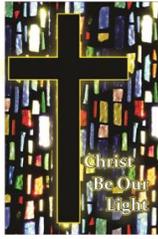


SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Christ Be Our Light

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

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Light our Way

The Risen Christ commissioned the disciples and therefore us, to go out into the world and proclaim the Good News! Part of the Good News of Jesus Christ is the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and among us. We are given all that we need to be the Light of Christ to others in our mission to love and to work for justice and the flourishing of all people.

As we journey through the Easter Season to Pentecost the same Holy Spirit that propelled the disciples to live their mission of *Opus Christi*, *Christ's Work* enlightens us.

Through Baptism and Confirmation we are empowered with spiritual gifts. During this Easter Season we will explore thematically the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and experience them at work in our lives in new ways.

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Fear of the Lord ("WOW!" Awe, Wonder, Amazement) is awakening to God's blessings freely given: in the beauty of creation, the truth of compassion deep within us, the goodness of loving relationships – recognizing that "All is Gift."

Piety (Reverence) is living gratefully in a graced world with a profound respect for all life and a passion to be faithful stewards of God's bountiful gifts.

Fortitude (Courage) enables us to dream of what is possible with Christ's love. Fortitude emboldens us to take responsibility for that vision and to creatively make it a reality.

Right Counsel helps us to sift and sort in prayer what cannot be changed and needs to be accepted and what can be changed and needs to be accomplished.

Knowledge focuses our priorities and shifts our perspective to think, feel and act with faith, hope and love.

Understanding is seeing, feeling and listening with the "ear of our heart." Understanding and compassion are God's heart.

Wisdom enables us to discern and relish God's presence in all things, to trust in Providence and to therefore live with compassion on the journey.

Week IV – Gift of the Holy Spirit - Right Counsel

Helps us to sift and sort in prayer what cannot be changed and needs to be accepted and what can be changed and needs to be accomplished.

The Stubborn Mule

One night the poor farmer had a dream. In the dream the Lord asks him, "If you had a horse would you give it to me?" "Yes," answered the farmer. "And if you had a cow?" "Gladly." "And a goat?" "Sure." "A mule?" "Now Lord, that's not fair!" protested the farmer. "You know I have a mule!" (HAYESPOST.COM adapted, RD.COM 4/2019)

We laugh at the farmer because we recognize ourselves in his surface willingness to trust God until trusting involves something that really matters. We understand the farmer because we pray and have faith in many areas of our lives. We are often willing to share our time, talent and treasure. However, there is always one mule that we wish to keep for ourselves. We might call it, *The Stubborn Mule*.

The stubborn mule in our life is the situation, problem or person that causes us the greatest anxiety, anger or resentment. *The stubborn mule* is the aspect in our life that we are unwilling to trust God with. *The stubborn mule* really matters and so we keep it to ourselves. We may pray about it but in our hearts truthfully, we continue to fret and fear and as the expression goes – keep the pot boiling – stubbornly!

The Holy Spirit, in prayer, can teach us to truly and deeply hand over *the stubborn mule* in our lives to God. In today's Gospel Jesus tells his disciples that he will send the Holy Spirit, who will teach them to be free from troubled hearts. Jesus promises the gift of peace, a peace that the world cannot give. The peace that the power of the Holy Spirit offers is the gift of Right Counsel. The Holy Spirit helps us to discern what can be changed and what cannot be changed and offers the gift of acceptance.

Acceptance does not mean that we stop having thoughts or feelings about our *stubborn mule*. Acceptance means that we continuously turn our *stubborn mule* over to God and say – "Take this *stubborn mule* – it is now your problem! Thank you." We gain a deep inner peace and trust in knowing that God is working for our greatest good even when we cannot see it.

Activity

What is your *stubborn mule*? Take this opportunity to give this *stubborn mule* to the Lord. As we feel resistance in trusting God - we affirm that the power of God's Holy Spirit is greater than any of our fears or angers or resentments. In this time of prayer, use your imagination to lead this *stubborn mule* to the Lord and away from you.

In the future, when thoughts and emotions surface surrounding the *stubborn mule* remember this prayer and that it is now God's problem. Pay attention to the ways that God works in the situation for you and through you. Watch God teach your *stubborn mule* to work for you!

CELEBRATING PENTECOST 2019: JUNE 8 & 9

Multi-language Liturgy

Acts of the Apostles (2:4) reports that on the feast of Pentecost all were "filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." The multiple languages at Pentecost demonstrate God's desire to be in relation with all people. God speaks to each heart in a unique way. Our celebration of Pentecost will be a multi-language liturgy serving as a symbol of God's ongoing action to renew the face of the earth.

Volunteers are being sought to proclaim the Scripture readings and general intercessions in their native language. Please contact Donna Scancarella at 973-779-6200 or dscancarella@stphilip.org for more information and to volunteer.

Festive Clothing

On the first Pentecost the Spirit hovered over the disciples like tongues of fire. The manifestation of God's power symbolizes the fire of love that compels the followers of Jesus through spirituality, service and social ministry. Therefore, parishioners are invited to wear **flame colors of red, yellow or orange**. Our multi-colored glow will be a communal affirmation of our commitment to rekindle the fire of God's love and to live our mission working for peace and justice with zeal.

Flag Bearers Needed

Our Pentecost Eucharist procession is led by our flag bearers. We need six volunteers for each Mass on Pentecost weekend as carriers. The flags are more cumbersome than heavy; however moderate upper body strength is a requirement. A sign-up sheet for each Mass time can be found in the Sacristy.

EDUCATION FOR SERVICE

Congratulations to our pastor, Fr. Joe, who received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fordham University on Saturday, May 19, 2019. During his time with us, Fr. Joe has been working on his dissertation which was accepted on April 10, 2019.

Father's research was the creation and implementation of the *Your Gift Is Wrapped In Prayer* Advent program and quantitative research and analysis of participants' experience through the discipline of Practical Theology. The development of parish programs that involve catechesis and activities that involve prayers, practices and symbols (Wrapping Gifts in Prayers, Keys to the Kingdom) are his original ministerial vision. We at St. Philip experience these parish themes and they enhance our spirituality as they motivate us to be love in action through ministry.

Please keep Fr. Joe in prayer as he continues to share his ministry and life with us. We are blessed to serve with him.

Fr. Matt, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Kevin and Staff

MANTLE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Boykow on completing his first year of priestly ministry on May 26th.

Honoring his achievement of faithful spiritual, service and social ministry, he is hereby appointed as Chaplain to the Altar Servers.

Please keep Fr. Matt in your grateful prayer as he relinquishes his altar server role to concentrate on his charism for multi-media evangelization.

Please pray for Fr. Joseph as he assumes this new mantle of responsibility for our youth who serve at the altar of our Lord.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Online Registration for the 2019 Religious Education Program will open on **Saturday, June 1**. Discounted fees are offered from June 1 to June 30. We will no longer have paper registration. Please visit the website to register at www.stphilip.org. Should you have any questions or concerns, contact the program office 973-779-1439 or www.reled@stphilip.org.

CONFIRMATION

Pray for our Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacrament on **May 28th**.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The end of the year is quickly approaching and our eighth-grade class of 2019 is preparing for graduation. The Baccalaureate Mass is this coming **Friday, May 31**. We want to wish them all the best. Mrs. Higgins 5th grade had a very successful Writers' Cafe last week where they presented excerpts from books that they wrote themselves and had professionally printed. Also, this week is the seventh and eighth grade Genius Hour Project presentations. We wish them luck. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Memorial Day weekend.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ROSARY SOCIETY

Social Tea: Sunday, June 2, beginning at 2:00 pm (doors open at 1:30 pm) in the Auditorium. Call Elaine Vigilante at 973-472-9019 to reserve your seat today. Tickets are still only \$25! Everyone is welcome – Hats a plus and Teacups a must!

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 pm** in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesday: 8:00 pm VFW Hall - Valley Rd

K of C Awards Ceremony: **June 5, 2019** at 7:30 pm- Auditorium
All Welcome!

PRIMER TIMERS

The Prime Timers will be holding their annual luncheon on **June 7** at the Valley Regency in Clifton. Payment of \$15. per person must be left at the church office no later than **May 31**. *No payment will be accepted at the door.*

ST. PHILIP'S 40th ANNUAL CARNIVAL



Thursday June 13 6-10 PM
 Friday June 14 6-11 PM
 Saturday June 15 6:30-11 PM

VALLEY RIDES & AMUSEMENTS

RIDES GAMES FOOD DRINK

Sponsorship Opportunities

Family Sponsorship - \$30.00
 Business Sponsorship - \$50.00
 Booth and Ride Sponsorship - \$100.00

A **Craft Fair** will be held in the gym during all Carnival hours. More Crafters Welcome!

Information and contract available at stphilip.org
 or call 973-779-6200

Soda/Water Donations

Name brand soda and bottled water for the Soda & Water Booth can be left at the School kitchen door.

Yard Signs available in the Vestibule of the Church.

Carnival Volunteer Meeting:

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM Russo Room
Volunteer Sign Up sheets available in the Church

PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Rose Lucignani, Antony Fernandes, Victoria Spadofora, Michael Alban, Sr., Vincent Ramundo, Gary J. Arvardy, Judy Post, Mary Siwiec, Marya Columbia, Al Lutz

THE DECEASED: Caroline Mangone

PARISH GIVING

EASTER COLLECTION 2018	\$58,303.00
EASTER COLLECTION 2019 YTD	\$61,558.00
Sunday Collection, May 20, 2018	\$18,142.00
Sunday Collection: May 19, 2019	
Envelopes	\$11,190.00
Cash	\$ 2,085.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	\$18,517.00
Second Collection: Peter's Pence	\$ 2,630.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: JUNE 1 & 2, 2019

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Henry Spohn
 Francesco Fusco
 Monique Tommaro
 Marianne Jordan
 Vincent Blanda
12:00 James Elbert
 Victor Shami

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019

9:00 Emily Sokerka

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019

9:00 The Murphy & Garbarino Family

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

9:00 Michael C. Gabriel

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:00AM Sr. Alice Sullivan
7:00PM All the People of the Parish

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019

9:00 Charles W. Fucci

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

9:00 Emil J. Schuren, Jr.
5:30 Dorothea Stepka
 Heather Grand

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

8:00 Edward Ray
 Maria Dolores Diaz
10:00 Marie D'Angelo
 Vincenza & Giovanni Minervini
 Mary Shashaty
 Donato DiBenedetto
12:00 All the People of the Parish

Offertory Gifts In Memory of
 Victor Shami
 From the family

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

BEGINNING MONDAY, MAY 27TH THERE WILL BE ONE DAILY MASS AT 9:00 AM UNTIL LABOR DAY

Summer Mass } St. John Kanty (Clifton): 7 AM
 Alternative } Holy Angels (Little Falls): 7 AM (Chapel)
 Holy Face Monastery (Clifton): 7:30 AM