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Mr. John Hughes
Lay Trustee



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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 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 PM

HOLY HOUR

Every Friday 9:30 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,

A married couple was going through a rough time. In the process, they both said and did things that hurt one another deeply. But with patience and commitment, they worked things out, and began moving forward together. But not completely. One day the wife complained, "Why is it that you keep bringing up my past mistakes? I thought that you had forgiven and forgotten." "I have forgiven and forgotten," said the husband, "but I don't want you to forget that I have forgiven and forgotten."

When someone hurts us, it is very difficult to forgive and to forget. This is what makes today's gospel so challenging. Jesus is relentless in his insistence that we do not forgive people once, or seven times, but seventy times seven times. And what are we to make of that strange violent verse that ends the gospel, where Jesus assures us that our heavenly Father will hand us over to the torturers unless we forgive our brothers and our sisters from our hearts? What is that about? Whatever happened to a compassionate and understanding God?

As strange as it may seem, that violent verse at the end of the gospel is the key to understanding the parable itself. For it is not telling us what God will do, but in fact what will happen to us if we do not forgive. If we refuse to forgive, we will live in torment, unless we change our minds. For the simple human truth is this: when we have been injured deeply, we can never recover until we forgive.

Now we should be clear on what forgiveness is and what it is not. Forgiveness is not pretending that everything is fine. It is not making an excuse for the person who offended us. It is certainly not putting ourselves back into the same situation where we can be hurt again. (In fact, in some cases, the best decision is to break off contact with the person who has hurt us.) But what forgiveness is, is realizing that we cannot change the past and refusing to let what we cannot change control us. Because if we refuse to forgive, if we choose to feed our hurt, that hurt can grow and deepen and compound with anger and hatred. That hurt will rule our lives and hold us captive.

This is an old truth. Centuries before the birth of Christ, the Greek play, *Medea* was written. In this drama Medea kills her own children to exact revenge on her husband, who committed adultery. When her husband asks her, how could she kill her own flesh and blood just to spite him, Medea calmly answers, "Because I hate you more than I love them." Feeding a hurt creates a monster, a monster that can destroy us. The only way to slay that monster is forgiveness.

This is an important truth to remember as we celebrated the anniversary of 9/11 on Monday of this past week.

We remembered the tragedy of that event, the heroism of those who tried to save others, and the grief of the families that lost loved ones. But even in the immensity of that tragedy, we as Christians are still called to forgive. Forgiveness does not mean that we make excuses for the evil that was done. It certainly does not mean that we relax our vigilance to protect ourselves in the future. We are called to forgive the terrorists, not because they deserve it, but because we need it. For if we try to build a future based on hatred and revenge, we will become what we hate. Mahatma Gandhi, a man who knew much about humanity and world relations, once said, "If we base our relationships to one another on revenge, if we deal with one another based upon 'an eye for an eye,' soon the whole world will be blind."

Jesus is not being cruel in today's gospel. He is warning us about a hard truth. Feeding a hurt will destroy us. What happens in our life is not always fair; it is not always right. But if we want to be free, if we want to be at peace, if we want to live, we must forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

GRIEF SHARE AT SAINT PHILIP'S

Need help dealing with grief?

A prayerful support group can help you move through the grief process.

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

GriefShare at Saint Philip's will begin on **Monday, October 30th, 2023 at 7 PM** in the Youth Room of Jubilee Wing Building of the Molloy Center.

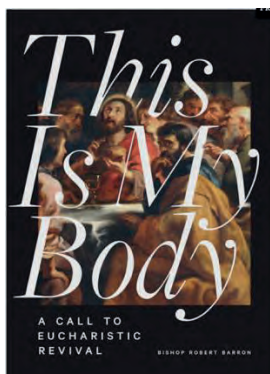
Let us know if you are interested and we will save a seat and a workbook for you. Please connect with Fr. Nico or Linda in the Parish Office at (973) 779 6200.



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

A recent Pew Forum survey revealed the startling statistic that 69% of Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. For the majority of Catholics today, the Eucharist is merely a symbol of Christ, and the Mass is merely a collectivity of like-minded individuals gathering to remember his life.

This indicates a spiritual disaster, for the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” In response to this crisis, Bishop Robert Barron, then the Chair of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, began working with his brother bishops on a solution. From these conversations, the National Eucharistic Revival was born.



This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival is designed to accompany that revival. In this brief but illuminating text, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.

Discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus' words at the Last Supper: “Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant.”

Limited free copies are available in the Church. Read this academic and enlightening book this September, and we invite you on October 30th, 2023, in the Church at 7 PM as Fr. Jared Brogan discusses some of the important points Bishop Barron made in the book.

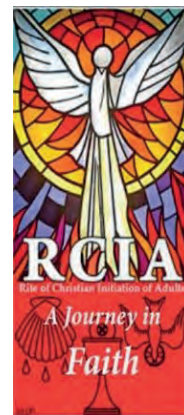
-Fr. Nico

FAITH FORMATION

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RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF
ADULTS at Saint Philip
will meet beginning October 2023.
Let us know if you'll join us:
lvalenti@stphilip.org



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY

New Jersey Right to Life

2023 Respect Life Raffle

Tickets are \$10 Each.

1st Prize: 2024 Volvo XC 40 All- Wheel Drive SUV

2nd Prize: Shoprite Gift Card valued at \$1,000

3rd Prize: Shoprite Gift Card valued at \$750

4th Prize: Shoprite Gift Card valued at \$500

As in the past years, Debbie Harley will be in the vestibule of the church after all masses on the weekend of September 30th and October 1st.

Please be generous since this is the only NJ Right to Life fundraiser for the year.

The babies in the womb are depending on you!

Thank you for your support.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMETIMERS

The Next meeting of the PrimeTimers will be Friday, October 6th at 1 PM in Marian Hall.



Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, October 10th. Bus leaves from St. Philips Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$40. For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The first meeting of the blanket ministry will be Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We make handmade items to donate to hospitalized children, nursing homes, hospice patients, and more. You do not have to be a Columbiette to join. If you would like more information, please call Cathie Murtha (973) 471-1265.

We also accept yarn and fabric donations. If you have a donation, you may call the same number.

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

St. Philip, with Father Nico, will join Bishop Kevin Sweeney for a One-Day Marian Pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on October 14, 2023.

The One-Day Pilgrimage includes:
 All-day activities at Shrine
 Transportation and Gratuity
 Rest Stop going and Meal Stop on return
 Bus will depart St. Philip's lower lot at 6 AM
 Depart Washington at 4:15 PM
 \$65 per person

Please register for the pilgrimage by calling the Parish Office at (973) 779 6200 or by emailing Linda at lvalenti@stphilip.org
 The deadline to sign up is September 22nd.
 There are still a few seats left on our 2nd bus.

GOLD and SILVER

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1973 or 1998? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60+, 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: **Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM**
 Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 11, 2023.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed.
Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Sebastian



Avery Monika

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 \$18,236.00
 SUNDAY COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
 WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 10,963.00
 ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 7,620.00
TOTAL \$ 18,583.00
 SECOND COLLECION- PROJECT FAITH \$ 3,212.00

**Upcoming Second Collections:
 September 24 - Project Faith**

WE PRAY FOR...

The Recently Deceased....

Carmela Campana

A Time to be Healed...

Claire Chilazi, Asnel Rivero, Alina Nicastro,
 Edvie Canavan, Joanne Barrett,
 Maya Hilario, Peggy Nisivoccia,
 Harry Carline, Marge Sikora, Manuel Bacani



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

8:00 Louise Stolarz
10:00 Generosa Spatola
 Mary Spychaj
 John Sokol
 Marton Robinson
12:00 For All the People of the Parish
 Walter Herlinski

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

9:00 John Martin

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

9:00 Edward Saporata

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

9:00 Christina Burghardt - 1st Anniversary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

9:00 Marlene Chidiac
 Frank and Michael Sabella

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

9:00 Jim and Kitty Murtha

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

9:00 Richard Marranzino
 Filipina Rojas Bacani and Santa Maria Triolo
5:30 For All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

8:00 Claire Neglia
 Louise Stolarz
10:00 Louis D'Angelo
 Kathy Valenti - 6-month anniversary
 Lucia and Antonio Santulli
 Doris Rivera
12:00 Al Mayewski
 Marlene Chidiac

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17th

-In memory of William Keating



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