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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



4th Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023



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,

Back in 2013, just before I was ordained a priest, Pope Francis asked the priests of the world to “be shepherds that smell of the sheep. Smelling like the sheep requires getting close to them. Shepherds got close: they slept at the entry to the pen to protect the sheep and keep them from wandering off. Sheep recognized the shepherd’s voice and followed; the shepherd held a wandering sheep around his neck to reinforce his smell and remind the sheep not to wander again.

Jesus got close to the people. The Pharisees set themselves apart. He still comes close, taking on human flesh. Jesus healed by giving Himself to us and to God on the cross. He took the high road: not returning insult, not threatening, but submitting to those who judged unjustly. To be close to Jesus, we need to follow His example by reorienting our lives to live His unconditional, merciful love. Submission does not mean becoming a doormat. Instead, we find strength in suffering and the power that comes from the work of dying to self. Filled with the Holy Spirit we can forgive, speak truth in love, avoid becoming defensive or going on the attack, and live like Christ, the servant of God, our Shepherd.

We are the gatekeepers of our lives. We are the keeper and guardian of our heart. Guarding our heart means staying awake, being watchful, and remaining diligent. Awareness of and reflection on what is happening within and outside us are the gatekeeper’s key. Depending on who or what it is we either open our heart or keep it closed. Sometimes we need to open the gate and sometimes we need to keep the gate of our life closed. Look back on your life and you can see that.

To whom or what have you opened your heart in the past? Where did it take you? Did it lead to the pastures of abundance or was it a dead end, or maybe a detour? When have you opened your heart and been surprised by possibilities and a fullness of life you could never have imagined?

Who or what stands at your gates today? Who or what are the people, opportunities, possibilities, and choices that seek entry into your life? The gates in our life are threshold places, times of discernment, moments of transition, and decisions to be made. To whom or what do you need to open and to whom or what do you need to close? How might your life change if you open? What might you miss if you close? Will your life be enhanced and empowered by opening or will something be lost? What pain or wound might you prevent by closing? Where is fear in all this? Which will enhance and add to life today, opening or closing?

We do not have to make these decisions alone or in isolation. Jesus said, “I am the gate.” He is the gate that opens and leads to the pastures of abundant life, and he is the gate that stands against death. We open or close in collaboration with Jesus. “The sheep follow [the shepherd] because they know his voice.”

Not just priests are invited to smell like the sheep. **All of us are sheep and shepherd, called to care for one another in the name of Jesus Christ.** By getting close to one another, we can help others hear God’s voice, experience His love and God’s forgiveness. Just as the sheep gate is the doorway to the sheep pen, so are our lives doors through which Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, dwells in our midst and is made known.



Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

WHEN RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST...

5 Points to Keep in Mind When Receiving The Eucharist

1. Receive the Eucharist in a state of grace

If you have committed a mortal sin, walk right on over to the confessional, be reconciled with the Lord, and then go receive Him in the Eucharist.

2. Observe the 1-hour eucharistic fast

There are two main reasons: First, mortification is good and helps us grow in spiritual discipline. Second, the physical hunger we feel should remind us of the hunger and thirst we should have for the Eucharist. And really, one hour isn’t that long, the fast used to begin the midnight preceding receiving the Eucharist.

3. Arrive at Mass a few minutes early

Attending Mass and receiving Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is the most significant thing we could ever do. If you were going to an important dinner, say with diplomats or bishops, would you just walk right in, seat yourself at the dinner table, and start eating? Probably not.

You would get dressed and ready, arrive early, seat yourself when called to dinner, and follow the “protocol” for such an event. There is a certain sense of preparation. If we put this much attention into a formal dinner, how much more should we prepare for the eternal wedding banquet? Take a few minutes of silence before Mass to prepare your heart to receive Christ, pray, and be intentional.

4. Make an act of reverence before receiving the Eucharist

You are going to receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of the King of the universe, how could you possibly show the respect and reverence due in this moment?

Honestly, we can probably never show the amount of respect that our Savior deserves, but we can do what we can! How? This can be done by making a bow before receiving the Eucharist. In this reverential act, we acknowledge who we are before God and humble ourselves to receive Him. **Please do not walk away with the Eucharist!** Consume it as soon as you receive Jesus. If for some reason, it fell on the ground, please ask the priest or the extraordinary minister of communion to pick-up the host.

5. Make a prayer of thanksgiving after Mass

Let's return to the fancy dinner scenario (remember the bishops and diplomats). Once you have finished eating, would you get up and walk out of the room? No! Judas left as soon as he received communion on the Last Supper. Especially if other people were still eating dinner and there was more to come. After we receive Communion, we are the most united with Jesus we can be on this side of heaven. This is our chance to open our hearts to Him without reserve. To pour out our love and ask for whatever grace we need. By staying a few minutes after Mass, we are telling Jesus that He is important to us, that our relationship with Him matters and warrants our love and attention.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Our TREP\$ students are learning about pricing and marketing, getting ready for our Marketplace on May 20th. Mark your calendars!

Students continue to celebrate the Easter season.

Our Middle School students are busy practicing for our school production of Disney MOANA Jr.

We hope to see you there!

Tickets are now available for purchase through Eventbrite! Please use the links provided below. There are different links for each day of the performance so make sure you use the correct one. Total cost per ticket is \$17.85 (\$15 Ticket price + \$1.79 Eventbrite service fee + 3.7% credit card fee)



7 PM Friday, May 5
First Performance

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-philip-preparatory-school-moana-may-5-2023-tickets-597001927837>

7 PM Saturday, May 6
Second Performance

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-philip-preparatory-school-moana-may-6-2023-tickets-597019731087>



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

As part of our celebration of the feast of **Saint Joseph the Worker** in May,

Phil Russo will present to us a talk entitled:

“What we can learn from the life of St. Joseph.”

Join us as we look at St. Joseph's life and how he helped prepare Jesus for His ministry. We will see a father's faith and wisdom that is borrowed from St. Joseph, a man of few words but plenty of action. There will be time for questions and personal sharing about St. Joseph.

There will be 2 opportunities to hear the same talk on **Tuesday, May 2nd at 9:45 AM and 7 PM in Marian Hall at the Jubilee Wing.**

Hope to see you there!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus want to thank the parishioners of St Philip's parish for their generous support of our annual Intellectual Disabilities fundraiser. Anyone who was unable to donate during the weekend of April 15 & 16 and would like to support this worthwhile cause may mail a check to the Knights of Columbus at the Church's address.

Our Knights Council also welcomes as new/upgraded brothers to our council the following gentlemen:

Michael Novak - New 3rd degree Knight

Valeriano Padilla - New 3rd degree Knight

Michael W. Gentilello - New 3rd degree Knight

Jason P. Gentilello - New 3rd degree Knight

Brian W. Gentilello - Upgraded to 3rd degree Knight

William P. Gentilello - Upgraded to 3rd degree Knight

Any other gentlemen wishing to become Knights please contact Grand Knight Mike Cervine

(973) 472-7505 or email - michael.cervine@gmail.com

COLUMBIETTES & LIFE MINISTRY



Columbiettes &
Ministry in Support of
Life



In honor of our Blessed Mother,
we are having our Annual Parish

Drive By Baby Shower on
**Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9:30 AM
to 11:00 AM** in the Main Parking Lot.

We are collecting new or
gently used items in sizes Newborn to Size 6 Children, for
St Mary's Hospital Family Center.

Many Thanks!

LIFE MINISTRY

Request a Mass for Life



**GOAL: 5000 Masses by 12/31/25
4500+ Masses arranged to date!**

Participating in the Mass "is truly living again the redemptive passion and death of Our Lord. It is a visible manifestation: the Lord makes himself present on the altar to be offered to the Father for the salvation of the world" (Pope Francis Homily 2-10-2014).

Ask your Church Secretary to schedule one or more Masses to be said "For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families." (Sunday Mass is preferred, but any day will do). Make an offering to the Church, typically \$10 per Mass.

Then, email info@lifeneducation.org with the Church name, and date(s)/time(s) of the Masses and we'll add it to the tally. **That's it!!**

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIME TIMERS

A Tricky Tray following the meeting on
Friday, May 5th at 1 PM in Marian Hall.
Please bring 1 new unwrapped item to the meeting.

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on **Tuesday, June 20th**. Bus leaves from St. Philips Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$40.

For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286

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.

There will be another Volunteer Meeting on
Thursday, May 11 at 7 PM in Marian Hall.

Soda/Water Donations

Name brand soda and bottled water for the Soda & Water
Booth can be left at the school kitchen door.

OPEN HOUSE



Morris Catholic High School in Denville, NJ is accepting applications for the Class of 2027 and for transfer students for this upcoming academic year. Learn more about Morris Catholic through our Admissions events! Our Spring Open House date is **Sunday, May 7th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

You can sign up for these events at
www.morriscatholic.org/openhouse/

We are also offering shadow days and in-person
Campus tours this Spring for those students will be
looking to join us during the 2023 - 2024 Academic Year.

Contact admissions@morriscatholic.org to schedule.
One of these visits or for more information about our
application process!

You can also visit www.morriscatholic.org to learn
more about all our athletic, academic, and
extracurricular programs.

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: APRIL 24, 2022	\$ 16,637.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: APRIL 23, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 9,973.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,190.00
TOTAL	\$16,163.00

EASTER 2022	\$52,844.00
EASTER 2023 YTD	\$43,744.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
May 14 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Marge Sirvidio

A Time to be Healed...

Lorraine DeBellis, Sebastian Centinaro, Pauline Jelken,
The Sikora sisters, Arlene Bayuex, Jobo Valentin,
Maria Tommaro, Marge Sirvidio, Susan Cinek

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

- 8:00** Josephine Mazzara
John Michel
10:00 Ed Kovacs
Helen Dikun
Mary Spychaj
12:00 Marlene Chidiac
Eileen Pigut

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

- 9:00** Susan Campbell

TUESDAY, May 2, 2023

- 9:00** Rogelio Delacruz

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

- 9:00** Corazon Nunag

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

- 9:00** Magna Jumao-as
Frank Slasinski

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

- 9:00** Peter Cavallero

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

- 9:00** Cecil Duggan
5:30 Hatti and Frank Roszkiewicz
Mario Corado Avilla
Teresa Soldo

SUNDAY, May 7, 2023

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
10:00 Raymond Belli
Anna Maria and Nicolo Pansini
Ed Kovacs
William LaMonica
12:00 Robert Drozdowski
Dr. Danilo Bolima



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Volunteer with "People Need Friends" program: volunteer@dpd.org
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