

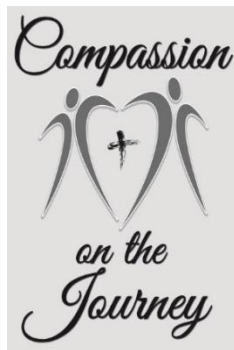
COMPASSION ON THE JOURNEY

Parish Lenten Retreat

Our Parish Retreat, **Compassion on the Journey**, is our participation in Our Holy Father's invitation for the Church to celebrate a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Compassion is the heart of Mercy.

You are invited to join us as we experience God's compassion and learn to be more compassionate and of fuller service to one another. The retreat unfolds in the weekend homilies, liturgical music, bulletin reflections/stphilp.org, a Holy Hour, workshops and suggested activities involving the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



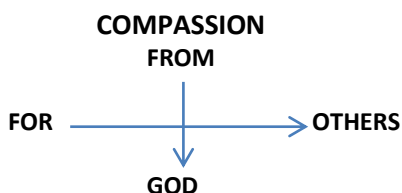
The church banner pictured above displays symbols of the various themes of our Retreat. Our journey begins with God who creates us, accompanies us through life, death and resurrection until we return to God in glory. Our journey is from "glory to glory" (2Cor.3:18). Along the way we are transformed into the image and likeness of Christ. God is our compassionate companion on the journey and invites us to offer compassionate service to one another.

The **Two Figures** shown form a **Heart Shape** as they symbolize human and divine love. The word **compassion** has its origins in two Latin roots; *com*-with and *passion*-to suffer/intense force. The meaning of **compassion** is a union of love that motivates beyond sympathy and empathy, 'to be one with' and, therefore, compels with a commitment to action physically, emotionally or spiritually as needed.

The **Cross** in the center of the heart is the sign of compassion.

The **Vertical** line of the cross calls to mind the unconditional compassion for us that comes **From God**.

The **Horizontal** line of the cross suggests the purpose for our lives which is to offer compassionate service **For Others**.



The image above (*for a clear view/see website*) is a reproduction of Rembrandt's Portrait of Christ's Head 1650, oil on wood, State Museum Berlin – Dahlem.

Our future focus will be on ways to reflect and pray with the masterpiece. For now appreciate the expression of Christ captured by the artist. Notice the exposed ear which suggests that Jesus listens with compassion.

St. Benedict of Nursia encouraged compassionate listening with the challenge,

"Listen with the ear of your heart."

Compassion is listening with the ear of your heart and acting on what you hear.

Lenten Prayer:

God of all compassion, guide our hearts to serve.

Dona nobis pacem, Grant us Peace.

Week V

Scripture

- Isaiah awakens us to our potential for change. God's activity and power is at work in us at all times, calling us in new ways of being and living. The Lord says, "Behold, I make all things new! Do you not perceive it?"
- St. Paul challenges us to continue in the pursuit of our goal in Christ which is love.
- Our Gospel story reminds us that we are all in need of God's forgiveness and healing. None of us is able, when we are truly honest with ourselves, to "throw the first stone." Our God of second chances sends us forth free to live in new ways.

Reflection: One Button at a Time

Mike lives next door to Ann and Fred who work from home. A serious automobile accident left Mike disabled and occasionally dependent on his neighbors. Several times a day, Mike would call Ann and she would happily go over and do little things for him. This day she had to go out. The phone rings and Fred answers gruffly "Ann is out. I'll tell her you called." Mike replies meekly, "Sounds like you are busy." "I am, and I'll tell her you called," Fred answers.

When Ann returns she visits with Mike and returns in just a couple of minutes. "What did Mike want?" Fred

asks. Ann says, "Not much, I buttoned up his shirt. He was cold."

Fred freezes. Fred suddenly feels a little ill, he thinks, "If I don't have two minutes to button a neighbor's shirt, which one of us is disabled?"

Fred couldn't remember what he was working on that morning but he never looked at a button in the same way again. From that moment on whenever the phone rang Fred was the first one on his feet. Fred became a new person actively seeking ways to offer compassionate care. He learned to "listen with the ear of his heart."

Today's Gospel demonstrates that Christ's Work, *Opus Christi* and therefore our work is to be compassionate. Jesus writes in the sand in defense of the woman, forgives her and encourages her to live in a new way. By example Jesus teaches that we are all sinful and a little broken and in need of God's compassionate care. As God cares for us we are called to care for one another.

Reflection Questions

1. Many people have "buttoned our shirts" with selfless compassion and service throughout our lives. Make a list of them. If they already with the Lord thank them in prayer. For the living, express your gratitude in a tangible way to those who have cared for you.
2. We are called to "button up" one another. Who needs your compassionate care? What actions will you take to do your mission Christ's Work, *Opus Christi* for others?

Prayer and Action Opportunity

A button for each person will be available after Mass as a prayerful reminder of our mission to actively seek opportunities to compassionately care for others in practical ways.

You may use the button along with your prayer card. One side of the prayer card has Rembrandt's Head of Christ image. On the other side is written our Lenten prayer:

God of All Compassion, Guide our Hearts to Serve.

Season of Lent Opportunities

Renew your faith and your spiritual life for service and compassion to one another.

LENTEN PRACTICES:

- The **Eucharist** is the most perfect prayer and Lenten observance.
- Our Parish Retreat, **Compassion on the Journey**
- **WELCOME HOME:** Sacrament of **Reconciliation;** Mondays 7 to 8:30 PM, Saturdays 11 AM to 12 Noon; Saturday, March 19th -10 AM to 12 Noon
- **Living Stations of the Cross, Friday March 18th 7 PM Presented by Youth Ministry**
- **Lenten penance** includes acts of self-denial as a tool for mindfulness of God's bountiful gifts and presence

and/or an increase in Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

- Days of **Fast and Abstinence:** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence when we refrain from eating meat and have one full meal and two lesser meals. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
- **Lenten Bible Study:** Final Chapters of Luke's Gospel leading to Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection on Monday at 11 AM in the Molloy Center. This will be the last class for Lent.
- **CRS Rice Bowls** supports Catholic Relief Services

RCIA

Our last RCIA session is Monday, March 14th at 7:00 PM in the Russo Room.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

We are enjoying the month of March in Kindergarten. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and enjoyed green eggs and ham. Kindergarten is looking forward to St. Patrick's Day, we will be writing about leprechauns. We will also be celebrating Easter by writing our very own stories about a bunny.

St. Philip the Apostle Preparatory School HSA Family BINGO night will be held on Saturday, March 19th in the school auditorium immediately following 5:30 PM Mass. Please join us for BINGO, prizes the kids will love and delicious food. Bring your family and friends for this fun filled night.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Next Youth ministry meeting will be on March 17th at 7 PM in the youth room. Please follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @stphilipyouthnj.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES SCHEDULE

Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6: April 10, May 15

Grade 2: March 13, April 10

Grades 7, 8: March 13, April 17, May 1

Confirmation Grade 9, 10: March 13, March 24-Holy Thursday, April 17 and May 1

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COLUMBIETTES

The next Columbiette meeting is March 17th at 7:00 PM in Cerullo Hall. Note date change because of Holy Week. Wear green, & bring a canned **meat** item for Eva's Kitchen.

THE COLUMBIETTES ARE LOOKING FOR GOOD WOMEN! We meet once a month, participate in charitable projects & serve the parish, local community and state and national efforts. Contact Deb Sirvidio at 201-220-1875 for more information.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

There will be **no** meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2016. The next meetings are Thursday, April 7 & 21, 2016 at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome. For fabric or yarn donations, call Cathie Murtha. [973-471-1265](tel:973-471-1265)

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

THE MONDAY NIGHT GROUP: March 14th at 6:30 PM

THE NEW & RECENTLY BEREAVED GROUP: Wednesday, April 13th & 27th at 7:00 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to the Annual Knights of Columbus Communion Breakfast on Sunday April 3rd after the 8:00 AM Mass in the Auditorium. Our special Guest Speaker is Professor Allan Wright, Academic Dean for Evangelization at St. Paul Inside the Walls and an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall University. The topic is the Year of Mercy. This is NOT a fund Raiser; it is open to all members of the parish. The cost of \$10 includes a full breakfast buffet. Contact SK Jack Paparella at waw347@hotmail.com or (201) 577-1212 for tickets.

PRIME TIMERS

ATLANTIC CITY CASINO BUS RIDE

All parishioners and friends 21 years old and over are invited to join us on our monthly trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Wednesday, March 23rd. (Day switched because of Holy Thursday.) You do not have to be a Prime Timer member to enjoy our trips. Price is \$25.00 with a casino bonus of \$25.00. Call Barbara Rzepecki at 973-278-1566 after **11 AM**.



Sunday, April 17, 2016
2:00 to 6:00 PM
The Valley Regency
Tickets: \$65 per person

- Includes \$25 Gift of Chips for Gaming Tables
- Butler served hors d'oeuvres, Carving Station
- Complimentary: Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee, Tea
- Gourmet Desserts, Cash Bar, Piano Music
- Gaming Tables: Black Jack, Roulette, Craps, Wheel of Chance
- Gift Baskets for Casino Winnings, Silent Auction, Super 50/50

Tickets available on our website: www.stphilip.org
 and at our School & Parish Offices

SPRING ROYALE AD JOURNAL HONORS OUR WOMEN OF SERVICE

Say thank you, offer congratulations or add a prayer intention while honoring our three women's service and ministry organizations:

The Rosary Society (71st Year), The Legion of Mary and The Columbiettes

•*St. Philip the Apostle Rosary Society*, founded in 1944, is committed to fostering love and devotion to the Blessed Mother through the recitation of the Rosary, visiting the sick, and supporting various charitable activities in the parish and in our community. Msgr. Flanagan serves as chaplain.

•Our *Legion of Mary* participate in daily prayer devotions, spiritual programs, made 80 hospital and nursing home visits, and performed over 300 service hours in this last year alone.

•*St. Philip's Columbiettes* Auxiliary members are dedicated to the mission of our faith and perform charitable and religious works. Working together with the Knights of Columbus they are tireless in their goodwill, prayer and outreach.

Place an ad today and support our parish Youth Ministry program and the Sr. Renée Legacy and Cultural & Art School Programs. Visit SpringRoyale.com

PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Ann Marie Kwiatkowski, Derrick Medeiros, Joan Hughes, Mildred Nerone, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Margaret Schweighardt, Ryan G. Micale, Emma Wyman, Jane Hughes, Philomena DiStefano, Allison Llanos, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinesi, Barbara Sikora, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Joseph Buhler, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Julio Grajera, Andrzej Zarebczan, Simon Edward Fairhurst, Linda Brady, Josephine Basile, Annette Cavolini, Norman J. Dollbaum, Gus Perez, Patricia Giuditta, Osmania Levanti

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Sandra Balanza, Dorothy Snelson

FOR THE NEWLY BAPTIZED: Julianna Raine Paruta, child of Christopher & Joanna

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 19/20, 2016

5:30 PM	Fr. Miguel	10:00 AM	Fr. Julio
8:00 AM	Fr. Kevin	12:00 Noon	Fr. Joe

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Walter Stefanacci – 4th Anniversary
 Jim Filippone
 Jose Carlos Pagan – 1st Anniversary
12:00 Serafina & Giovanni Calabro

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016

7:00 Special Intentions: Sarah Wafula/Engels Obi
9:00 Dorothy Snelson

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

7:00 Stella D'Angelo
9:00 Leticia Pelosi

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

7:00 Patricia Lucciola
9:00 Gabriel Liegey

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

7:00 Kathryn Flynn
9:00 Veronica Liegey

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016

7:00 Louise Murphy
9:00 Amilia Garbarino

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

9:00 AM Alan Dong
5:30 PM Joseph & Frantiska Krizek
 George J. Bonanno – 58th Anniversary
 Mary Farkas

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016

8:00 Mirna Gonzalez
10:00 Pietro & Felicia Mannarino
 Deceased members of the Brophy Family
 Thomas Gorman – 7th Anniversary
12:00 All the People of the Family

PARISH GIVING

Total Sunday collection: March 8, 2015	\$ 16,345.00
March 6, 2016 Sunday Collection	
Envelopes	\$ 15,010.00
Cash	\$ 1,617.00
Online Giving donations	\$ 3,586.00
Total	\$20,213.00
2 nd Collection: Catholic Relief Services	\$ 2,879.00