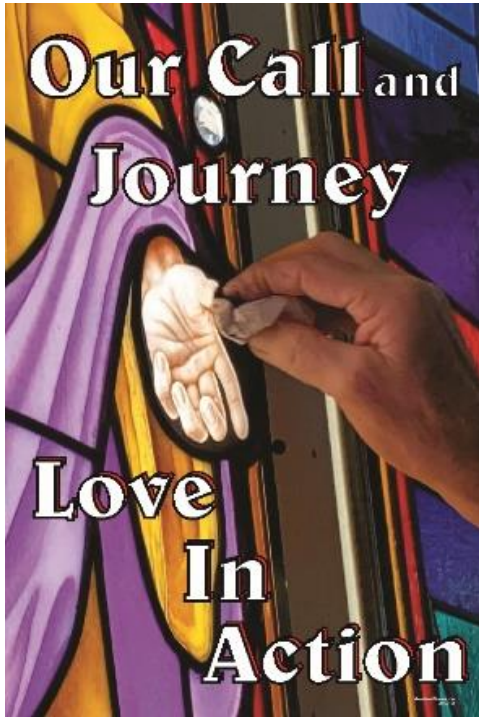


MARCH 8, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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 75th 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.

Reflection on Journey - Week III

Calvin takes his 91-year-old grandmother to have her hair cut, set and shaped. As Granny's chair is twirled around for her to see her new look, the hair stylist says, "Oh, you look ten years younger!" The grandmother wrinkles up her nose at her image in the mirror and sighs. "What's the matter?" they ask her. Granny says, "Who wants to look 81!"

At any age change is inevitable. Part of our human condition is the constant transformation of our bodies, minds, hearts and spirits. Often, we focus on the negative aspects of change particularly aging. I am sure that if asked to reflect on her life, the Granny in the story would be able to list many positive changes in character, in wisdom and in her ability to love and understand for which she could be grateful.

Today's Gospel tells the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. The Transfiguration points to the transformation that we, made in the image and likeness of God, experience through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Our journey in life begins with our creation by God in Glory. Through our lives we grow in love, wisdom and understanding through our joys, sorrows, sacrifice and sufferings. God's power is at work in us as we are forgiven, healed and empowered through Scripture, Sacraments and our Christian community. As we embrace our spiritual selves we can gratefully say, "Here I am Lord, sharing your gifts as I hold your people in my heart." One day through our embrace of the Paschal Mystery we, like Christ, suffer, die and are reborn again in Glory. Our journey is from Glory to Glory. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Reflection on how we are being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ is a central part of our spiritual journey. We examine our conscience to find areas where we may be sinful or in need of God's healing touch. It is also vital to examine our conscience to acknowledge the power of God at work in our life Transfiguring us as we live our lives as Love in Action. Scripture encourages us to reflect on the positive work of God's strong hand embracing us in our works of love.

Scripture Reflection

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is admirable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing these things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in God, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4: 4, 8, 9)

Prayer Practice

Prayerfully place yourself in God's presence. Read carefully the following list of positive character traits. Circle or check the ones that have, do or hopefully will reflect God at work in your mind, heart, spirit and action. Thank God for God's transforming Grace on the journey and ask God for healing and strength to embrace further transformation on your journey from Glory to Glory.

Positive Character Traits

Kind	Generous	Enthusiastic	Responsible
Brave	Honest	Hard-working	Imaginative
Intelligent	Optimistic	Unselfish	Considerate
Helpful	Encouraging	Polite	Careful
Ambitious	Modest	Reliable	Clever
Energetic	Upbeat	Understanding	Confident
Observant	Witty	Compassionate	Insightful
Flexible	Supportive	Organized	Determined
Humorous	Respectful	Caring	Empathetic
Forgiving	Persistent	Sincere	Accepting
Easy-going	Creative	Considerate	Thoughtful
Artistic	Cooperative	Cheerful	Motivated
Courageous	Open-minded	Patient	Reasonable
Outgoing	Independent	Articulate	Dedicated
Focused	Generous	Quiet	Thorough
Positive		(pininterest/bing.it)	

Action

What one action will you take to continue your transformation into the image and likeness of Christ on your journey as Love in Action from Glory to Glory?

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

Prayer cards are available 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
- **Meditation Hour:** Thursday, March 19th at 7 pm
- **Women's Retreat:** Saturday, March 21st 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 28th, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Follow the bulletin and website for our parish theme: ***Our Call and Journey. . . Love in Action***

NEW LITURGICAL PRACTICES TO HALT SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS

Due to the Corona Virus now confirmed in NJ and the International health initiatives to halt its spread the following practices are effective immediately at St. Philip the Apostle Parish:

- Holy Water fonts are empty
- Handshake of peace will be expressed through a bow or wave
- Eucharistic Ministers and clergy will Sanitize hands before and after distribution of Holy Communion
- Communion from the Cup is temporarily discontinued
- Communion reception on the tongue is not an option.

Changing our ceremonial practices may be a challenge to our devotional life and knowing this our Lord will surely supply the grace needed to adapt with open hearts for the greatest good of all of God's people.

For wisdom for all those who work to find solutions for worldwide health issues and for generous, open spirits as we adapt to new practices for public safety, we pray...

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. KEVIN

Monday, March 9 at 11 am in the Jubilee Wing Youth Room.

RCIA

Monday, March 9th at 7:00 PM in the Russo Room

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT



Sisters Throughout Time
Encountering Jesus † Love In Action

Saturday, March 21, 2020

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

Registration fee: \$10.00 - Continental Breakfast included

Please bring a donation of coffee and/or jelly

Call or email Donna Scancarella: dscancarella@stphilip.org

Advance registration is required. Seating is limited!

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PREPARATORY

Students from grades K through 8 worked hard all week taking their Iowa and CogAT exams. The Early Childhood and Elementary school wings partnered up with Intermediate and Middle School classes and celebrated Dr. Seuss and "Read Across America". The entire school is preparing for our annual Multicultural Day celebrations on March 26 and 27th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Schedule: Grade 1-6 March 15, 29

Grade 2 March 15, 29

Grade 7-10 March 29

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHISTS needed! Please call 973-779-1438 or email reled@stphilip.org for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group Meeting: **Sunday, March 15th** at 11 am in the Youth Room. *Welcome the Winner's Circle!*

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

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

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

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

COLUMBIETTETS

Blanket Ministry - **Thursday, March 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!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 11671 **Fish & Chips Fund Raiser Dinner**

Friday, March 20th 5 to 7 pm in the Auditorium.



Eat In or Take Out: Fish, (chicken) crispy fries, coleslaw coffee, tea & dessert including; beer, wine, soda & bottled water. Adults \$17, children 10 & under: \$12.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Will be sold after all Masses **next weekend** or contact:

Mike Cervine (973)220-3095, Rich Donkersloot (973)650-3327 or Mike Andolino (201)953-4724.

K of C Meetings are in Marian Hall on the 1st and 3rd **Wednesdays** of the month.

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 14 & 15, 2020

5:30 PM Fr. Matt 8:00 AM Fr. Kevin

10:00 AM Fr. Matt 12:00 N Fr. Joe

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.

Tickets will be sold after all Masses **next weekend** or please call Diane @ 973-897-9378.

PRAY FOR

THE DECEASED: Betty Urquhart

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, Olive Mickens, Ben Catanese

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

GN 12:1-4a; 2 TM 1:8b-10; MT 17:1-9

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

8:00 John and Ann Tolvay

Joyce Frei

10:00 Kathy Hoffmann

Brian Lipari

12:00 Felix Schimpf

Cecile VanWinkle

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020

7:00 Patrick Kevin Page

9:00 Joseph DiDonna

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

7:00 Elizabeth Hamersma

9:00 Joseph & Ann Jasionowicz

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

7:00 Caroline Mangone

9:00 Carol A. Jackson

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

7:00 Alphonse & Jennie Seiffert Family

9:00 Frank Logioco

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

7:00 Jessie McCormack

9:00 Catherine L. McClane

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

9:00 Mary Shashaty

5:30 Eugene DeBellis – 1st Anniversary

Amelia Rosales

Rosemary Meier

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Deceased members of the Azario Family

Theresa Sondej

Minerva Nunez – 1st Anniversary

12:00 Eric Peterson – 9th Anniversary

Sofia Prieto

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 2, 2019 \$23,743.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 1, 2020

Envelopes \$14,094.00

Cash \$ 1,259.00

Online giving donation \$ 5,885.00

Total \$21,238.00