

St. Philip Church

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Faith Formation Office Doris S. Chiappetta, Director	203-847-4286	Fr. Michael A. Boccaccio, Pastor	Celebration of the Eucharist Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 and 12 Noon Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m or by appointment Baptism and Marriage Please call to schedule Pre-Baptism and Baptism dates. Marriage dates are to be scheduled one year prior.
Administrative Director 4549 Stephen F. Bagnell	203-847-	Deacon Frank J. Chiappetta	
Music Office Maria J. O'Kelly, Director	203-846-8054	Deacon John W. Mahon	
Youth Ministry Kali J. DiMarco, Coordinator	203-434-8407	Deacon Paul J. Reilly	
Finance/Property Committee Susan J. Lamb, Chair	203-856-7436	Sr. Mary Ann McPartland, CND Pastoral Associate	
All Saints Catholic School Nancy DiBuono, Principal	203-847-3881		

Mission Statement

St. Philip Parish, a welcoming Catholic community, strives to love, honor, know, and serve God. As a family, we gather to celebrate liturgy, perform good deeds, share our faith, and bring all to Christ. St. Philip, lead us to Jesus.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

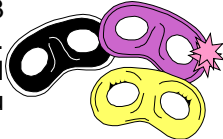
January 24, 2010



MEET US ON BOURBON STREET MARDI GRAS 2010

This year's Mardi Gras Party will be held on Saturday, February 13 after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Volunteers are needed. Please call Patsy Porco at 203-642-4333 if you would like to help with this fun event.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR 30-HOUR FAMINE!

The crisis in Haiti has inspired the St. Philip 30-Hour Famine Leadership Team to provide a third option for monies raised at this year's Famine in February. You may earmark your donation for Manna House (our local soup kitchen), for World Vision's international program, or for World Vision's Haiti Relief Effort.

World Vision has been in Haiti for 31 years and currently runs 20 long-term development programs across five regions, with almost 400 staff members helping more than 300,000 people. While full reports from the field are only now coming in, the good news is that World Vision is already on the ground and mobilized to respond to immediate needs.

We feel confident that by supporting World Vision through the 30-Hour Famine, we're partnering with an organization that has a proven track record of effectiveness and good stewardship. And, our students can be proud to support massive relief efforts to this devastating crisis through such a worthy cause. See page 3 for more information on Haiti.

END OF YEAR TAX REPORTS

In January 2010, reports of 2009 contributions will be mailed to all parishioners who contributed \$250 or more during the year. This is consistent with IRS requirements. The report will include all identifiable offertory contributions, including those made by electronic transfer or credit card. It will **NOT** be necessary to call the Parish Office to request the report, as it was in the past. The reports will be mailed by January 31.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday, January 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Board Room. Meetings are open to ALL parishioners.

The agenda for the meeting will include reports from several ministries, including the Welcoming Committee, Moms Group, Youth group, and a review of the February calendar of parish events. A subcommittee will present a report on suggested changes to the Council nomination process.

At the December meeting, the Council heard reports on the success of the Christmas Fair, which generated a profit of more than \$16,000 and on the Stewardship Campaign.

Parish Council is your voice to the Pastor and Staff. If you have suggestions, questions or concerns about Parish life, activities, business affairs, etc. please speak with a member of the Council. You can find contact information for all Council members on the Parish website, or feel free to reach out to one of these Council members:

Robyn DiBlasio: 203-846-3880 or rdiblasio@novusllc.com
Ed Hughes: 203-845-0948 or efxhbcw@aol.com
Denny O'Brien (Youth Rep): 203-855-1316 or hi.rusden@yahoo.com

NORWALK HOSPITAL

Pastoral Visits at Norwalk Hospital are made to parishioners or their family members when requested. Please notify the Parish Office (203-847-4549). However, the best way to receive a timely visit is to inform the hospital at the time of admission. Clearly **INSIST** that the hospital place the person's name on the St. Philip R.C. Parish list of people who want these visits.

WE PRAY THAT CHRIST'S HEALING BE GIVEN TO:

Jean D'Orio
Anthony Granata
Marion Smith

FAITH FORMATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Regular Class Schedule:

Tuesday, January 26 4:00 to 5:15 p.m.
 Wednesday, January 27 4:00 to 5:15 p.m.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENTS: A parent session was held in the St. Philip School Hall on Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m. All parents of First Eucharist candidates should have attended. If you did not attend, please call Doris Chiappetta at 203-847-4286.

CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL - Our last Children Are Special Mass this year is on Saturday, February 13 at the 5:30 p.m. liturgy with our Third Graders who will celebrate Mardi Gras with us.

SPYCE

Sunday, Feb. 7 Session #6 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Sunday, Mar. 7 Session #7 4 - 6:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION 2010

Sunday, Jan. 24 Session #9 6 - 8:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Jan. 31 Session #10 6 - 8:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Feb. 7 Rite of Covenant 10 a.m. Mass
 Sunday, Feb. 21 Session #11 6 - 8:30 p.m.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA is a process of conversion and entry into the fullness of the Catholic Church. From September through June all RCIA meetings start at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesdays in the School Board Room, unless otherwise noted. For more information, please call Ellen Mahon at 203-921-7700.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 31, 2010
 Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
 Luke 4:21-30



GOD'S CHALLENGE

The Lord stiffens the courage of Jeremiah by calling him to prophesy, to be a wall of bronze and a pillar of iron. Jesus challenged his hometown folk to respond to his work, but they chased him away. God's overwhelming love is a strong challenge for people. They are called to overcome obstacles, put away childish things and seek perfection in things that last: faith, hope and—the greatest—love. Today the Lord challenges us to respond by following Him.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year c. Illustration © 2000 S. Erspamer. Text, Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 2000, OCP. All rights reserved.

MASS INTENTIONS & LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Week of January 24, 2010

Monday	7:30am	Cheryl Ann Koenig-Smith
Tuesday	7:30am	Kevin Shay
Wednesday	7:30am	Jennie & Dominick Toscano
Thursday	7:30am	Kenneth Keyes
Friday	7:30am	Charles Pacunas

COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday	5:30pm	Jerry McShane
Sunday	8:00am	For The Parishioners
	10:00am	Rose Mangone
	12 Noon	Carla Gisolfi

HEALING MASS

You are invited to a Mass of Healing and Hope sponsored by the St. Philip Prayer Group. This Mass will be celebrated in St. Philip Church on Thursday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. by Father Mark Scalese, S.J. of Fairfield University.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & PARISH EVENTS

Mon., Jan. 25	- Parish Council	
	School Board Room	7:30 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 26	- Religious Education	
	School	4 p.m.
	- RCIA	
	School Board Room	7:15 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 27	- MOMS Group	
	School Board Room	11:30 a.m.
	- Religious Education	
	School	4 p.m.
	- Youth Group	
	YAC	7 - 9 p.m.
	- Choir	
	Music Room	7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 28	- Bible Study	
	School Board Room	7:15 p.m.
	- Prayer Group	
	YAC	7:45 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 29	- Prayer Shawl Ministry	
	School Board Room	10 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 30	- Men's Ministry	
	School Board Room	8 a.m.
	- Junior Choir	
	Church	4 - 5 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 31	- Confirmation Session #10	
	School Hall	6 - 8:30 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 1	- SPYCE Team	
	YAC	7 - 8:30 p.m.

SAVE THESE DATES

ST. PHILIP ANNUAL PARISH MISSION
 FEBRUARY 22 - 24

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

139 West Rocks Road, Norwalk

All interested families are invited to an Open House on February 3 & 4 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for kindergarten through 8th grade.

If these times are not convenient for you, please call the school office at 203-847-3881 to schedule an individual tour of the school.

HELP FOR HAITI

Reminder: A special collection will be gathered next weekend, January 30 & 31, and will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as they respond to the immediate and long-term needs of the people of Haiti for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care, as well as the pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church of Haiti. Please be sure to make your check payable to St. Philip Church. The parish will then send one check for the total of all donations to Catholic Relief Services

The destructive earthquake in Haiti has had an impact on our own parish. Some of our many Haitian parishioners have family members who have died or have not yet been located. Fortunately, some are safe as well.

A Mass Intention for those who have died will be scheduled. Therefore, please complete and return the form to the right. The form may be delivered to the Parish Office or placed in the collection basket at any Mass.

Your name _____ Phone _____
Family member names in HAITI :
Who have died _____

Who are injured _____

Who have not been found _____

ST. PHILIP 30-HOUR FAMINE: WATER

The wonderful youth of St. Philip will once again be participating in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine on February 27 - 28. This is the 7th year that they will be helping children all around the world who are literally dying of hunger. By going 30 hours without food, they will get a "taste" of what so many poverty stricken children and families feel every day. Last year, more than 150 students who took part in the fast were able to raise over \$19,000 for World Vision and \$4,600 for Manna House, our local soup kitchen. This year, we expect 150 high school students and 30 or more 6th and 7th graders to take part. This is faith in action and we need you to be a part of it! Here is how you can help – please try to join this worthwhile endeavor!

Be a prayer partner! We know we will be surrounded in prayer on Saturday & Sunday, February 27 & 28. We like to have a special "Prayer Partner" for each of our participants. This is something you can do from home. Simply sign up to receive the name of a student and - pray! Each student will carry a card with the name of the person who will be praying for them throughout the Famine. Please contact Kathy Krenicki at 203-849-0056 to be a "prayer partner".

Wear orange on Famine Day! Orange is the official color of 30-Hour Famine. If you cannot join us on February 27 & 28, wear something that is orange and think of us throughout the day – and night!

Go without lunch on Saturday, February 27! Perhaps you can donate the money you would have spent on lunch to World Vision or Manna House.

Support a teenager! The teenagers who will be fasting for 30 hours are taking pledges for the hours they go without food. Our goal is to once again raise more than \$10,000 for World Vision. Please make checks payable to: World Vision.

Make a donation to Manna House! The youth are attempting to raise \$2,500 for Manna House, the soup kitchen here in Norwalk. Manna House struggles each week to provide protein, and the donations made through our 30-Hour Famine will buy meat, eggs and cheese for Manna House. Please make checks payable to: Manna House, with a notation: 30-Hour Famine, St. Philip Church.

Donate Canned Goods! Many people do not realize that St. Philip has a pantry that feeds many local families! We are always in need of canned goods, pasta and cereal. These items may be brought to the Religious Ed office during the week, or left in the baskets at all Church doors. The children may also bring them to any of their classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Join us at Mass, where we will break the fast with Eucharist! The last hour of the fast is the most difficult. Let's let these wonderful kids know, by your presence, that they are loved, supported and valued. Please join us at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 28. If you have been to this Mass in the past, you know how incredible it is to see the 150+ teens complete this challenge in worship together.

Help us celebrate with a break-fast meal! There will be a simple breakfast after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 28 in the School Hall . . . and the entire parish family is invited. We will have some special activities and a slide show of the thirty hours we fasted. Join us and meet these incredible kids!

This year we are excited to announce the theme of our Famine. We are once again partnering with SPAG - the St. Philip Artists Guild - to incorporate art into the Famine. There will be an art show in the Mansion entitled "*The H2O Show*" which will be a juried show on the theme of water. The opening reception is on Friday, February 26 from 7 - 9 p.m. The show will be open on the weekend of the Famine (Saturday & Sunday, February 27 & 28) from 1 to 5 p.m. and every Sunday after that from 1 to 5 p.m. through Sunday, April 25. "*The H2O Show*" will be juried by artist/educator Christine Goldbach, most recently co-curator at the Carriage Barn in New Canaan, and is open to artists in all media. The show will include pieces by our SPAG artists, local artists, and the youth of our parish. Artists selected for the show will be asked to donate a small percentage of any sales to the St. Philip Youth Group fund raiser to build a well for clean water in a community in Africa. Visit the website <http://www.spagstudios.com> for details and an entry form.

Other exciting aspects of the Famine to make note of: We will once again be kicking off the event with a one-mile walk from the Norwalk Green to St. Philip Church. We make this walk in honor of the Night Walkers of Africa, children who must walk each night to a safe place to sleep, only to wake and have to walk back to their respective villages. We will have our opening ceremonies at 10 a.m., service projects, games, prayer breaks, and a beautiful prayer service at 10 p.m. in the Church to reflect on the challenge of bringing food, water and love to a hungry world.

Look for more information in the bulletin over the coming weeks as February draws close. Please hold us in your prayers as we work to bring justice to our world.

For more information, if you have any questions or suggestions, or if you would like to join us, call Kali at 203-845-2385.

THANK YOU, 2009

Dear Parishioner,

By far, Sunday, August 23 stands out as a significant moment in our history. Not only did we celebrate the 45th Anniversary of our founding, but we also dedicated the new Bell Tower and Outdoor Shrine. Bishop Lori presided at a beautiful Mass and blessed the tower and shrine. The HOUR photograph of his 'leaping' to bless the tower is truly one for the archives! In the final moments, God weathered a spectacular day, thus allowing an outdoor reception. I am grateful to our Parish Staff for detailed labor in the "Lift" campaign and celebration; and to the entire "Lift" committee, chaired by Fran DeMeglio, working in harmony with many other parish leaders. To them and to all of you, my pastoral and personal sentiments of gratitude.

Let me also recall how St. Philip 'went to bat' in response to 2009's difficult economic times. Both in May and in November's 'Call to Stewardship,' the endless generosity of parishioners manifested itself yet again. Just as you are experiencing the burden of expenses, so too is your Spiritual home. Utilities, maintaining of ministerial services, etc. have made financial demands not easily met. Yet, when I shared this reality with you asking that you do your best to assist your parish's paying its bills in a timely fashion, you responded gloriously. While like you, St. Philip Parish struggles with its finances, because of your goodness, we are meeting major expenses, for the most part.

As if your help to the challenging economy was not enough, the response of the ENTIRE pastoral staff to my proposing a 5% reduction in salary, including myself, was a unanimous YES! Without any hesitation, all personnel signed an agreement to accept the reduction. As underpaid as they are [and believe me, 'underpaid' is an understatement], their agreement is a compliment to you in the sense that they are saying, "I want to serve the St. Philip Community!" To further reduce cost, office hours were shortened by 4 hours, hence saving on utilities. You understood and adjusted to this change, furthering my appreciation of you – not that I needed any more reason.

Speaking of staff, 2009 joyfully welcomed Art McCarthy as a sacristan. Per his leadership, a new Liturgical Ministry was established called Mass Co-ordinators. My June workshop with those volunteers is a cherished memory. Led now by Art, this group of people advances in providing a smooth, sacred and solemn Liturgical setting. Fortifying this ministry is Sandy Mitchell, whose many years as sole sacristan has made her a treasured resource.

Among some of the other 2009 highlights are: June's rectory floods that I'd rather not remember; July's outdoor tag sale; and November's report from Kali Di Marco regarding the incredible strides made in youth ministry in the past 11 years along with its YAC [Youth Activity Center] open house; and December's Lessons and Carols, with 250 attending despite the abundance of snow. Seeing ministries continue and or expand always highlights a year e.g., Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bible Study, Midnight Runs into NYCity, Saturday Men's Prayer Sharing, Wednesday monthly Novena, and on and on... Certainly one of the most innovative ministries established in 2009 is SPYCE [St. Philip Youth Catholic Education]. This learning experience is offered to our middle school students and their parents and has been received extremely well. Deacon Frank Chiappetta, who chaplains the group, is referred to as "Old Spyce"!!!

The year 2009 also made real my own aging process and the needs of medical attention for me and many of our staff members. For my part, I spent much of the past summer as an 'out patient,' as a result of severe spinal pain and threats of having cancer again. While pain management is still being researched, all other reports are favorable, for which I thank God. Please keep in your prayer the health of all your staff, in particular Steve Bagnell, Theresa Presser, Harriett Stallone and & weekly office volunteers, Pauline Fahey & Mary Viscusi. Fortunately all of them and I are in an 'out of danger' zone. I hope the same is true of you and all yours.

The health of your parish, however, I am happy to report is phenomenally good. How do I know ... it is because of your involvement, interest, dedication. etc. What an incredible honor for me to realize that in June 2010, I shall enter my 22nd year as Pastor of this blessed Faith Community. So, I thank you and offer my Blessings, through the intercession of our Patron, Apostle Philip, as ever,

In Christ,

Fr. Michael A. Boccaccio, Pastor

WELCOME 2010