

## SEVENTH 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.

## Week V—Gift of the Holy Spirit

### Knowledge & Understanding

#### **The Countdown**

A doctor walks into the examining room and puts his hand on the patient's shoulder. "I'm afraid I have some bad news. You're dying, and you don't have much time left." "Oh no!" says the patient. "How long do I have to live?" "Ten," says the doctor. "Ten?" asks the panicked patient. "Ten what? Years? Months? Weeks? Days?" The doctor calmly replies, "9... 8... 7..." (RD.COM 4/19 adapted)

After the countdown, the patient certainly had a new knowledge and understanding of the situation. The Holy Spirit's gifts of knowledge and understanding help us to focus our priorities and to shift perspectives. Whatever the patient was thinking and worrying about before the doctor started the countdown became immediately unimportant because of the new information. Hopefully, we will not need a bad prognosis in order to exercise the gifts of knowledge and understanding which teach us to think, feel and act with faith, hope and love. Under the guidance of God's compassionate wisdom in prayer we learn to prioritize. Prayer helps us to understand what is important and to know how to act in situations and how to respond to others in loving ways. Very often, the unimportant, the trivial and even the ridiculous occupy our minds and hearts blinding us to what is truly valuable. God desires to teach us how best to share our time, talent and treasure.

In today's first reading, Stephen is facing his certain death. Stephen's knowledge and understanding of his impending death leads him to pray. Prayer focuses his priority on the forgiveness of his enemies – he sees what is important from an eternal perspective. In today's Gospel, Jesus prays for his disciples as he nears his own death. St. Ignatius of Loyola, in his 30 day retreat *The Spiritual Exercises*, has a meditation that focuses on the contemplation of one's own death. Far from being morbid, this meditation shifts our perspective to who and what is really important in our lives.

If you were given a countdown, what and who would suddenly become your number one priority? Probably, the desire to be loving would become more important than being right, people would take a priority over things. The precious gift of time – and the good that can be accomplished in every minute – would become eminently clear.

#### **Prayerful Challenge and Opportunity to Gain Knowledge and Understanding**

Invite the Holy Spirit to comfort your heart even as you pray this challenging prayer. Remember that you are always being held, sustained and empowered by God's Spirit in this life and forever in the next.

Prayerfully enter an imaginative countdown with the Lord in prayer. If the minutes of that prayer were your last how would God direct you to share your time, talent, treasure and heart with another? What new knowledge about yourself or your life has been learned through this prayer?

What do you understand about yourself or your relationships in a new way through this prayer? What one action will you take to share your love in the little time left? 10, 9, 8, 7... This countdown may be the start of a dynamic and exciting blastoff to a new way of seeing our lives with greater integrity, purpose, love and with an eternal perspective.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **ST. PHILIP'S PLAYERS RETURN TO THE STAGE!**

We are seeking those who can bring their talents to the parish theatre group. All talents welcome, but specifically seeking:

- \*Graphic Artists
- \*Technical operators (lights, sound, projection)
- \*Administrative & clerical
- \*Musicians

Please email your interest to SPP President Joseph Schreck at [JSchreck1475@gmail.com](mailto:JSchreck1475@gmail.com) for an immediate response.

LOVE CAN BUILD A BRIDGE, our new original musical revue will be presented **October 11 & 12** at St. Philip's. SAVE THE DATE!

## **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA**

Your support of *Catholic Relief Services* provides financial assistance to some of the most marginalized communities in the world. *The Collection for the Church in Latin America* is needed in a part of the world where the Catholic faith is strong but the resources are limited due to the financial constraints of the people living there.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **FIRST COMMUNICANTS**

Congratulations to all of the children who celebrated their First Communion. Please continue to pray for them as they have received Jesus in this most precious sacrament.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION**

Online Registration for the 2019 Religious Education Program is now open. Discounted fees are offered from June 1 to June 30. Please visit the website to register at [www.stphilip.org](http://www.stphilip.org). We will no longer have paper registration. Should you have any questions or concerns, contact the program office 973-779-1439 or [www.reled@stphilip.org](mailto:www.reled@stphilip.org).

### **CONFIRMATION**

On Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 49 youth from St. Philip the Apostle were sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and confirmed in the faith of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by Bishop Serratelli. As these youth start a new chapter in their faith journeys, let us continue to pray for them to be nurtured and supported throughout their lives as they seek the path of discipleship:

Natalie Abarca	Isabel Lagunes
Melina Arroyo	Ryan Lauritano
Kaylie Ateniese	Joseph Lodge
Joseph Barnes	Hugh MacLeod
Joshua Barr	Brandon Mah
Kayla Barros	Jessica Marcinak
Jaden Belger	Kiara Masbang
Luke Bianchi	Alexia Mella
Jessica Bracken	Jaylene Mercado
Hannah Brunckhorst	Demi Morales
Alexander Carpenter	Jacob Paras
Jonathan Carrilo	Nicholas Plaskon
Justin De Los Reyes	Ian Paul Quizon
Anna Marie Del Guercio	Nicholas Ross
Christine Del Guercio	Isabella Sardina
Joseph DuBois	Jenna Sepede
Maxwell Enze	Mia Sidoti
Antonio Escobinas	Michael Soto
Emily Evans	Christopher Stathopoulos
Emma Figueroa	Nicolas Stathopoulos
Selena Fruit	Dana Tagliaferro
Gabriella Fujikawa	Daniela Tejada
Gabriella Guzman	John Wydak
Penelope Javate	Camille Yambao
Graydon Kastner	

## MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Annual Luncheon on **June 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Valley Regency in Clifton.

### **SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY**

Next meetings: **Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688

## ST. PHILIP'S 40<sup>th</sup> 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

**Sponsor Sheets** are available in the Church Vestibule

A **Craft Fair** will be held in the gym during all Carnival hours.

More Crafters Welcome!

Information and contract available at [stphilip.org](http://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.

### Coffee & Cake Table

Please donate CAKES, cookies, brownies (no nuts) and  
 cupcakes. Items should be dropped off in the auditorium any  
 night **during Carnival hours**.

**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

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Congratulations and blessings to Father Kevin as he  
 celebrates 60 years as a priest of God.

Join us for a special liturgy at 12:00 noon on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** in  
 Church, followed by presentations and light reception in  
 the auditorium.

## PRAY FOR

**THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:** Nicolo Francis Cricco-Haggerty

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

## PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: JUNE 8 & 9, 2019

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

## PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection, May 27, 2018	\$15,235.00
Sunday Collection: May 26, 2019	
Envelopes	\$11,020.00
Cash	\$ 1,316.00
Online giving donation	\$ 4,923.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,259.25</b>
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,331.00

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-60, R 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, Jn 17:20-26 (61)

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

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

### MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

**9:00** Marie Guarinello

### TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019

**9:00** Mildred Scrosia – 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
 Jessie DiDonna – 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019

**9:00** Virginia Castiglia

### THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

**9:00** Judy Serovich

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

**9:00** Don Muller – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

**9:00** Hilda Carlucci – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**5:30** All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

**8:00** Richard Kochan  
 Kenneth A. McClain  
**10:00** Deceased members of the Kerner Family  
 Francesco Fusco  
 Monique Tommaro  
**12:00** Special Intention: Sr. Jean Agans

## SUMMER SCHEDULE:

**BEGINNING MONDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup> 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