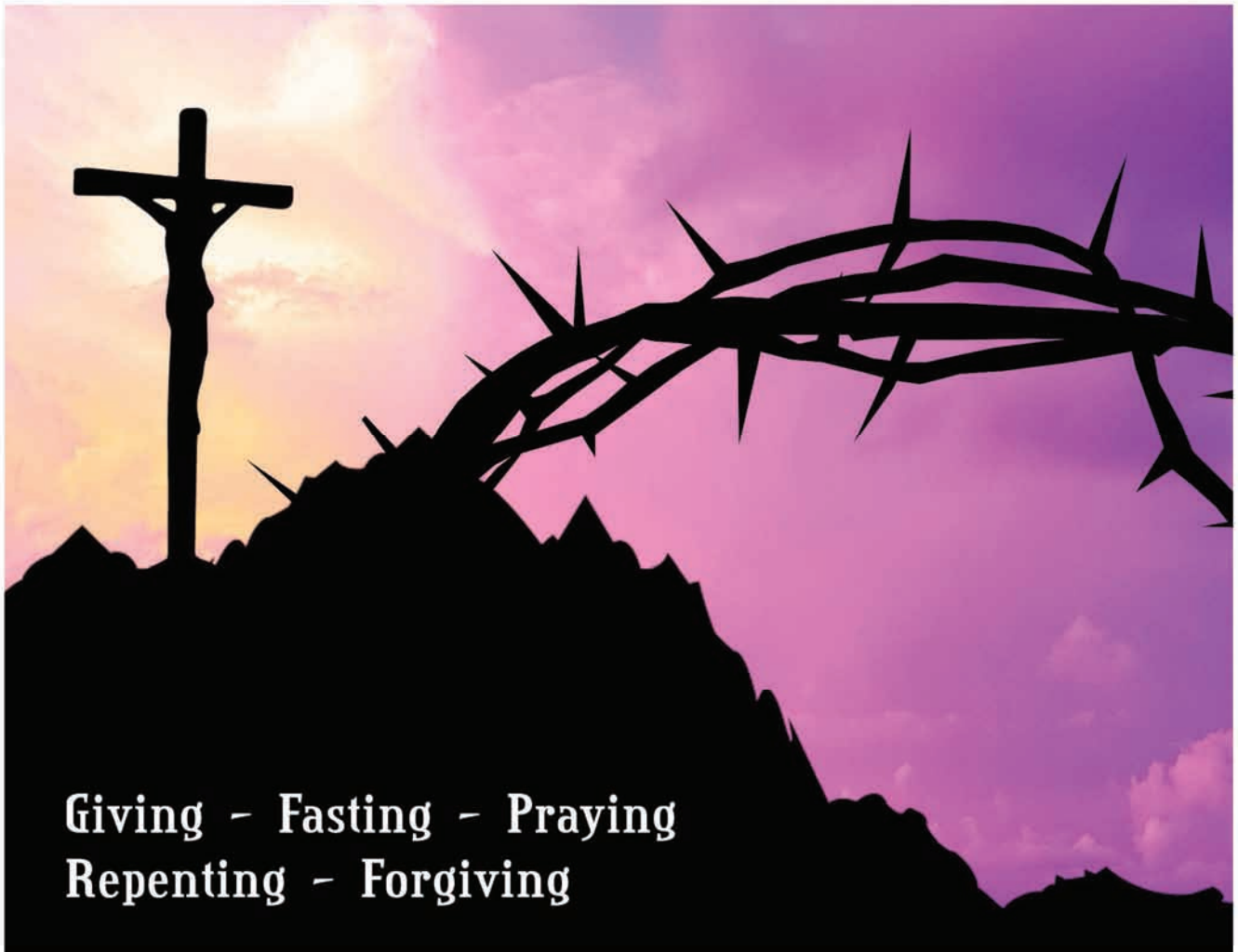


Fifth Sunday of Lent

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

POPE FRANCIS



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

There was a wise Persian king who had four sons. The king saw that his chief responsibility was to make sure that his sons grew up with wisdom knowing how to live. So, one winter day he said to eldest son, "Look I own a farm in the next village and in that farm, there is a huge mango tree. It costs me a great deal to maintain it. I want you to go and examine this tree and make a judgment whether is worth the investment. I plan to ask your brothers to do the same." So, the eldest son went and looked at the tree. When spring came the king sent his second son. He sent his third son in summer and his youngest son in the fall. Then he called the boys together to make their judgment. The eldest son spoke first, "Father," he said, "this tree is nothing more than a barren stump, I would cut it down." The second son had a different opinion, "Father," he said, "the tree is covered with many luxurious leaves and produces much shade, but you would have to weigh whether the shade that is produced is worth the cost of maintenance." The third son fundamentally agreed with his brother, "I saw beautiful flowers on the tree as well but father you will have to decide whether you plan to visit this tree and enjoy the flowers. If you choose not to do this, it is not worth the cost of maintenance." But the youngest son disagreed strongly with his brothers. "Father," he said, "I have never seen such huge and luxurious fruit on any tree. It would bring a fortune in the marketplace. I say this tree must be maintained no matter what the cost." The father was satisfied and smiled, "Each of you is correct, for each of you saw the tree at a different time. The lesson is clear – if you wish to be wise, you should withhold your judgment until you have seen the tree in all its seasons."



This story relates to the Gospel because today's passage is about judgments and how we make them. The people around Jesus were quick and ready to judge the woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They saw her as a sinner, and they said she should be punished. Their judgment was correct, and Jesus did not debate it. But without excusing her sin Jesus chose to see the woman in a larger context. He could imagine her in a different season, in a season that was different from the barren and sinful season in which she now stood. He could imagine her in a season that was productive and full of life. Jesus challenged his listeners and challenges us to give the woman another chance, to suspend judgment in light of another season which could produce much fruit.

This larger vision of Jesus supports his frequent teaching that we should not judge others. He tells us that we should not judge because our judgments are incorrect but because they are often incomplete. There are many seasons to every person's life. In light of the better seasons the wise person refrains from judging and making a final judgment today.

Now there is a caveat that comes with Jesus' teaching. When he tells us that we are not to judge others he does not mean that we are to let others take advantage of us. We must make judgments to protect ourselves from those who would manipulate us or abuse us. We must make judgments to protect ourselves and those that we love from those who would harm us because of their selfishness or dysfunction. To make such judgments is not only good but necessary. But when Jesus calls us not to judge others, he asks us not to make a final judgment. We should not be too quick to write off those whom we dislike or those with whose ideas and actions we disagree. Even though we know others are wrong dead wrong, even when we are convinced that there is no way we can condone their actions, Jesus nevertheless says that we should postpone final judgment in light of the better seasons that might be produced in their lives, in light of the better people that they might someday become.

This teaching is not easy. All of us can think of people whom we are ready to judge, people that we would be quick to reject. How do we find the strength to withhold final judgment? Jesus shows us the way. In today's Gospel when others were ready and willing to pass final judgment on the woman who was caught in adultery, he asks them to think of their weakness, to think of their sins. Jesus says anyone here who is without sin should be the first to cast a stone at her. In the same way when we are filled with anger and righteousness and ready to judge another, Jesus asks us to think of our worst season. Then we should remember the time when we messed up the most, when we acted with deep selfishness, when we hurt someone unjustly. Jesus knows that if we remember our worst season, it may give us the freedom not to judge someone in their worst season. When we remember our weakness and sin, we might find the freedom to accept another considering the better person they have the potential to become.

Jesus tells us that it is not our role to judge another. This is not because our judgment would be incorrect, but because it would be incomplete. Once we have taken steps to protect ourselves and those we love from harm, it is not our role to condemn anyone. Instead, we are asked to entrust others to God's care, hoping that what is wrong in their life might change and what is barren in their life might in time product fruit.

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

There is an added 7 AM Mass 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.**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2022

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 9

4:30 PM Confessions

5:30 PM Mass

Sunday, April 10

8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast), 12 PM

Holy Monday

April 11

9 AM Mass

Holy Tuesday

April 12

9 AM Mass

Holy Wednesday

April 13

9 AM Mass

TRIDUUM 2022

Holy Thursday

April 14

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper (Broadcast)
8:30 PM to MIDNIGHT Eucharistic Adoration in the
Auditorium

Good Friday

April 15

3 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

April 16

1 PM Easter Food Blessing
8 PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

April 17

8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast), 12 PM

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study sessions take place on Mondays of Lent in the
Jubilee Wing Room of the Molloy Center.

On Monday, April 4th, we will meet at **11:30 AM**.

Fr. Monteleone leads the discussion on the variations of the
Passion of Christ in the gospels.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

There are a lot of great things happening at Saint
Philip Prep! Our students are excitingly
waiting for the final results of our Dr. Seuss
March Madness. The Championship is
between The Lorax and How the Grinch Stole
Christmas. Our students have been enjoying
this process. It gives them the chance to revisit
the books they know and love! Who do you
think will be our winner?



As we continue to have
fun and enjoy the days here at
school, we gather every Monday at
the Stations of the Cross,
and this past Monday, most of our students went to clear their
hearts of their sins at Confession. This time we were joined by
our second graders that just went through their first Holy
Communion.

It is so special to be able to share this season of Lent with one
another as we wait for the resurrection of Jesus.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



St. Philip Prep students
in conjunction with our
Religious Education
and Confirmation
students held a snack
collection to benefit
Eva's Village in
Paterson.



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling Palm Crosses
before and after Masses the weekend of
April 2-3 & 9-10, 2022. The Palm Cross price is
\$14 and can be paid by cash, check, or
Venmo. For pre-orders or more information
please call Phil Jakimowicz at (973) 723-6111.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Thank You

A sincere thank you to all parishioners, family, and friends who
attended our Fish Fry on Sunday, March 27th. It was a great
success and a wonderful time to once again share some good
food and conversation with those we have not been able to
socialize with for a while.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES Cont'd

Msgr. Doody Scholarship Beefsteak Dinner

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23rd at 7 PM in the Auditorium. This event benefits St. Philip Prep School students. This year, Msgr. Doody will be returning so we at St. Philip's can congratulate him on his now 51 years since Ordination. Ticketing information is below. Chicken alternative available if pre-requested. Tickets - \$40

All tickets must be purchased by Thursday April 21st. All sales are final. No returns or refunds unless event is cancelled.

Tickets available* at <https://knights-of-columbus-11671.square.site/>

or by using this QR code.

Call Carlos Roco (973) 557-1716, Don DeLuca (973) 779-6200 Ext. 303 or Mike Cervine (973) 220-3095

You will receive a confirmation email of your purchase.



COLUMBIETTES

Morning of Reflection

The Columbiettes will be hosting a Morning of Reflection on Saturday, April 30th, 2022. The morning begins with 9 AM Mass in the Church followed by a continental breakfast in Marian Hall. Rev. Jared Brogan, Director of the Office of Worship, will be speaking on the Holy Eucharist. Tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made by calling (973) 471-1265. All are welcome!

Columbiette Blanket Ministry

The next meetings will be Thursday, April 7 & 21, 2022 at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We are making baby blankets and hats. For yarn and fabric donations or more information, please call Cathie Murtha (973) 471-1265

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Anthony Gaetano

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 28, 2021	\$ 14,687.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 27, 2022	
Weekly Collection	\$ 12,623.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,914.00
Total	\$ 19,537.00
Second Collection -Project Faith	\$ 2,090.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

April 3 - Beacon

This collection helps to offset the paper to the Parish

April 10 - Ukrainian Relief

This collection will go towards Caritas International and the Archeparchy of Philadelphia for their Humanitarian Aid fund for Ukraine

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Jared

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

8:00 AM Fr. Kevin

10:00 AM Fr. Monteleone

12:00 PM Fr. Nico

WE PRAY FOR...

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

Mary Grace Strobino

A Time to be Healed...

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Debbie Werthmann, Sylvia Shami, Edward Kovacs, Dominick Cappello, Raymond Fitzpartick, Todd Daigneault, Cheri Albanesi, George Heyrich, James Jablonowski, Elmer Rodriguez, Michele Bellisano

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Kimberley/DeBiasi Families
Mauro D'Alto - 12th Anniversary
William Sim
Josephine Madronal

12:00 For all the Unborn and their Families

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

9:00 For the health and well-being of Dominic Cappello

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

9:00 For the health and well-being of Fr. Fred Walters

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

9:00 C. Mildred Petaccio - 37th Anniversary

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

9:00 Michele Monteleone

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

7:00 Debi O'Neill

9:00 Priscilla D. Caparaz
Richard and Dorothy Piechocki

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

9:00 Rogelio Dela Cruz

5:30 Salvatore Capriglione
Sean Hughes

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

8:00 Johny Rios

10:00 Mario Velasco Sanz
Barbara Palatella
James Scancarella
Arthur W. Feuerstein

12:00 All the People of the Parish

CANDLE THE WEEK OF APRIL 3rd

In memory of Mauro D'Alto

- From your wife, Anna.



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