

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

1927 - 2022



Well done, good and faithful servant.

MATTHEW 25:21



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

I heard this story long ago and feel it should be told again. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do on this feast of the Epiphany or "Little Christmas" as it is sometimes called.

Old grandmother Babushka was a holy woman. She read the scriptures, and she knew that the long-awaited Savior was to be born in Bethlehem. So, she gathered together all of her possessions and moved to David's city. There she lived in a simple house and prayed each day that God would let her know when the Savior was born. She intended to offer her possessions as a gift to the newborn king. One night after a simple supper, she turned off the light and went to bed. But before she fell asleep there was a knock. "Who could it be at this hour?" she thought. She lit the lamp and opened the door.

There she saw three strangers with camels standing before her. "The Savior is born," they announced, "and we have come from the east to worship him. We were told in a dream to stop here and to bring you along with us. We have gifts to offer, and we know that you do also." Old grandmother Babushka rejoiced. "The time has come, the Savior is born," she thought. But it was late, and the night was cold and so she decided that she would go and present her gifts tomorrow. She ascertained from the strangers the exact directions to the stable and wrote them carefully down. Then she sent them on their way. The next morning, she arose with the sun and gathered all of her gifts: food, clothing, and money. She followed the directions directly to the stable. When she entered, it was empty. The holy family had already departed. Old grandmother Babushka stomped her foot, "I've missed them," she said, "I should have come last night!"

But she was a determined woman. "I'll keep looking for them," she decided, "they cannot have gone too far." And so old grandmother Babushka began to look. She asked everyone she met. Did they know of a child, of a poor child, perhaps to be found in a manger, perhaps even living on the street. She wanted them to tell her all that they knew. And they did. Some people knew of a poor family who lived on the outskirts of the city. Other people knew of a young child who was sick. Others heard of strangers who were in town with no place to stay. Old grandmother Babushka visited them all. But she could never be certain whether this child and this family was the child and the family that the strangers had told her about.

So, she continued to look, week after week, month after month. She found many children, poor children everywhere. She found many a cradle, many a manger, and many a mother nursing her child. In each place, she left a part of the gift that she was going to give

to the Christ child: here some food, to this family some money, to this child some clothes. In time, all that she had was gone. She returned to her own home empty handed.

That night, Jesus appeared to her in a dream. "There you are!" she exclaimed, "I have looked everywhere for you and have not been able to find you. I had gifts to give you but now they are gone." "I know," said Jesus, "and I have received everyone. For whatever you gave to the least of my brothers or sisters you gave to me." Old grandmother Babushka smiled. She was satisfied. She had not seen the Christ child in the manger, but she had lived his gospel.

Few of us here today have ever been to Bethlehem. Those who visited that holy place found that the manger was empty. **But being a disciple of Jesus is not seeing him in the stable. It is living his gospel.** Whenever we feed the poor, whenever we visit the sick or imprisoned, whenever we welcome the stranger, we are ministering to Christ himself. When we are patient with a relative who irritates us, when we are kind to the kid at school that everyone else mocks, when we listen to the person who is grieving or are generous with those who struggle, we are not only serving them. We are serving Jesus.

We cannot go with the Magi to Bethlehem, but we can offer Christ our gifts. Not gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh but gifts of **respect, compassion, and love.**

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The faculty, staff, and students wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year, from our family to yours!

The eighth graders are excited that their official graduation year has arrived and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their high school acceptance letters. God bless to the Class of 2023 during this exciting time! Intermediate & Middle School students are preparing for their Midterm Exams.

Please keep the students preparing for their First Reconciliation in your prayers. They will be celebrating the sacrament for the first time on January 21.

THE GIVING TREE

We thank all our parish families who participated in our annual Christmas Giving Tree. Whether by fulfilling a gift from a tag or making a monetary donation, you helped brighten someone's day this Christmas season.

Thank you for being an example of *Opus Christi* -- Christ's Work. By helping neighbors in need, we are answering the call to be "Love in Action".



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 9 in the Molloy Center at 2 PM**. Anyone who is experiencing a loss is most welcome.

COLUMBIETTES BLANKET MINISTRY

The blanket ministry will meet **Thursday, January 19, 2023, in the Molloy Center at 9:45 AM**. We have just donated hats and scarves to the residents of Mercy House in Newark. If you would like more information or would like to make a yarn or fabric donation, please call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! Save the date: **Saturday, January 21st**, Rosarians will meet for **9 AM Mass** (weather permitting).

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE!



Saddle up and grab your lucky boots!

St. Philip Prep HSA will be hosting

"Wild, Wild West" Tricky Tray

on **Friday, March 10th**

in the School Auditorium.

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Tickets will be **\$ 25 each**

And includes 2 General bidding sheets.

No one under 18 permitted.

Stay tuned for more details!

Donations of new, unused items are now being accepted.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of the Poor, on behalf of the Residents of St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, most gratefully acknowledge the donation of the Christmas gifts from our Annual Giving Tree. The gifts were very much appreciated and helped to make this a wonderful Christmas for all of the residents. Please extend our gratitude to everyone who made this donation possible.

POSTPONED

Due to circumstances beyond our control and out of an abundance of caution for their residents, the Little Sisters of the Poor will now be at our Parish the weekend of **April 22 & 23, 2023**.

The Little Sisters of Poor are committed to serving the elderly poor and meeting their needs at Saint Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa, New Jersey. Challenged during these past years they ask for any support that can be given which will be immensely appreciated.

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

Natural Family Planning - The Marquette Method

January 9th from 7:30 PM - 9 PM on Zoom

The Marquette Method will be presented by Amanda Khanjian. Come learn the most effective, natural, healthy, and inexpensive system integrating excellent women's health and true family planning for couples trying to achieve pregnancy, couples having infertility concerns, or couples planning to postpone pregnancy, all within God's natural design.

Register by visiting <https://insidethewalls.org/take-a-class>.

KIDS KORNER



KID'S KORNER

Gospel Today
Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men follow a star to the place where Mary and Jesus are and offer the Child gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They do not return to Herod but follow another route to their own country.

Year A



Find and write the missing letters not listed (from A to Z).

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

When they saw the _____, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10



PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: DEC. 26, 2021	\$14,602.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: DEC. 25, 2022	
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 5,654.00
SECOND COLLECTION - PROJECT FAITH	\$ 4,493.00

**THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS CHRISTMAS!**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2021	\$ 76,325.00
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2022 (YTD)	\$ 75,288.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 2, 2022	\$17,436.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 1, 2023	
Weekly Collection	\$ 9,411.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,231.00
Total	\$16,642.00
2nd Collection - Solemnity of Mary	\$ 4,711.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
January 8 - Project Faith
January 15 - The Beacon

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023
5:30 PM Fr. Nico

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023
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...
Benjamin Ricucci, Anita Dellar

A Time to be Healed...

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Sylvia Shami, Edward Kovacs,
Dominick Cappello, Todd Daigneault,
Cheri Albanesi, James Jablonowski,
Elmer Rodriguez, Michael Barbeta,
John Hughes, Bernadette Menzaco,
Janet Jelenski, Adelaido Cuasay
Peter Weber, Msgr. Herbert Tillyer,
Lorraine De Bellis



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

- 8:00** Rose Spatola
Leandro Salme
- 10:00** Gertrude Kovach
Robert Parillo - 13th Anniversary
Matthew Pennacchia
Anne and Anthony Lipari
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish
Salvatore Vigilante

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

- 9:00** Francesco Papaanni

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

- 9:00** Antonia Del Valle

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

- 9:00** Joseph Gulmi

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

- 9:00** Ben Ricucci

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

- 9:00** Fred Anthony - 11th Anniversary

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

- 9:00** Renald Sugatan - 1st Anniversary
Holly Grace Cannon - 8th Anniversary
- 5:30** All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

- 8:00** Jose and Teresa Villegas
Cynthia Franklin
- 10:00** Stephen Salerno
Robert Baran
Ralph Joseph Princiotti
Pedro Ravelo - 5th Anniversary
- 12:00** Marlene Chidiac
Charles Elbert

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