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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013
www.stphilip.org ~ (973) 779-6200



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 16, 2022



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening 5:30 PM
Sunday..... 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Broadcast) & 12:00 PM
Mondays thru Saturdays..... 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 4:30 to 5:00 PM

Please telephone the Parish Office
if you would like a priest to visit you
or a family member at home
or in the hospital.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

One of the ways to read today's gospel of the wedding at Cana is to see it as a model for prayer. We often ask God in prayer for what we need, and in today's gospel, Mary asks Jesus for what she needs. Therefore, I believe it would be wise for us to follow the way that Mary's request plays out.

But to do this, we must start at the beginning. The first line of today's gospel is, "There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding." This opening of the gospel implies that Mary was at the wedding before Jesus and his disciples arrived and perhaps before any of the guests arrived. It is possible that the young couple to be married had asked Mary to coordinate the celebration of their wedding, to serve as a kind of wedding planner so that all the bases were covered. And all the bases were covered until the wine ran out.

Now, the story doesn't tell us why the wine ran out, although some have suggested that the twelve thirsty fishermen that Jesus brought with him drank a lot more than anyone had expected. But when the wine did run out, it was possible that Mary saw it as her responsibility, as her need to make things right. So, she turns to Jesus and says, "They have no wine." Just as we ask what we need from God, in this story, Mary asks what she needs from Jesus.

Two surprises flow from Mary's request. The first surprise is Jesus' response. We would expect that Jesus would be deferential and helpful towards his mother, but this is not the case. Jesus says to her, "Woman, how does this concern of yours affect me?" There is no indication in Jesus' response that he has any intention of helping his mother. That is the first surprise. The second surprise comes from Mary. She moves ahead as if Jesus is going to help. She tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." So, the pattern of this story is this: Mary asks Jesus for help. He says no. And Mary moves ahead as if he said yes. Why would she do this? Mary understands

what is in Jesus' heart. She understands that he loves her and loves the young married couple. Therefore, although it seems that he has said no, Mary is confident that he will say yes.

This experience of Mary is a helpful model for us as we turn to God for what we need. There are a lot of things we need in our life. Maybe we need a job. Maybe we need a cure for a sickness or peace in our family. So, we turn to God and ask God to help us. But sometimes it seems that God is not interested in helping us. Sometimes things stay the same or get worse. Instead of an encouraging answer, we are faced with a deafening silence. Sometimes when we ask God for help, it seems that God says, "No."

It is then that we should follow the example of Mary. It is then that we should look beyond what seems like a negative response and move forward, confident that God will act. Like Mary, we should remember what is in God's heart. We should remind ourselves that God loves us and loves all the people in our lives who we love. Because of God's love we move forward, convinced that God will do something, and that something will be for our good.

Jesus, of course, did do something at Cana, and there was wine for everyone. But that would not have happened had not Mary moved forward in faith and told the servants to do whatever he told them. So, pray. And when God says "No," move forward in the confidence that God will say, "Yes."

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The faculty, staff, and students at St. Philip Prep are beginning the new year with their characteristic enthusiasm, positive attitudes, and diligence. There is still time for many lessons before midterm exams, which are set for late January.

The second-grade students have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation after many weeks of preparation. The first-grade students have just, this past week, completed a study on The Feast of the Epiphany.



In intermediate science, students are learning about the systems of the body. They made models of how muscles work together with bones to allow us to move. They also made models of nephrons, which are essential for blood filtration. Additionally, some students made model lungs.



In writing class, students are hard at work on their Writers' Cafe Project.



Students work all year on their project, which culminates in a published copy of their creative writing efforts.

The middle school religion classes are studying the beatitudes and interpreting each beatitude as it applies to their own life. Thoughtful and charming illustrations have accompanied each student's beatitude rendition.



Seventh grade literature students completed illustrated character analyses of the characters in Dickens's A Christmas Carol.



Re-Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year for all current St. Philip families begins January 17th through January 28th and ongoing.

Applications for new families will begin January 31, 2022.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The January meeting of the Widow and Widowers Group originally scheduled for Monday, January 10th has been **postponed**. Our next meeting will be February 14th at 2 PM in the Molloy Center.

PRIME TIMERS

The next meeting of the Prime Timers will be Friday, February 4th at 1 PM.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Free Throw Contest

Attention St. Philip's students. The K of C annual Basketball Free Throw contest will be held in the Gym on January 29th. This is open to all boys and girls ages 9 to 14. Registration forms will be made available shortly in the school office.



PARISH NEWS

MASS for LIFE

Bishop Sweeney will celebrate the 9 AM daily Mass on January 22nd, 2022, followed by a Holy Hour for greater reverence for human life from conception to natural death.



Prayerful Remembrance

On Monday, January 24th, 2022, the 9 AM daily Mass, will be said for **Sr. Rene Donohue** on the 10th year anniversary of her death.

DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

2021 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

"Let Your Light Shine"

If you have received a final request from Bishop Sweeney asking for your support of the 2021 Diocesan Ministries Appeal, please respond as your means permit. There is still time to do so since the 2021 Appeal funds are used to support ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2022. Every gift is important so whatever you can do is a blessing. Please respond today. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.2021appeal.org.

May God bless you for your generosity!

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 10, 2020 \$16,989.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 9, 2021

Weekly Collection \$ 8,871.00

Online Giving Donation \$ 7,389.00

Total \$ 16,260.00

Second Collection: Project Faith \$ 1,744.00

Christmas Collection 2021 YTD \$ 75,190.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

January 16th Beacon

This collection helps to offset the paper to the Parish.

January 23rd Project Faith

Our second collection is for Project Faith. This is to provide resources for diocesan ministry, religious education, parish family life and social services.

WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...

Kathleen O'Neill, Deacon Henry Gallo, Nelson Arteaga, Ronald W. Mack

A Time to be Healed...

Luca Ataide, Jennifer Rascher,
Susan Stierlen, Mary Grace Heyrich,
Debbie Werthmann, John Riccardi



PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Jared

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

8:00 AM Fr. Monteleone

10:00 AM Fr. Nico

12:00 PM Fr. Kevin

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

8:00 Helen Lacko & Amelia Rosales
- 2nd Anniversary

10:00 Rafael Navarro
Charles Elbert
James Scancarella
Maura Loor - 7th Anniversary

12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022

9:00 Judith May Gioia

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

9:00 Mary Elizabeth Rahalski

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

9:00 Susan Sadvary - 17th Anniversary

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

9:00 Rizaldy Quintos

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

9:00 Dario Palacio

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

9:00 Adam Marzano

5:30 All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

8:00 Dot Cervine - 1st Anniversary

10:00 Karen Lanza
Mary Chiarella

Stephen Salerno

12:00 Luke William Greco

Joseph Payne



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