

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Narrow Gate

He passed through the villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate..." (Luke 13:22-25) "...people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God." (Luke 13:29).

How many will be saved? The man asks what seems like a general question, but Jesus understands it for what it really is, a very personal question - *how will I be saved?* And Jesus answers it in a personal way. To be saved you must enter through the "narrow gate".

Entering through this narrow gate really sounds challenging. Who will the narrow gate be open to? Will it be just a chosen few? The answer is in both the first reading and the Gospel. "...I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them..." (Isaiah 66: 18-19). "And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 13: 29). This is a resounding response that the Kingdom of God, God's desire for the world, is available to all people, not just a chosen few. Our God loves us - loves us all so deeply even with our flaws, that we all have the opportunity to enter the Kingdom of God - to be in relationship with God.

However, we must enter through the "narrow gate". What does that mean? Entering through the narrow gate is not done by keeping a set of rules or laws, but rather by a set of values that we internalize as a way of life - of discipleship. Jesus focused these values in loving God and loving neighbor. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself..." (Mark 12: 30-31).

Think of the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). A man fell victim to robbers as he walked on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. They stripped him and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest, a Levite and a Samaritan all came upon the man on the road. Being a priest or a Levite was a position of respect, of honor. Yet, the priest and the Levite walked passed the injured man, not even checking if he was alive or dead. The Samaritan was held in low esteem by society at that time. But upon seeing the injured man the Samaritan was moved with compassion. The Samaritan stopped and took the injured man to an inn and provided for the injured man. Who did God's will? Clearly, the Samaritan who acted out of love and compassion for his fellow man.

More than a physical state, more than following the rules, the "narrow gate" is an internal state, a state of being. It is about our relationship with others. Being compassionate, kind, understanding, accepting, loving. In today's world we are all very busy. We have relationship problems, financial burdens, problems at work, in school and at home. How do we get to this state of being that allows us to enter through the narrow gate? Prayer is the key.

Prayer opens us up to hear God's voice, to feel God's love. It changes us; it enables us to hear the needs of others with the

"ear of our heart." And when we hear with love, we are able to be love in action. Yet, being love in action is not always easy. But, even if it is challenging we are called to be love in action anyway. Each of us must find our own individual way, our own special gift that allows us to be love in action. For most of us it may be through small actions in our day to day life. Things we will do differently now that we have opened our eyes and ears and hearts to see, hear and feel the needs of those around us. By entering through the narrow gate we enter the Kingdom of God in the here and now and also in the hereafter, because we are living in harmony with God's purpose.

How are we each being called? Perhaps meditating with the poem below found on the wall in Mother Theresa's home for children in Calcutta will provide some guidance:

ANYWAY

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

Jesus

You gave us ears to hear, help us to hear with the ears of our heart

You gave us eyes to see, help us to see with compassion

So that we may reach out to others with love

As God loves us.

Amen.

Barbara Timpano

Certificate in Parish Life Ministry (25 Theology Credits)
Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, 19th Annotation
RCIA Team Member at St. Philip the Apostle Parish

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All parish families are invited to register your children in our Religious Education and Confirmation Programs. Please note this year all registrations are only being completed online. Visit our parish website (www.stphilip.org) to register. *Online registration closes on September 2nd.*

In-person registration opportunity: Sunday, September 1st, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Russo Room.

Questions or concerns? Contact our office by phone 973- 779-1439 or email reled@stphilip.org.

**Journey with Us
Open Your Heart to God
Discover the Keys to the Kingdom**

RCIA

Are you interested in exploring your spiritual life?
Do you want to discover the abundance of God's love and peace?
Would you like to have greater motivation for service?
Do you want to know more about the Catholic Faith?
Did you ever think about becoming a Catholic?
Are you a Baptized Catholic and have never made your First Communion and/or Confirmation?
Are you baptized in another faith and have a desire to become Catholic?
Have you never been baptized in any faith but wonder?

Journey with Us!

Through the process of the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** or **RCIA**, we explore all these questions and discover the keys to the kingdom. **RCIA** is a restoration of the ancient practice of initiation into the Church. Through a process of discernment, spiritual development and ritualizing stages of conversion, you are guided to sacramental initiation. These Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist which are celebrated at the Easter Vigil open your hearts and empower you to lives of service, charity and justice as witnesses to our mission of *OPUS CHRISTI*, Christ's work. **RCIA** is not a program but a sacramental process. **RCIA** reflects a sacramental attitude that is at the heart of all Christian living: *CONVERSION*, turning your heart to God. We invite you to be our companion on the journey and discover the keys to the kingdom. We gather on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Russo Room. If you would like more information about **RCIA**, please call Donna Scancarella at 973-779-6200.

**2019 VIVERE CHRISTUS AWARD RECIPIENTS
ED & EVELYN KOVACS**

Bishop Serratelli continues the annual tradition of recognizing individuals in each parish who are faithful stewards and personify love in action as described by St. Paul in his words, "*Vivere Christus est*, for me to live is Christ." Ed & Evelyn Kovacs will be presented with The Annual *VIVERE CHRISTUS AWARD* on **Sunday, September 8th** - 3:30 pm at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson.

Ed and Evelyn Kovacs have been active members of St. Philip's since they were married in October of 1965. Spiritual, service and social ministry are the keys they use to live their mission. Ed is a member of St. Philip's Knights of Columbus and Evelyn is a Columbiette. Both are active members of our Prime Timers social group and have been organizers and volunteers of our Carnival for over 25 years. Ed and Evelyn always say "Yes" when asked to help out in any way and are usually asking us, "How can we help?" They attend 10:00 Mass every Sunday. Their faith is truly the center of their life.

Please keep Ed and Evelyn in your grateful prayer and all are welcome to join us at the award ceremony.

**Saint Philip Women's Cornerstone Retreat
November 15 & 16, 2019
Go Light Your World**

Cornerstone is a beautiful retreat experience, a time to revitalize your relationship with God, renew your own spirit and bond with other women of our parish through a combination of quiet reflection and prayer, and the sharing of one's faith journey with others. Please consider joining us for this two-day retreat.

Retreat Times:

Friday, 6:30PM to 10:30PM

Saturday, 8:30AM to 6:30PM

Registration Donation: \$50

Registration opens online September 14, 2019 at StPhilip.org

Please email any questions

to Cornerstone@StPhilip.org or call

The Molloy Center (973)779-6200.

Hear testimonials and have your questions answered after all masses the weekend of **September 14th & 15th**.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

Next meeting **Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00 pm** in the Russo Room. Please contact Thalia Sanchez 862-295-1688

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

September Meetings:

September 4: Mass with Installation of Council Officers 7:30 pm in the Church. Reception follows in the School Auditorium

September 18: Regular Meeting- VFW - Valley Rd - 8:00 pm

12th Annual Golf Outing

The Knoll West Golf Course - Parsippany

Thursday, September 19, 2019 11:00 AM

For information and reservations,
call Brian Kulesa at 973-418-0285

ROSARY SOCIETY

Monday, September 9th is the date for our first Rosary Society meeting of the year. It will begin at 6:00 pm in Church followed by the Rosary. This meeting is our annual Ice Cream Party – please join us – all are welcome!

ST. PHILIP'S PLAYERS RETURN TO THE STAGE!

NOTE DATE CHANGE

November 1 & 2: *Love Can Build A Bridge*, an original musical revue. Saturday includes dinner catered by the Brownstone. Friday's dessert show is sponsored by Maple Valley Diner. Presale tickets coming soon. Info, volunteers, performers: contact JSchreck1475@gmail.com for an immediate response.

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1969 or 1994? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Serratelli will serve as the main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

Sunday, November 3rd, 2019 at 3:30 pm

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office.

The deadline to register is Friday, October 11th, 2019.

ST. PHILIP'S CHOIR



Join Us in Song!

Opportunities in Music Ministry

Do you have some musical inclination? What a great way to fulfill service hours and enrich your own faith life and practice!

Music helps words get into our hearts and minds. The role of music in the church is to further enhance the speaking, listening and participation of the presider and congregation. Please consider joining one of our music ministries this year. All ministries are open to ages high school, college and adult. No formal choral or instrumental music background required. Commitment and good attitude a must!

All rehearsals are held in church. Please come to the first rehearsal or see Frank Hydash after any mass for more information.



Adult Choir – Can you match pitch? Every voice part welcome!

Rehearsals: Mondays 7:00 – 9:00pm

First Rehearsal: Monday, September 9, 2019

Sings every Sunday at the 10:00AM Liturgy + Holy Days and 2 concerts/year

Handbells – Non-singers with any music background or interest.



Rehearsals: Mondays 6:00pm – 6:45pm

First Rehearsal: Monday, October 7, 2019

Plays only at seasonal masses (Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and 2 concerts/year)

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PRAY FOR

THE NEWLY MARRIED:

Noshin Fani and Christopher Ryan Bienkiewicz

THE SICK: Rose Lucignani, Antony Fernandes, Victoria Spadofora, Michael Alban, Sr., Gary J. Arvary, Judy Post, Marya Columbia, Kyle Rodrigues, John Kassai, Fred VanDuyne, Patricia Giuditta, Roberto Domingo, Evelyn Domingo, Dan Cotto

THE DECEASED: Frank Kymack

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection, August 19, 2018	\$17,402.00
Sunday Collection: August 18, 2019	
Envelopes	\$11,365.00
Cash	\$ 1,450.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,443.00
TOTAL	\$18,258.00
Second Collection: Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$ 5,152.00

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

AUGUST 25, 2019

- 8:00** Silvestri & Laterza Family
Columbia & Rosario Lomauro
- 10:00** Rose Schimpf
Susan Brown
Carol Walker
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019

- 9:00** O'Brien & Roger Family

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019

- 9:00** Jim Loftus

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019

- 9:00** Albert Levendusky

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019

- 9:00** Joseph & Ann Jasionowicz

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019

- 9:00** Deceased members of the Canavan Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019

- 9:00** Ann M. O'Connor
- 5:30** All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

- 8:00** Victor Potkalesky
Yolanda & Antonio Villano
- 10:00** Claire Neglia
Arlene Armstrong
Natale Minervini
- 12:00** Joan Kenney
Geronimo Antinaja

The Offertory Gifts

In Memory of
Howard Glinkin
From his wife and family

The Sanctuary Candle

In Memory of
Henry P. McNamra

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: AUG 31 & SEPT. 1, 2019

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