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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



5th Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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,

The words of today's gospel are a beautiful description of eternal life. It is a gospel that I usually proclaim at every funeral Mass. Jesus promises us that we will dwell with him forever in our father's house. So, who would not want to live there? There is only one problem. We have to die to get there. **And death is something that you and I wish to avoid thinking about.** We live our lives from day to day, always believing that another day will follow. When someone we know dies, we shake our head acknowledging the loss, but then go on with living forgetting that death, in its own time, will come for us as well. We tend to deny our own death. But this is of no benefit to us. In fact, there is an advantage to recognizing and acknowledging our own mortality.

Jeff Piehler was a retired thoracic surgeon who was diagnosed with stage-four prostate cancer. Death for Jeff was very much on the horizon. But instead of trying to deny his condition, Jeff looked for a way to acknowledge it. He decided that he wanted to make his own coffin. So, he worked with a carpenter artist and together they formed a stunningly simple and elegant pine box. Jeff's family was uncomfortable with his project. They saw it as a way of him giving up on life. But Jeff insisted that the exact opposite was true. Far from fixating on his death, his project led him to live his life more deeply than he ever had before. For example, it was literally impossible for him to become upset and angry with the person ahead of him on the freeway who was driving too slowly after having just come from sanding the lid on his coffin. Other things changed as well. Coveting material things, bearing old grudges, worrying about what people thought about him, all revealed themselves as an ultimate waste of time.

His coffin was indeed a reminder of the fate that awaits us all. But its deepest meaning was to live every minute of life to its fullest potential. Jesus' words in today's gospel should be interpreted in this context. **Jesus points to our own death not to depress us, but to reveal the value of every moment we live.** Jesus promises us eternal joy, not as an escape from this present life, but so that we might live our life more deeply. When we live life aware of the limited time that we have, we take fewer and fewer things for granted. We take time to celebrate every life-giving relationship, to savor every act of love, to rejoice in every chance meeting, to enjoy every small blessing that life bestows. That is why Jesus says, **"Do not let your hearts be troubled."** **Because he understands that when we acknowledge our own mortality, we live life more deeply, and when we live life more deeply, we are no**

longer afraid of dying. The more we can live our lives in thankfulness and joy, the less power death has over us.

Jeff Piehler understood this truth. On the inside lid of his coffin, just above the place where his head would lie, he carved his favorite verse of poetry. It reads, "I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night."

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 Jesus 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 in the Eucharist is the most significant thing we could ever do. If you were going to an important dinner, say with the Pope, or the President or diplomats, 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 heavenly banquet? Take a few minutes of silence before Mass to prepare your heart to receive Jesus, 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 Pope 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. Plus, you will miss the final prayer and blessing!

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students celebrated **Pastor Appreciation Day** by making posters and banners dedicated to Fr. Monteleone and displaying them in the hallways this past Friday.

Grade 6 is learning the Mysteries of the Rosary in honor of Mary because May is the month to honor Mary.

The students are preparing for their NWEA testing next week.

Students worked on artwork, posters, and brochures in preparation for Multi-Cultural Day in May.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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 Frances 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

WIDOW AND WODIERS

The Next meeting of the Widow and Widowers will be on **Monday, May 8th at 2 PM** in the **Molloy Center**. Anyone who is experiencing a loss is most welcome.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The last meeting for this season is **Thursday, May 18th** at **9:45 AM** in the Molloy Center. A big thank you to Jackie and Georgeanna for your generous monetary donations. We were able to fill our yarn bags! We will celebrate our 11th anniversary on May 10, 2023. Our last big projects are baby blanket and hat sets to be donated to St. Mary's Hospital and shawls and blankets for NJ Hospice. Thank you for your support over the years! For more information, call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

ROSARY SOCIETY

All are welcome to join us in honoring Our Blessed Mother at our **May 22 meeting**. Our annual induction begins with Mass at **6:30 PM** in **Marian Hall**. Please join us as we recite the Rosary during this special month of Mary. Refreshments and camaraderie to follow!

PRIME TIMERS

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



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Join us for a Paint and Sip Night!

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ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE AT
LEAST 21 YEARS OLD.
NO CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED.



PARIS REFLECTIONS

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.

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MAY 1, 2022	\$ 16,415.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: APRIL 30, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 9,220.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,420.00
TOTAL	\$16,640.00
EASTER 2022	\$52,844.00
EASTER 2023 YTD	\$43,814.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
May 14 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Klaus Schreiber

A Time to be Healed...

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



MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

- 9:00** Giuseppe Esposito - 1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, May 9, 2023

- 9:00** Robert Bobal
Jane Moran - Special Intentions

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

- 9:00** Marge Sirvidio

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

- 9:00** Joseph Scafidi
Mary and George Kelly

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023

- 9:00** Intention of William Keating

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

- 9:00** Klaus Schreiber
5:30 Edward Kovacs
Mary Spsychaj
Robert Moore

SUNDAY, May 14, 2023

- 8:00** Leandro Salme
Kathleen Altilio
10:00 Maryann Spohn
Estanislao and Rosario Llames
Sherry Gayle Keene
Marlene Chidiac
12:00 All the People of the Parish

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