

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

POPE FRANCIS



Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving

Saint Philip the Apostle Parish

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

SUNDAY GOSPEL

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this, he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then, after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So, the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So, Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So, they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So, Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

-- John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Today's gospel is filled with death. Lazarus, the one who Jesus loved, has died. You can see the impact of that death upon his sister Martha and those who come to grieve with her. Martha certainly believes in Jesus' power, but she also believes that the time for that power to help has passed. She says, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Maybe at one time, Jesus could have helped. But now He can no longer do so.

The people who come to grieve with Martha also think that the possibility of life has passed them. They say, "He healed the eyes of the blind man. Why could he not have done something to prevent that this man from dying?" Death holds sway over this story—over Lazarus and over those who loved him. Into this story of death, Jesus enters. He enters as life.

Jesus speaks to Martha and promises her that life will come. **It is important for us to note that Jesus promises Martha two kinds of life.** We must understand and accept both of them. Jesus first promises future life: Lazarus will be raised up on the last day. That promise is also given to us. We, like Lazarus, will be raised from our graves to the new life of God's kingdom. This promise of future life is important. It consoles us, telling us that our beloved dead are now with the Lord in Heaven and that when Jesus comes, they will be raised up bodily together with us to live in God's presence forever.

So, the promise of future life is important. But that is not the only life that Jesus gives to Martha. He offers her present life. Jesus says to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And all those who believe in me will never die." **Jesus not only promises life on the last day, he promises life here and now, in his presence.** We not only await for a life to come. In some sense we possess that life at this moment. How do we attain resurrection and life now?

Here, we have to be careful. We cannot be naïve or glib about the presence of evil. Evil is a part of our world. It touches us and those that we love. We suffer. The people we love die. We make disastrous mistakes that hurt ourselves and others. Yet, even in the presence of this evil, Jesus promises us life. We must be clear what he means. Evil is still with us. Evil will not be defeated until the victory of Christ on the last day. Therefore, the life that Jesus offers us today is not life instead of evil, but life in the midst of evil. Jesus does not promise us that we can avoid death. **He promises us that we can have life, even in the presence of death.**

How do we do this? By looking for the good. By looking for life. Even in our darkest moments, goodness and life are available. Jesus promises us that he will lead us to that goodness. We find life when we believe in the love of others. **For that love continues even as we grieve and even as we suffer.** We find life when we give ourselves to others in service. For even when we are discouraged and sick, we can still offer something of ourselves to others, and that gives us life. We find resurrection when we open ourselves to the beauty of nature and of music, when we laugh with friends, when we decide to light one candle rather than curse the darkness.

Jesus does indeed promise us future resurrection on the last day. We trust in that promise. But He also offers us life now. Each time that we accept the love of others, that we give ourselves in service, that we look for the good and the beauty that surrounds us, we are able to rise above evil and death. In those moments we accept Jesus as our present resurrection and life.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

WELCOME HOME TO HEALING

CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 4:30 PM TO 5 PM

THE PARISH LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE WILL BE ON MARCH 27TH AT 7 PM. THERE WILL BE GUEST PRIESTS AVAILABLE FOR CONFESSIONS.

THERE IS A 7 AM MASS EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT (March 31)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY (March 31 & Good Friday, April 7)

ANTICIPATING HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 1

4:30 PM Confessions

5:30 PM Mass – Fr. Nico

Sunday, April 2

8 AM Mass – Fr. Monteleone

10 AM Mass (Broadcast) – Fr. Monteleone

12 PM Mass – Fr. Nico

Holy Monday

April 3

9 AM Mass

Holy Tuesday

April 4

9 AM Mass

Holy Wednesday

April 5

9 AM Mass

Holy Thursday

April 6

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper (Broadcast) – Fr. Nico

8:30 PM to 10 PM Eucharistic Adoration in the Auditorium

Good Friday

April 7

3 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Broadcast) – Fr. Monteleone

7 PM Stations of the Cross – Fr. Nico

Holy Saturday

April 8

1 PM Easter Food Blessing – Fr. Nico

8 PM Easter Vigil – Fr. Monteleone

Please note:

There is NO 5:30 PM Mass on Holy Saturday. Regular confessions at 4:30 PM will NOT be heard. Saturday confessions will resume on April 15th.

Easter Sunday

April 9

8 AM Mass – Fr. Monteleone

10 AM Mass (Broadcast) – Fr. Nico

12 PM Mass – Fr. Nico

BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Monday, March 27 at 11 AM** in the Jubilee Wing Room of the Molloy Center. Fr. Monteleone leads the discussion on the Gospel of John concentrating on the Bread of Life Discourse.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

A lot happened this past week and the coming week only gets busier.

Third grade through Eighth grade traveled to Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey to see *Shrek* on stage. It was well received by the students and enjoyed by all.

It was a wonderful performance.

This coming week, we have the end of the marking period fast approaching.

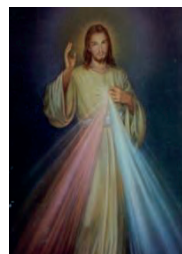
We're entering the last stretch of the year and excitement for the fourth marking period abounds with Easter Break just around the corner and Multicultural Day on the horizon.

Save the Date for St. Philip Prep's TREP\$ Marketplace run by our own student entrepreneurs!

Saturday, May 20th from 10:00 - 11:30 AM.

More information to follow.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Join us on **Sunday, April 16th** at **3 PM** in the church for Holy Hour and recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

FAMILY HOLY HALF HOUR

Saint Philip would like to welcome all families with young children to a **family holy HALF hour on Friday, April 21st, at 5:30 PM in Marian Hall** in the Molloy Center.

A Holy Hour is where we are in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, exposed in front of us, on the altar. It is a beautiful experience that families often miss out on due to fear of their children's inability to sit still for long



durations. This format is geared towards kids by shortening the time to a half hour and having music and activities that will help your children and you, as parents, understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We encourage you to come and spend time with Jesus as a family.

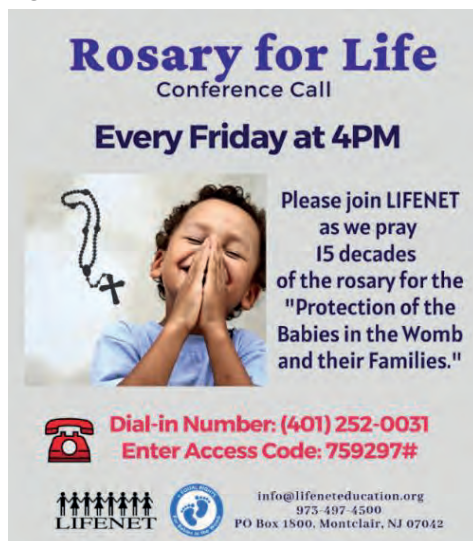
If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. Nico, or call the Parish Office at (973) 779 6200.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

FR. ENGLISH CENTER FOOD COLLECTION

The Father English Food Pantry is in desperate need of food donations. The pantry feeds the working poor and about 20,000 families are served monthly with more than 1,000 food bags distributed daily. Most clients work but cannot afford to feed their families. Let us help them by bringing only **NON-PERISHABLE** food items with you the weekend of **April 1st and 2nd**, when you come to Mass. Please consider the following donations: **canned tuna, canned chicken, rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce (plastic bottles) lentils, peanut butter, and dry cereals.** Thank you and please leave your donations in a box or bag in the back of the church as you enter. All items will be picked up by 10 AM on the Monday after collection.

LIFE MINISTRY



Rosary for Life
Conference Call
Every Friday at 4PM

Please join LIFENET as we pray 15 decades of the rosary for the "Protection of the Babies in the Womb and their Families."

Dial-in Number: (401) 252-0031
Enter Access Code: 759297#

info@lifeneducation.org
973-497-4500
PO Box 1500, Montclair, NJ 07042

LIFENET

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses this weekend and next weekend, April 1-2.

The palm cross price is \$14 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. For pre-orders, please call Phil Jakimowicz at (973) 723-6111.



PRIME TIMERS

The Next Meeting of the Prime Timers will be **Friday, May 5th at 1 PM** in Marian Hall.

Please note that there will not be an April meeting due to the First Friday falling on Good Friday.

We hope to see you all in May!

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Please contact the Parish Office for tickets.



ST. PHILIP PREP HSA
BREAKFAST WITH THE Easter Bunny
Saturday, April 1st
9 AM- 12 PM
St. Philip Prep Auditorium

Enjoy a Hot and Cold Breakfast Buffet, Professional Photographer, Games, Crafts and a Special Visitor

Tickets: \$20 per person
Each Child's Ticket receives an 5"x7" print
Additional prints and packages available for an additional charge

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Thank you, all parishioners, for your generous support of our Fish Fry on Sunday March 5th. It was a very successful event which allows us to do our charitable work throughout the parish and community.

Welcome Back to the annual **Good Friday Blood Drive**.

This event hasn't been held all during the pandemic and there is a desperate need for blood right now. Vitalent, the blood donation company will be with us in the Gym from 8 Am to 1 PM and will give to each donor via email a \$10 Amazon Gift Card as a thank you. Appointments aren't necessary but recommended. Call 1-877-258-4825.

Scholarship Beefsteak dinner

Saturday, April 29th at 7 PM in Auditorium.

Tickets are only \$45. Chicken alternative also available
Credit card purchases at Knights website:

<https://knights-of-columbus-11671.square.site/beefsteak>

or call Ray Lill (973) 472-1756 or

Dennis Fitzpatrick (973) 271-9577

AROUND CLIFTON

St. Clare Parish in Clifton will be hosting **The Way of the Cross A Franciscan Mystery Play** on Friday, March 31st at 8 PM.

The Way of the Cross is written by Franciscan Father Francis Pompei and is not a play in the common sense but a prayerful experience that uses special lighting, stirring soundtrack, pantomime actions and inspirational narration to portray the Stations of the Cross.

KIDS KORNER

< KID'S > KORNER

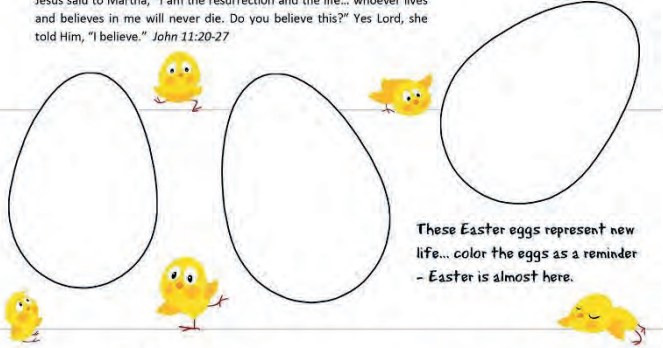
Gospel Today
Fifth Sunday of Lent | John 11:1-45

Year A

Jesus went to the home of Martha and Mary four days after their brother Lazarus was buried. They were all very sad and crying. Jesus went to the tomb and called in a loud voice, "Lazarus come out!" When Lazarus came out of the tomb many people saw and believed.

Believe... in new life

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life... whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Yes Lord, she told Him, "I believe." John 11:20-27



These Easter eggs represent new life... color the eggs as a reminder - Easter is almost here.

The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery - The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord

Think about how today we see Lazarus come back to earthly life and we know that following the sadness of the death of Jesus, He will rise and bring us new life - eternal life.

Lent is almost over - are you prepared?



This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with Glory Be to the Father.

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Timothy Robert

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 20, 2022	\$18,179.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 19, 2023	
Weekly Collection	\$ 9,913.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,454.00
Total	\$17,367.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
March 26 - Project Faith
April 2 - The Beacon

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 1
5:30 PM - Fr. Nico

Sunday, April 2
8 AM - Fr. Monteleone
10 AM - Fr. Monteleone
12 PM - Fr. Nico

WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...
 Rev. Daniel A. Kelly

A Time to be Healed...

Barbara Tolvay, Lorraine DeBellis, Sebastian Centinaro, Pauline Jelken, The Sikora sisters, Arlene Bayuex, Patricia Canavan Petrowski, Jobo Valentin, Pete Malone, Maria Tommaro

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Andrew Chambers
Joseph Belli
Gloria Attoinese
Giuseppe Esposito
- 12:00** Mr. and Mrs. Michael N. Corradino
Eileen Pigut

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

- 9:00** Joyce Tkacz - 1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

- 9:00** Patricia M. Visaggio

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

- 9:00** Sr. Rene Donohue
Robert Baran

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

- 9:00** Francis Slasinski

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023

- 7:00** Joan Fitzgerald
- 9:00** Joseph and Ann Jasionowicz
Joan Hughes

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

- 9:00** Corazon Nunag
- 5:30** Gloria Attoinese
Betty and Al Christiaens
Edward Kovacs

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

- 8:00** Rocco Santo Massino
Helen Dikun
- 10:00** Christine Apostadero
Derek L. Borkowski
Mauro D'Alto
Anita Garbarino
Ben Ricucci
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish

ST PHILIP THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



PILGRIMAGE TO DIVINE MERCY NATIONAL SHRINE STOCKBRIDGE, MA



MAY 6, 2023 SATURDAY

**Bus Departs: 7:00am sharp – St Philip lower parking lot
(please arrive 15 minutes early)**

Shrine Schedule:

11:00 am Explaining the Faith Talk
1:00–2:00pm Confession, Adoration, and Rosary
2:00 pm Mass
3:00 pm The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy & Benediction

Bus Departs: 4:00 pm – Divine Mercy National Shrine

**Reserve
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BYO LUNCH

For more information, please contact any of the following:

St Philip Parish Office 973-779-6200 | Raquel Nael-Marrero 973-563-6924 | Virginia Sipin 973-760-8484

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