thus it is fundamentally a personal problem, not a political one. So, the battle will not be won solely by a political action or movement, because the battle is not against human beings or arid philosophies, but is a battle against sin. "For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens" (Eph. 6:12).

Therefore, and first and foremost, we must first recognize God's saving action and saving mission, and then participate in it. This has always been and will always be the Church's role. We love because He loved us first (1 Jn. 4:19), and we spread that love through our testimony to the nations (Acts 1:8).

We must try to influence our culture with our words and deeds, realizing that the purpose of Evangelization is always to introduce man to the Person of Christ, and the Person of Christ to man, that man might enter into His mystical body, the Church.

Thus, through grace attained by turning to Him, the culture of death can indeed be transformed, simply because the Gospel always has the power to transform the hearts of men...even when the culture seems most evil, hopeless and perverse.

"Pro-Life Articles": Abortion in America:

"America you are beautiful and blessed. The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless.

If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life". ... Pope John Paul II.

A quote from Mother Teresa:

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers."

A quote from Diane Abbot:

"I believe every abortion is a tragedy."

A quote from Birthright International:

"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth . . . and the right of every child to be born."

A quote from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB:

"Catholics must never abandon the moral requirement to seek full protection for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death."

"Pro-Life Articles": Abortion in America

America was founded upon the "self-evident truth" that all humans are endowed with the unalienable right to LIFE. Yet a baby is aborted every 23 seconds in the U.S. Over 4,000 babies are aborted every day. About 60 million babies have been aborted since the decision of Roe VS Ware in January 1973. Abortion is truly "America's Holocaust".

As a result of Roe VS Wade and sister case, Doe V Bolton, America has some of the most liberal laws on abortion in the world, effectively allowing abortion on demand throughout the whole nine months of pregnancy.

The abortion rate in the U.S. is higher than Western Europe and Canada. It is not as high as the rates in China, Cuba and the former Soviet Union countries which have reached epidemic levels.

Teenagers constitute around 20% of all abortions in the U.S. About 55% of minors who have abortions do not tell their parents.

17 states use public funds to pay for abortions, so about 15% of all abortions in the U.S. are paid for with public money. Our tax dollars fund Planned Parenthood, the nations largest abortion provider and promoter of casual sex and abortion.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The coming of the new law

As we move closer to Christmas, the O Antiphons in the Liturgy of the Hours highlight the prophecy that foretold Jesus' coming. Today, we pray, "O Leader of Israel, giver of the law to Moses: rescue us with your mighty power!" Time and again, God has rescued his people. Faith and divine law go hand-in-hand. Just as the Israelites tried to hold fast to the law of Moses, we are called to embrace Jesus as a new embodiment of that law. He is coming to renew the face of the earth, may his birth at Christmas renew the law in our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10).* "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.' "

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Hope starts early

A child is born, and a surge of hope arrives with it. Truthfully, we have no idea who this stranger will be. The color of a baby's eyes may change; this tiny being may grow to be seven feet tall. She might be president of her own company. He may be a priest, a plumber, a playwright. So much potential lies hidden in each new person. Why not support our children with every possible resource? We pray in thanksgiving for the hope new life brings: "O Root of Jesse's stem, come save us without delay!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195).* "For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Be free

Freedom is talked about, legislated, protested for. But what is freedom? Some definitions seem watery: We want to do as we like without restrictions. We want Mom or the government or the church off our backs. A better sense of liberty is the capacity to become more than the sum of our givens. The imprint of divine nature distinguishes us: makes us self-creators, re-inventors, transcendents of present circumstances. We pray for the right key to unlock our best selves: "O Key of David, come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196).* "Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age . . . for nothing will be impossible for God."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

May calmer minds prevail

Saint Peter Canisius is remembered for being the calm voice in the midst of a storm. For Catholics in 16th-century northern Europe, the storm was the Protestant Reformation. While most partisans on both side of the divide used strident words and sometimes violent actions, Peter called for reason. Rejecting the inflamed rhetoric against Protestants that was coming from his associates, he said, "With words like these, we don't cure patients, we make them incurable." Think twice

before you criticize those who see things differently. Keep the dialogue open.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197)*. "O Radiant Dawn, shine on those in darkness and the shadow of death."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Kinship with all

In today's antiphon for vespers we pray, "O King of all nations: save us, whom you formed from the dust!" That is a reminder that all people come from the same source and have been formed by the same God. Each one of us is made in God's image and likeness. The kingdom of God is one of kinship. If we take the time to truly come to know one another, we will find the glimpses of God all around us. We just need to look!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198)*. "He remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

ADVENT WEEKDAY

O come, O come Emmanuel!

"O Emmanuel: come to save us, Lord our God." Every day for the past seven days, the church has prayed the O Antiphons, using the ancient words and divine images found in the Old Testament. In these prayers, people of faith asked God to come and free us, to rescue us, and to shine on us. Today, the divine word is *Emmanuel*, which means "God-with-us." As today unfolds, remember that God is with you right now and will be with you through thick and thin, stress and peace, sorrow and joy. It is

your job to pay attention and notice God's presence in the insights, conversations, and events of your days—and then to act accordingly.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199)*. "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

ADVENT WEEKDAY

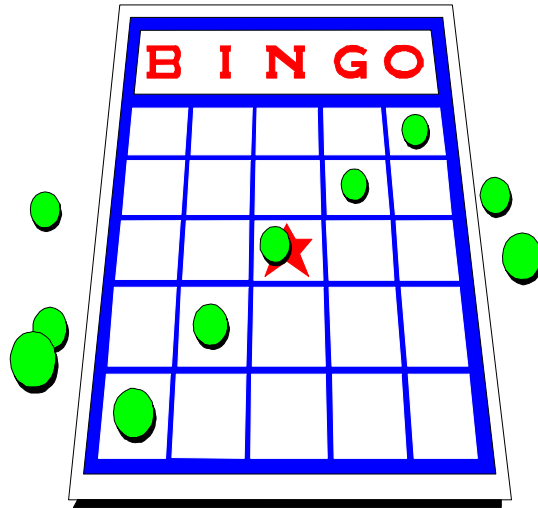
God is with you always

What's in a name? In the case of Emmanuel, it's *all* in that name. "God-with-us" in the infant whose birth we celebrate; "God-with-us" in Jesus' forgiving sinners; "God-with-us" in Jesus weeping over a friend's death; "God-with-us" in feeding thousands with bread and countless people with his word; "God-with-us" carrying the cross; "God-with-us" on Christmas morning and in his last words, "I am with you always." God is with you today and always because Jesus has lived up to his name. Is there someone you ought to be with tonight?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200)*.

"I have been with you wherever you went."

ST. PHILIP NERI – SUNDAY BINGO



January 15, 2017

Working Team #1

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!

From the Desk of Sister Patricia Kelly, M.S.B.T.

Part I:

From the National Catholic Reporter - Volume 53 #3

Are you ready? God is being born again!

No birth happens suddenly, but only after a necessary time of gestation and gradual preparation. A pregnancy begins to "show" at a certain stage, and anticipation builds in the parents and family toward the day when the baby will arrive. Who will this new person be? What will the impact of this life have on us, and on the world? Something wonderful is about to happen, but it requires great labor and careful attention; for once new life is in motion, it brings uncertainty and risk. New life alters the future in ways we cannot predict or control.

Advent is the time when God begins to show more prominently, stirring us to welcome the promise of Christmas. We are wise to stop everything to celebrate the Incarnation, as both a past miracle and a timeless mystery. God is in the world now as the body of the Risen Christ whose redemptive presence and activity are the life we share and the only purpose of the Church.

We say we believe that God is continually being conceived and born in us for the transformation of the world. We must live it to know the truth of it.

to be continued next week.