

Saint Philip Neri
(Reed City)

Saint Anne
(Paris)

Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021



Pastor: Fr. Michael G. Hodges
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Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Closed Fridays
Phone: (231) 832-5544

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7;
Luke 3:10-18

8:00 AM at St. Anne-*Parish Family

10:00 AM at St. Philip Neri-*Parish Family

Knight of Columbus Breakfast after 10:00 AM Mass

Monday, December 13

St. Lucy

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Matthew 21:23-27

1:00 PM Al Anon

6:30 PM--Knights of Columbus Mtg.

Tuesday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32

9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel

†Robert Schneider by Tom Eichenberg

7:00 PM Al Anon

Wednesday, December 15

Advent Weekday

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Luke 7:18-23

9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel

†Carl Yost by Betty Yost

6:00 PM--Faith Formation K-6

Thursday, December 16

Advent Weekday

Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30

9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel

†Suffering Souls in Purgatory by Jim Talaske

Friday, December 17

Late Advent Weekday

Genesis 49:2, 9-10; Matthew 1:1-17

9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel

†Living and Deceased Members of the Marek,

Slama, Grieser Families

by Elizabeth Marek

Saturday, December 18

Late Advent Weekday

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25

3:00 PM Reconciliation – St. Philip Neri

4:00 PM Mass at St. Philip Neri-*Parish Family

Collection Report
December 4-5

	<u>St. Philip Neri</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>
Envelopes:	(40) \$2,820.00	(11) \$675.00
Loose:	<u>261.00</u>	<u>75.00</u>
Total:	\$3,081.00	\$750.00

Wkly. Budget: \$3,596.15
O/ (U) Budget: 234.85

YTD Budget: \$79,115.30
YTD Collection: 73,004.01
(\$6,111.29)

Schedule of Ministers

St. Philip Neri
December 18, 2021 4:00 PM

Word: Sandy Fogue
Hospitality: Harriet Lenahan
Betty Yost

December 19, 2021 10:00 AM

Word: Leo Rosneck
Hospitality: Bob Shepler
Tyler Shepler

St. Anne
December 19, 2021 8:00 AM

Word: Dan Hoeh
Hospitality: Dave Battle
Brenda Battle

Fr. Mike's Musings

There is an idea prevalent now that religion hinders one's freedom, that religion cramps one's lifestyle, that it is an oppressive force. Some people are ashamed to talk about religion to each other or their friends. Some believe their reputation would suffer a big blow if it were known that they had strong faith so they hide it. Some people say they would rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints

In fact, far from hindering us or cramping us in any way, living with a strong faith in God brings us the true happiness we cannot find elsewhere. Therefore Paul writes in the Second Reading, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!*" or as another translation has it, "*I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.*" Notice where he says we will find our happiness, "*in the Lord.*" We will find our happiness by living the Christian Life.

The joy and happiness in the Lord that we celebrate today is symbolized by lighting a rose candle on the Advent wreath today instead of a purple one. Did Jesus feel cramped and hindered? Not according to what we read in the Gospels. In John we read Jesus saying, "*I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.*" Jesus was joyful and wanted His disciples to share His joy,

The first step to become happy in the Lord is to give up sin so that we can live a life of grace with the Lord. In the Gospel today three times people asked John the Baptist, "*What should we do?*" Each time he told them to give up something or not to be greedy. Our journey of conversion is a journey from wanting and being greedy and possessive to becoming unselfish. That was the journey John the Baptist asked his hearers to make and the journey we are challenged to make this Advent so that we will have true joy and happiness to celebrate at Christmas rather than just Santa Claus coming to town.

When we turn our backs on sin and follow the Lord it does not mean that we will never again have trouble. Of course we will. We will have troubles and problems as long as we live but we will have an inner peace in the Lord and find our happiness in the Lord. The Lord wills us to be happy. Since the day we were baptized we are sons and daughters of God. We heard in the Gospel John the Baptist telling his listeners that he baptized with water but Jesus was coming after him and he would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. When we were baptized we were touched by God. God put His seal on us when we were baptized. Why be unhappy when God wants us, wills us, to be happy?

Christmas Memorial Flower Offering

The envelopes for the Christmas flowers to help decorate the church are located in the back of the church in a basket. The Memorial list will be posted in the bulletin on the weekend of Christmas.

Thank you for your generosity.



Decorating

We will be decorating the church on Sunday, December 19th, 2021, at 11:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to join.

Knights of Columbus



**Msgr. Victor Gallagher
Council #12668**

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

The phrase "*In service to one, in service to all*" has long been a motto of the Knights of Columbus. It simply means that Knights take seriously the two great commandments of Jesus Christ: '*to love God with our entire being, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.*'

For 128 years, the Order has been led by its first principle, charity. Every day, people witness the work undertaken by Knights as members work in thousands of communities around the world. Charity provides us with the means to fulfill Christ's great commandments. This is what it means to be "in service to one, in service to all." Lives filled with charity, motivated by faith and hope, are what will make Christ known to others. Join us in the works of charity, become a Knight of Columbus!

Weather Policy

As we enter into the winter season it is the policy of the parishes of St. Philip Neri-St. Anne to close operations on weekdays (offices, meetings, Masses, etc.) should the Reed City School District close due to prevailing weather conditions during the course of the work-week. This policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of our parishioners.

Faith Formation News

“The Lord is near.” It is the third week of Advent! Rejoice the Lord is near! In the second reading today, we hear from the letter to the Philippians. In the middle of the reading, we hear: *“The Lord is near, have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”*

This past Sunday we had the NET Retreat. Remember the weather? Snow, wind and then sleet. Days before I kept watching the weather and the forecast. By Friday I was in conversation with the NET ministry main office and Fr. Eugene from the diocese who is overseeing the arrangements for the NET team. I started asking people to pray, I spoke with Fr. Mike. I made the decision to have the retreat, but have it end early so everyone could get home safe. In these situations, I tend to stress out, is that the same as having anxiety?

The Lord is near, have no anxiety at all. The Net team made it into Reed City Saturday evening. God Bless Tom Eichenberg, who hosted the whole team. Due to Covid policies the NET Ministries asked for just a few host families. Tom was able to host the whole NET team. Sunday the team arrived at the parish; the kids all were able to get here. We had kids from our parish, St. Mary-St. Paul, Big Rapids, and St. Agnes, Marion. The team this year I found to be very spiritual and mature. Josh, the leader for this retreat is one of the holiest young man I have ever met. He was incredible with our young people as was the whole team. I pray all the young people at the retreat let their hearts and minds to open to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is near, have no anxiety at all. The retreat was downstairs in the large room. When the kids broke into small groups about 1:30 PM, I went upstairs and looked out the windows. Big mistake. Oh, the snow machine was on high, the wind was blowing and here we all were praying and learning about our faith! We ended at 3:30 on the nose. Thank you to the three priest who came to celebrate Reconciliation with the young people: Fr. Tom Page, Fr. James Vanderlaan, and Fr. Eugene Batungbacal. As everyone was leaving the snow was still coming down and blowing all over the place. Thanks to Xavier Allen, who shoveled the walkway for us. Parents were happy to get their children and start the journey home. Two of the priests came out of Grand Rapids and Fr. James travelled from Howard City. The NET team decided to try to get to Grand Rapids yet on Sunday.

The Lord is near, have no anxiety at all. As I cleaned up, I prayed for safe travel for everyone. Some had a short distance; others had a long way to go to get home. As I prayed, I started to hear sleet hit the windows. Panic! Oh no, trust in the Lord, the Lord is near. So, I packed up my stuff and head towards Evart. Hanging onto the steering wheel and praying for others and myself. As I got home, I started to hear from people, the St. Agnes group made it back safe. Later in the evening I heard from the NET team they made it to Grand Rapids safe. Praise God! *The Lord is near, have no anxiety at all*, a particularly good lesson for me: pray in petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God!

In hope,
Beth Duke, Director of Faith Formation

Are You Discerning the Priesthood?

The “Explore Priesthood Group” is a discernment opportunity sponsored by the diocesan Office of Priestly Vocations. Each month, young men (ages 16 – 35) are invited to gather and discern God’s will for their lives.

Time for prayer and reflection will be held monthly at St. Stephen Parish in East Grand Rapids beginning at 12:30 PM.

This year’s discernment opportunities are offered on the following Sundays: January 9th, February 13th, March 13th, April 24th, and May 15th.

Please call/email Pattie Reynolds to let her know you are coming at (616) 288-0910 or preynolds@grdiocese.org

Take Careful Note of the Calendar

This year (2021) is a bit different in our holiday observances, as far as the calendar is concerned. Christmas Day, December 25, falls on Saturday. As a result some adjustment in our usual liturgical schedule has been made.

By decree of Bishop Walkowiak, December 25th is to be devoted solely to the observance and celebration of the feast of the ‘Nativity of the Lord’. Therefore, the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass for the following Sunday will not be celebrated. The Sunday Masses (December 26/Holy Family) will be celebrated on the usual schedule—8:00 AM at St. Anne and 10:00 AM at St. Philip Neri.

A reminder is also necessary, given this extraordinary schedule, that the ‘Nativity of the Lord’/Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. The following Sunday is also a day of obligation, as all Sundays are. Both obligations are required, one cannot substitute for the other. In both instances we are joyfully and gratefully celebrating the presence of Our Lord amongst us—His Nativity (24/25) and His Holy Family (26).

Such an adjustment will not be necessary for the following weekend, although the feast of ‘Mary, the Mother of God’/New Year’s Day occurs on a Saturday. The celebration of the feast will be 6:00 PM Friday, December 31st at St. Philip Neri. The weekend Mass schedule will remain as normal—Saturday, 4:00 PM at St. Philip Neri; Sunday, 8:00 AM at St. Anne and 10:00 AM at St. Philip Neri.

