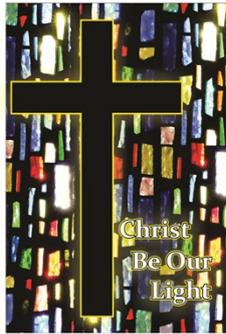


FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Christ Be Our Light: Week VI

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

Is That Better?

Is that better? . . . is asked when one's chin is resting gently on a phoropter. A phoropter? Yes, a phoropter is the instrument used during an eye examination to measure refractive response to determine eyeglass prescriptions. The patient sits behind a phoropter and looks through it at an eye chart. The optometrist then changes lenses, while asking the patient for feedback on which setting gives the best vision. (www.verywellhealth.com adapted). During our theme we have been learning how to see more clearly by inviting the light of Christ into our shadows and darkness through prayer. Prayer acts like a phoropter because it changes the way we see. Prayer adjusts the lens of our vision, our thinking, feeling and actions. Prayer helps us to see with a new focus. Christ our light shines into our lives asking the question. . . is that better?

In today's Gospel Jesus sees the sinful woman through the lens of love. Jesus changes the focus of her accusers by adjusting the lens of their judgment. Jesus teaches them to look at their own darkness before turning their gaze to the shadows in others. Prayer is the lens that changes how we see for the better. Isaiah the prophet hears God speak to him saying "See, I make all things new!" God makes things new and better through prayer. Prayer does not often change what is seen such as, circumstances

and other people. Prayer always changes our focus and perspective to help us to see the next right and loving thing to do.

An example of the difference prayer can make occurred for me a few years ago, prompted by a discussion with Fr. Jared. I wanted to introduce a program to the parish, but we were running out of time and were both extremely busy with other pastoral matters. During our talk Fr. Jared said, "Do we really need to do this program this year or can we just wait until next year? The only place this needs to happen now is in your mind." I was annoyed. I decided to pray about what he said and my reaction by enlisting the "Bless him" prayer. The next day while reflecting, it seemed that God was saying to me, "Joe, listen to Jared. Did it ever occur to you that I work and speak through other people too?" I was better and suddenly at peace. Prayer changed my perspective and I saw the situation from a different vantage. We introduced the program the following year. God adjusted my lens to see clearly and to listen more carefully to God working through other people. Prayer often does not change what we see but how we see it.

Four Lenses of Prayer: ACTS

The next time that you rest your chin in your folded hands to pray try one or more of these four lenses of prayer that spell the anagram ACTS.

Adoration: ponder God's blessings in creation. Gratefully notice beauty, goodness and truth. Praise God from whom all blessings flow – with quiet reverence.

Contrition: what areas in your life are shaded, shadowed or dark? Where do you need healing, forgiveness – a new start? Speak to God and listen to your inner voice and pay attention to how God may be speaking to you through others.

Thanksgiving: who are the people, places, things, relationships, personal gifts that you wish to thank God for? Make a gratitude list – give thanks.

Supplication: who needs your prayer and what action will you take to help that prayer to become a reality in his or her life?

These lenses of prayer help us to see God in all things . . . Isn't that better?

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.

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
- **WELCOME HOME:** Sacrament of **Reconciliation;** Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 pm Saturday, April 13: 3:00 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**

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

The third-grade class has been busy preparing for the annual multicultural day celebration in May. They will be studying Sicily. In Social Studies we are learning about all the states in the United States. As a part of our Lenten obligation, the third graders have each picked something special to do each week. This last week the students wrote three kind things about another person and left it for them. Next week they will be doing something a little extra at home to help our parents. These Lenten lessons allow them to connect with Jesus and appreciate all that he has done for us.

COOKIES! GET YOUR COOKIES!

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

10:00 AM Fr. Matt	12:00 N	Fr. Joe
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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

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

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

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY
 Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 9th at 7 pm** in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688.

PRAY FOR

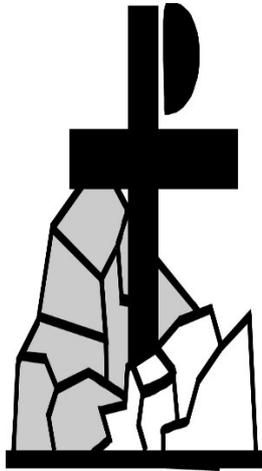
NEWLY BAPTIZED: Jairo Emilio & Vivian Sofia Garcia
 Children of Jairo, Jr. & Viviana

Elizabeth

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

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: APRIL 14 & 15, 2019	
5:30 PM Fr. Kevin	8:00 AM Fr. Joseph

PARISH GIVING	
SUNDAY COLLECTION: APRIL 1, 2018	
EASTER	
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 30, 2019	
Envelopes	
\$13,539.00	
Cash	\$
1,575.00	
Online giving donation	\$
5,192.00	
Total	
\$20,306.00	



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
 Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

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

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019

7:00 Norma Llanes

9:00 Priscilla D. Caparaz

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

7:00 Joan Fitzgerald

9:00 Robert L. Mattis

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

7:00 Rose Martin

9:00 Elizabeth Daut

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

7:00 Edward Kwasnik

9:00 Paul Doviak

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019

7:00 Catherine Catanese

9:00 Charles Marvin

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

9:00 Giuseppe & Adriana Castaldo

5:30 William Belott – 10th Anniversary

Mary & James Quinn

Dorothea Stepka

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

8:00 Emilia Canhoto

Henry A. Rafferty

10:00 Ann Albright – 8th Anniversary

Judy Serovich

Filippone & Ricci Family

Chester G. Rackiewicz – 20th Anniversary

12:00 All the People of the Family

Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory Of

Jay Jacobowitz

From his wife, Anna