

Second Sunday of Lent

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security, and as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

POPE FRANCIS



**Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving**

Saint Philip the Apostle Parish

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

There is no doubt that today's gospel involves light, overwhelming light, glorious light. Jesus' garments become white with a brightness that dazzles the disciples. And yet, it is also clear that for all this light, the apostles do not see. Even though Jesus stands before them in glory, they do not understand. The brightness of the light leads not to faith, but to terror. Peter wants to set up three tents, but he does not understand what he is saying. And after the whole experience is completed, the disciples say nothing to anyone—hardly the sign of confident believers. Light does not necessarily lead to faith. Many things can be illumined but none of them force us to believe. Faith is a gift from God and a gift that we must choose to accept. Two people can see the same thing and come to two very different conclusions. For all the brightness of the light, faith is never inevitable.

Over three hundred years ago the French philosopher, Blaise Pascal, wrote: **In faith there is enough light for those who wish to believe and enough shadow to blind those who do not.** More recently, a comedian said, put it this way: *At the beginning of all things, there was nothing, absolutely nothing, and then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. There was still nothing, but you could see it a lot better.*

Light is one thing, faith is another. The question that stands before us is what will we do with the light which God gives? What shall we see? The gospel points to what we should be looking for: the presence of God in our lives and in our world. At the heart of the gospel is the conviction that our God is not absent, is not idle, but active. Through the resurrection of Jesus, God is working to establish a kingdom, a kingdom of justice, of peace and of love. We believe that that kingdom is being established through God's power and through our cooperation. Believers are always on the look-out to see signs of that kingdom, signs of God's presence in our world. Because Christians are looking for those signs, their lives are characterized by joy and hope.

Christians are a joyful people because each time that we see a sign of God's presence, we rejoice. Each time medical science takes another step towards conquering a terrible disease, we rejoice because we recognize that it is God's action and power directing that development. Each time warring nations put down their arms and establish peace, we celebrate because we see that action as one step closer to God's kingdom. Every time that we survive a

difficult period in our marriage, recognize a family member has moved towards reconciliation, or learn that our child or our grandchild is born healthy and safe, we celebrate. We see in all these events the signs of God establishing the kingdom. Christians are people of joy.

We are also people of hope, because when evil strikes, we do not give up. When innocent children die of a terrible disease, when thousands of people are killed in war, when greed and selfishness characterize our culture, we do not stop believing that God is present. Instead, we hope that God is active in a way that we cannot yet perceive. All these evils that are present in our world do not lead us to despair but to action. We give our energies towards building a more peaceful and just world. When someone we love is struck with cancer, when our marriage ends, when someone we trust betrays us, we continue to hope that God will still save us. We look forward to a future in which God's action and love will become clear.

Other people will look at the blessings of life and the heartbreaks of life and interpret them differently. It is only with the gift of faith and our willingness to accept it that we can see God's action among us. This morning we are surrounded by God's light, the same light that illumined the disciples on the mount of the transfiguration. Let us open our eyes, not to be blinded, but to see—to see God's presence here among us and in the events of our world and then to live as Christ's disciples in the joy and in the hope that only faith can.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

LENTEN SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Beginning Friday, March 11th, there will be an added 7 AM Mass ONLY on Fridays of Lent.

Holy Hour is every Friday following 9 AM Mass.

Stations of the Cross is every Friday of Lent at 7 PM in Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 4:30 to 5:00 PM and every Monday of Lent from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Church.

LENTEN SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES Cont'd

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study sessions will take place on Mondays throughout Lent in the Jubilee Wing Room of the Molloy Center at 11 AM. Fr. Monteleone will lead the discussion on the variations of the Passion of Christ in the gospels.

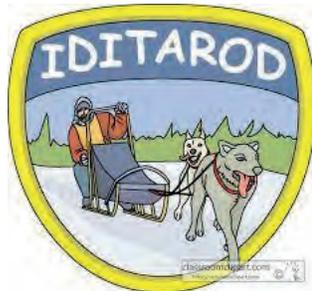
DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITY

Dr. James C. Pauley will be holding a free online event for catechists and parents on Wednesday, March 23rd from 7:30 to 8:30 PM entitled Helping others encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. More details can be found at <https://www.insidethewalls.org/zoom>

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

With Spring just around the corner, students in St. Philip's Kaleidoscope Gifted Program have been busy...

Students in Little Kaleidoscope second grade reading are keeping track of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Alaska. They are using their computers to watch live updates and record daily events in their books they are making about the race. Students have been learning about the mushers and their dogs. They have been reading how the mushers and the dogs train and prepare for this adventure.



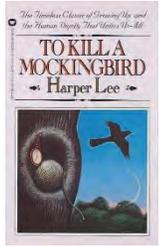
The third-grade students in Little Kaleidoscope reading have presented the cupboards that they made during the last two months. The students wrote how to make a cupboard book. The cupboard project taught the students many different skills. Students had to use time management skills and long-range planning to meet all the deadlines. They researched and brainstormed the different materials and supplies they would use to make a cupboard. The students improved their technology skills by submitting videos and pictures of their progress in making their cupboards. Their how-to-books were completed on Google Docs.

The fifth grade Kaleidoscope math students have refined their graphing skills by rotating, reflecting, and translating geometric shapes. Students then created their own three-dimensional quilt pattern to review all the transformations.



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL Cont'd

In seventh grade Kaleidoscope reading, the students have been reading Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and researching the civil rights movement and the Great Depression and how the novel ties in with these important topics.



The eighth grade Kaleidoscope reading students have been focused on researching the significance and legacy of the Salem Witch Trials and the historical context behind them.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

ROSARY

The next meeting of the Rosary Society will be held on Monday, **March 14th in Marian Hall**. The meeting will begin with Mass and the Rosary at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Widow and Widowers Group will meet on Monday, March 14th at 2 PM in the Molloy Center. Join us for prayers, socialization and meeting new friends. All are welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fish & Chips Dinner

Sunday, March 27th from 1 PM to 4 PM.

Tickets: \$15-Adults, \$8-children under 10. Eat-in or take-out Fish (or chicken) chips, coleslaw, coffee, tea, and dessert included. Soda, beer, and wine are available (beer and wine not for take-out).

All tickets must be purchased by Thursday, March 24th. All sales are final. No returns or refunds unless event is cancelled.

Tickets are available at <https://knights-of-columbus-11671.square.site/> using the QR code below.



You may also call Mike Cervine at (973) 220-3095, Rich Donkersloot at (973) 650-3327, or Mike Andolino at (201) 953-4724. You will receive a confirmation email of your purchase.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES Cont'd

COLUMBIETTES

Blanket Ministry

The next meetings will be Thursday, March 17th at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! For questions or fabric or yarn donations, please call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

NEWLY BAPTIZED



Dylan and Nova

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 7, 2021	\$19,474.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 6, 2022	
Weekly Collection	\$ 14,648.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,028.00
Total	\$20,676.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,177.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

March 13 - Project Faith

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

March 20 - Campaign for Human Development

Support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and help break the cycle of poverty in the United States

WE PRAY FOR...

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

John Lyons

A Time to be Healed...

Luca Ataide, Jennifer Rascher,
Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa,
Mary Grace Heyrich, John Riccardi,
Debbie Werthmann, Edward Kovacs,
Sylvia Shami, Raymond Fitzpartick



PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Monteleone

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

8:00 AM Fr. Nico

10:00 AM Fr. Kevin

12:00 PM Fr. Nico

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Manuel Moran

Sean Hughes

Eric Peterson

Narendra Lade

12:00 Catherine L. McClane

Joseph Payne

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

9:00 Mary Shashaty

Eleanor Orson

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

9:00 Daniel Mutter - 5th Anniversary

Al Marrero

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

9:00 Jean Paternoster

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

9:00 Thomas and Thelma Reck

Sean Hughes

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022

7:00 Lanita Gonzales Ramos

9:00 Thomas Reck

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

9:00 Josef and Frantiska Krizek

5:30 Anne Lipari

James Scancarella

Michele Cuomo

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

8:00 Barbara Dujets

Dominic Terrone

10:00 Susan Spies

Marcia A. Puluse

Eugene DeBellis - 3rd Anniversary

Elaine Cipolla - 1st Anniversary

12:00 All the People of the Parish

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