

# THE EPISTLE

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)

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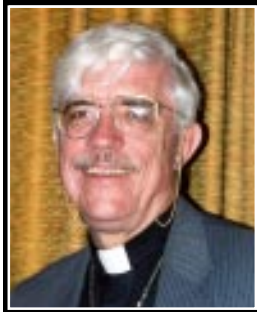


## December 2002

*Rector - The Rev. Thomas D. Janiec*

"All that came to be was alive with his life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines on in the dark and the darkness has never mastered it" (Jn 1:45 Neb).

As we near the season of Christmas, the season of light and hope these words will be heard in churches around the world. Unfortunately it is very difficult to fully accept them in our hearts during this trying time in our nations history.



As the war drums throb ever louder and the clouds of darkness cover the earth it is indeed difficult to see how the light is mastering the darkness. We are inundated with warnings in addition to the endless stream of acts of violence that pour out of the media every day. We go about our daily tasks trying to keep a "happy face", yet deep in our hearts there is a haunting fear of what might be coming.

To be honest there have been very few ages in the history of the human race when it was not a seemingly dark age. The age of the Roman Empire cast its long dark pall over the place where Jesus entered this world. The people of that time surely must have struggled with finding the light in the midst of the Roman darkness. I am sure the list of times when there has been more light than darkness in the world would be quite brief. So here we are some 2,000 years after the Christ child's birth and yet another age of darkness has crept over the world.

Still, as spoken in the words of John's gospel "the darkness never mastered it". The key to making sure that the darkness remains mastered is to make sure the light burns brightly in our hearts. Any general worth his salt knows that battles are always won and lost in the trenches. The same applies to each and every follower of Jesus Christ. If we allow the light in our hearts to be extinguished then the world will definitely become a darker place.

Christians can take solace in the fact that no matter what happens and no matter how dark the world may become, the darkness will never win out. The light of the Christ child burns as brightly as ever and it will always master the darkness. If we are stumped as to what kind of gift to give the Christ child, we need not be, Christ wants each of us to keep the light of his love and word burning brightly in our hearts. There is no greater gift we can place at the crib of Christ than the gift of our love for him, the gift of the light in our hearts.

May this be a season of light and love for all the people of St. Philip's!

Pace e Bene,  
Fr. Tom

## DECEMBER SCHEDULES

Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve.

|                            |         |                               |                         |                                   |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Christmas Schedule:</b> | Dec. 24 | 4:00 p.m. Children’s Mass     | <b>Sunday Schedule:</b> | 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I   |
|                            | Dec. 25 | 11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II  |                         | 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II |
|                            |         | 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass |                         |                                   |

|                           | ALTAR GUILD                                | ACOLYTE     | GREETERS    | READERS      | CHALICE BEARER |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 1</b>     |  |             |             |              |                |
| 8:00 a.m.                 | P. Davis                                   | A. Hagg     | B. Burns    | Volunteer    |                |
| 10:00 a.m.                | N. Holian                                  | E. Harvey   | D. Didier   | L. Purcell   |                |
|                           | S. Obara                                   | J. Moore    | K. Didier   | K. Thompson  | D. Engelke     |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 8</b>     |  |             |             |              |                |
| 8:00 a.m.                 | P. Davis                                   | J. George   | B. Peterson | Volunteer    |                |
| 10:00 a.m.                | A. Blanchard                               | J. Harvey   | A. Obara    | C. Bolthouse |                |
|                           | J. Svendsen                                | M. Dessilla | L. Svendsen | J. Zawacke   | M. Gronlund    |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 15</b>    |  |             |             |              |                |
| 8:00 a.m.                 | K. Fenton                                  | K. Dessilla | C. Davis    | C. Hoffer    |                |
| 10:00 a.m.                | J. Zawacke                                 | K. George   | M. George   | K. Bowles    |                |
|                           |  | A. Hill     | J. George   | J. Harrell   | B. Purcell     |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b>    |  |             |             |              |                |
| 8:00 a.m.                 | P. Peterson                                |             | B. Burns    | S. Patton    |                |
| 10:00 a.m.                | L. Purcell                                 |             | R. Fenton   | J. Hill      |                |
|                           |  |             |             | A. Obara     | J. Svendsen    |
| <b>Tuesday, Dec. 24</b>   |  |             |             |              |                |
| 9:00 a.m.                 | EVERYONE (clean-up & set-up for Christmas) |             |             |              |                |
| 4:30 p.m.                 | J. Jenssen                                 |             | Volunteer   | K. Thompson  |                |
|                           | S. Obara                                   |             |             |              |                |
| 10:30 p.m.                | J. Svendsen                                |             | Volunteer   | M. Hill      |                |
|                           | J. Zawacke                                 |             | J. Zawacke  | D. Didier    |                |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b> |  |             |             |              |                |
| 10:00 a.m.                | P. Peterson                                |             | Volunteer   | G. Horner    |                |
|                           | S. Obara                                   |             |             | J. Harrell   | D. Engelke     |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 29</b>    |  |             |             |              |                |
| 8:00 a.m.                 | P. Davis                                   |             | B. Peterson |              |                |
| 10:00 a.m.                | D. Engelke                                 |             | B. Purcell  |              |                |
|                           |  |             | L. Purcell  |              |                |

### An Open Letter to the Parish

I attended the 165<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Chicago as an alternate delegate representing St. Philip’s. It is always fascinating learning about our Diocese and what is happening, meeting old friends and making new ones. This year was a particularly informative weekend. Since we are now meeting in a hotel we are able to have table conversations and learning sessions. I wanted to share some of the information given in these seminars. One of the sessions I attended was about our companion dioceses – the Sudan and the other, Southeast Mexico. The Bishop of Renk was unable to attend due to difficulties obtaining a visa made difficult by the events of 9/11. In his place was the Rev. Abraham. He described the war as both religious and racist – occurring for over 50 years. The Anglican Church arrived in 1905 but the Diocese of Renk wasn’t formed until 1992. The church is “trying to develop membership through education” with 5 institutions according to Rev. Abraham. All government schools are closed. As one man put it, “In a land of drought the Episcopal Church is a sign of rain.” (He was referring to lightning in the sky as a sign before a storm.) The Bishop of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, Bishop Benito spoke of his diocese formed in 1989. Their Diocese has purchased

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Koren Dessilla  
Justin George
- 2 Heather Thompson
- 3 Jeanne Switchenberg
- 5 Tom Janiec
- 9 Page Engelke  
Janie Jenssen
- 11 Nicholas Bolthouse  
Audrey Sowka
- 12 Taylor Kistner  
Teresa Soule
- 13 Margaret Cichantk



- 16 Lisa Gerkin
- 17 William Matson
- 18 Karen Couch  
Jill Roznowski
- 21 Barbara Moriarty
- 23 Pat Peterson
- 24 Erin Harvey
- 25 Annie Hagg
- 29 Tim Burns

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Ryan & Lisa Gerkin
- 25 John & Rita Mullins
- 26 Mike & Judy Zawacke

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Aubrey Hercules
- 5 Audrey Glanzman  
Don Mueller
- 8 Nancy Holian  
Gretchen Johnson
- 12 Laurie Couch
- 13 Joan Gere  
Kevin Thompson
- 16 Teresa Cichantk
- 18 Jane Jones



- 21 Grace Liney  
Bill McCloskey
- 22 Alison Hill
- 29 Amara Akogu
- 30 John Mullins
- 31 Bill Burns

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 John & Shirley Petersen
- 17 William & Gail Matson
- 20 Pamela Patyk & Don Mueller

150 acres to be called “The Anglican Ranch”. Each parish will purchase a calf to be raised on the ranch where they will bred or sold, with the profits going back to each parish. There too the education and medical care are being done through the church. It is amazing to me to hear what both dioceses are accomplishing with so little.

Another seminar was the Rev. Husam Naoum of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Nablus, Palestine. He spoke of the war, hardships, and curfew of living in a war-torn area. Rev. Naoum is a family man, 30 years old, educated in South Africa. He in an Israeli by birth, but his family nationality is Arab and Palestinian. He travels after curfew in the hospital ambulance to visit parishioners but even then has been detained by soldiers. Their diocese is made up of 5 countries with only 7,000 people. In Nablus the Anglican Church runs schools, orphanages and hospitals. The hospital St. Luke’s is built without an ER and is on the brink of bankruptcy. His personal message was that there must be a Christian presence in the Holy Land where we have been for so long.

# December 2002

| Sunday   | Monday                                 | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday                                      | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|-----------|---|--------|---|
| <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br/>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br/>Catechesis<br/>5:00pm - Youth Group</p> | 2                                      | <p>9:30am Holy Eucharist II<br/><br/>7:00pm Bible Study</p>   | 4         | 5   | 6      | 7   |
| <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br/>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br/>Catechesis</p>                          | 9                                      | <p>9:30am Holy Eucharist II</p>   | 11        | 12  | 13     | <p>9:30 am Diocesan Council Meeting - Downers Grove</p> |
| <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br/>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br/>Catechesis<br/>5:00pm - Youth Group</p> | <p>16<br/>7:15pm Vestry Meeting</p>    | <p>17<br/>9:30am Holy Eucharist II<br/><br/>7:00pm Bible Study</p>  | 18        | <p>19<br/>1:15 pm Brighton Garden Service</p> | 20     | 21  |
| <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br/>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br/>Catechesis</p>                          | 23                                     | <p>Office Closed<br/>4:00pm Holy Eucharist II - Family Service<br/>10:00pm - Carols<br/>11:00pm Holy Eucharist II</p> | 25        | 26  | 27     | 28  |
| <p>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br/>10:00am Holy Eucharist II</p>   | <p>30<br/>9:30am Holy Eucharist II</p> | <p>Office Closed<br/><br/>9:30pm Holy Eucharist II</p>  |           |   |        |   |

## JANUARY SCHEDULE

Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve  
 Sunday Schedule: 8:00 a.m. Rite I  
 10:00 a.m. Rite II

|            | ALTAR<br>GUILD              | ACOLYTE                | GREETERS               | READERS                    | CHALICE<br>BEARER |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Jan. 5     |                             |                        |                        |                            |                   |
| 8:00 a.m.  | P. Davis                    | K. Dessilla            | B. Burns               | B. Gere                    |                   |
| 10:00 a.m. | A. Blanchard<br>J. Svendson | M. Schmalz<br>B. Couch | R. Fenton<br>R. Packer | G. Horner<br>K. Thompson   | D. Engelke        |
| Jan. 12    |                             |                        |                        |                            |                   |
| 8:00 a.m.  | P. Davis                    | A. Hagg                | C. Davis               | J. Gere                    |                   |
| 10:00 a.m. | N. Holian<br>S. Obara       | K. George<br>A. Hill   | D. Didier<br>K. Didier | P. Morrill<br>J. Zawacke   | M. Gronlund       |
| Jan. 19    |                             |                        |                        |                            |                   |
| 10:00 a.m. | K. Fenton<br>J. Zawacke     | D. Harvey<br>J. Hill   | M. George<br>J. George | C. Bolthouse<br>J. Harrell | B. Purcell        |
| Jan. 26    |                             |                        |                        |                            |                   |
| 8:00 a.m.  | P. Davis                    | J. George              | B. Peterson            | C. Hoffer                  |                   |
| 10:00 a.m. | P. Peterson                 | G. McIntosh            | A. Hercules            | J. Hill                    |                   |

The following was received in the Christmas card of former parishioners Bill & Rita Cornell. We would like to share it with all of you.

### Whose Hands

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.  
 A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.  
 A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth \$19 million.  
 It depends on whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.  
 A tennis racket in Venus William's hands is a championship winning.  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.  
 A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.  
 A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.  
 Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.  
 Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

As you see now it depends whose hands it's in.  
 So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because..  
 It depends whose hands it's in.

This message is now in your hands.  
 What will YOU do with it?

It depends whose hands it's in!

# January 2003

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

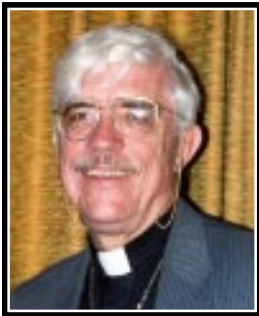
Saturday

|  |                             |                                |                             |    |    |                               |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----|-------------------------------|
|  |                             |                                | 1<br>7:30pm Choir Practice  | 2  | 3  | 4                             |
| 5<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis                    | 6                           | 7<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II  | 8<br>7:30pm Choir Practice  | 9  | 10 | 11<br>6:30pm "10 Great Dates" |
| 12<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis<br>Book Club      | 13                          | 14<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II | 15<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 16 | 17 | 18                            |
| 19<br>ONE SERVICE ONLY<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis<br>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | 20<br>7:15pm Vestry Meeting | 21<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II | 22<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 23 | 24 | 25                            |
| 26<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis                   | 27                          | 28<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II | 29<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 30 |    |                               |

# February 2003

*Rector - The Rev. Thomas D. Janiec*

There is an old Broadway Show tune that has a line that goes as follows: "another opening, another show". I am reminded of that because each January brings about another New Year, another beginning. While we are somewhat melancholy about saying good bye to the old year we have renewed hope that the New Year will be better.



There are all sorts of analysts and self-proclaimed experts who can capitalize on the events of the past year or predict what lies ahead for us. The truth of the matter of course is that we need not waste time wallowing about what might happen in the coming months. The only thing we have any say over is the present.

My sincerest hope for the New Year is that none of us is foolish enough to think that we have any control over world events yet alone local, which affect our lives. The only thing we have control over is how we handle what life gives us on a daily basis. We can choose how we wish to live out our daily lives. We can choose to surrender our life to God, or try to go it alone. We can choose to take credit for ourselves when life is sweet or to thank God for each breath of life for which we have been blessed. We can choose to fill up our daily lives with endless commitments or we can choose to make room for God in them.

While January 1st marks the beginning of another New Year, the truth is that each and every day of our lives is another opening, another show. Each and every day we have choices to make between the world and God. This New Year is not only a new opening of choices for us individually but for us as members of St. Philip's Church.

Our parish faces some very difficult choices in this New Year of 2003. Choices that will have a lasting impact on the future existence of St. Philip's. As the New Year begins, I am solemnly asking each member of St. Philip's to rededicate themselves to living out the gospel of Jesus Christ every day and to ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to face the daunting challenges that lie ahead of us as a parish.

May all of us share in the blessings of a rewarding New Year!

Pace e Bene  
Fr. Tom

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Keri George  
Laura Sadler
- 2 Bill Peterson
- 6 Mike Zawacke
- 9 Keith McIntosh  
Sarah McIntosh
- 11 Kim Packer
- 12 Jean Harris
- 14 Ross McIntosh
- 15 Doreen Redman



- 19 Emily Lyn Burns
- 21 Eric Schmalz
- 22 Jack Moore  
Michael Moore
- 28 Barbara Christie

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Carol & Mark Hoffer
- 28 Mary & Tom Turner

# February 2003

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| Sunday   | Monday                      | Tuesday  | Wednesday                      | Thursday                                 | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--------|---|
|  |                             |  |                                |  |        | 1   |
| 2<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis                          | 3                           | 4<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II<br>3:00pm Tamarack Service<br>Home Bible Study at Pam Myers' | 5<br>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal  | 6<br>7:30pm - Memorial Committee Meeting | 7      | 8<br>9:30 am Diocesan Council Meeting - Downers Grove |
| 9<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis<br>Book Discussion Group | 10<br>7:15pm Vestry Meeting | 11<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II<br>11:00am - Deanery Meeting - St. Martin's                 | 12<br>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal | 13                                       | 14     | 15  |
| 16<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis                         | 17                          | 18<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II<br>Home Bible Study at Pam Myers'                           | 19<br>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal | 20<br>1:15 pm Brighton Garden Service    | 21     | 22<br>8-5 Vestry Quiet Day at Marytown                |
| 23<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist I<br>10:00am Holy Eucharist II<br>Catechesis<br>4th Sunday Club      | 24                          | 25<br>9:30am Holy Eucharist II   | 26<br>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal | 27                                       | 28     |   |