

# O Holy Night

Christmas 2022



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**Holy Spirit & St. Philip Church**  
**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**  
**January 1, 2023**

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

**Saturday, December 31 –**

***Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God***

**4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Philip – Greta Emmenegger**  
(Judy Ketterer)

**5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Spirit – Jim & Norma Bukowski**  
(Wayne & Mary Jo Mally-Canfield)

**Sunday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

Readings: 18: Nm 6:22-27 / Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

**9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Philip – For the People of St. Philip  
& Holy Spirit Parishes**

**11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit – Esther Wilson**  
(David & Colleen Martinelli)

**Monday, January 2 – Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**

Readings: 205: 1 Jn 2:22-28 / Ps 98:1-4 / Jn 1:19-28

**Tuesday, January 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

Readings: 206: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 / Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 / Jn 1:29-34

**9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Philip – Joe Gornick**  
(Charles & Marcia Keck)

**Wednesday, January 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Readings: 207: 1 Jn 3:7-10 / Ps 98:1, 7-9 / Jn 1:35-42

**9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit – Antoniak Family**  
(Family)

**Thursday, January 5 – St. John Neumann**

Readings: 208: 1 Jn 3:11-21 / Ps 100:1b-5 / Jn 1:43-51

**9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Philip – Greta Emmenegger**  
(Pam Schute)

**Friday, January 6 – St. André Bessette**

Readings: 209: 1 Jn 5:5-13 / Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 / Mk 1:7-11

**8:15 a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit – School Liturgy –  
Flaminio Cervi (Domenico & Lynn Cervi)**

**Saturday, January 7 – Vigil of the Solemnity of the Epiphany**

**4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Philip – Marguerite Slusser**  
(Denny & Melary Slusser)

**5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Spirit – John Cardinal**  
(Ed & Judy Bracken)

**Sunday, January 8 – Solemnity of the Epiphany**

Readings: 20: Is 60:1-6 / Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 /  
Mt 2:1-12

**9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Philip – Ruth Stelzer**  
(St. Philip Parish)

**11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit – For the People of Holy  
Spirit & St. Philip Parishes**

## From the Pastor's Desk...

A word of explanation is required perhaps to understand the celebration of the various feasts during this year's Christmas season. It may seem as though a couple of the regular feasts have been "dropped off or cut out." That is not the case. The change in emphasis this year has to do with the day of the week December 25th (Christmas) and January 1st (Feast of Mary, Mother of God) falls on.

Both of these Holy Days fell on a Sunday this year. Christmas is always a Holy Day of Obligation, regardless of what day of the week it lands on. This made for a full Advent Season – 4 Sundays plus four full weekdays of Advent. The feast of Mary, the Mother of God, is also always celebrated on January 1st, although unfortunately a great many people only observe New Year's Day as a civil or secular holiday, resulting in their not attending Mass. Because this feast falls on a Sunday, this year, many people will come to Church because it is on a Sunday.

What happened then to one feast (Holy Family) and what will happen to another (The Baptism of the Lord)? The Holy Family is normally celebrated on a Sunday between Christmas and January 1st. Simply stated, there is no Sunday this year between these two days. This year, the Holy Family was celebrated on Friday, December 30th. Next year, when January 1st falls on a Monday, we will celebrate the Holy Family on Sunday, December 31st.

The Baptism of the Lord, which will be observed on Monday, January 9, 2023, also usually falls on the Sunday after the observance of the Epiphany, or the feast of the Three Kings. This would create an extraordinarily long Christmas Season (were it to be placed on January 14th). There must be a minimum number of Sundays in Ordinary Time, so this places the Baptism on a Monday, January 9th, when it will be observed at Mass on that day.

Every year, I emphasize to Catholics that we religiously observe the Season of Christmas from the Vigil of Christmas (always December 24th) until the Baptism of Jesus (a movable date). So many people stop celebrating Christmas on January 1st, when the rest of society does. Observant Christians have always celebrated Christmas beyond January 1st. Could it be, that because the secular and commercial Christmas season now starts way before Thanksgiving Day, that so many people shortened its real historical and liturgical observance?



Happy New Year to all of you!  
Fr. Bill Arnold

## Information for Holy Spirit Parish

### **Parish Offertory Summary: December 24/25**

Offertory Envelopes (65)	\$ 11,560.00
Loose	\$ 462.00
St. Vincent de Paul (11)	\$ 630.00
Home Missions (1)	\$ 10.00
Religious Retirement (1)	\$ 25.00
Propagation of Faith (1)	\$ 10.00
Thanksgiving (1)	\$ 100.00
Christmas Flowers (1)	\$ 15.00
Tuition (1)	\$ 10.00
Immaculate Conception (1)	\$ 10.00
Catholic Charities (5)	\$ 100.00
Capital Improvement (4)	\$ 210.00
Solemnity of Mary (1)	\$ 10.00
Catholic Times (2)	\$ 37.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,189.00</b>

*Thank you!* Gratitude and thanks are extended to all Holy Spirit Parishioners who placed their parish Church on their giving list this Christmas Season. The support of Holy Spirit is the task of all parishioners. While some can be and are more generous than others, all of us can sacrifice something to make sure our parish stays financially strong. The parish is here to announce the Gospel to the Whitehall community and to deepen the faith of Catholics who call Holy Spirit their home parish. "Thank You" to all for your generosity.

### Ministry Schedule:

Saturday, January 7, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

**Lector: Lori Fowler**

**Servers: Carol Reyes-Galvan, Mark Fowler**

**Eucharistic Minister: De Ann Bukowski, Tim Heinmiller**

### Ministry Schedule:

Sunday, January 8, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.

**Lector: Jim Cottrill**

**Servers: Zoe Ruiz, Alex Dininni, Richie Dininni**

**Eucharistic Minister: Moné Hertzell, Hank Miller**

### **A Note of Gratitude from St. Vincent de Paul:**

Once again, our parishioners have responded with overwhelming generosity to our neighbors in need. Thanks to you, we were able to provide an unforgettable day of great memories for over 125 families at our annual "Christmas Blessings" event! Your prayers, monetary donations, and your willingness to volunteer before, during and after this event made this event an overwhelming success. Those of you who attended undoubtedly witnessed the many smiles from our neighbors, young and old!

Thank you for your assistance with this event AND your continued support of our efforts all year long. Together, we can continue to strive to respond to Jesus' call to love our neighbors. We are so blessed to partner with all of you in this endeavor!

## Information for St. Philip the Apostle Parish

### **Parish Offertory Summary: December 24/25**

Contributions (14)	\$ 1,966.00
Christmas (20)	\$ 1,207.00
Christmas Flowers (1)	\$ 15.00
Diocesan Charities (4)	\$ 180.00
Religious Retirement (1)	\$ 70.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,438.00</b>

*Thank you!*

To all St. Philip Parishioners who donated so generously to the parish over the Christmas holiday season, my thanks and appreciation. I realize that not all of us are able to give equally, but all of us can sacrifice something, so that the support for our parish is as equally distributed as possible. My gratitude is extended to all of you who so generously give to the Parish.

### Additional Christmas Flower Memorials For St. Philip Parish

*In Loving Memory/Honor of:*



George Rysavy, Jr., Kathy Rysavy,  
and the Shortridge Family by  
The Ritzenhaler Family

**Please remember in your prayers** Sue Engle, Trudi Rieser, and David Spencer, and all the sick, homebound or recovering in our parish. Pray for those in our parish coping with physical and mental health conditions.

### Ministry Schedule:

Saturday, January 7, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

**Lector: Steve Miller**

### Ministry Schedule:

Sunday, January 8, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

**Lector: Carolyn Jurkowitz**

## Shared Parish Information

**Pope Benedict XVI** – Please keep our "Pontiff Emeritus" in your prayers. His health took a noticeable turn for the worse this past week. The outcome of his current illness is uncertain, but all are asked to hold him in prayer in the coming days.



**Please note:** Both parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

## Shared Parish Information

### **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



**Christmas Thank-Yous!** Every year I feel it is important to express gratitude to people here at Holy Spirit and St. Philip who have helped make the holiday season as wonderful and rich as it is.

~ **First, let me thank all of you who support St. Philip and Holy Spirit Parishes** at the holiday season, but also all year long. Your contributions are completely voluntary, and they provide the heat, air-conditioning, maintenance and upkeep, as well as the salaries of all who work here.

~ **The St. Vincent de Paul volunteers at both parishes** do a tremendous job in their respective food pantries. Holiday time is rush time, and both parishes have been busy. Thank you to those who selflessly donate their time and hard work to serve our neighbors.

~ The people of Holy Spirit Parish who donated so generously to the **Whitehall Kid's Christmas** campaign on our Giving Tree.

~ **The musicians at both St. Philip and Holy Spirit** have put in hard work. They prepare weeks in advance to lead you in worship, song, and prayer at Mass. My thanks to all those who work so hard to help make the Christmas Masses as nice as they are.

~ Mass could not be properly celebrated without additional lectors, servers, and Eucharistic ministers. Thanks are extended to so many who step forward to continue our Catholic traditions.

~ **Thanks to everyone who decorated the churches.** They both looked wonderful! Many people expressed compliments and asked me to pass them on to those who decorated.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you and God bless!



Fr. Bill Arnold

**The Christmas Season:** Christmas Day in contemporary American culture is observed as the end point of weeks of decorating, holiday festivities and, of course, shopping. Many commercial terms of our economic system were coined as they relate to the purchase of goods – “Black Friday” (after Thanksgiving) and “Cyber Monday,” not to mention individual store “return policies” for gifts that didn’t work, please, or fit.

Christmas Day – in the Church – marks the beginning of the Christmas Season. It begins with the Masses of the Christmas Vigil, includes the Feasts of the Holy Family, Mary, the Mother of God, and the Epiphany, and concludes with the Baptism of the Lord. With the exception of Christmas, and Mary, the Mother of God, all these feasts have movable dates on the calendar.

Our Church decorations – hopefully, those in our homes as well – reflect the Christmas season to the very end. This gulf between the pre-Christmas buildup and the actual celebrations of Christmas in our Church grows wider each year, due primarily to the earlier and earlier preparations for the commercial holiday giving season. Reflect, if you will, on what has actually happened over these last many years. When do we actually observe the “Christmas Season” in our faith life, or has that been swallowed up by the two-month long seasonal and commercial build-up?



**Christmas Card Thank-You:** I received numerous Christmas cards from parishioners of both St. Philip and Holy Spirit Parishes. They are not thrown in a pile. I take a moment and sit down several times during the Christmas Season and reflect on the good wishes expressed therein. I want to thank everyone who sent me a card and assure them of my prayers and gratitude.

**The New Year – 2023:** So many of us are glad, for a variety of reasons, that 2022 is behind us. With elections, inflation, bad weather – well, some things come around again all the time.



But, let’s not forget that we Christians are optimistic about the future. Avoid listening to predictions of doom and apocalyptic destruction. Some people are hoping for such a disaster and even welcome it.

We believe God is in charge of all time and history. Previous generations have experienced overwhelming crises and prevailed. So shall we. Do not be afraid, the Gospels tell us. Truer today than in Biblical times. God is with us and God loves this world. Happy New Year 2023!

Fr. Bill Arnold

## Additional Holy Spirit Information



**Holy Spirit School** teachers, staff, and students wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Our Savior is born! May all of you enjoy this beautiful season of the Church with your loved ones. Students will return from break on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Thank you for your continuous support and prayers! May your 2023 be filled with endless blessings, joy, and love!

– Miss Kathy Costello, Principal



### **2022-2023 Annual Campaign for Holy Spirit School:**

Holy Spirit School is turning to its parents, friends, and supporters in the 2022-2023 Gift to the Spirit Annual Campaign.

This year, our Parish School celebrates its 71st Anniversary in the Whitehall Community. We are proud of the education we provide. We must, however, always update and modernize our facilities.

Our project for the 2022-2023 academic year is to begin the process of upgrading security in our school building and surrounding property.

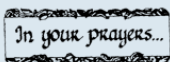
We know that you share our great concern for the safety of our students! We would appreciate your prayerful consideration. Envelopes are in the back of Church. Please help us in meeting the challenges ahead! Thank you.



**Christmas Season Gratitude** is extended to the Whitehall community, for their support of our efforts to assist the needy here at Holy Spirit, in particular these donors:

~ **Creative Palette**, a business here in Whitehall at 310 N. Yearling Road, also delivered items for our food pantry this past week. We appreciate that collection taken up by their employees on behalf of the visitors to our food pantry.

~ **Priority Designs**, a business located at 100 S. Hamilton Road, this past week, delivered an enormous amount of canned goods and grocery items for our food pantry. We extend to them our gratitude and that of our clients.



**Please remember in your prayers** all the sick, homebound, or recovering in our parish, especially Ned Braun, Carole Brill, Bernie Comer, Lu & Bob Cudak, Edith J.B. Ingram, Carl Jura, Carl Moore, Steve & Nancy Sagle, Maria Stevenson, and Geri Torr.



**56th Day of Prayer for World Peace, January 1, 2023:** Every Holy Father since Pope Paul VI in 1967 (that includes John Paul II, Pope Benedict, and Pope Francis) has called upon Catholics and peoples of the world to pray for peace. The Holy Father commands neither military force nor an arsenal of weapons to “fight” for peace. Rather, Pope Francis uses the words of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel.

In sending His disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them:

*“Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you.”*

Pope Francis has emphasized the role of good politics – more specifically – **good politicians**, as key to bringing peace to the world and society. Politicians should see themselves as the **servants of all**. These qualities, the politicians of every (or any) nation ought to possess. They are called the “Beatitudes of the Politician.”

- Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.
- Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.
- Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.
- Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.
- 
- Blessed be the politician who works for unity.
- Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.
- Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.
- Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.

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