

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Every week God asks us all to live the Gospel and to follow his teachings. Sometimes this is effortless, however, this week the message is not an easy one to live out. "Love your enemies. . . do good to those who hate you. . . bless those who curse you. . . pray for those who mistreat you." This is not an easy command to follow, in fact it goes against all of human nature.

Our enemies are the last people we want to forgive let alone love. If we are attacked, our instinct is to fight back, not offer the other cheek. If someone takes our coat, the last thing we want to do is offer our sweater as well. If someone asks us for something we automatically evaluate whether or not they deserve it. If someone takes something we own without asking, why would we want them to keep it. What Jesus is asking seems impossible; after all, we all have a right to defend our property, and ourselves don't we?

In this week's Gospel Jesus is speaking to the newly appointed Twelve, who are gathered along with a large group, some disciples and others discerning whether to follow him or not. Jesus begins with the statement "To you who hear I say." He isn't referring to the groups ability to hear his voice, but rather to those who can hear his message, comprehend what he is saying, take that message to heart and to act on it. We all need to listen carefully to Jesus' message because on the surface this message doesn't necessarily sound like good advice.

Jesus points out that it isn't difficult to act in a loving way toward one another if we expect some benefit in return for ourselves. Loving someone who loves us, and lending only to those we know will pay us back is easy and does not distinguish us from the hypocrites and sinners. There is no virtue in extending ourselves for the sake of personal gain or being repaid in some way.

Once Jesus establishes these points he returns to his original message: "love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your

reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High." If we follow his message we will receive a spiritual reward, not a material one, we will become "children of the Most High."

So why is becoming a child of the Most High the reward for loving our enemies and following this Gospel message? Because when we love our enemies we are acting in the same way our Heavenly Father acts. God is "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." God makes the sunrise every day and shines its light on everyone regardless if they are good or evil, he gives the same gifts to the mean spirited, the rude, the untrustworthy and the wicked. He expects us to do the same. By acting in the way God would act and treating others in a way we would like to be treated, we are giving others a small experience of God's boundless love.

Jesus teaches the disciples and us in turn, that the way we treat others mirrors the way we will be treated. He tells all of us to stop judging and we will not be judged, to stop condemning and we will not be condemned. To forgive and we will be forgiven.

We all live the Gospel as we live out our lives. We have now learned the importance of recognizing that sometimes we are the one to forgive and at other times the one in need of forgiveness. Sometimes we ask and sometimes we receive. We find ourselves on both sides of the spectrum.

On the surface this Gospel message is deceiving, but once heard, comprehended, taken to heart and acted upon, it provides a path to follow that will allow us to fulfill God's great expectation of us all and open us up to receive His bountiful love.

*Deacon Nicholas Veliky*

### Prayer Practice for Forgiveness

"Bless \_\_\_\_\_ and transform me to set me free."

### LIFE AND LIFE ISSUES

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Urge The Senate To Enact

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act

Please contact the link below to get information on how you can help to respect life on an important Senate vote on February 25.

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/NCHLA/Campaigns/62901/Respond>

**LAST YEAR'S PALMS MAY BE PLACED  
IN THE PURPLE PALM BARREL  
IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE**

**MARCH 6, 2018**

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Masses with Eucharist and distribution of ashes:  
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM  
4:00 PM Prayer Service with distribution of ashes

**RCIA**

**Journey with Us!**

**Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00-8:30 pm** in the Russo Room. We will be discussing the Bible with Fr. Joseph. All are welcome! For more information about **RCIA**, please call Donna Scancarella at 973-779-6200.



**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH  
DINNER DANCE**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019  
7 - 11 PM  
St. Philip Auditorium**

Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage  
Chicken Cacciatore & Italian Desserts  
Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Coffee/Tea

\$40 per person

Entertainment by The Doug Ferony Orchestra  
Tickets on sale at the Molloy Center  
Or call Donna @ 973-779-6200

Must be 21 years or older to attend

**BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study sessions will resume for an eight-week period during Lent beginning on **Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** in Church at **11 am**. We will discuss the mission of the

apostles, the parables of Jesus and His healing mission ending with His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

**WHOM SHALL I SEND?**

*A musical drama presented by the Xavier Company*  
The call of the disciples... The call to conversion... A story of faith, love and friendship  
**Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM**  
Saint Philip the Apostle Church  
Freewill Donation

*An exciting new musical finds its roots in the New Testament as it depicts God's call to the disciples and their response. The play explores the humanity of the disciples – their doubts, fears and joys– as they respond to the call of the risen Christ. The energetic dialogue, vibrant songs and dances celebrate the spiritual journey of Peter, Paul, John, Mary Magdalene and Lydia. It explores the unique way that each character is called by God and inspires audiences to reflect on the call of God in their own lives. This poignant and moving drama engages the audience in a story of faith, love and friendship.*

**ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

The Pre-K 4 students had been busy making Valentine cards for their parents with "I love you!" notes. Valentine cards were exchanged with their friends as well. Pre- K 3 & 4 had Pink & Purple Day on Wednesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. A Valentine Day craft was presented by a parent at the class party.

On Friday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, the Fine Arts Dance students had a performance for all Pre-K 3, 4, and Kindergarten students. Dance routines to songs from TV shows and movies were performed. A big thank you to all the dancers and Ms. Bennett. A good time was had by all.

**2019 TRICKY TRAY**

St. Philip Prep Annual Tricky Tray  
School Auditorium  
797 Valley Rd., Clifton  
**Friday, March 15, 2019**  
Doors open at 5:30 pm  
Tickets \$15 per person

(includes 1 sheet of General Bidding Tickets)

**Tickets on sale now!**

See Karen Powers at the front desk in school lobby  
From 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Monday – Friday  
or contact Carol Urquhart at 973-472-3523

**No one under 18 permitted**

### **BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The annual Troop 21 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held in the St Philip the Apostle School Auditorium on **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> - 8 am to Noon (last seating at 11:30 am)**. Adults \$10.00, seniors \$8.00 and children 12 & under \$5.00. Children under 4 eat free with paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice & coffee and support Troop 21!

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Grades 1 – 6: **Sunday, March 3**

Grades 2, 7-10: **Sunday, March 10**

Pray for the Confirmation candidates during their times of retreat as they prepare to receive the Sacrament in May.

### **MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY**

Next meeting: **Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688.

#### **COLUMBIETTES**

Next meeting is **Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm** in Cerullo Hall. This month we are collecting items for the International's Tricky Tray and Lottery Trees. We will also be selling tickets for the International. Call Sharon 973 742-0926

#### **PRIME TIMERS**

There will be a pizza party at the **March 1<sup>st</sup>** meeting at the Masonic Lodge, Clifton **at 1 pm**. There will be time after the meeting to play games. Bring playing cards or any of your favorite games.

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: The VFW Hall -Valley Rd; 8:00 pm**

### **PRAY FOR**

**THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:** Franco Alonzo Amati  
Child of Richard and Veronica

**THE SICK:** Rose Lucignani, Barbara Pineda, Antony Fernandes, Victoria Spadofora, Monique Tommaro, Dan Cotto

### **PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 2/3, 2019**

5:30 PM Fr. Joe                      8:00 AM Fr. Matt  
10:00 AM Fr. Joseph                12:00 N Fr. Kevin

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

**8:00** All the People of the Parish  
**10:00** Giuseppe Rubino  
Joseph Hugh Ganguzza  
**12:00** Nikki Valle  
Lee & Peter Bartolo

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

**7:00** Angeles Cabigao  
**9:00** Joanne M. Koval

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

**7:00** Rudolph Pohle  
**9:00** Frank & Michael Sabella

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

**7:00** Julia Carofine  
**9:00** Judy Serovich

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

**7:00** Antonio B. Garcia  
**9:00** Joanne M. Koval

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019**

**7:00** Charlie Monroe McKinney  
**9:00** Donald Franz

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019**

**9:00** Sister Evelyn Beisada  
**5:30** Dorothea Stepka  
Dennis Florian  
Madeline Riccio

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019**

**8:00** Mary Ellen Rozzell  
John Trommelen, Sr.  
**10:00** Mark G. Emr  
John Zmudsky  
**12:00** All the People of the Parish

### **PARISH GIVING**

SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 18, 2018	\$16,574.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 17, 2019	
Envelopes	\$11,994.00
Cash	\$ 1,217.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,628.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,839.00</b>
Second Collection: Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 2,579.00

