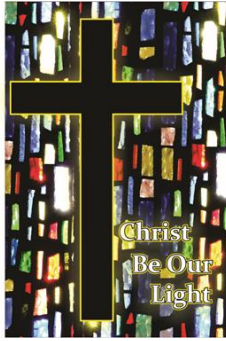


## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



### **Christ Be Our Light**

Follow our theme and review past reflections on our website [www.stphilip.org](http://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.

#### **REFLECTION : "WOW!" Awe, Wonder, Amazement**

##### **TWO OPEN HANDS**



After all the Easter candy let's try a little Easter exercise. Clench your hands into a fist. Now, open your hands, place them – thumb to cheek – like elephant ears. Clench your hands into a fist again. Notice that you are frowning. Open your hands like elephant ears. Notice that you are smiling. All movements used muscles but what a difference we feel when we open our hands and smile. How much better we look! How much more of a gift we give to others with open hands.

The symbol of open hands representing open minds, hearts, spirits and other-directed actions has become one of the most often used emoji. Emoji is a pictograph whose Japanese name means picture/character. Emoji began use in the late 1990s on electronic devices, the most famous being the laughing face and heart. It is staggering to know that over 60 million emoji are sent daily.

During this Easter season, as we focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we recognize that the Two Hands of God are always open to us! God's open hands are seen in all of creation, our lives, Christ our Light, the gift of eternal life! God is our WOW! Opening our eyes to the fact that all is gift helps us to feel gratitude, which is the first step on any spiritual journey. When we awaken to the fact that everything is a gift of God's open hands to us, we are enlightened and empowered to share all that we have with open hands for others.

#### **Spiritual Practice**

This week pay attention to your hands physically and spiritually. Are your hands clenched in little fists that are threatening, uptight, defensive, closed, limiting, fear-filled, competitive, and all about you? If you see your hands closed in this way invite the Light of Christ to open your hands. Invite Christ to be your light opening your mind, your heart and your spirit with the gift of God's transforming WOW! Reflect on the gifts in your life, the good news to be found in every situation. Sharing your experiences with God especially the dark and painful experiences brings light and God's compassionate presence. Gratitude opens hands, minds and hearts. Thank God with your hands open on each side of your face - like elephant ears - and smile ... even if through your tears.

## Prayer posture

Make yourself a living emoji of two open hands on each side of your face - the elephant - look again. Pray in this position. Invite the Lord to reveal new ways of seeing and responding to situations. Seek openness and ways to connect with others in love. Search for new possibilities, collaboration and opportunities to embrace others. Christ's hands are open. We are invited to be living emoji of God's openhanded love in action.

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## ANNUAL PARISH COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 5

### "GREATER WORKS: OUR LOVE IN ACTION"

Honoree & Presenter: Fr. Matt Jansiewicz

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

- 8:00 AM Mass
- Breakfast following in the school auditorium
- 75th Jubilee History Documentary "Greater Works" created by Fr. Matt will be discussed as a great labor of love in action.
- \$10-adults/\$6-children

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1, 3-6: **Sunday, May 5**

Grades 7-10: **Sunday, May 5**

Pray for our children as they receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and our Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacrament in May.

## GOOD NEWS FOR PARENTS

Join us on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## RCIA

RCIA continues with the process of *Mystagogia* which is a Greek word meaning "mystery". We go from *learning* to *living* our faith more fully. Our next sessions are **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm in the Russo Room. All are welcome.

## MEDITATION HOUR



### MARY MAGDALENE IN THE GARDEN

Please join us for prayer, guided meditation and reflection on **Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** in Church at 7 pm.

## PARISH MAY CROWNING

On Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, following the 8 am Mass, the outside Statue of Mary will be crowned. Please join us along with the First Communion children and the Rosary Society as we pray a decade of the Rosary and sing a Marian hymn.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I HAVE EVER SEEN!"**

Saturday, May 18

Holy Hour 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

11:00 Presentation: Fr. Joseph Boykow



St. Bernadette, seeing Mary for the first time at Lourdes in France, described her as the most beautiful woman she had ever seen, calling to her as her Mother. We can all say that our Blessed Mother is the most beautiful in heart, in spirit, in faithful discipleship. Like St. Bernadette, we too, see Mary as the Mother of God, the Mother of our Church, and our own Mother. Share the beauty of coming to know our Blessed Mother through the apparition at Lourdes. All are welcome.

**Sponsored by the Columbiettes.**

## SPRING CONCERT

The Adult, Youth and Handbell Choirs of St. Philip the Apostle will present their annual Spring Concert on **Sunday, May 19** at 3:00 PM in church. The concert will feature sacred music. A free-will offering is appreciated. Please join us.

## MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### WIDOW/WIDOWERS

**Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at 6:00 pm in the Molloy Center. Come for prayers, socialization and meeting new friends.

### SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

Next meetings: **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688.

### ROSARY SOCIETY

- Next meeting: **Monday, May 20** beginning with the Rosary at 6:00 pm in Church; Mass will follow at 6:30 pm. This is our Induction Meeting, pizza party, and annual group picture! Don't miss it!
- **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 on sale now and still only \$25! Everyone is welcome – Hats a plus and Teacups a must!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

