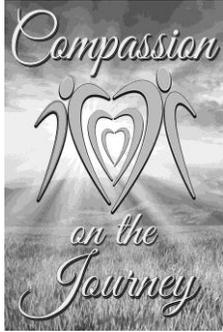


COMPASSION ON THE JOURNEY

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 church banner pictured above displays our Easter Theme symbols. 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 the Risen 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 image above is of Rembrandt's Portrait of Christ's Head 1650, oil on wood, State Museum Berlin – Dahlem. (For a clear view/see website) Our focus is on ways to reflect and pray with the masterpiece. 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.

Easter Prayer:

Resurrected Glory – guide our hearts to serve
Dona nobis pacem, Grant us Peace.

EASTER WEEK II

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Risen Christ commissioned the disciples and therefore us, to go out into the world and proclaim the Good News! Part of the Good News of Jesus Christ is the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and among us. We are given all that we need to live our mission to love and to work for justice and the flourishing of all people.

As we journey through the Easter Season to Pentecost the same Holy Spirit that propelled the disciples to live their mission of *Opus Christi, Christ's Work* animates us.

Through Baptism and Confirmation we are empowered with spiritual gifts. During this Easter Season we will explore thematically the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and experience them at work in our lives in new ways.

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Fear of the Lord ("WOW!" Awe, Wonder, Amazement)** is awakening to God's blessings freely given: in the beauty of creation, the truth of compassion deep within us, the goodness of loving relationships – recognizing that "All is Gift."
- **Piety (Reverence)** is living gratefully in a graced world with a profound respect for all life and a passion to be faithful stewards of God's bountiful gifts.
- **Fortitude (Courage)** enables us to dream of what is possible with Christ's love. Fortitude emboldens us to take responsibility for that vision and to creatively make it a reality.
- **Right Counsel** helps us to sift and sort in prayer what cannot be changed and needs to be accepted and what can be changed and needs to be accomplished.
- **Knowledge** focuses our priorities and shifts our perspective to think, feel and act with faith, hope and love.
- **Understanding** is seeing, feeling and listening with the "ear of our heart." Understanding and compassion are God's heart.
- **Wisdom** enables us to discern and relish God's presence in all things, to trust in Providence and to therefore live with compassion on the journey.

Scripture

- The Apostles witness to the Risen Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifests in their lives with courage.
- Revelation casts a vision of all creation giving praise and honor to God gratefully for ever and ever.
- The Risen One reveals himself to the disciples after they have spent the night fishing and have caught nothing. Jesus instructs them to try again and they are gifted with an amazing catch. Recognizing Jesus, they share a breakfast prepared for them by the Lord. WOW!

REFLECTION: A Bathrobe

Picture your bathrobe. Bathrobes make us feel vulnerable. It is difficult to be authoritative and to demand respect while wearing a bathrobe. Barbara Holland has written an article suggesting that if presidents, prime ministers, generals and leaders of all sorts were only allowed to wear bathrobes – at all times – what a different world it would be. Putting on a bathrobe takes off our public mask and reveals a shared humanity.

In today's Gospel, the All Powerful Risen Christ continues to reveal his compassionate heart in his concern for whether or not the disciples had breakfast. Jesus demonstrates that God's own heart is overflowing with understanding and compassion for our vulnerable humanity – we are God's bathrobe people. Jesus is concerned and present to his friends in their failed work, their hungry bellies and their broken hearts with missing him. Jesus doesn't blind them with the Light of his Glory but rather provides an intimate breakfast meal prepared by his own wounded hands.

Our invitation each day is to take off our public mask, to lay aside the lies we tell ourselves about ourselves and to put on our bathrobes before God in prayer. The Risen Christ is present to us, deeply interested in our hungers, our failures, our fears, our heartbreaks as well as in our joys, triumphs and in our many reasons to give God thanks and praise.

When we are honest and vulnerable with God we become open to God's power at work in our lives. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us – God's bathrobe people – to enable and empower us to think, act and live in a more Christ like way.

In prayer we learn that Jesus is interested in whether or not we have had breakfast and in so very much more. When we wear our bathrobe with God, we encounter God's understanding and compassion. Receiving God's compassion empowers us to give God's compassion. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the ways that God enables us to offer compassion and understanding to our fellow bathrobe wearers, who are every man, woman and child we meet.

Activity

(Put on your bathrobe.) Re-read carefully the list of The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and then prayerfully reflect on the following:

1. What gifts do I see active in my life? How? Thank God.
2. Where am I vulnerable, hungering for something, fearful, angry, resentful? Be Honest. What gift do I need to experience more fully?
3. How is God inviting me to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit more profoundly in my life?
4. Who in my life is in need of my gifts?
5. What one action will I take to share my gifts: Time, Talent, Treasure?

RCIA

Resurrected Glory, guide our hearts to serve.

The last session of the RCIA is this Monday, April 11th at 7:00 PM in the Russo Room. Our topic is *Opus Christi*, spiritual, social and service ministry. All are invited.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Our halls are once again bubbling with activity. We all enjoyed our Easter break. The 8th grade is busy rehearsing for their musical, "Fiddler on the Roof". Don't forget to come see their performances on Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 PM and Friday, April 29th at 10 AM in the Auditorium. All are invited!

The second graders are getting ready to receive Jesus for the first time. They are overjoyed and filled with excitement. Please keep them in your prayers as they encounter our Lord and Savior for the very first time.

COOKIE SALE

Please help support the St. Philip the Apostle Girls Scout Brownies' Troop during their cookie sale after the masses on Saturday, April 9th and Sunday, April 10th in the Church vestibule.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The next Youth ministry meeting will be on April 21st at 7:00 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: April 10

Grades 7, 8: April 17, May 1

Confirmation Grade 9, 10: April 17, May 1

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COLUMBIETTES

Our annual Spiritual workshop, open to all parishioners age 16+, will be Saturday, April 23rd after the 9:00 AM Mass in Marian Hall from 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Fr. Julio will be our guest speaker. The topic is "Living & Practicing Mercy after Easter." Cost is \$5.00. Call Deb Sirvidio at 201-220-1875. (Leave a message)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

At the annual communion breakfast each year, Council 1167 presents their Award of Excellence to a parishioner who exemplifies the best of Catholic values in their daily living and contributes their time and talent in several different areas. This year's honoree was Doreen Germain.

St. Philip's Knights will be taking their annual collection for *Persons with Intellectual and Physical Disabilities* after all masses next weekend, April 16th & 17th.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

THE MONDAY NIGHT GROUP: April 11th & 25th at 6:30 PM

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

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 Thursday, April 14th. Please make your reservations early to avoid a cancellation. Price is \$25.00 with a casino bonus of \$25.00. Call Barbara Rzepecki at 973-278-1566 after **11 AM**.

PRAY FOR

THE NEWLY MARRIED: John S. Kulig and Kelly G. Misol

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 Sinisi, Barbara Sikora, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Joseph Buhler, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Andrzej Zarebczan, Simon Edward Fairhurst, Linda Brady, Josephine Basile, Annette Cavalini, Norman J. Dollbaum, Gus Perez, Patricia Giuditta, Osmania Levanti, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Kathy Miragliotta, Victor Nacheff, Baby Adrian Gennaro Laidlaw, Betty Urquhart, Dorothy Lesko, Antoinette Van Setters

THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Barbara Patierno, Sadie Connors, Migdalia George



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

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 faith and perform charitable and religious works. Working together with the Knights of Columbus they are tireless in their goodwill, prayer and outreach.

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: APRIL 16/17, 2016

5:30 PM Fr. Miguel * 10:00 AM Fr. Joe
8:00 AM Fr. Kevin * 12:00 Noon Fr. Julio
*First Communions taking place

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Deceased members: DeBiasi & Kimberley Families
Angel A. Flores
12:00 Jean & Howard Brennan

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016

7:00 Joan Bota
9:00 Mary Pinke

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

7:00 Francis, Miriam & Kevin O'Brien
9:00 Betty Welsh

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

7:00 Julio Grajera
9:00 William Belott

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

7:00 Barbara Patierno
9:00 Anthony Solitto

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

7:00 Julio Grajera
9:00 Policarp & Salud Caparaz

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016

9:00 Nicola Ruggiero
5:30 Helaine Pohle
Robert Armstrong
Molly & Joe Belbruno

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016

8:00 Patricia Jean Szczypien
John Puzio
10:00 Ann Albright
Carmen Affinito
12:00 All the People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of
William Belott

PARISH GIVING

Total Sunday Collection: April 5, 2015 (**EASTER**) \$56,846.00

March 27, 2016 EASTER \$58,588.00

April 3, 2016

Envelopes \$ 9,575.00
Cash \$ 1,097.00
Online Giving donations \$ 3,624.00
Total \$14,296.00

Campaign for Human Development \$ 2,098.00