



ST. PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC CHURCH
Portland, Oregon



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The Nativity of the Lord



December 25, 2023

A Christmas Message by Fr. Andrew

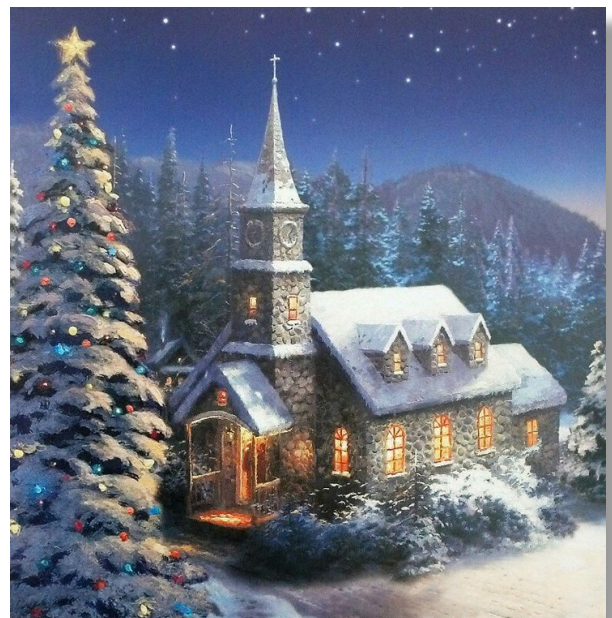
Buon Natale! Merry Christmas! During this time of joy and peace, when God has become like us, I invite you to discover and contemplate the mystery of His birth and His greatness in the simplicity of a newborn. This time always brings joy – hopefully today's joy will give us an opportunity to meditate and live this mystery as a family and in divine grace. "The grace that has appeared in the world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, God and true man. He has come to our history, He has shared our path. He has come to free us from darkness and give us light. In Him grace, mercy, and the tenderness of the Father have appeared: Jesus is Love made flesh. He is not only a teacher of wisdom. He is not an ideal that we tend to. He is the meaning of life and of history that has a spot among us" (Pope Francis).

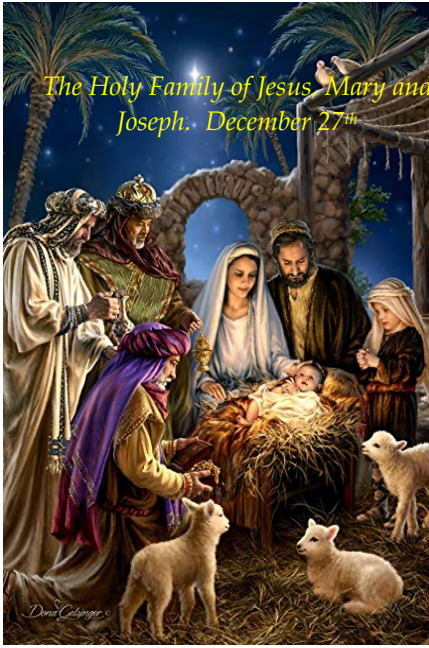
I want to thank you all for your expressions of affection and your warm greetings during this time. I so appreciate all the goodies, cards, gifts, and well wishes during this Christmas Season. You're all a BLESSING! Thank you for your generosity!!! It is my fourth Christmas with you and I am very happy to serve you as your pastor. I strive everyday to guide you and show you the path to God. A thousand thanks to all of you who since July 1, 2020 have become my spiritual family. I also cannot thank you enough for your financial support towards our parish; without your collaboration the parish cannot move forward and thanks to your sharing heart we can move forward. Please remember even when you're not here we rely on your support, so please consider Vanco and sign up or I can help you sign up. We really need your help this year as it is a difficult year all around. So again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Next, I cannot stop thanking and congratulating, on this Christmas day, all our volunteers: lectors, extraordinary ministers, ushers, music ministers, sacristans, altar servers and the active members of all the groups and ministries of the parish. All of you are the heart of the parish, I feel very grateful for all the support you bring to our parish community. Thank you very much for all your effort.

Finally, I thank and congratulate my Staff and those who assist me in the office of our parish for the hard work they have done this past year. The work we have done as a team has always been their best and will continue to do so. I am very happy with where we are currently. For me as a pastor, they are not just employees, they are a family of faith who help me carry this parish forward, and must encounter Christ everyday.

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December 27th we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe. This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at its Gospel, in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. The day's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew following the story of the Magi's visit. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus. It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses recounting Herod's order of the massacre of infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28. These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be

recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation. ■

Honoring Our Departed Loved Ones

Each year we hold a special remembrance for those of our community who died in the past year.

On Saturday, **January 27th**, 2023 after the 4 p.m. Saturday vigil—we will offer the short service of 'Blessing of the Memorial Plaques' in the Memorial Chapel at the back. Please join us to honor:

Marilyn Becic, Margaret Becker, Richard Dehen, August A. Gatto, Earl Hooper, Sr. Kathie Hearn, Leona Gambee, and George Spada



Most Blessed Mother,

You are breath for the weak,
 a spring for the thirsty,
 warmth for the poor,
 rest for the weary,
 assurance for the hesitant,
 the hush of lamentations,
 the joy of hearts,
 the ark for all people,
 and the union between your
 children and God.
 Amen.

From *Blessed Art Thou* by Fr. Richard J. Beyer

GIVING MADE EASY

Did you know that you can use online giving for ALL your donations this Christmas? Whether it is your Christmas gift, your donation for Christmas flowers to beautify the church environment during this joyous season, or your year-end gift, giving online is a convenient and secure solution to make your one-time or recurring financial gift.

Just click on the **GIVE ONLINE** button and take a look around. It's designed to be easy. It can be found on the upper right hand corner of our HOME PAGE on our website. Thank you for your generosity and God Bless you always.

www.stphilipneripdx.org



Christmas Message *continued from page 1*

On behalf of the Staff and myself, we wish this Christmas to be a time of hope and spiritual reconciliation. May the grace and peace of Baby Jesus abundantly bless your homes, your families, your intentions and all your projects. We wish you a Merry and Holy Christmas, full of peace and well-being.

Pace, (Peace). Fr. Andrew

Growing Old With God

We will be offering an adult education class called "Growing Old with God" this **January 13, 20, and 27**. Start times will be an hour prior to the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. Find us in the music room off the hallway behind the Altar / Sanctuary. All are welcome! Barbara Harrison and Mary Kavanaugh will team as the presenters.



Raphael House of Portland provides life-saving services to adults and children fleeing domestic violence, while working to prevent future abuse through education. They ensure that survivors find the hope, healing, and independence they deserve – while building a bright future that's free from violence.

YOU CAN MAKE A LIFE-SAVING GIFT THIS SEASON

Double or triple your impact! Through **December 31st**, gifts of **\$125 or more will be tripled (up to \$10,000)** and gifts under **\$125 doubled (up to \$5,000)** by our generous matching partners **OnPoint Community Credit Union and The Clark Foundation**.

Simply use the secure online giving page at bit.ly/RHGiving2023, or mail a check made out to Raphael House of Portland at 4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #503 Portland, OR 97214. ♥



Andrea Del Rosario ♥ Antonette Amato
♥ Georgene Raab ♥ Colin Andries ♥ Bill Dietzler ♥ Tessa Parise Murdock

Please contact the office if you, or someone you know needs our prayers!



Parish offices will be **CLOSED** on Wednesday, December 27 – Thursday, January 4. *Thanks!*

Church Cleaners Schedule

Dec 26 – Dec 29
Jerry & Priscilla Stewart

Jan 2 – Jan 5
Jeanne & Dorothy



- Sat. Dec 23:** 4:00 p.m. † Nancy Salta – Eleanore & Dorene
- Sun. Dec 24:** 9:30 a.m. † Ambrose & Christopher Calcagno
- Sun. Dec. 24:** 4:00 p.m. † Michael & Janice Baccellieri - Eleanore
- 8:00 p.m. † Victor Wandtke – Sue Wanktke
- Mon. Dec 25:** 8:00 a.m. Int. of Fr. Andrew
- Wed. Dec 27, Thur. Dec 28, & Fri. Dec. 29 – NO Masses**
- Sat. Dec 30:** 4:00 p.m. People of St Philip Neri
- Sun. Dec 31:** 9:30 a.m. People of St Philip Neri
- Mon. Jan 1:** 9:00 a.m. † Nancy Salta
- Wed. Jan 3:** 9:00 a.m. **No Mass**
- Thu. Jan 4:** 9:00 a.m. **No Mass**
- Fri. Jan 5:** 9:00 a.m. Carol Cooke – Jeanne McPherson
- Sat. Jan 6:** 4:00 p.m. † George Spada – Rossetto Sisters

MASS INTENTIONS

December 24 – December 30
Chloe Haugen

December 31 – January 6
† Fr. Tony Gargotta



"We the welcoming community of St. Philip Neri Parish, empowered by the compassion of Jesus and supported by the Eucharist and the Word, dedicate ourselves to engage with and enrich the lives of those we touch."

Reconciliation Times
Saturday
by appointment only

Pastor – #101

Fr. Andrew Thomas

athomas@stphilipneripdx.org



Administrative Assistant - #100

Debra Guthrie

debbieg@stphilipneripdx.org