



# St Philip Parish & St Clare Mission

Roman Catholic Parish, Richmond, Ontario



December 21, 2025—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Father Bob Poole

Deacon: Dcn Louis Seward

Website: [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com)

Email: [WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com](mailto:WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com)



St. Clares Mission Est 1849

## 'A welcoming Catholic community seeking holiness in the Body of Christ'

**Sunday Masses:** St Philip: Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 10:30am & 12:30 (Charismatic Mass) St Clare: Sunday 9am

**Weekday Masses:** Mondays 7pm (St Philip) & Tuesdays 7pm (St Clares) **What's On Weekly—See Page 2**

**Fr Bob's Homilies:** [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com) (right side of homepage under the 'Donate Now' button)

**Register as a Parishioner:** Fill out the form found at the church entrance and drop in collection basket.

**Donation Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Forms:** Help yourself – at the entrance of church

### Fr Bob Writes:

In explaining the background to the birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us in our gospel today that Mary was "engaged" to Joseph. The better word is "betrothed." A year-long betrothal was the first part of an official marriage for Jewish couples.

Formal betrothal had legal effects. Although not living together, for all practical purposes the couple were considered married. The fiance would already be considered to be "husband" and could release himself from the "betrothal" only by an act of repudiation, which Joseph is considering as our gospel today opens. Infidelity during this time was considered adultery. In the male-dominated Jewish society, a woman pregnant by another man could be publicly condemned, sent back to her parents to remain unmarried for the rest of her life, or even put to death. No similar penalty fell to the man involved. Joseph waived his rights to such actions in taking Mary as his wife. That Joseph formally accepts Mary and her child gives Jesus legal paternity and his Davidic lineage, and therefore fulfills a crucial criterion for Messiahship.

The theme of Emmanuel, "God is with us," is central to today's narrative. Jesus is declared to be both Son of God and Son of Mary. This is effected through the virginal conception of Jesus by the power of God. Matthew here explicitly carries the sonship of Jesus back from his resurrection and his baptism to the time of his conception. By using the Greek version of the Old Testament instead of the Hebrew one, Matthew is able to substitute the Greek word "Parthenos," i.e. "virgin" for the Hebrew "almah", i.e. "young woman" in Isaiah 7:14, and thus show how Jesus' conception from the Virgin Mary was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah centuries before the event itself.

A greater awareness of what the writer intended in his message enables the bible to be what God intends it to be for us today...God's living word to bring us to faith and strengthen that same faith.



### The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the **faith** you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of **charity** enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the  
seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and in the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

*Franciscus*



### Christmas Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve

4:30pm—St Philip  
(Church & Hall)  
7pm—St Clare  
9pm\*—St Philip

#### Christmas Day

10:30am—St Philip

#### Regular Weekend Masses

Regular schedule

December 20\*-21 and

December 27\*-28

(Sat at 4:30pm at St Philip  
Sun 9am St Clares &  
10:30am St Philips)

**\*Mass will be livestreamed**

**Full Schedule of Masses & Cancellations at: [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com)**



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## Parish Life—Regular Activities

### ST CLARES:

Pastoral Council—3rd Tuesday of month after 7pm Mass

Coffee Sunday—2nd Sunday of month.

CWL—every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm

### ST PHILIPS:

Adult Ed/RCIA: Dcn Louis 444-1228

Adoration o/t Blessed Sacrament: Mondays, 2-6:45pm

Apostles Div Mercy: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 1pm, 63 Lennox

Bible Study: Tuesdays, 2-3:30pm, St Philip Parish Hall

Coffee Sunday: Sundays weekly after 10:30am Mass, Hall

Euchre: Every 2nd Wed, 7pm in Hall: Dec 10, **First**

Friday Mass: **Next: 6:30pm**—Dec 5 at St Clares

Knights of Columbus—2nd Tues of mo-7:30 in Hall

Ladies Auxiliary: Oct 8, 7 pm in Hall

Pastoral Council: 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of month, 8pm, Hall

Prayer Meeting—Every Thurs, 7:30pm, St Philips Hall

## Announced Masses—Dec & Jan

### Saturday, 4:30 at St. Philip

Dec 20-In mem Linda Vickers by David & Elizabeth Vickers

Jan 3-Philip,Martha,Herbert Moloughney by Paul Moloughney

### Sunday 9am at St. Clares

Dec 21-In memory of Clare Nesbitt by Phil & Tilly O'Connor

### Sunday, 10:30 at St. Philips

Dec 14-In memory of Lloyd Gervais by John & Birgit Evans

Dec 28-In memory of Fr Patrick Gaffney by Geraghty family

Jan 4-Intentions of Erin Brown by Stittsville Mothers group

### Christmas / New Year

Dec 24, 4:30pm Church—IMO Denise Steep by E&S Payne

Dec 24, 7pm (St Clares)-IMO David Hamilton by Reta

Dec 24, 9pm (St Philips)-Parishioners of St Philips & St Clares

Dec 25, 10:30am-IMO Steward Logan by Rosemary Logan

Jan 1, 10:30am St Philips-Parishioners of St Philip & St Clare

## Advent Reflection—Fourth Week of Advent

God Wants us to be Joyful

Fr. John T. Catoir, used with permission, creativecommunications.com

+Behold, I come to do your will, O God ... Hebrews 10:7

Have you ever stopped to think that God wants you to be happy? It is god's will that your joy may be complete. Jesus told us this the night before he died. So when you say, 'I have come to do your will, O God,' you are agreeing to being happy.

That means you must "give yourself permission to be happy." Some actually say that because of past sins they do not have a right to be happy. Nonsense! The good news is that your sins are forgiven.

Jesus died that you might live. Look up and smell the roses. Jesus invites you to look at nature. "Look at the birds of the sky; they do not show or read, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

People torture themselves with fear. They worry over whether their life has any meaning. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote a beautiful passage to answer that fear: "Whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, to know that even one life has breathed easier because you lived: This is to have succeeded."

+Dear Lord, help me to seek your will daily in earnest prayer and meditation

## Please Consider Donating



Set up an E-Transfer from your bank and email to us at: WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com

Please ensure you include your full name and mailing address, and your parish 'Donation Box Number' (if you have one). You will receive a tax receipts from the parish in February next year.



Flexible and easy to set up—helps provide predictability and reliability to the parish finances. You can start or end anytime you wish. Wish to enroll? Download [form HERE](#) and email to the office with a photo of a void cheque. You will receive a tax receipts from the parish next February.



Click [HERE](#) to be sent to the CanadaHelps.org website to make your secure donation. CanadaHelps.org will send us your donation (less 4% service fee) and they will issue you an immediate tax receipt by email.



**Donate by Cash or Cheque**—donations in numbered envelopes (or in an envelope with your name & address) can be dropped in the collection plate. OR cheques can be mailed to the office.

### Why is it important to support the parishes financially?

Just like any other charity or non-profit organization, it costs money to keep St. Philip Parish and St. Clare Mission afloat. For example, the annual operating expenditure budget of St. Philip Parish is approximately \$155,000, which goes towards paying for the following items:

- Paying for the parish priest, the parish office administrator, replacement priests to say Mass and the parish bookkeeper;
- Diocesan tax on parish revenues (donations);
- Utilities (heat, hydro, water, sewer, utilities, etc.)
- Repairs and maintenance on St. Philip Church, the Parish Hall, and other buildings and grounds;
- Office expenses; and,
- Pastoral expenses.

In addition, St. Philip Parish also spends about \$10,000-\$20,000 per year on major projects and renovations to replace and/or renovate the parish buildings and other items within the parish.

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# Parish News

## EVENING OF RECONCILIATION WED. DEC. 17

Mark your calendars for 7pm on Wednesday December 17th. The parish will have it's annual Advent evening of Reconciliation. Several priests will be on hand. A wonderful way to enter the Christmas season!

## CHRISTMAS MASS LIVESTREAMED

The December 24th, 9pm Mass at St Philips will be livestreamed. Join us online at: [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com) or click this link [https://www.youtube.com/@stphilipparish\\_stclaremissionstreams](https://www.youtube.com/@stphilipparish_stclaremissionstreams) to go directly to our YouTube page.

## 'IN PERSON' OFFICE HOURS/FURNACE REPAIR

Due to a furnace repair required in the rectory/office building, our 'in person' Wednesday office hours will resume by the end of January (provided the furnace repair is complete). Our regular (virtual) office hours will be as follows: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1:30pm. Please phone us at 613-838-2314 or email the office at [welcomehome1819@gmail.com](mailto:welcomehome1819@gmail.com). Note that the office is closed for Christmas from December 18-Jan 6 (inclusive).

## POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2025:

**For Christians in areas of conflict.** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

## ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Read it here: <https://ottawacornwall.ca/news/2025-christmas-message-from-archbishop-damphousse/>

## PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2026 DONATION BOX

2026 donation boxes are available as you leave the church today. Please begin to use these in January. Boxes are pre-assigned with your name on them. If you notice any errors, please phone or email the office to correct the errors. If you are new to the parish, pick up one of the 'unassigned' boxes and then phone the office to register your box (we need your information for your tax receipt). Thanks!

**BASKET RAFFLE THANKS** Thank you all so much for supporting St Phillip ladies auxiliary Christmas basket raffle. The winners for the basket was as follows ; Basket 1. Mellissa Roosom 2. Bill Flynn 3. Madison Brazeau 4. Annie Da Costa 5. Sharon Murphy 6. Margaret Kusiewicz 7. Preston Da Cost 8. Tom Chmara

## PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Dcn Louis, Kay Lawless, Caroline Acker, Fred Schubert, Peter Maitland, Fr Ruddick, Fr Bob, Gerry van Gaal, Kathleen Crozier, Glenna Leighton, MJ Wilson, Theresa Slattery, Michael Lawless, Suzanne Denis, Elizabeth van Galder, Lorraine Wannamaker, healthcare workers, those affected by illnesses, those who are isolated and all who mourn. God bless them & families with peace, joy, strength. St Joseph, Hope of the Sick, Patron of Dying, intercede for us.

## LIVING FOR GREATNESS NET RETREAT (Gr 6-8)

God has a plan for each of us. During this retreat, attendees explore how to hear him and have the strength to follow him. The retreat day includes games, skits, dynamic talks, small-group discussions where kids can share honestly about faith and life, and a time of guided prayer and worship. Cost is \$25/person and includes lunch. The retreat runs from 10am-4:30pm on Saturday, Jan 17, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. It is open to youth in grades 6-8. [Click here to register.](https://ottawacornwall.ca/events-mec/) Info: <https://ottawacornwall.ca/events-mec/>

**THE BUS STOP AND THE BREAKROOM: JAN 21, 6:45PM- CATHOLIC WITNESS THAT WORKS** Can I share the Gospel at work without getting cancelled? Let's talk through the practical nuts-and-bolts of witnessing and evangelization in every day settings. *This event is part of the Why Not More Young Adult Series.* St. George Parish Info: <https://ottawacornwall.ca/why-not-more/>



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"You can't sleep there unless  
you're gift-wrapped."

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve Masses, December 24:

- 4:30pm – St Philip Church
- 4:30 pm – St Philip Hall (Children's Mass)
- 7 pm – St Clares Mission
- 9 pm – St Philip Church \* Will be Livestreamed

### Christmas Day, Dec 25: 10:30am Mass – St Philip

New Year's Day-Jan 1—10:30 am—St Philip

Regular Weekend Masses December 27-28 and Jan 3-4 \* Saturday Mass will be Livestreamed

### Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 3:45-4:15 in the hall, or by appointment

### Cancellations:

- No Monday Masses on Dec 22nd or 29th
- No bible study on Dec 23rd or 30th
- No Tuesday Mass (St Clares) on Dec 23rd or 30th
- No prayer meeting Thursday Dec 25th or Jan 1st
- No First Friday Mass on January 2nd

## Parish Directory:

**Pastor:** Fr. Bob Poole - 613-838-2314

**Deacon:** Dcn Louis Seward- 444-1228

**Office Administrator:** Lynn Lane 613-838-2314

**Address:** 127 Burke St., P.O.Box 59, Richmond, On, K0A 2Z0

**Phone:** 613-838-2314 **Fax:** 613-838-3985

**Email:** [WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com](mailto:WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com)

**Office Hours:** Virtual Tues & Thurs - 9am-1:30pm. Wed: In Person 9-1

**Bulletin Deadline:** Tuesdays at 12 noon

**Hall Rentals:** Office (613-838-2314)

**Parish Schools:** St. Philips Catholic School – 613-838-2466

Sacred Heart High School (Stittsville) - 613-831-6643

**Baptisms:** Third Sunday of the month (3pm); Baptismal preparation required. Contact office 8 weeks in advance.

**Marriages:** Contact office at least 6 months in advance of desired date

**Reconciliation:** First Fridays 7-8pm; OR

By appointment – call the office (613-838-2314)

**Confirmation/1<sup>st</sup> Communion** – Next Enrollment is September 2025

**Sacrament o/t Sick-on request,&after every Mass on last wknd of month**

## Ministries:

### St Philip Ministries:

Pastoral Council-Fr Bob Poole 838-2314

Temporal Affairs- Dan McKenna [danno2846@gmail.com](mailto:danno2846@gmail.com)

Children's Liturgy – Julie McBane

Sacristans – Betty Dolan 838-3181

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers- Christina Murdock 324-3287

Ladies Auxiliary – Ronalda McKenna

Knights of Columbus – John Evans [jte65@outlook.com](mailto:jte65@outlook.com)

Cemetery – Brian Goss 838-4269

St Vincent de Paul - David Vickers 838-2314

Coffee Sunday—Veronica Gervais 791-2723

Live-Stream—Patrick McIver

### St Clare Ministries:

Pastoral Council Ryan O'Connor [Ryan@unreserved.com](mailto:Ryan@unreserved.com)

Finance Chair – Anastasia Bowles 257-8249

Lectors, Sacristans – Ada Gorrie 838-2490

Cemetery – Jerome O'Connor 838-2704

CWL-Ada Gorrie(838-2490) / Tilly O'Connor 838-5103