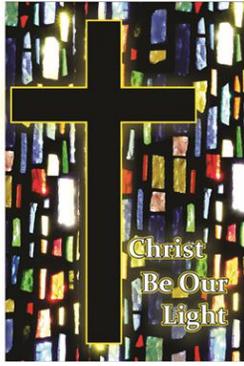


FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Christ Be Our Light: Week V

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

RIGHT, LEFT, CENTER: SEEING GOD IN ALL THINGS

In his early 90s, Patricia Buck's father-in-law went to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to take the road test to renew his driver's license. As he approached a four-way stop, he looked to his left, and cruised through the intersection to the sound of horns, squealing brakes and curses. The shaking inspector shouted, "you didn't even look to your right!" The driver shot back – "that's my wife's job – since you're sitting there you should have looked!" (rd.com 2/19 adapted)

The story sheds light on the truth about our humanity. Our routines and habits blind us to seeing and experiencing our lives in new ways. In today's Gospel, Jesus proclaims that he is the light of the world. The light of Christ heals the blind man enabling him to gain physical sight and spiritual insight into the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ. Encountering Jesus in prayer cures us of our blindness and helps us to see ourselves, others and God in a new light! St. Paul exhorts the Ephesians to "live as children of the light because light produces every kind of goodness, truth and all that is pleasing to the Lord."

Our Lenten Theme *Christ Be Our Light* is teaching us how to be children of the light. We are children of the light scientifically and spiritually. Scientifically we can explore, "The Physics of Electromagnetic Radiation on Ocular Perception." In the simplest terms all objects 'give off' electromagnetic radiation which is received by the cone cells of the eye and focused on by the flexible eye lens. The brain receives these light signals, interprets them and attributes meaning through language. Spiritually, God's light is seen in a similar way. God created light and everything that is seen and will ever be seen. God radiates God's love and providence to us through the light radiating from all things. Prayer is the lens that

enables us to see all that is as God's gift. Seeing all as a gift opens our eyes to seeing faith, hope and love in all things, in all people and in ourselves. Prayer is the lens that empowers us to see God's light, color and care at all times. We look beyond what is seen to the God who is unseen and yet is in all things.

New Work of Art Worship Enhancement

Last week we discussed the light that comes shining through the *Dalle de verre* windows in our church choir loft and lobby (narthex) areas. Similar art glass was recently placed in our church's Reredos (the altarpiece or screen behind our altar). The art glass is illuminated from behind and adds a subtle beauty to our altar space. The artwork is designed as an enhancement that supports the focal points of the Ambo and Altar during the Eucharist. At other times the focuses are the Tabernacle and Crucifix. In addition, the delicate glass colors symbolize our lives that shine with diversity, radiating the light of Christ. We shine forth with God's gifts. Each piece has been intentionally chipped and broken to refract a varied light. The light of Christ shines through our broken places when we embrace forgiveness and healing grace. We radiate our finest colors and truest beauty when we shine with empathetic and compassionate acts of love and service for one another.

Our first reading invites us to see as God sees with the heart. Please join in our prayer so that we can see beyond our routines and habits to focus on a new way of seeing God in all things.

Reflection and Activity

To join in our prayer, choose one or more ways to focus your prayer: Look at the art glass behind the altar, see the photos or video of our windows on our website, visit the church during the week and look at the art glass in the natural sunlight in our lobby area, view your prayer card anytime and anyplace.

As you see the color and beauty before you, recall God's gifts and providence in your life. Who comes to mind as a gift from the past, the present? What color are various people in your lives as seen in the glass? Who needs your prayer? Who deserves your thanks? Who needs you to bless them? Recognize that Christ is the light that is shining through this lens of prayer. May this beautiful, warm and ever-present light of Christ shine in our hearts, shine in the darkness, may we Lord shine your love, placing our hope and trust in you.

God desires to heal our blind spots by seeing the light of Christ radiating in all things and through us...to the right, to the left, above and below...love in action shining forth from our minds and hearts and works of compassionate service.

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.***

LENTE 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**

ADORATION

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

On **Saturday, April 6th** we invite you for Eucharistic Adoration from **11:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Join us for this spiritual time before the Blessed Sacrament. Why not stop by as your time permits and experience the Serenity that Jesus has to offer us.

GOOD NEWS FOR PARENTS

Join us on **Sunday, April 7th** 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 is: May 5.

All are welcome!

MEDITATION HOUR

Please join us for prayer, guided meditation and reflection on **Thursday, April 11th in Church at 7 pm**.

RCIA

Please pray for our RCIA Candidates as they prepare to receive their sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

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

Over the last couple of weeks of Lent, students have been attending Stations of the Cross on Monday afternoons at 2:00 pm in Church. Some of the students are preparing for Living Stations of the Cross, which will take place on Wednesday, April 17th during Holy Week. This week second grade is doing a Science experiment to learn how plants grow using carnations and food coloring. They are also preparing for their First Communion in Religion class and will be taking part in a First Communion retreat on April 3rd! Fourth grade is learning about the human body. They are making model arms, a water bottle lung, and digestion people. Little Kaleidoscope students in first and second grade are preparing book reports on Famous Women for Women's History Month. Eighth grade Kaleidoscope students are preparing TED talks this week. Third grade through eighth grade attended Reconciliation on Tuesday, March 26th. Please save the date for the eighth-grade play, *Mary Poppins*, May 2nd at 7:00 PM and May 3rd after the 9:00 AM Mass.

COOKIES! GET YOUR COOKIES!

The St. Philip's Girl Scouts will be selling cookies after masses next weekend **April 6 & 7**. Boxes are \$5-6 each - cash only! Thank you for supporting our Girl Scouts!

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.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting of the blanket ministry will be **Thursday, April 4, 2019** at 9:45 am in the Molloy Center. We are making baby blankets to be distributed to St. Mary Hospital for community outreach. All are welcome! For questions, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

1st and 3rd Wednesday: The VFW Hall -Valley Rd; 8:00 pm.

PRIME TIMERS

We will be holding our annual Tricky Tray **on April 5th** at our regular meeting. Look in your closets for those unused gifts that you are not going to use and bring them in at the April 5th meeting.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

Monday, April 8th, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Molloy Center.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Next Rosary meeting: Monday, April 8 at 6:30 pm with Mass and the Rosary in the Auditorium. Join us as we pray for our Confirmation candidates

MINISTER TRAINING

All **Extraordinary Ministers**, please prepare to remain 15 minutes after the Mass at which you normally serve on this weekend.

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.

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.

PRAY FOR

NEWLY MARRIED: Daniel Amoroso and Danille Marie Calzaretta

DECEASED: Fred Margo

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

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: APRIL 6 & 7, 2019

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

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

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019

7:00 Giovanni LoConte
9:00 William Pennington

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

7:00 Francis, Miriam & Kevin O'Brien
9:00 Carol Lynch

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

7:00 Harold Humphry
9:00 Gregory Winberry

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

7:00 Jenna Errico
9:00 Howard Glinkin

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019

7:00 Jean McMullen
9:00 Susan Russell

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

9:00 John Tufaro
5:30 Joe Hopper, Sr. - 6th Anniversary
C. Mildred Petaccio
Hughes & McDonald Family

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Michael Marinaro
John Trommelen, Sr.
Silvio Bizzaro
Cristina Apostadero
12:00 Joan Fitzgerald

Sanctuary Candle: In Memory Of
Mauro D'Alto
From his wife, Anna

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 25, 2018 (PALM SUNDAY):
\$24,345.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 24, 2019
Envelopes \$11,932.00

Cash	\$ 1,668.00
Online giving donation	\$ 4,933.00
Total	\$18,533.00