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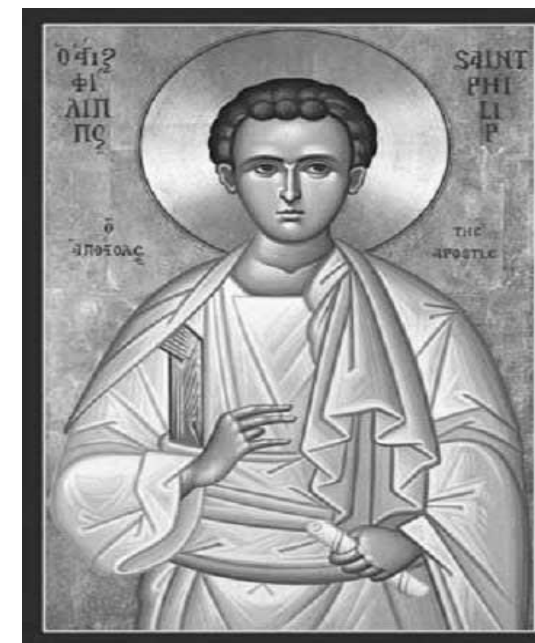
St. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

1314 Oxford St. Oshawa, ON. L1J 3W6
Phone: 905-725-3275 Fax: 905-434-7531

Email: stphiliptheapostleos@archtoronto.org
Website: www.stphiliptheapostle.com

PASTOR: Fr. Jorge Lopez
Email: pastor.stphilip@archtoronto.org

IN RESIDENCE:
Sr. Maria, Sr. Cristina
Religious Community: CMSSTCJ



Mass Times

Weekday Masses

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 6:00 p.m.

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: 15 minutes before each mass or by appointment

Weekend Masses

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Baptism

Infants and young children of registered parents are eligible to have their child baptized. Baptisms are celebrated by appointment only and require a meeting with the priest.

Marriage

Weddings for registered parishioners are generally celebrated on Saturdays. A Marriage Preparation Course is required. Please contact the pastor a minimum of one year before the planned marriage date.

Ministry to the Sick

Please call the Parish Office to arrange for visits, Communion, or Sacrament of the Sick. If you are admitted to the Hospital, kindly identify yourself as "Catholic" at the time of admission

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services

Resurrection Catholic Cemetery,
355 Taunton Rd. E., Whitby, ON
905-668-8912

SCHOOLS

Msgr. Philip Coffey - 905-723- 4241
Msgr. John Pereyma - 905-432-8470

For more information on Catholic education in our community or to reach your local school board trustee, contact the Durham Catholic District School Board at 905-576-6150 or www.dcdsb.ca

We welcome new parishioners. Please register in the vestibule or call the parish office

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Rm 5:8)

Dear parishioners,

It has been more than 19 months that I had the gift to come to serve at St. Philip's. It has been challenging to adapt to having two parishes and 5 schools. However, it has been a time filled with grace and faithfulness from the part of God, our Father!

I will love once again to use this mean to enter your homes and be able to have a direct contact with you. I take the advantage in this Christmas to invite you to return "Home", to your house, to your parish. This is the place where we can be ourselves and be confronted with the truth that although we are broken and wounded, we have a God who proves his love for us in Word and in Sacrament! He is our guarantee!!!

To the date, according to the parish registers there are around 532 families/individuals registered in this parish. How much I would love to see all of them here to be able to share with them the "freshness of the Good News", the beauty of being children of God and the joy of his love! This year, I could not go out door to door to look for people. Some other duties at the desk and at schools prevented me from doing it. But, even if I did it, it would be insufficient if you do not help me. Please take to heart the invitation I made you last year: "please bring along with you at least one neighbour or person" and accompany them as they get their way back to the church. Accompaniment is so important in this our times, where people feel more and more abandoned, as if no body cares. No! The church cares, God cares, we care!

We are bringing the sacramental preparation closer to home, in this way, without leaving all the task to the school, we need to be involved as a parish in the sacramental preparation.

We were able to sort out our data base and realize that we have more than 100 people "new", at least in our contacts (of which a couple of dozen families have registered this past year), so that now at least we could contact them and share our projects with them. Another thing we have made is to reorganize ourselves and expand our volunteer list and see how to improve ourselves better. This will better serve the purpose of reviving our parish and refreshing it with the new breath of the Holy Spirit! Please consider volunteering at your time and in your capacity!

In order to serve better the community, we have tried to embellish the church and its surroundings! We have painted and made some repairs and a deep cleaning of the parish hall and the kitchen. Thanks to those who did it! We have also painted and repaired the entrance of the church and the foyer. We have strengthened the metal staircases by welding and replacing some parts of it and strengthened the fenced on the side of the building. We have also put surveillance cameras and installed better lighting outside to help with the security. We have also updated the alarm system. We have repaired the parish sign which is the welcoming catch as people pass by and look at our beautiful parish. We have painted the first floor of the convent and the entrance and parish office and foyer. We have put a calling system that facilitates the communication and renders me always present, easy to be found in case of an emergency. We also make our own parish bulletin. By selling spaces in the bulletin, not only does this pay for them, but also it leaves revenue to the parish. We have also improved our sound system, although is a work in progress, it seems that it is a bit better. We have also done small and essential repairs and updates in some of the washrooms and other places; things that although are not visible, they render the everyday workload easy to carry! Spite of all these necessary works, I am happy to share with you that when I came into the parish, we had a total of \$71,971.14 in the bank. As of this week, we have a total of \$100,571.45. This will help us to continue doing renovations to our beautiful parish and strengthen our building.

We still in great need to do more! We need to change the boiler into a more energy efficient machine; embellish and give restore to the sister's convent; getting rid of the electric heating in the convent and putting a boiler instead; put flooring into the "crying room/confessional" and parish hall. We still need to continue to strengthen the staircase's pillar which we started already but could not finish because of the weather; and painting the rest of the railing around the property. etc.

I want to thank all the volunteers who with their time, talents and treasure constantly do things for the parish. You are a gift to me, and I pray for you and your family every day, so that He may be your reward and consolation!

We need to encourage each other and help each other. No body is auto sufficient! We all belong to the same church and in need of the same Graces. I want also to thank you for this opportunity that you have given me to be able to speak to you. I want to warmly greet your relatives and tell them that I am here in the parish to serve them.

For your information, our schedule for the masses during the Christmas season is as follows:

Sunday December 24: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday December 31: 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Vigil: 7:00 p.m.

Monday Jan 1 (New Year's Day): 12:30 p.m.

Monday December 25(Christmas Day): 9:30 am.


Please note that Sunday the 24th in the morning it will be the 4th Sunday of Advent and in the night, it will be the Vigil of Christmas. To fulfill our Sunday obligation, we need to attend to the 9:30 am and then come back at night at 7pm or on the 25th for our Christmas duties at 9:30am. Although I do not like to use the words obligation, in these cases it is needed since it wants to express the obligation as per a heart that is obligated to pump blood in the body. In the same way, we are obliged to put God first in our lives!

There will be two blocks of baptismal catechises this new year 2024. The first will be on February 3, 10 @10am-12pm. Parents and godparents must attend all meetings, the 2 catechises. If they are out of town, they must show proof of having received baptismal preparation at their local parish. Please email me if you would like to register your child. Once made the catechesis, you can choose which Saturday at 11am you would like to baptise your child. The registration deadline will be February 3. Our next session will be on September 7, 14 @10am-12pm. The same applies for this other block of catechesis. Please inform your family of these two sessions and tell them that if they wish to baptize their child to choose either to come on February or in September.

I wish all of you at home a Holy Merry Christmas! May the God of love, who became one with us, except in sin, fill you with his Holy Spirit and give you peace, hope and joy this Christmas and New Year 2023.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Jorge Lopez

Ps: You can easily reach me through email at pastor.stphilip@archtoronto.org or by phone calling the parish and pressing extension 3. **In only Emergencies**, you can call the parish and press Extension 9.

		
Sunday December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)	9:30am	For the Sick of Thae Tujet Family
Sunday December 24 (Christmas Eve Vigil)	7:00pm	For the Sick of Thae Tujet Family
Monday December 25 (Christmas Day)	9:30am	Hoq Vu (In Thanksgiving)
Tuesday December 26	6:00pm	Maria Than Pham (In Thanksgiving)
Friday December 29	6:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	6:30pm	Peace in Family
Sunday December 31 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)		
	9:30am	(1) Sr. Maria (In Thanksgiving)
		(2) Souls of the Vu Family
		(3) Thanksgiving for favour received
Monday January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)		
	12:30pm	†Dominico Tran Van Ty



Sacrament of Confirmation
 If you have a child who is ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, registration will be open in January. We ask that all candidates attend Sunday mornings Mass at 9:30am. There will be a registration session on Friday February 2, 2024 at 7pm to meet with parents and children together.

Sunday Offering for December 17:

\$1,335.00

Thank you for your ongoing generous support!



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office either by phone at: 905-725-3275 or email us at: stphiliptheapostleos@archtoronto.org