

A STEWARD'S KEYS: Week I



OK is a spoken expression used and understood by most everyone in our world. The hand gesture for OK, (forefinger and thumb forming a circle and the three remaining fingers upright), is globally recognized. OK means: it is so, I get it, true, yes, alright. OK signifies understanding, basic well-being, an ease or peace. It is far from happiness and not a superlative but being OK is OK.

Although we say OK much more in our everyday conversation than we realize, we often do not feel OK. Sometimes our thoughts, feelings and circumstances direct us to believe that we are not really OK.

Not feeling OK? Pray!

Prayer is the key that sets us free to be OK. Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasure of the Good News. What Good News? God is always present to us whether we feel OK or not. So, we are really always OK, in fact AOK in God. God is with us regardless of our thoughts, feelings or circumstances. God is always working in us, in others and in all ways. Awakening to God who is nearer to us than we are to ourselves, helps us to feel OK. No matter how miserable our circumstance, we can be OK deep within by awareness of our connection to God.

In every situation God is sustaining, providing, blessing and loving us, desiring to empower us to be more than OK. This is Good News, indeed.

OK God, what's the Good News?

This simple prayer and reflection can be a powerful way to discern the Good News of God's presence and gifts in our lives. There is always some good present because God is always present.

A Simple Example of Praying with the Question:

1. I am not feeling OK because I have to write a bulletin article.
2. I pray, think, reflect – OK God, what's the Good News?
3. The answer – I can discuss the ideas with my team, I'm being supported by their prayer, God is gifting me with what I need to complete the task.
4. I thank God for the many gifts.
5. I decide how to express my gratitude to God through service for others. I thank my co-workers.

What has changed? Nothing. I still have to write the article. Yet everything in me has changed as I am now OK – OK with God, more peaceful in myself, more loving to others.

During the week when you're not OK, pray.

Prayerful Action:

Use the prayer and steps below.

Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasure of the good news of God's presence which are the Keys to the Kingdom.

Steps

1. Be attentive. Be honest. Be aware.
2. Identify in what way you are not OK.
3. Pray: OK God, what's the Good News?
4. Reflect; think along with God. . .name the good, gift, blessing, hope in the situation.
5. Thank God for those gifts.
6. Decide how you will express gratitude to God through service for others. Act.

CORNERSTONE RETREAT EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

*Inquiry & Gathering – Sunday, September 18th
11:00 AM in Russo Room*

St. Philip's is excited to announce a new journey initiative that we will be bringing to our parish.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE! Cornerstone is a weekend retreat led by lay leadership. Cornerstone offers weekends for men and weekends for women. If you have ever made a Cornerstone retreat or if you are curious about one, please join us to share your experience. There's no obligation to sign up. And if you can't make it on Sunday and would like some information, call or email Donna at 973-779-6200 or cornerstone@stphilip.org

"Cornerstone led me to know Jesus as the foundation for my life and I formed new friendships." Donna S.

2016 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS

As you consider your pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, it is important to know that the Partners in Faith Campaign conducted in 2013 and the Bishop's Annual Appeal are different drives serving different needs. The Partners in Faith campaign raised funds for ministries outside the Diocese's general operating funds and included some endowments with an eye toward future needs. The Bishop's Annual Appeal helps fund immediate, day-to-day operations of four important ministries and programs: Catholic Charities, seminarian education, our diocesan priests' retirement residence and our inner-city schools.

If you have received the Bishop's letter, please prayerfully respond today.



ST. PHILIP'S PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016 1:00-4:00 PM

JOIN US FOR **FOOD, FUN, MUSIC & ACTIVITIES**
FOR ALL AGES!

OUTDOOR BIG TOP TENT & INDOOR AC SEATING

CASH KITCHEN, BEER, WINE, SODA & WATER

COMPLIMENTARY:

- COFFEE, TEA & COOKIES
- DJ & DANCING
- YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES, GAMES, RELAYS, ETC.

- SPECIAL SHOW: **UNIQUE CREATURES**
(3:15 PM GYM)

DONATION ACCEPTED:

- BOUNCY HOUSE SLIDE & CASTLE
- FACE PAINTING
- PUMPKIN DECORATING

THE MAIN PARKING LOT WILL CLOSE **AFTER** THE 8:00 AM MASS. SHUTTLE BUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL PARKING LOT, BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM & ENDING AT 4:00 PM.

RCIA

JOURNEY WITH US!

Through the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA we explore all these questions and discover the keys to the kingdom. RCIA is a restoration of the ancient practice of initiation into the Church. Through a process of discernment, spiritual development and ritualizing stages of conversion, you are guided to sacramental initiation. These Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist which are celebrated at the Easter Vigil open your hearts and empower you to lives of services, charity and justice as witnesses to our mission of *OPUS CHRISTI*, Christ's work. RCIA is not a program but a sacramental process. RCIA reflects a sacramental attitude that is at the heart of all Christian living: *CONVERSION*, turning your heart to God.

We invite you to be our companion on the journey of faith. We gather on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Russo Room. For more information about RCIA please call Donna Scancarella at (973) 779-6200

ST. PHILIP'S PLAYERS - NUNSENSE TICKETS ARE ON SALE

NUNSENSE is a hilarious spoof about the misadventures of five nuns trying to manage a talent show fundraiser after the rest of the sister hood has died after eating tainted soup.

Shows on:

Friday, September 16 at 8 PM with dessert: \$25.00

Saturday, September 17 with dinner & dessert following the 5:30 Mass: \$35.00. Dessert Theater at 8 PM: \$25.00

For tickets please call 973-779-1439 or 973-607-1924. Please leave a message, your call will be returned. You may also email us at stphilipsplayers@aol.com.

OKTOBERFEST! SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 1ST

Get ready for *Oktoberfest* on Saturday, October 1st following the 5:30 PM Mass.

St. Philip's Players will hold its first fundraiser for the theater group. There will be German food, domestic

and imported beer available, music and dancing! Tickets which are \$40 are now on sale. For tickets or reservations, please call 973-779-1439 or 973-607-1924. Please leave a message, your call will be returned. You may also email us at stphilipsplayers@aol.com

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will resume on Monday, October 3rd in Cerullo Hall at 11 AM. More information will follow.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **Sun 9/11:** Bagels and Bibles after 10AM Mass
- **Sun 9/25:** Bagels and Bibles after 10AM Mass
- **Sun 9/25:** Parish Picnic - looking for volunteers. Contact Andrew to sign up!
- **Thurs 9/29:** 7-9PM College App Night - Seniors: get together to fill out college applications, do some research, relax and de-stress!
- **Thurs 10/20:** 7-9 PM Open Gym and Movie Night
- **Fri 11/18 - Sun 11/20:** SEARCH Retreat for 11th and 12th graders. Please contact Andrew for more information about this amazing program!

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

- THE MONDAY NIGHT GROUP: Sept. 12th & 26th at 6:30 PM
- THE NEW & RECENTLY BEREAVED GROUP: Wednesday, September 14th & 28th at 7:00 PM.

COLUMBIETTES

- Our first meeting is on Thursday, September 22nd at 7PM
- Collecting school supplies
- Installation of Officers
- Only meeting before the International Dinner Please try to attend.

BLANKET MINISTRY

The 1st meeting of the Blanket Ministry resumes on September 22nd at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center.

ROSARY SOCIETY - SAVE THE DATES!

- **Monday, September 19:** first Rosary Society meeting beginning 6:30 PM with the Rosary followed by Mass.
- Annual Ice Cream Party after mass. All are welcome!

Sunday, October 2nd: 72nd Annual Communion Brunch!

- Rosary 9:40 AM followed by Mass at 10:00 AM
- Brunch immediately after Mass in Marian Hall
- Tickets are \$25. Call Elaine [\(973\) 472-9019](tel:9734729019).

Any **Confirmation candidates** who are interested in volunteering at the Communion Breakfast, please call Arlene Pompeo at [201-456-6348](tel:2014566348) for more information

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017 IS NOW OPEN AND CLASSES ARE NOW FORMING

There are several ways to register your child for Religious Education (Grades 1-10)

1. You can go on line at www.stphilip.org, complete the form and pay online.
2. You can register in person, **by appointment only**, at 973-779-1439 and pay with cash or check.
3. Any new families or families with children entering Grade 1, please call the office for registration.

Religious Education Calendar for September:
Sunday September 18th – Grades 2, 7-10
Sunday September 25th – Grades 1-6

PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Ann Marie Kwiatkowski, Joan Hughes, Mildred Nerone, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Margaret Schweighardt, Ryan G. Micale, Emma Wyman, Jane Hughes, Allison Llanos, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinisi, Barbara Sikora, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Joseph Buhler, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Linda Brady, Josephine Basile, Annette Cavallini, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Setters, Mary Ellen Stanton, Margaret Schneider, Alexander Bancey, Josephine Pipitone, Sam Pennella, Alice Negron, Zigrid Roman

THE DECEASED: Dorothy Knapp, Clifford Hadzima, Irene Blesing, Rosalba, Veras

PARISH GIVING	
Total Sunday Collection: Sept. 6, 2015	
\$15,496.00	
September 4, 2016	
Envelopes	
\$12,709 .00	
Cash	\$
1,565.00	
Online Giving donations	\$
4,147.00	

Total	\$
18,421.00	
PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 17/18, 2016	
5:30 PM Fr. Kevin Julio	10:00 AM Fr. Joe
8:00 AM Fr. Miguel	12:00 Noon Fr.

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

- 8:00** Sr. Rene Donohue; Ann Jasionowicz
- 10:00** Antonio B. Garcia – 5th Anniversary
John J. Gibba
Italo & Filomena Gonnely
Joseph Spatola
Emily Sokerka
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

- 7:00** Marie Lorraine Dewane
- 9:00** Albert Levendusky; Catherine Hughes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

- 7:00** Sam Cali
- 9:00** Nick Quintavella

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

- 7:00** Arthur Biesiada; Andrew Wilkerson
- 9:00** John J. Gibba (30th Annv.); Luis Ramirez (2nd Annv.)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

- 7:00** Norman Dollbaum
- 9:00** Nikke Valle

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

- 7:00** Generoso Paciullo – 3rd Anniversary
- 9:00** Nicholas Gangi; Dorothy Kuruc

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

- 9:00 AM** Sergio D'Alto
- 5:30 PM** John Thiruvathukal (1st Annv); Mary Lou Hauser

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Ramona Fisher
John Gallagher
Norman Dollbaum
Generosa Spatola
- 12:00** Ella and Domenic DeBenedetto
Anastacia Zydilajew

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In Memory of
Nicholas Quintavella -5th
Anniversary