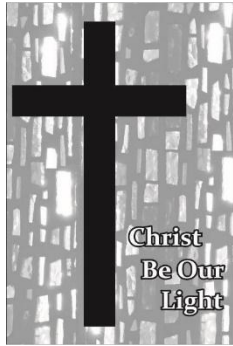


SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



Christ Be Our Light: Week III

Follow our Lenten theme and review past reflections on our website www.stphilip.org

Reflection Story

Ten Fingers are Overrated

Jayce was a bubbly boy until his first day in kindergarten. Returning home, he asked his mother, “why did God make me with no left arm?” His heartbroken mother was in the dark about that question herself. Instead of asking why, she asked who, what, where, when and how can I help my son? The mother did some research and found a 6 foot 3 inch, eighth grade basketball player named Trashaun who was also missing his right arm. A meeting was arranged for the boys. A bright light came into both of their lives when through sharing the darkness of their disability they saw a dawning of hope and courage. The boys played basketball and exchanged T-shirts that read, “Ten Fingers are Overrated.” (adapted: rd.com/9-2018)

The darkness of Jayce’s perspective was changed because another boy shared his experience, strength and hope. Instead of asking why, the boys asked every other question to bring light to their situation while accepting the dark moments. Surely both would face challenges in the future but once they had shared the light of each other, they no longer feared the darkness.

Light and darkness coexist in our lives. In our dark moments of fear, doubt, frustration and disappointment there is always some good news, a little light helping us to see. In darkness, we can invite Christ to be our light. We place our hope and trust that God will shed light on our situation if not now, then eventually. Dawn always follows the dark. In our light times we give God thanks and celebrate these moments of joy and peace. Day and night, light and

darkness, the rhythm of the tides and the changing seasons mirror our human experience of inevitable change. Seeking the light of Christ in darkness gives us hope; being light for others in their darkness gives us joy.

In today’s Gospel, the disciples witness the bright light of Christ in the Transfiguration. The pattern of light and darkness is in the story. The disciples are in the dark about the full truth of Christ’s light of Divinity. They experience the light of Christ on the mountaintop but will soon journey to the dark valley where their doubts and fears about Christ will resume. The pattern of light and darkness mirrors our experience – we trust in the dark and we celebrate in the light by reaching out to help others in darkness.

Reflection Questions

1. What areas in your life are you experiencing as darkness? Where are fears and doubts most evident? Don’t ask why but rather who, what, where, when or how are you helping me Lord. Take a moment to share this darkness with Christ your light.
2. What areas in your life are you experiencing the bright promise of hope and joy? What is the good news in your life worthy of celebration? Thank God for these experiences.
3. Who is the Lord inviting you to help in their darkness?

Suggested Prayer Activity

Choose an activity every day and use your non-dominant hand. In your struggle to have a “five fingered experience” pray for those who suffer from disabilities and find their physicality challenging every day. As you experience frustration because of your clumsiness pray for the sick, those who care for them, people who are disabled through addiction. Pray that you may grow in compassion for others.

What one action can you perform this week to be a light in someone else’s darkness?

Ten fingers may be overrated but the power of prayer and compassionate action to help others can never be overrated and is appreciated by Christ our Light for all eternity.

Daily Prayer

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine in the darkness.

We shine your love,

Placing our hope and trust in you.

LENTEN PRAYERS AND PRACTICES

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, 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 25th from **7:00-8:30 pm** in the Russo Room. Join us as Fr. Joe discusses the Eucharist. All are welcome! For more information about **RCIA**, please call Donna Scancarella at 973-779-6200.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study sessions on **Mondays** at **11 am** in Church during Lent. We are studying St. Matthew's Gospel and the signs and miracles of Jesus. 30 people attend. We will now study the parables or stories Jesus told before His rejection at Nazareth. All are welcome!

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

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

After working hard on the IOWA test during the first full week of March, students in 1st grade ended the week on a high note celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. They learned about his work, his life as an author, and dressed up as some of their favorite characters from his most famous books. Students in grades K-8th attended 9AM Mass on Ash Wednesday receiving ashes and beginning the celebration of the Lenten season. The following Monday, they observed and participated in the Stations of the Cross. Students in 4th-8th grade had the opportunity to watch a presentation of Romeo and Juliet by the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1 – 6: **Sunday, April 14**

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

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

ALTAR SERVERS

Meeting - **Friday, March 29th at 3 pm or 4 pm**

Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d44adac28a0fa7-altar1>

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 26th at 7:00 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 this weekend, **March 17 & 18.**

COLUMBIETTES

Mary Ellen Valentin International Food Festival and Tricky Tray

- **Sunday, March 31, 2019** at 1:00 pm
- School Auditorium
- Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$10 for children ages 5 - 10 Tickets will be on sale after masses next **weekend March 23 and 24.**

- The funds raised help support our charitable causes, i.e. underprivileged children, veterans and the poor in the community.

Event is open to all, please come and join us!

COLUMBIETTES BLANKET MINISTRY

The Blanket Ministry will meet **Thursday, March 21, 2019** at 9:45 am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We are currently making baby blankets to be donated to St. Mary's Hospital Outreach Program. For questions, call Cathie Murtha at 973-471-1265.

MSGR. FLANAGAN HONORED

The Hon. James F. McKay, National President and John V. Hughes, Passaic County President of the *Ancient Order of Hibernians* honored AOH Chaplain Msgr. Kevin Flanagan with the Project St. Patrick Award. He was recognized for his spiritual guidance and steadfast faith commitment to the Hibernians under his pastoral care. His legendary dedication toward keeping the "Irish Tradition Alive" and the AOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity is further celebrated with a donation grant in his name to the Paterson Diocese Seminary Fund.

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

To be held on **April 6, 2019** at Cardinal Spell HS, Bronx, NY from 9 am to 5:30 pm. A bus will leave from St. Philip's lower parking lot at 7:00 am. For additional information contact Veni Evangelista at 973-393-5120.

PRAY FOR

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED: Nico Manzo, child of Manuel & Kimberly

Addison Kenzie Shaw, child of Ricky & Jennifer

DECEASED: Silvio Bizzaro

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

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 23/24, 2019			
5:30 PM	Fr. Kevin	8:00 AM	Fr. Joe
10:00 AM	Fr. Carroll	12:00 N	Fr. Matt

PARISH GIVING	
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 11, 2018	\$17,650.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 10, 2019	
Envelopes	\$11,721.00
Cash	\$ 1,270.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,938.00

Total	\$18,929.00
2 ND Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,397.00

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

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

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

- 7:00** Saverio Caradonna
- 9:00** Helen Marro

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019

- 7:00** Sylvia Witte
- 9:00** Peter Kenny – 2nd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

- 7:00** Fred Cheon
- 9:00** Mary Zebrowski

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019

- 7:00** Judy Serovich
- 9:00** Irene Peternith

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019

- 7:00** Rodney Diwa
- 9:00** Lawrence & Veronica Madsen

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

- 9:00** Stanley Makowski – 9th Anniversary
- 5:30** Nancy Markey
George Nejme
Mary M. Farkas – 9th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

- 8:00** Edward Ray
Mark Emr
- 10:00** John Trommelen, Sr.
Silvio Bizzaro
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish

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.

This weekend, you 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.