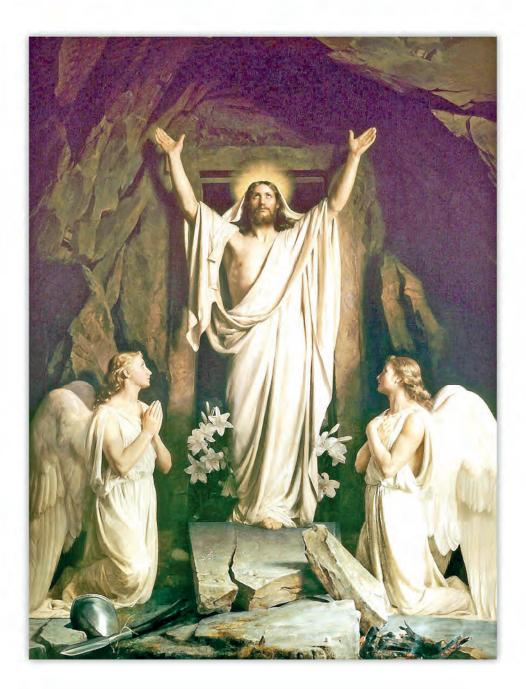
EASTER SUNDAY

OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Easter is certainly a joyful feast. But the beginning of Easter is emptiness. There is not a gospel writer who tells the story of Easter by beginning with the risen Christ. Every gospel writer begins with the empty tomb. The gospel we just heard from Matthew proves this point. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come. But what they first see is not Jesus but the empty tomb, and they hear the angel's announcement. Only then do they encounter the risen Christ and embrace him.

First comes emptiness; then comes rejoicing. First comes absence; then comes glory. Now Easter begins with emptiness because life begins with emptiness. Every time we take a step forward in life, we must leave something behind. Before we can embrace new life, we must empty ourselves of the life we already possess. Before we can take our first breath, we must leave the comfort of our mother's womb. Before we can commit ourselves to someone in marriage, we must let go of our independence. Before we can respond to a vocation or a career, we have to let go of all the other things that we might be called to do. If we are going to receive new life, we must be empty enough to accept it.

This is why Jesus asks us not to fill our self-up with other things. If we fill ourselves and are satisfied, if we fill our lives with resentment, anger, jealousy, or grief, Christ is still risen. But we might not be able to accept the Good News because there is **no room for it**. If we fill up our lives with goods and gadgets, if we spend our time with stratagems to increase our own importance, God still loves us. But we can never appreciate that love because there is no space to take it in. This is why Jesus spent so much of his time talking to those who were poor, hungry, and rejected. Jesus knew that they were empty enough to hear him. It is the suffering, the grieving, the poor, who have more than enough room to let God's love in.

St. Paul certainly knew this truth because he used it to describe our Baptism, our entry into Christ. He said that first we must die with Christ in the waters of Baptism so that we could rise to new life. We first must be buried with Christ, emptied by Christ of whatever holds us back so that we might rise from the waters and walk in the newness of life.

So, if Easter begins with emptiness, the way to celebrate Easter is to locate our own emptiness. That could be the emptiness of loss because someone who we love is no longer with us. It could be the emptiness of fear: the fear of a medical condition, the fear of deteriorating health because of advancing age, or the fear of economic hardship. It could be the emptiness of disappointment: disappointment in ourselves or disappointment in others in whom we trusted. It might simply be that we have no direction in life, we do not

know where we are going, and we know we need to find a direction soon. Whatever your emptiness is, do not deny it—claim it. **Emptiness is not a liability. It is an opportunity**. When we claim our emptiness, we own our dependence on God. When we claim our need we open the door to Easter.

The Risen Christ calls us to new life. Let us stand before him today in our emptiness and let his resurrection in.

Have a blessed Easter and know you are all in my prayers!

Peace.

Fr. Monteleone

The Parish staff would like to wish you a Happy Easter!



PARISH SCHEDULE

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

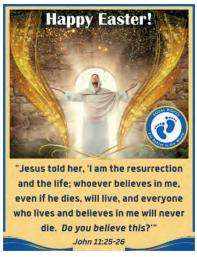
Every Saturday4:30 PM

Please call the Parish Office if you would like a priest to visit you or a family member at home or in the hospital. (973) 779-6200

www.stphilip.org

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

As part of the Lenten practice of almsgiving, the 4thgrade students held a book sale. All students were asked to donate gently used books that were then sold to raise money for two amazing charities, Eva's Village and Mercy House.

The book sale was a resounding success!
The middle school students are working hard on preparing for their production of Disney's Moana Jr.
The performances will be held May 5th and 6th at 7pm. Tickets will be available soon.
Hope to see you there!

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

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

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

ROSARY SOCIETY

Come join us on **Monday, April 17** with Mass, and Rosary at **6:30 PM** in **Marian Hall**.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meet will be **Thursday, April 20** at **9:45 AM** in the **Molly Center**. Our latest donation was to the American Red Cross located at McGuire Air Force Base. If you would like additional information or like to donate fabric or yarn, please call Cathie Murtha. (973) 471-1265.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

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

Join us for a Paint and Sip Night.



COLUMBIETTES

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen! St. Philip the Apostle Columbiettes officers and members would like to extend to all a Blessed Easter Season.

Save the date June 4,2023 for our International Dinner.

CARNIVAL

St Philips Carnival will be 4 days this year, Thursday, June 22 - Sunday, June 25.

We are looking for new volunteers to join all of our veterans volunteers. It's 4 days of fun, laughs, and excitement! We all have a great time working together and helping make our church and school better. Email DJ Chapman: dchapman90@gmail.com



Immaculate Heart Academy, Township of Washington, NJ, is hosting its Spring Open House on Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 PM



Take a tour with knowledgeable and friendly student Eagle Ambassadors, who will guide you through the state-of-the-art building and campus. Meet teachers, administrators.

directors, students, and coaches. Learn about the admissions process, including the Archdiocesan High School Placement Test (HSPT). Ask questions about curriculum, financial aid, transportation...and much more! IHA is located at 500 Van Emburgh Ave., Township of

Washington, NJ 07676. Register online at ihanj.com; walk-ins also welcome.

MSGR. KEVIN'S ADDRESS & EMAIL

Rev. Msgr. Kevin Flanagan

67 Lakeview Dr., Hamburg, NJ 07419 Email: flan44@embargmail.com

PARISH GIVING

COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT RECEIVED IN TIME FOR BULLETIN PRINTING

Upcoming Second Collections: April 9 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

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



MASS INTENTIONS

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

8:00 Richard Kochan Stan Swietek

10:00 Dorothy and Richard Piechocki Joseph Scafidi Jose and Teresa Villegas **Edward Kovacs**

12:00 Marlene Chidiac Priscilla D. Caparaz

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023

9:00 Diane Palazzone

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023

9:00 Robert Klingler

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

9:00 Francis, Miriam & Kevin O'Brien Charles Marvin

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

9:00 Giuditta and Nicola Ruggiero

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023

9:00 Sean Hughes

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023

9:00 John Cannon- 1st Anniversary **5:30** Policarpo and Salud Caparaz Joseph Sr. & Ceil Hopper Joseph Hopper, Jr

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023 DIVINE MERCY

8:00 For All the People of the Parish

10:00 Leandro Salme Rosina Gioia Angela Pugliese Michael Angelo Murdolo

12:00 Ann Albright Elvira Maldonado



Gospel Today

Jesus has risen!

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord | John 20:1-9

On Easter morning Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found it empty. She hurried to get Peter and John. Peter entered first, and when John entered he "saw and believed."

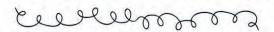
He is alivel

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Believe... Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choose a date and an Alpha and Omega... color the flame and choose a cross to color. Cut and glue all to the candle.

The Paschal or Easter Candle

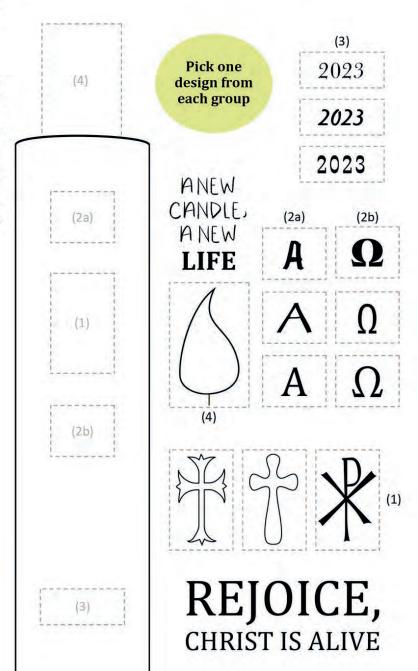


Each year at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, a new fire is built and blessed. From this fire, a new Paschal Candle is lit for the first time and will be used for one year. Candle designs vary, but they are always white, the largest in the worship space and contain certain symbols - a cross, the Alpha and Omega and the date. Let's design our own candle by choosing, coloring and gluing on the designs you like. Do you see the Paschal Candle in your church?

- (1) THE CROSS Always the central symbol
- (2) THE ALPHA AND OMEGA Tells us God is the beginning and the end
- (3) THE CURRENT YEAR Says God is with us here and now
- (4) THE FLAME Reminds us Jesus is the Light of the World
- (5) Use RED to make 5 points on the cross to represent the 5 wounds of Jesus

HAPPY &
BLESSED
EASTER
TO ALL!





ST PHILIP THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

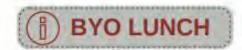
Bus Departs: 4:00 pm - Divine Mercy National Shrine





Make check payable to: St Philip the Apostle

Seats assigned upon payment on a first come, first serve basis.



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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