

Saint Philip Neri
(Reed City)

Saint Anne
(Paris)

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021



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Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Closed Fridays
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Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11;
Luke 3:1-6

8:00 AM at St. Anne-*Parish Family
10:00 AM at St. Philip Neri-*Parish Family
12:00 PM – NET Retreat

Monday, December 6

St. Nicholas

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
1:00 PM Al Anon
6:30 PM – Knights of Columbus Meeting

Tuesday, December 7

St. Ambrose

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel
†Ron Kendzierski by Tom Eichenberg
7:00 PM Al Anon

Wednesday, December 8

**The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12;
Luke 1:26-38

9:00 AM at St. Anne
6:00 PM at St. Philip Neri

Thursday, December 9

St. Juan Diego

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel

Friday, December 10

Advent Weekday

Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
9:00 AM at St. Philip Neri Pius Chapel
†Bill Shinn by Tom Eichenberg

Saturday, December 11

St. Damasus I

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9, 10-13
3:00 PM Reconciliation – St. Philip Neri
4:00 PM Mass at St. Philip Neri-*Parish Family

Collection Report
November 27-28

	<u>St. Philip Neri</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>
Envelopes:	(29) \$2,795.00	(10) \$600.00
Loose:	<u>190.00</u>	<u>96.00</u>
Total:	\$2,985.00	\$696.00

Wkly. Budget: \$3,596.15
O/ (U) Budget: 84.85

YTD Budget: \$75,519.15
YTD Collection: 69,173.01
(\$6,346.14)

Schedule of Ministers

St. Philip Neri
December 11, 2021 4:00 PM

Word: Lynne Kreger
Hospitality: Steve Leporowski

December 12, 2021 10:00 AM

Word: Sue Maskill
Hospitality: Leo Rosneck
Stacey Rosneck

St. Anne

December 12, 2021 8:00 AM

Word: Austin Battle
Hospitality: Dan Hoeh
Beth Hoeh

Fr. Mike's Musings

Any of us who has driven through an interstate highway construction site is familiar with the lingo and signs that accompany such an endeavor: *shifting lanes, detour ahead, reduced speed, no shoulder, bottlenecks, traffic jams and delays*. Road construction is an inexorable process and at times as we are sitting in traffic impatiently waiting for we cannot see what the end result is going to achieve. Our experience tells us that it is worth the wait; that when all the barriers are removed our journey will be so much better; so much smoother. Not too long after the highway is made clear the distractions and inconveniences we experienced will recede into our memory and we will barely recall the times we punched the steering wheel or screamed aloud to no one in particular. In today's Gospel when Luke quotes the prophet Isaiah in reference to John the Baptist, it sounds a lot like a construction plan: *"Prepare the way," "make straight his paths," "every valley shall be filled," "winding roads shall be made straight,"* and *"the rough ways made smooth."*

Slowing down is also a great place to start. We get so caught up in our workday schedule we feel trapped. We become so engaged in the rat race of consumerism and keeping up with the Joneses that we lose our focus. Reassess, think about our values, and take the time to re-orient ourselves. Don't let the person who is tailgating dictate your life. Accepting mercy as a lifestyle is a slow, continual process that requires us to pause and pay attention to the hurt and pain in our world.

Shifting lanes and detours are needed if we hope to change. Albert Einstein said, *"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."* Too often we find ourselves in a rut; we keep making the same mistakes and yet somehow we hope that our lives will change and be different with a minimum amount of effort. Being comfortable is the enemy of the Christian who seeks a better and renewed life. Being comfortable makes us lazy and complacent. Being comfortable makes us self-centered: *"If it is not bothering me then how bad a problem can it be?"* We must be willing to sacrifice who we are for who we can become. Sometimes the lane shift needs to be dramatic and at other times we just need a simple and better insight into ourselves.

There is a saying of St. Augustine that gives me great hope: *"God is closer to us than we are to ourselves."* The road we are rebuilding allows us to let God into our lives. Over the course of years we have set up so many roadblocks and created potholes and obstructions that we make it difficult to find the God who so longs to be close to us. The reconstructed road will be smooth and filled with grace. The Second Sunday of Advent is as good a time as any to undertake our major construction project. And as we patiently wait we know that it will be worth it in the end.

Faith Formation News

This Second Week of Advent the readings talk about preparing the way of the Lord. As you are aware, I am using Matthew Kelly's take on 'Row, Row, Row, Your Boat', as my Advent reflection. In the first reading from the prophet Baruch and in the Gospel reading from Luke, he quotes from the prophet Isaiah, talk about making the path straight, valleys filled in, mountains made low, winding roads straight, rough ways smooth.

Straight, low, smooth: What does that mean? For me it has taken form in spending some time thinking and reflecting about reshaping my thought process. Are my thoughts coming from a place of fear, comparison, competition? Yes, even in ministry there is competition and comparison. This kind of thought process often leads me to sinful thinking and more upset and worry. Making the way straight, low, and smooth: means to me that I need to continue to reshape my thought process, to reflect on my sinfulness and repent.

Straight, low, smooth: Letting my thoughts and behaviors come from a place of peace, joy, and trust in our Lord, letting go and surrendering to the grace and mercy of God. With this kind of thinking I am rowing my boat down the stream. I am only rowing my boat, not others. Gently down the stream. Gently is an interesting word. In his book Kelly also talks about living a day that you do not have to hurry. I tried not hurrying one day this work. Wow, do I hurry a lot during the day. As I hurry through the day, what am I missing? Who am I missing? In learning what it means to be gentle and to gently go through life, will help me see the truth and treat people with that gentleness that Jesus offers each one of us.

Straight, low, smooth: Merrily, Merrily, Merrily! "Cheerful, relaxed, enjoying the present moment." Really! Do you know there are only two more weekends before Christmas! Yes, I do. Enjoy this Advent season. Be in the present moment. I do not want to hurry so much I that I crabby and worn out. I pray that I allow myself the time to relax, to enjoy my life. I am so blessed, even when the way seems rough. I pray that I will enjoy the present moment with our 7-12 graders who will be on retreat this Sunday with the NET team. I pray I will enjoy the present moment and be generous with my time, talent, and treasure. I pray we may all take advantage of this season of Advent. To prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity.

In hope,
Beth Duke
Director of Faith Formation

The 2021 Giving Tree Project

You will find in the entrance of St. Philip Neri Church numerous tags available on the 'Giving Tree' for you to take. The intention is for a person to take a tag or as many tags as he or she wishes, purchase the item(s), and then bring it back unwrapped with the tag attached.



Please bring the gift(s) to St. Philip Neri no later than Wednesday, December 8th.

These items will be distributed to those in need on December 11th. Our parish works with the Skilled Care/Rehab Nursing Center of Spectrum Health—Reed City Campus and 'Gifts for Kids'.

The tags for the Skilled Care/Rehab Nursing Center include items like large-size shower gel, large-size body lotion, slippers, socks, etc. The 'Gifts for Kids' section, for which we are responsible, is "Children Ages 4-7." Since the children are only allowed one gift, please make this gift a value of \$20 to \$25. No clothing please. When you bring your gift, take an ornament off the tree as a small token of appreciation.

Persons interested in making a monetary donation to "GFK" may forward checks made payable to **GFK 2021**:

**Mecosta Osceola County DHHS
800 Watertower Road
Big Rapids, MI 49307**

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.



Statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, Bishop of Grand Rapids

We turn to the Lord with heavy hearts as another community is torn apart by gun violence. This time, close to home. The hearts and prayers of Catholics in West Michigan are with the community of Oxford. I offer my personal prayers for the victims, their families, the injured, the staff and young people who witnessed this tragedy, and all those who have been deeply affected by this senseless act of violence.

Knights of Columbus



**Msgr. Victor Gallagher
Council #12668**

There are those who watch things happen and those who make things happen.

Join the Knights of Columbus and be part of an organization serving our parish and community by making things happen.

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.

Save the Dates

12/08 Immaculate Conception of the BVM
(Holy Day of Obligation)
9:00 AM-St. Anne
6:00 PM-St. Philip Neri

12/24-25 Christmas Eve
4:00 PM-St. Philip Neri
7:30 PM-St. Anne
Christmas Day
10:00 AM-St. Philip Neri

Decorating

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

In Sympathy

Please remember in your prayers Connie Yost (DavidYost). Connie passed away November 30, 2021. May she and all the faithful departed, rejoice in entering into the presence of the Lord.

*"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon her."*