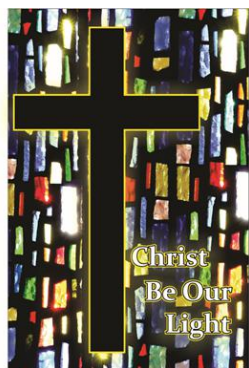


THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



Christ Be Our Light: Week IV

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

The Beautiful Light of Broken Places

When a mirror is broken, one often hears the superstitious phrase, “Oh, seven years of bad luck.” As believers in the light of Jesus Christ, we do not see our world as a place for luck or even as one of good or bad fortune. We are people who see with the “eyes of faith” meaning, that our world is a place of God’s gifts, blessings and Providence at work. St. Paul reminds us that, “all things work together for good for those who love God.” Romans 8:28. Actually broken glass can be quite beautiful, as is demonstrated in the stained-glass windows that grace the main entrance wall of our church and Narthex (lobby) area.

The rich colored, jeweled tone glass has a French name, *Dalle de verre*, which means – thick slabs of glass. Like most things, the French name is more beautiful. The origin of *Dalle de verre* glass dates to the Byzantine Empire whose love of mosaics was channeled into the creation of similar patterns in colorful windows. The style went out of fashion until French artists in the 1920s revitalized the art form. Pioneer Auguste Lobouret brought this form of stained-glass to Canada after World War II and to the United States in the early 1950s. 75 years ago, when this glass was chosen for our church, it was – pun intended – cutting edge!

The secret of the beauty of *Dalle de verre* stained glass is that the glass is broken. Each individual glass slab is artfully chipped and cracked. These seeming imperfections, called facets, enable light to be radiated in multiple ways that emit brilliant and dazzling color tones. Another secret of their iridescence is the contrast of the thick dark frame surrounding the glass with the bright glow of the varied light shining through.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus points out to his followers that all people, like our stained glass, are a bit broken and chipped. Life’s challenges, our sinfulness and

imperfections are our broken glass places. The good news is that Christ is the Light that shines through our broken places. The point of the parable of the fig tree is the assurance that God’s light shines again and again and always through us. We are always given new chances to invite Christ to be our light in prayer, in the sacraments and in our compassionate care for one another.

This is indeed good news but what does it mean in a practical way? An example of our brokenness enabling new light to come forth from us is loss and grief. When we have been hurt by losing a job, our health or a loved one we feel chipped, cracked open and broken. Inviting Christ into our pain and broken places through prayer shines the light of God’s comfort, healing and strength into us and through us. Suddenly we radiate a new light of understanding and compassion for others who share our experience. Through the grace of Christ’s healing light, we become light. Not only do we shine in a new way, but we radiate compassion and understanding. We become dynamic bearers of light willing and ready to shine to the dark places in other people’s lives by becoming love in action.

Like the windows in our church, the light of Christ can shine through our broken places, creating beauty through our loving words and deeds. What is the most beautiful light created through our broken places? The light of empathy that shines with compassionate acts of love for others.

Prayer is the key to inviting the light of Christ to shine in our lives. As you leave Church today you will be given a *Christ Be Our Light* Prayer Card.

The card pictures our beautiful stained-glass window *Christ Be Our Light* image on one side and our Theme Prayer on the reverse side. Use this card for your prayer this week. Reflect on the dark, cracked, broken or chipped places in your life. Pray the prayer and invite Christ to be your light of healing. Next ask God to reveal to you how you might be light for another person. What action will you take?

Lenten Prayer

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine in the darkness.

We shine your love,

Placing our hope and trust in you.

Mirrors seldom break. We break often. The good news is that however cracked or broken we may be, God uses those facets to shine the light of God’s Providence. Our brokenness is an opportunity for Christ’s light to heal us and to shine forth from us. We are all most beautiful when we shine with compassionate acts of love for others. Be Christ’s Light.

LENLEN 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
- **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**

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

The Little Sisters of the Poor are committed to preserving the original charism of their Foundress Saint Jeanne Jugan, by giving happiness to the Elderly and meeting their needs at their *St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly* in Totowa. They will be at our Parish the weekend of **March 30 and 31** to ask for our assistance with their important work. Please prayerfully consider your support.

RCIA

Journey with Us!

Monday, March 25th from **7:00-8:30 pm** in the Russo Room. Join us for a discussion on 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!

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

On Monday, all enjoyed watching Irish Step Dancing performed by our Middle School Fine Arts Dance students.

Students who will celebrate their First Eucharist are preparing for their interviews.

Grade 4 Science students are working on animals' habitats and their adaptations and created "Inventamals".

Our teachers were trained in "Teaching Guided Reading" at their faculty Professional Day.

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.

COLUMBIETTES

Next meeting is **Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm** in Cerullo Hall. We will be welcoming our 5 new members and going over final details for the International.

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 this **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!

MINISTER TRAINING

All *Extraordinary Ministers*, please prepare to remain 15 minutes after the Mass at which you normally serve on the weekend of **March 30/31**.

Report to the Sacristy for an informative training session. If you are not on for Mass that weekend, choose a Mass and report to the Sacristy. Thank you for your ministry.

UNPLANNED - THE MOVIE

Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation.

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in. Until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading Abby Johnson to change her thinking and become one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

Opening in theatres March 29.

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.

ST. PETER'S HAVEN 5K

"The Premiere Bloomin 5k & 1 Mile Walk for Clifton's Hungry and Homeless" is **Sunday, April 14th** at Clifton Stadium/Memorial Park. To register please visit www.Bloomin5K/Register.

PRAY FOR

DECEASED: Eugene DeBellis, George Harkness, Jennifer Lauritano

THE SICK: Rose Lucignani, Antony Fernandes, Carol Skolds, Victoria Spadofora, Monique Tommaro, Michael Alban, Sr., Vincent Ramundo

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 30/31, 2019

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

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

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

7:00	Margaret Schweighardt
9:00	Dorothy Headley

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

7:00	Fred Schweighardt
9:00	Margaret Tremonte

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

7:00	Sabato Nicholas Russo
9:00	Elizabeth Behan

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

7:00	Hermann Koch
9:00	Angela Barat

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

7:00	Helen Marshall Kalin
9:00	Joan Hughes

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

9:00	Patrick Cross
5:30	All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

8:00	Joseph & Ann Jasionowicz Hugh & Eleanor DeGhetto
10:00	Marie D'Angelo Joan Hughes – 1 st Anniversary Mauro D'Alto – 9 th Anniversary
12:00	All the People of the Parish

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 18, 2018	\$18,185.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 17, 2019	
Envelopes	\$14,466.00
Cash	\$ 1,571.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,663.00
Total	\$21,700.00