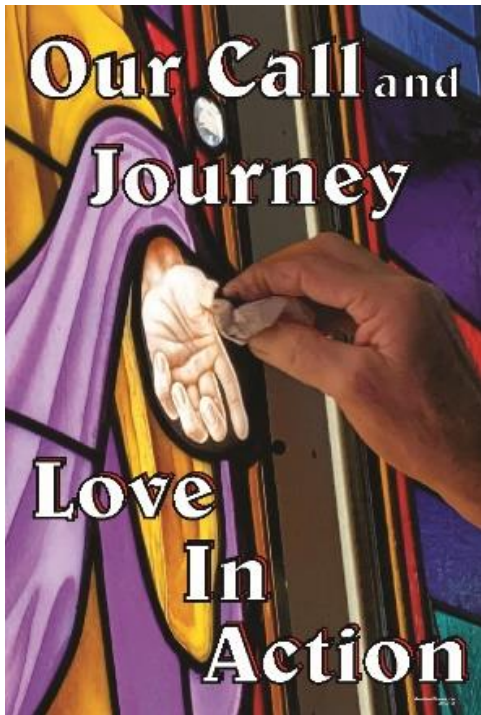


MARCH 1, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

OUR CALL AND JOURNEY - LOVE IN ACTION



During this Season of Lent, you are invited to participate in our theme: **Our Call and Journey - Love in Action** through: Homilies, Bulletin & Website articles, YouTube presentations - ([YouTube.com/stphilipclifton](https://www.youtube.com/stphilipclifton)), and by performing *Acts of Love* (forms of Lenten penance).

THEME HISTORY

Shortly before our parish fire in 2018 we began the process of designing Stained Glass Windows as a celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year. With the prayerful input of our Liturgical Design Committee, Liturgical Architect and the artists Butler/Vargo, Inc., Indianapolis, IN., thirteen windows are designed and in production with an estimated installation in June.

CALL, JOURNEY AND MISSION – LOVE IN ACTION

THE IMAGE

The image depicted above is a close-up photograph of **Stained Glass Window I**, which shows the hand of Christ and a profile of the hand of the artist Brad Butler using an artist's cloth while working on the window. The symbolism of Christ's hand and the artist's hand touching is an example of Brad using his gifts and talents to be **Love in Action** through his work. The image of the completed window (which will be shown in a few weeks) depicts Jesus reaching out his hand to Call our Parish patron St. Philip to do Christ's work. We, like St. Philip and our artist Brad, are **Called** by Christ to **Journey** hand in hand with the Lord and with each other. We are **Called** to live our lives using our gifts

and talents to do Christ's Work by being **Love in Action** in our words and deeds.

THE WINDOWS WILL TELL OUR STORY

The East windows (*parking lot side*) depict the Scriptural events on the journey of our patron, St. Philip. For example, Window 1 shows the **Call** of Philip and his response to his **Mission** of doing the works of Christ. The West windows, (*Valley Road side*) represent the journey of our parish in our mission to be **Love in Action** in Christ's name. The East windows are designed in a traditional style with figures; the West windows are in a more contemporary, symbolic style. Reading from East to West, the story of our **Journey** is told from God's call in the glory of Christ to our fullness of glory in the promise of our heavenly home.

Our Lord is inviting you, as surely as he did St. Philip, to respond to Christ's **Call** to **Journey** with us this Lent through prayer, participation in our theme offerings and through performing **Acts of Love** (Lenten penance) in word and deed.

Reflection Week II

A young woman is visiting the South on a hot humid day. She decides to take refreshment in a little country store. Opening the creaky screen door she sees a huge sign that reads, "Beware of the violent dog at your feet!"

Looking down she sees a gigantic sleeping dog. Quietly she backs away and closes the door. Whispering through the screen she calls to the proprietor, "I'd like to come in – but the dog." "Oh don't worry about him. He's the gentlest and laziest dog you'll ever see. The sign protects him and my customers. He never moves when people come in and they often step on him or fall over him all the time. The sign fixes all that for all of you, come on in!"

In our story the storekeeper provides a sign as a way for people to journey through his store so that all the parties are cared for. Lent is a season in our church when God provides opportunities for our spiritual journey. In order to be refreshed by spiritual renewal we need to participate and to get through the door. Sometimes fear blocks us, sometimes laziness. The good news is that if you are reading this you are already responding to the Lord's call. We need not be afraid of spiritual things because God holds our hand on every step. If we lack motivation or feel lethargic about spiritual things we can jumpstart our enthusiasm by asking God in prayer to inspire us to action. God loves to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves! Come in and seek refreshment and peace through participation in our Lenten Journey. Reach for the hand of the Lord to do Christ's work.

Reflection Questions

1. What fear or anger keeps you from reaching out for the Lord's hand? How is the Lord touching you through your experience, through other people, through circumstances?
2. What sense of boredom or ennui hold you back from prayer, greater participation in church or pursuing your spiritual path with enthusiasm? Discuss this honestly with the Lord. What thoughts or feelings arise in your heart? Share them with the Lord.

**ACTIVITY**  
**LOVE IN ACTION**

Lenten penance is a prayerful way to take actions that remind us of God's **Call** to awaken to God's presence in all things on the **Journey**. Changing our routines and patterns of behavior grab our attention and may focus us on the spiritual dimension (A common penance, for example, giving up some food). This Lent we suggest more positive, proactive Lenten penances called **Acts of Love**. These acts are relationship based and involve honoring the presence of God in each other on the journey through – courtesy, hospitality and responsible stewardship of ourselves, others and our world.

**ACTS OF LOVE FOR LENT**

1. **Prayer:** Tell God honestly your thoughts and feelings in prayer. Ask, 'Ok God, what's the good news?' Being honest with God alone is good news.
2. **Hospitality:** "Welcome others as you would greet Christ." Be hospitable: Make eye contact, Smile, Shake Hands say Hello and Goodbye.
3. **Graciousness:** Recognize the gift in every interaction through polite language: say - Please, Thank you, You're Welcome. These are daily acts of respect and love (and are often neglected over time in relationships).
4. **Stewardship:** Ask prayerfully, Lord, what do I have to offer to this situation – as *Love in Action* – in word or in deed?
5. **Recycling:** Our world is God's gift for which we are responsible. What behaviors of mine need to change that contribute to a cleaner, safer and resource friendly environment for me and others.
6. **Peacemaking:** Blessing those with whom we are not at peace is an Act of Faith in which we trust God to heal us. It does not necessarily change circumstances or other people but opens us to God's grace, *DONA NOBIS PACEM* - GRANT US PEACE. Prayer – "Bless (*PERSON'S NAME*) and transform me to set me free."

**PRAYER CARD ACTIVITY**

This week you will receive a prayer card with the image above on the front side and the prayer below on the reverse side. Pray this prayer daily and both perform and share with the Lord your **LOVE IN ACTION**.

**LENTEN PRAYER**

Here I am Lord,  
Grateful on our journey.  
You give gifts for me to share  
as I hold your people  
in my heart.

Your strong hand  
embraces mine  
in this work of love  
(NAME ACTION OF LOVE)

Through your Spirit,  
you and I together,  
are the gift of  
love in action.      Amen

**SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Bible Study:** Mondays at 11:00 am in the Youth Room
- **"No Greater Love" Lenten Theatrical Presentation:** Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm in Church
- **Meditation Hour:** Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- **Women's Retreat:** Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 am
- **WELCOME HOME: Sacrament of Reconciliation;** Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 pm: Saturdays 4:00 to 5:00 pm
- **Stations of the Cross:** Fridays 7:00 pm in Church
- **Adoration:** March 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Follow the bulletin and website for our parish theme: ***Our Call and Journey. . . Love in Action***

**NO GREATER LOVE**

A THEATRICAL PRESENTATION IN CHURCH  
Presented by The Xavier Company  
**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** at 3:00 pm  
Saint Philip the Apostle Church  
Freewill Donation

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. KEVIN**

Lenten Bible Study Series continues on **Monday, March 2**, at 11 am in the Jubilee Wing Youth Room. (You may enter from St. Philip Drive or walk along the Parish Office). We will be discussing St. John's Gospel.

**RCIA**

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**  
**Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7:00 PM  
in the Russo Room  
Topic is Confirmation

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH  
DINNER DANCE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020**  
7 - 11 pm

**St. Philip Auditorium**

Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage  
Chicken Cacciatore & Italian Desserts  
Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Coffee/Tea  
\$40 per person

Entertainment by The Michael Clarke Band  
Tickets on sale at the Molloy Centre  
Must be 21 years or older to attend



**WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT**



**Sisters Throughout Time**  
Encountering Jesus † Love In Action

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

*Come let your heart be touched by a few valiant, loving women  
who made a difference as Love in Action*

8:30 am - 12:15 pm in Marian Hall

Registration fee: \$10.00 Continental Breakfast included  
Call or email Donna Scancarella: [dscancarella@stphilip.org](mailto:dscancarella@stphilip.org)  
Seating is limited!

## ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PREPARATORY

The students of Saint Philip Prep were hard at work this week preparing for the IOWA exam.

Multicultural Day March 26th and 27<sup>th</sup>: Students will 'visit' countries all around the world that they may never have heard of! From the island of Bermuda in the North Atlantic to the South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga, our students are sure to have many adventures during these two days of crafting, learning, dancing, and feasting! We can't wait!

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Schedule: Grade 1-6 March 15, 29  
Grade 2 March 1, 15, 29  
Grade 7-10 March 1, 29

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISTS needed!** Please call 973-779-1438 or email [reled@stphilip.org](mailto:reled@stphilip.org) for more information.

### MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### ROSARY SOCIETY

**Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** beginning at begin at 6:30 pm with the Rosary followed by Mass in Marian Hall. Please join us -- all are welcome!

#### LEGION OF MARY

Weekly meetings **Mondays 9:45 am** in the Molloy Center.

#### PRIME TIMERS

**Friday, March 6** at 1:00 pm in Marion Hall. Speaker: John Harris, head of Passaic County Veteran Affairs.

Atlantic City Bus Trips: **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>** leave from St. Philip Drive at 9:30 am. Contact Sylvia Musto at 973-742-9286.

Interested in one-day trips or multi-day trips? Contact Mary Jane Decker at 973-684-7340 or [maryjane.decker@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjane.decker@yahoo.com)

#### WIDOW/WIDOWERS

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm in the Molloy Center. Come for prayer, socialization and meeting new friends.

#### SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm in the Russo Room. Please contact Erica Kunzig at 201-452-7972.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meetings are in Marian Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Wednesdays** of the month.

#### COLUMBIETTES

Blanket Ministry - **Thursday, March 5 and 19**, at 9:45 am in the Molloy Center. For questions or donations of yarn or fabric, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265). All crafters are welcome!

#### MARY ELLEN VALENTIN



**INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON BUFFET & TRICKY TRAY** sponsored by St. Philip The Apostle Columbiettes **Sunday, March 22**, 1:00 pm; St. Philip's Auditorium (Doors open @12:30 PM)  
Tickets: Adults: \$25; Children (5-10): \$10.  
For tickets please call Diane @ 973-897-9378.

#### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 7 & MARCH 8, 2020

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

## THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR DOOR COLLECTION

The Little Sisters of the Poor from St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa Collection this weekend, **Feb. 29/Mar. 1**. Please prayerfully consider your support.

### PRAY FOR

**THE DECEASED:** Dan Klein, Wojtek Slezak, Doris McGuire, Trudy Kruk

**THE SICK:** Maya Hilario, Louis Paparella, Eileen Kirchner, Kelly LoPresti, Kate Miller, Sandy Baker, Marge Sirvidio, Elise Krevis, John Herbakowitz, Theresa Evans, Albert Wasmer, Joe Audino, Peter Durso, Cathy Papuzenski, Charles Nisivoccia, Betty Urquhart

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**GN 2:7-9, 3:1-7, ROM 5:12-19 OR 5:12, 17-19, MT 4:1-11**

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020

**8:00** Lawrence Hohmann – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Rudolph W. Heydt III  
**10:00** Andrzej Grochowina  
Eileen Kirchner  
Mary Tillie  
**12:00** All the People of the Parish

#### MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020

**7:00** Patrick Kevin Page  
**9:00** William Lasko – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

**7:00** A. Marie Tarantino  
**9:00** Fred Margo

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

**7:00** George Harkness  
**9:00** Loretta Pennella – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

**7:00** Agnes Grenda  
**9:00** Daniel Doyle

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

**7:00** John F. Gorman  
**9:00** Vincent Blanda

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

**9:00** Veronica Schneider  
**5:30** All the People of the Parish

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

**8:00** John Tolvay  
Joyce Frei  
**10:00** Kathy Hoffmann  
Brian Lipari  
**12:00** Felix Schimpf  
Cecile VanWinkle

### PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 24, 2019	\$17,475.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 23, 2020	
Envelopes	\$13,259.00
Cash	\$ 1,397.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,288.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,944.00</b>
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,494.00