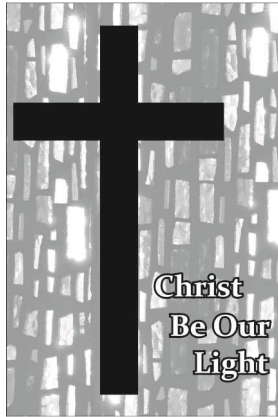


FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



Christ Be Our Light: Week II

- ❖ Tired of black and white, all or nothing thinking?
- ❖ Do your fears keep you in the dark?
- ❖ Living in the shadow of doubt about God's ability to be your strength in every weakness?
- ❖ Looking for a key to set you free from all shades of anger and resentment?
- ❖ Is your love dimmed and your heart needing to be open to love of yourself, others and God?

Christ Be Our Light Theme

Prayer is the key transforming fear into faith, doubt into hope and closed hearts into love in action.

Join us by participating in the prayer and practices offered through the bulletin, website and weekly homilies.

Step into the bright light of freedom by praying our Lenten prayer daily:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine in the darkness.

We shine your love,

Placing our hope and trust in you.

Reflection Story

The young apprentice stood beside the light of the blacksmith's forge. The blacksmith instructed the serious young man, "When I take the shoe out of the fire, I'll lay it on the anvil, and when I nod my head, you hit it with this hammer."

The apprentice did just as he was told. Now he's the village blacksmith. Adapted valleybugler.com

The apprentice suffered from black and white thinking or rather the blacksmith did! Black and

white, all or nothing, literal interpretations, only seeing light or dark, either/or – are ways of seeing the world that is not helpful to loving or to the spiritual life. God created light and darkness. Both exist for a reason. Cosmologically dark matter in space is necessary for light to travel. Visually all darkness or only light (as in snow blindness) mean no sight. Spiritually, we are always discerning between choices that involve shades of light and darkness. Prayer is the key to seeing with greatest clarity. We live in shades of color and may wisely invite God to help us to decide what the next loving or right thing to do might be. When we invite the light of Christ into our minds, hearts and will, we are more likely to respond in the most Christ like manner.

Jesus, although fully Divine, struggled with temptation in his humanity as we hear in today's Gospel. Jesus suffers as he discerns in the desert what His Heavenly Father is asking of him in various situations. Jesus used prayer as the key in his own decision-making process.

Every day and many times a day, we face thoughts, feelings and possible actions that are opportunities for us to invite the light of Christ into our lives. Our greatest temptations is black and white thinking because it leaves no room for God to enter our discerning and decision-making processes. When we recognize that life is shaded, we see clearly our need for God.

Reflection Questions

1. What type of black and white thinking prevents you from inviting God into your thoughts, feelings and decisions? (Hint: whatever makes you extremely angry or very fearful are the places to look at first and discuss with God).
2. Could prayer shed some light on your resentments or anxieties?
3. What are your temptations? Remember they are invitations for prayer so that Christ's light may shine in the darkness.
4. What one act can you take to be light for others this week?

Renew your faith and your spiritual life for service and love for one another.

Lenten Practices:

- Participating in weekly or even daily celebration of the **Eucharist** is the most perfect prayer and Lenten observance
- 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.
- **Lenten penance** includes acts of self-denial as a tool for mindfulness of God's bountiful gifts and presence and/or an increase in charitable acts and works of kindness.
- Engage in the variety of opportunities for community and private prayer and reflection.

Prayer Opportunities

- **Bible Study**: Mondays at 11:00 am in Church
- **Meditation Hour**: Thursday, March 14th at 7 pm
Thursday, April 11th at 7 pm
- **"Whom Shall I Send?" - Lenten Musical**: Sunday, March 17th at 3:00 pm
- **Adoration: April 6th** 11 am - 1pm
- **WELCOME HOME: Sacrament of Reconciliation**; Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Saturdays 4:00 to 5:00 pm
- **Stations of the Cross**: Fridays 7:00 pm in Church
- Follow the bulletin and website for our parish theme **Christ Be Our Light**

RCIA

Journey with Us!

Monday, March 11th from **7:00-8:30 pm** in the Russo Room. Join us as Fr. Joe discusses scripture, the Synoptic Gospels and Reconciliation. All are welcome! For more information about **RCIA**, please call Donna Scancarella at 973-779-6200.

BIBLE STUDY

Eight-week Bible Study sessions on **Mondays** in Church at **11 am** during Lent. We will discuss the mission of the apostles, the parables of Jesus and His healing mission ending with His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

GOOD NEWS FOR PARENTS

Join us on **Sunday, March 10th** at 9:00 am in the Russo Room as we explore ways of managing your lives and your roles as parents. Julia Gabriele, Family & Executive Coach, will facilitate along with members of our Pastoral Staff. Future session dates are: Apr. 7, May 5.

All are welcome!

MEDITATION HOUR



Promise Keeping

Please join us for prayer, guided meditation and reflection on **Thursday, March 14th in Church at 7 pm.**

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 17th 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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1 – 6: **Sunday, April 14**

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

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

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ROSARY SOCIETY

Monday, March 11th – Rosary Society meeting. It will begin at 6:30 pm with Mass and the Rosary in the Auditorium.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

Monday, March 11th, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Molloy Center.

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 12th** at 7 pm in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

1st and 3rd Wednesday: *The VFW Hall* -Valley Rd; **8:00 pm.** St. Philip's Knights will be collecting for Citizens with Special Needs at the doors of the Church after all masses next weekend, **March 17 & 18.**

PRAY FOR

DECEASED: Dorothy Grau, Mary Zebrowski

THE SICK: Rose Lucignani, Antony Fernandes, Victoria Spadofora, Monique Tommaro, Carol Skolds

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 16/17, 2019

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

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 4, 2018	\$19,835.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 3, 2019	
Envelopes	\$16,284.00
Cash	\$ 1,732.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,727.00
Total	\$23,743.00

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

8:00	Anne & John Tolvay
10:00	Walter Stefannaci – 7 th Anniversary John Zmudsky
12:00	Rosemary Pupalitis

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019

7:00	Carmine Scittorale
9:00	Ana Cabezas

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

7:00	Esther Doerr
9:00	Dominick Gagliostro

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

7:00	Frank Sardo
9:00	Catherine L. McClane – 2 nd Anniversary

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

7:00	Adriana LaFrada
9:00	Tom Gorman

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

7:00	Mary Zebrowski
9:00	Annette Cavallini

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019

9:00	Pietro & Felicia Mannarino
5:30	Dorothea Stepka Pasquale (Pat) Laino

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Hughes & McDoanld Family Helen Marro
12:00	Ann A. Lipari Eric Peterson – 8 th Anniversary

LIFE AND LIFE ISSUES

The New Jersey Catholic Conference of Bishops has approved a statewide postcard campaign urging the State Senators and Assembly Persons to support the NJ Pain – Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, 1686/S537. This bill would protect babies in the womb at 20 weeks, that is 5 months and beyond. Next weekend, **March 16 – 17**, you will have an opportunity to go into our auditorium and fill out a postcard urging our state government to protect viable babies. If you are suffering from abortion related stress, please visit: rachelvineyards.org for more information.