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Mr. John Hughes
Lay Trustee



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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 9, 2022



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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

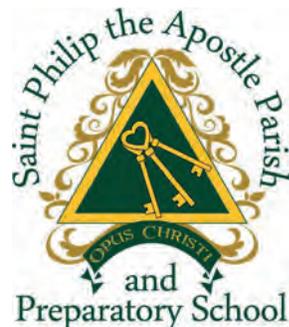
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 4:30 to 5:00 PM

HOLY HOUR

Every Friday9:30 to 10:30 AM

For a Communion visit and/or
Anointing of the Sick,
please contact the Parish office.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

We all have expectations – some idea of what is *likely* and what is *unlikely* for our lives. Jesus met ten men with no expectations of anything good. He transformed all their lives and especially one of those men.

First, there was a meeting with the least likely.

No-one stopped and talked with lepers. People were afraid. Getting leprosy meant losing your work, becoming a social outcast, and suffering a health condition that was miserable and eventually life-threatening. These ten lepers knew that. They had no reason to think Jesus would stop, and all they could risk doing was calling to him from a distance. Normally no-one came near to lepers. It wasn't wise even to talk with them. Jesus broke convention and best advice.

He *did* talk with them. He took time, came close, and got involved with the least likely people. No-one was beyond his compassion, his reach, his care.

That is still true. Nothing – really nothing – about our lives repels Jesus. Even if everyone else shuns us, Jesus does not. We may think we are the least likely people Jesus would want, but the least likely are exactly those he does want.

Second, hope and healing are given to the least likely.

Hope is a marvelous gift. Those who are struggling with life need to know there are better times ahead, to believe there is a light at the end of their tunnel and that they will emerge stronger and able to pick life up again. The sick, the heart-broken, those who are depressed, those who are lonely – they need hope.

Hope is what Jesus gave those lepers. “Go, and show yourselves to the priests,” he told them. There is only one reason why they would do that: because according to ancient Levitical law a priest could pronounce them clean.

I imagine them looking at each other and maybe at their own skin. The weeping sores, the wounds, all still there. But Jesus was saying “Go show yourselves to the priests.” Was it possible, could it be, that healing was *coming*? Those lepers surged with hope, and off they went.

And that is when the healing came. While they were on the way everything changed. The sores healed. The wounds closed over. Their skin was made perfect. They looked good, and for the first time in years they felt strong, fit, and whole. “As they went, they were cleansed.”

This story does *not* mean we should ever pretend something is true when it isn't. God calls us to faith but not unreality. It *does* mean we accept what God gives us now, but with hope for something even more wonderful ahead. Hope rose in these lepers enough that they set off to show themselves to the priests, and the complete healing came while they travelled. They went, and they were healed.

Sometimes the pain of life, the defeats, the knockdowns, the weariness sap all our energy and optimism. We become imprisoned in our own disappointments. ‘Nothing good will ever happen for me,’ we decide, and we give up believing our lives can be different. Not for us. It's so unlikely.

Jesus meets with the unlikely. And to them, the least likely, he gives wonderful gifts and a great future. There *is* hope.

Third, gratitude comes from the one least likely.

Among this group of lepers, some were Jews, and some were Samaritans. Jews and Samaritans would not normally be together, but their differences were secondary because they were all lepers. They needed each other to get by, and that overcame their natural dislike.

Only one came back to fall at Jesus' feet and thank him. It had to be a Jew. But it wasn't. The one who returned, praising God, and pouring out his gratitude to Jesus, was a Samaritan.

“Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” asked Jesus. Yes, ten were made well but only one came back, and that one was a Samaritan. The one least likely was the only one to return.

Probably the other nine were in a rush for the priests to authenticate their healing, and then get back to their villages, to their families, and to their livelihoods. There's nothing wrong with those ambitions.

But they forgot Jesus. He had healed them. They knew that. Somewhere deep down they were grateful, but they had what they needed and never thought to return and thank him.

They're like children, ripping open their birthday or Christmas gift, and then, caught up in the excitement of that new dress, new toy, new gadget, there's no thanks. Absorbed in the gift and forgetting the giver.

Every day in this life God gives us good things. If we miss the giver, we miss the very best thing about the gift.

Fourth, the ultimate healing is given to the least likely.

All ten were made well. But the one who came back got more. He praised God and threw himself at Jesus' feet. It was gratitude, it was worship, it was devotion. And Jesus said: “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

All ten had been ‘cleansed’ but this man had been made ‘well.’ That word ‘well’ in Greek is *sesōken*, and it has a broader and deeper meaning than ‘cleansed’. All of them had been made well on the outside, but the one who returned was also made well on the inside. They all had healing, but he had faith and he was truly well. Lacking in expectations, least likely to have his life changed that day – the Samaritan did not just have healing; he had salvation.

God pours His blessings on this world. Those blessings can be the basics of rain, food, shelter, friends. It can be wonderful things of love, fulfillment, peace, security. They are showered on this world, and we gladly accept those gifts.

We don't all recognize the giver. None of us deserve God's love, God's gifts, God's salvation. We are all among the least likely to be blessed. But *we are* blessed, and for those who come to God and give thanks, who worship and devote our lives to him, there is the deeper, richer gift of a completely healed life and the promise of eternity with our Lord.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the blessing of animals will take place on **Sunday, October 9th at 1:30 PM** at the St. Anthony Shrine, next to the parking lot.

In observance of **Columbus Day**, MASS will be celebrated at 9 AM on Monday, October 10th. The Church will be closed on immediately following Mass. The PARISH OFFICE will be closed.

BIBLE STUDY with FR. KEVIN

Fr. Kevin's Bible study meetings will resume on Monday, **October 17 at 11 AM** in the Jubilee Wing of the Molloy Center. The sessions will be for 8 weeks ending on December 5. We will discuss St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. All are welcome!

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

ROSARY RALLY

On Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 4 PM, thousands of Catholics across the Nation and in more than 50 countries will join to pray the Rosary simultaneously for peace and for our Nation and the world. The New Jersey Area of the Order of Malta in coordination with Rosary Coast to Coast invites all Catholics to unite in praying Mary's most powerful weapon, The Rosary.

ROSARY RALLY FOR OUR NATION

Sunday, October 9, 2022

3 to 4:30 PM

St. Paul Inside the Walls

205 Madison Avenue, Madison

We are honored to have Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney deliver the Invocation and lead us in a mile-long Eucharistic procession from the grounds of St. Paul Inside the Walls to St. Thomas More Church, Convent Station to pray the Glorious Mysteries.

❖ Can't join us to process? Meet us at St. Thomas More (4 Convent Road, Convent Station) at 3:30 PM for Adoration. Please bring a folding chair.

❖ Event will occur rain or shine

Event specifics: <http://orderofmaltaamerican.org/njrosary>

Sign up on Facebook: NJ Rosary Rally for Our Nation

❖ Questions? Please contact Christine Myers, DM, at cmgorski@gmail.com or Jan Parry, DMOB, at Janp1101@gmail.com <https://rosarycoasttocoast.com>

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Brooke Kelly



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The 4th-grade students will begin researching Saints in preparation of All Saints' Day. In Social Studies class, the 5th grade began a unit on earlier explorers. On Monday, October 3rd, the 7th graders took a trip to Fairview in Sussex County. They enjoyed a day of team building activities and even got to ride in canoes!

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

ROSARY SOCIETY

Sunday, October 9th is our **78th Annual Communion Brunch!** We will begin the Rosary at 9:40 AM followed by Mass at 10:00 AM in the Church. The Brunch will begin immediately after Mass in Marian Hall. Tickets are \$30. Call Elaine at (973) 472-9019.

The first meeting of the Rosary Society will be held on Monday, **October 17th in Marian Hall**. It will begin with Mass and the Rosary at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, October 23rd from 12 to 5 PM at the Auditorium. Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Kids (4-11) \$5. Under 4 years are free with an adult. Dinner includes All you can eat spaghetti with homemade sauce, salad, bread, coffee, tea and dessert. Refreshments will also be served. Takeout orders are available. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information contact: troop21clifton@gmail.com

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR SERVERS, WE NEED YOU!

New and returning altar servers are invited to serve at the Weekend Masses! Father Nico will be glad to practice and review the Mass with you.

To begin or continue serving, confirm your availability for scheduling by contacting the Parish Office at (973) 779-6200.



LIFE MINISTRY

Please join the virtual "1000 Strong Rosary for Life Conference Call" on Thursday, October 13th at 7 PM organized by LIFENET in partnership with Array of Hope. Join Bishop Manuel A. Cruz and priests from throughout NJ to pray for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in reparation for the sin of abortion.

For more info: (973) 497-4500

To view online, register at:

watch.arrayofhope.net/pages/1000strong

To join via conference call, register at:

lifeneteducation.org/1000strong

Conference Call Number: (401) 252-0031; Code: 759297

COLUMBIETTES

St. Philip Columbiettes are sponsoring a **FOOD DRIVE** for National Make a Difference Day!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

10 AM to 2 PM

Stop & Shop

Broad Street, Clifton

Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone. Every donation of food helps.

We accept donations of non-perishable food. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, boxed juices, long-life milk, canned meat and tuna.



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Philip the Apostle Knights of Columbus Council 11671 sincerely thanks all the parishioners and friends who generously supported our 2022 Coats for Kids Drive. Thanks to your contributions we again this year will be distribution over 200 warm winter coats to the needy right here in Clifton. The distribution is planned to occur on Sunday, November 6th at the Power of One annual Expo at the Clifton Boys & Girls Club.

AROUND TOWN...

The Theater League of Clifton presents:

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October 22nd - 7:30 PM

October 30th - 2:00 PM

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www.theaterleagueofclifton.com

WEDDING BANNERS

The Following Couple will be exchanging wedding vows:

**II. Lindsay Hassert and
Marc Leech**

**II. Alexa LoCicero and
Kenneth Lafferty**



WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Sylvia Shami, Edward Kovacs, Dominick Cappello, Todd Daigneault, Cheri Albanesius, James Jablonowski, Elmer Rodriguez, Michael Barbetta, John Hughes, Bernadette Menzaco, Ernie Dietel

PRIESTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Nico

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

8:00 AM Fr. Kevin

10:00 AM Fr. Nico

12:00 PM Fr. Monteleone

PARISH GIVING

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 3, 2021 | \$18,582.00 |
| SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 2, 2022 | |
| WEEKLY COLLECTION | \$ 11,225.00 |
| ONLINE GIVING DONATION | \$ 8,866.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 20,091.00 |

Upcoming Second Collections:

October 9 - Project Faith

October 23 - Mission Sunday

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
10:00 Francesco Pugliano
Doria Rhatigan
Virginia Kelleher
All Living and Deceased Members
of the Rosary Society
12:00 Genevieve "Jean" Tarnowski
Richard F. Callahan, Jr. – 1st Anniversary

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022

- 9:00** Jerry and Millie Scrosia

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022

- 9:00** Donald Kowal

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022

- 9:00** Catherine and Robert Frank

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

- 9:00** Marlene Chidiac

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022

- 9:00** Dorothy Broughton

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

- 9:00** Josefa G. Valdez
5:30 John Strangeway
Louise Stolarz
Julie Ann Petsu

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

- 8:00** Michael Warren
Marlene Chidiac
10:00 Tom Trommelen
Margoth Segarra – 5th Anniversary
Alan DelFavero
Edward Haskon
12:00 All the People of the Parish

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