

A STEWARD'S KEYS: Week II



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?

1. God is always present to us and gifting us whether we feel **OK** or not. God is with us regardless of our thoughts, feelings or circumstances.

2. God is always working in us, in others and in all ways. We call this God's Providence. Prayer awakens us to God who is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. No matter how miserable our circumstance, we can be **OK** deep within by awareness of God's gifts. Prayer is the key to discovering the hidden treasure of God's gifts or God's Providence in all things.

The O Circle: God Gives; We Give

Like the **O** of **OK** our relationship with God is an ongoing circle of reciprocity. God provides all; we acknowledge the gifts. We give thanks to God in word and deed by choosing to act responsibly with our gifts received. God gives; we give.

The circle of mutually giving love is the heart of what it means to be a Christian Steward. We receive God's gifts gratefully and respond in loving ways to give thanks.

A Good News Story

Bobbing wildly, sailboats were maneuvering into position to begin the race. One sailor noticed the name of the sailboat nearest to him.

"Hey," he called out, "You named your boat—Bad News?"

"Yeah," called back the owner, "Haven't you heard? Bad News travels fast!"

Our expression "bad news travels fast" illustrates the often hidden treasure of the Good News in

our lives. We are challenged by our spirituality to seek the Good News.

Popular wisdom states:

We may not often get what we want but we most often see that for which we look!

Good News travels fast only when we look for it! Finding true treasure takes some know-how and some real effort. God's active Providence is Good News worth looking for. As Christian Stewards we search for, discover and unlock Good News with the key of prayer.

How to Use the Prayer Key Question

OK God, what's the Good News?

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.

A Steward's Prayer

Use the prayer and steps below.

Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasure of the Good News of God's Providence which are the Keys to the Kingdom.

Key Steps for Good News to Travel Fast

1. Look. 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; look for God's Providence. Think along with God. . .name the good, gift (person, place or thing), blessing or hope in the situation.
5. Thank God for those gifts.

6. **O** ...God gives; we give. Decide how you will express gratitude to God through service for others. Act.

O K – The O CircleGod Gives; We Give.

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

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

Many parishioners have received, or will soon receive a letter from Bishop Serratelli requesting support for the 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal. This year, the theme of the Appeal is *Be Rich in Good Works*.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports 4 very worthy causes: our Catholic Charities agencies; Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests' retirement residence; our inner-city elementary schools and seminarian education. Last year's Appeal raised a record amount which meant that even more could be done for the people in our Diocese. You can help make this year's Appeal an even greater success by making a generous pledge today. Whatever you can do to help will be a great blessing.

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

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.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

- *The Monday Night Group*: September 26th at 6:30 PM
- *The New & Recently Bereaved Group*: Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00 PM

COLUMBIETTES

- Our first meeting is on Thursday, September 22nd at 7 PM

- Collecting school supplies
- Installation of Officers
- Only meeting before the International Dinner

BLANKET MINISTRY

Blanket Ministry resumes on Thursday September 22nd and October 6th and 20th at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center.

ROSARY SOCIETY – SAVE THE DATES!

Monday, September 19th: 1st Rosary Society meeting

- 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:973-472-9019).

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

IN ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The early childhood students celebrated Yellow Day! All students wore yellow clothes to school and worked on yellow projects. It sure looked bright and sunny in Pre-K and Kindergarten!

IN YOUTH MINISTRY

- **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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017

Information at www.stphilip.org or call 973-779-1439.

Religious Education Calendar for September:

Sunday September 18th – Grades 2, 7-10

Sunday September 25th – Grades 1-6

IN DIOCESAN NEWS

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDINGS ANNIVERSARY MASS

For couples, married in 1966 or 1991. You are warmly invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary at Mass at St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany with the Church of Paterson. Bishop Serratelli will be the main celebrant on

Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. Registrations will be accepted through **Monday, October 24, 2016**. Congratulations on this joyous occasion

MEN'S CONFERENCE

1st Men's Conference - Crossing the Goal, Leading Men to the Cross, presented by the Diocese of Paterson, on **Saturday, October 15th** at Saint Paul Inside the Walls from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Concluding with Holy Mass at Noon with Bishop Serratelli as the main celebrant. To register visit insidethewalls.org.

ST. PHILIP CLASS OF 1966

LAST CHANCE: The class of 1966 is celebrating its 50 year Anniversary at the Valley Regency, Clifton on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Mass at 5:30 PM; Reception at 7:00 PM

Please contact Bob Calcagno at: [973-865-450](tel:973-865-450) or chaddyb171@aol.com/mobile. All are welcome

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 Cavalini, 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 NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Andrew Francis Hassert, child Timothy & Rebecca Isabel Jasmin Sessions, child of James & Nanna

PARISH GIVING

Total Sunday Collection: Sept. 13, 2015

\$16,754.00

September 11, 2016

Envelopes

\$10,377.00

Cash

1,389.00

Online Giving donations

4,702.00

Total

\$16,468.00

Second Collection: Project Faith

2,560.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 24/25, 2016

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Ramona Fisher
John Gallagher
Norman Dollbaum
Generosa Spatola

12:00 Eilla & Domenic DeBenedetto
Anastacia Zydilajew

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

7:00 Steven Kessler - 50th Anniversary

9:00 Kitty & Jim Murtha

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

7:00 Gudrun Benkendorf

9:00 Marian Donnelly

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

7:00 Christopher Kelly

9:00 Frank & Michael Sabella; Betty Welsh

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

7:00 Sandra DeMaria

9:00 Mildred Scrosia

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

7:00 Pam LaBruzza-30th Anniversary

9:00 Peter G. Lutcza

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

9:00 AM Bill Loftus

5:30 PM James Carolan

Dec'd members of the Gorman & Walsky
Fam.

Anthony & Denise Pannullo – 30th Wedding

Annv.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Anne T. Grady

James Fariello

Norman Dollbaum

Anthony "Sonny" Cassone

12:00 Al Mayewski

Oslenia Levanti

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In Memory of Jack McNamara, Jr.