

MARCH 15, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

**OUR CALL AND JOURNEY - LOVE IN ACTION
DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS**

Our Lenten theme has been re-created to reflect our current world wide health crisis and offers ways to hear God's call during this difficult time on our journey to be love in action.

Reflection Story

The wrung-out mother of a hysterical child sent the following email and social media message to her friends and relatives, "I accidentally threw away my four-year old's favorite candy wrapper. Please keep us both in your thoughts during this difficult time!" (@AKNOTT21/RD.COM11/19) Anyone who knows the overreaction of a 4-year-old to change or when they are confronted with something beyond their control can sympathize with the mom. Honestly, I and possibly you can identify with the 4-year-old's "melting down" especially during this current health crisis. The moment to moment changes in news, answered and unanswered questions, the fact that it is very much beyond our control can cause us more than precautionary anxiety, it can cause panic.

Our spiritual life calls us to journey with God through all situations as love in action. This is the time to recognize God's call to connect more intimately through prayer and to gain a spiritual perspective. Prayer is the key that sets us free from melting down and teaches us to accept with grace what cannot be changed and grants the wisdom for us to change what is within our control. God calls us to journey with the following question in every situation, "Lord, what is the next right or loving thing for me to do?" All other questions about the future are unknowable speculation and can only increase our anxiety and thus paralyze us from making healthy choices for ourselves and others.

Centers for spiritual enhancement and psychological health recommend best practices during times of mass crisis. After studying these recommendations, we have created an acronym made from the word – **ACTION** - from our theme **Love in Action**. The acronym below can be used as a spiritual practice for prayer, reflection and action.

Prayer Practice and Actions of Love

A--- Attune to God

C – Consider others

T – Turn off constant news stream

I – I can make a difference

O – OK, God what's the good news?

N – Now is the time to love

A – Attune to God

Prayer is the key that sets us free from anxiety! Praying, deep breathing, mindfulness, repetitive prayer (Rosary) all reduce obsessing and open us to God's wisdom.

C – Consider others

The spiritual and practical question to ask is, "What is the next right or loving thing to do?" Prayer is the key that sets us free from our own overthinking!

T – Turn off constant news stream

Being informed and being a news junkie are two different things. Plan and decide when and how you will gain your information – stick to your plan.

I – I can make a difference

Ask in prayer, "Who, what, where, when, how can I make a difference for the good of another person?" Prayer is the key that sets us free from asking the unanswerable why.

O – OK, God what's the good news?

Looking for good news in prayer is the way to transform our thoughts and feelings. Sometimes the good news is the inner peace experienced just because God is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. Gratitude lists are a healthy way to discover the light of Christ in darkness.

N – Now is the time to love

Now is the time to discover God's love and power which does for us what we find impossible to do for ourselves. Now is the time to love others and to refrain from us/them thinking, we are all God's people, we are all brothers and sisters. Now is the time we love ourselves and be set free through the self-care of prayer.

The Choice is Ours

The health crisis is like a lost candy wrapper – what is done is done. We have a choice to become unwrapped ourselves or to turn to prayer as the key to set us free. Help us, Lord, to hear your Call to choose order in chaos, faith over fear and love in action on this challenging part of our Journey from Glory to Glory. Amen.

Key Communication

The best practices listed below follow the recommendations made by health officials at the time of the writing of this article. Should public gatherings such as Mass be suspended, we will send links to televise the Eucharist and other liturgical services. Therefore, a card will be distributed asking for your email this weekend so that we can keep in touch. You can also provide your information at: stphilip.org/com-key

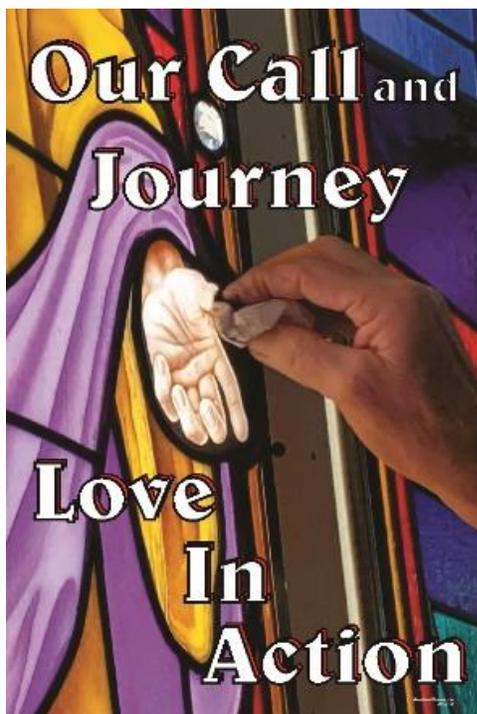
NEW LITURGICAL PRACTICES TO HALT SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS

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...



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.

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***

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. KEVIN

Mondays at 11 am in the Jubilee Wing Youth Room.

RCIA

Monday, March 16th at 7:00 PM in the **Youth Room**

MEDITATION

Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 PM in Church
Please join us for prayer, guided meditation and reflection.

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

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

Registration fee: \$10.00 - Continental Breakfast included

Please bring a donation of coffee and/or jelly

which will be given to Hope House Food Pantry

Advance registration is required. Seating is limited!

Call or email Donna Scancarella: 201-321-4376 or

dscancarella@stphilip.org

Don't miss this wonderful event!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Exposition: 11:00 am

Reflection: 12:00 N

Benediction: 12:45 pm

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PREPARATORY

All St. Philip Prep students are happy to be returning to their normal schedules, now that testing week is over. All classes are working hard planning and creating their invasions for Multicultural Day.

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

COLUMBIETTES

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

THIS EVENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE

Knights of Columbus March 18th meeting postponed.

MARY ELLEN VALENTIN

INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON BUFFET & TRICKY TRAY

Sunday, March 22, 1:00 pm

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

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

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 21 & 22, 2020

5:30 PM Fr. Joe 8:00 AM Fr. Kevin
10:00 AM Fr. Matt 12:00 N Fr. Matt
Fr. Joe preaching at all masses

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

Last weekend, our door collection totaled over \$4,000.00. We also are very grateful for the Scout's breakfast after the 8:00 AM Mass. May the good Lord bless you all, especially during this intense season of Lent and Easter.

PRAY FOR

THE DECEASED: Vincent Caragliano, Vojko Lenac,

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 Nisiovocia, Olive Mickens, Ben Catanese

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

EX 17:3-7; ROM 5:1-2, 5-8; JN 4:5-52

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

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

7:00 Mary Roszkowski
9:00 Daniel Neczeper

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

7:00 Michael Behan
9:00 Hughes & McDonald Family
Peter Kenny – 3rd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

7:00 Judy Castiglia
9:00 Anne A. Lipari

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

7:00 Fred Cheon
9:00 Joseph & Francestisek Krizek

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

7:00 Catherine Catonese
9:00 Tom Gorman

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

9:00 Giuseppe & Adriana Castaldo
5:30 Mary Farkas- 10th Anniversary
Antonia Bussanich
Betty Urquhart

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

8:00 Marion A. Kankowski
10:00 Stanley J. Makowski
Jose Manuel & AnnaMaria Alves
Pietro & Felicia Mannarino
12:00 All the People of the Parish

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 10, 2019	\$18,709.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 8, 2020	
Envelopes	\$12,281.00
Cash	\$ 1,305.00
Online giving donation	\$ 6,374.00
Total	\$19,960.00
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,565.00