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Lay Trustee

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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 24, 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 Saturday4:30 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,

A hard-working parish priest, after a lifetime of ministry, died and went to heaven. When he got there, he was assigned an attractive two-bedroom house to serve as his heavenly abode. He was rather pleased with his house until he took a walk around the neighborhood and ran into a parishioner who had been a cab driver and now was living in a mansion with a swimming pool and tennis courts. The priest went directly to St. Peter to complain. He said, "I've worked my whole life long serving God's people. Now this parishioner of mine is a very good person, but he was a cab driver! Why is he living in so much bigger a house than I am?" St. Peter said, "Here's how it goes. When you preached, people slept. But when he drove, people prayed."

We do not always understand God's ways, and that is why it is dangerous to complain. Complaining takes place in today's Gospel. Those who were hired first complained because those who worked only one hour received the same wage as they did. We certainly understand their feelings. We probably would have the same reaction, if we were in their shoes. This parable is one of the most difficult parables for us to understand. But, before we become too critical, we must realize that all the parable is doing is reflecting life as it is.

The truth is that life is unfair. We would like to think that those who work the hardest would be the most successful. But we all know people who are working two, maybe three, jobs and are still unable to support their families. We would like to think that the people who have the most talent are those who would be the most respected and compensated. But we all know of football players who cannot even remember to keep their helmets on their heads (sorry about this) who are making millions of dollars more than teachers who give their life instructing our young. We would like to think that people who are good and who live honestly are going to have easier lives. But we all know people who are the "salt of the earth" who have terrible crosses to bear. And each time we see any of these inequalities, we are tempted to complain.

That is why today's parable is helpful. **It shows us how to live in an unfair world.** What does the landowner say to those who complain? He says, "**Take what belongs to you and go.**" Don't worry about what other people have received. Take your own life. Rejoice in it and live it.

Maya Angelou, the famous American playwright and poet, wrote a series of memoirs about growing up in rural Arkansas. Many of those memoirs centered on her grandmother, a very influential person in her life who ran a little store in their hometown. Maya's grandmother had very little patience with complainers. Whenever one of the town whiners would come into the store to buy anything, she made sure that Maya was called in to witness the event. Once Maya was in the store, her grandmother would say to the complainer, "How are things going?" Immediately the grumbler would begin to say how terribly hot it was. It was the hottest he could ever

remember it to be. He couldn't stand the sweltering heat. And how much plowing he had to do. It seemed that each year there was more. And his equipment was getting older, and it was becoming more difficult. Now all the time that he was rambling on, Maya's grandmother would look at her granddaughter to make sure she was paying attention.

When the whiner finally left, her grandmother took Maya aside and said to her, "Child, there are people who went to sleep last night, rich and poor, black and white, who will never wake up again. And every one of those dead people would give all that they had for five minutes of this hot weather, for five minutes of this difficult plowing. So, be careful, child, about complaining. If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, then change the way you think about it. But don't be a complainer because complaining will rob you of life."

The advice of Maya Angelou's grandmother dovetails with the words of the landowner in today's gospel to those who complain: "Take what belongs to you and go." **Live the life you have been given, not the life that you wish you had been given, not the life that other people have been given.** Live your life fully because complaining will only diminish you, only lessen you.

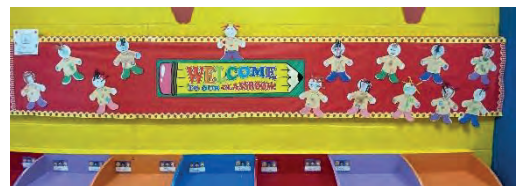
So, what is it you complain about? Your spouse? Your children? Your parents? Your job? Your retirement? Your church? Your government? Your health? Your priest? Be careful about complaining because it can rob you of life. Instead, take what belongs to you and go. If you don't like something change it. If you can't change it, then change the way you think about it. But don't waste your time complaining. Life is simply too short for that.

The good news is this: life may be unfair, but God is in charge. And God will not forget any of us. If we take the life that we have been given (even if others have been given more) and live it, we will find that it is enough. For once we choose to live our own lives, we will discover that we have not been short-changed or cheated. We will realize that every one of us has been given a full day's wage.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Pre-K 3 class is working on the theme "All About Me". In circle time they have been describing themselves, and answering the question of "what makes them special." We have also been learning about why school is important, and learning how to respect teachers, and friends.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ring Out!

Interested in participating in a music ministry but not a singer? **Handbell** rehearsals are held regularly in church on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 6:45 PM. The **Handbell Choir** rings at Lessons and Carols, and seasonal masses on Christmas Eve and Palm Sunday. Any prior musical experience is appreciated, but not required. We encourage returning and new members to please join us for our organizational meeting and first rehearsal on Monday, October 2nd at 6 PM.

All music ministries are open to persons high school age and up. For those preparing for Confirmation, participation in one of our music ministries is a great way to fulfill service hours! Regular attendance at rehearsals is expected.

GRIEFSHARE 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.



FAITH FORMATION

Missing Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation?

Want to be a fully initiated Catholic?

We know life gets busy and takes us away from what we intend.

Allow us to help and walk with you on the journey of a life in faith!

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

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE STUDY

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible is the starting point of the Great Adventure Catholic Bible Study Program.

In eight compelling videos, Jeff Cavins presents the salvation history from Creation and the Fall through Christ's coming and the Church's establishment. In this Bible study, you will learn the story with an easy-to-use, color-coded Bible Timeline Chart and small-group discussion questions, reinforcing the video presentations and helping you apply the message to your life.



This eight-week program will be offered twice weekly, on **Monday mornings at 10 AM** and **Tuesday evenings at 7 PM**, in the Youth Room of the Molloy Center.

Join us on Tuesday, October 10th, for the first session and organizational meeting at 10 AM or 7 PM in the Youth Room of the Molloy Center.

If interested, please call the Parish Office at (973) 779-6200 to reserve a seat and workbook.

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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.

Thank you for your support!

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMETIMERS

Over 50? Help decide our Future.

St. Philip's Prime Timers, a senior social club in existence for over 25 years is having a meeting at 1:30 PM in Marian Hall of the Malloy Center, to determine what type of club, if any, we want to become for the future. This will be the only item on our agenda. You needn't be a member of Prime Timers, or even a member of St. Philip's parish to attend and express your opinion. We are especially looking for new interested seniors willing to step up and be counted on and design what this club needs to be in the future. No need to call or register with anybody, just show up for the meeting on October 6 and help define the future.



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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Blood Drive

The blood drive last Sunday, September 17th was quite successful. Twenty-two Individuals came and donated 20 pints of desperately needed blood. A BIG thank You to all the people who donated, especially, St. Philip's parishioners without whom this drive would not be successful. Our next drive will be on Good Friday March 29, 2024.

Coats-4-Kids

We are still collecting funds for this annual program. While a box of coats cost approx. \$275 per box for 12 coats any contribution amount is greatly appreciated. Last year we were able to give away more than 18 boxes of warm coats to needy children. Just send your check to St. Philip Knights of Columbus, 797 Valley Rd., Clifton, NJ 07013.

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

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 WED



Joel and Marie



Sam and Alicia

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2022	\$15,656.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 17, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 8,736.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,291.00
TOTAL	\$ 15,027.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
September 24- Project Faith
October 1- Beacon Catholic

WE PRAY FOR...

The Recently Deceased...

Ruthann Anderson, Diane B. Gruber

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 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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

- 9:00** Rita Latona

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

- 9:00** Rogelio Dela Cruz

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

- 9:00** Patricia Manton

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

- 9:00** Marlene Chidiac
Frank and Michael Sabella

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

- 9:00** Marilyn Loftus

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

- 9:00** Reid Krevis
Salvatore LoBalbo
- 5:30** Rudy Pohle
Robert Mitchell
Vincenzo Mazzara

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

- 8:00** For All the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Dorothy Broughton
Elaine and Jerry Cipolla
Juiliana Heck
Frances Spazian
- 12:00** For the babies in the wombs and their families
John Natoli, Sr. - 10th Anniversary



CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24th

-In memory of Joseph McNamara, Jr.

OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF

SEPTEMBER 24th

-In memory of Joan Hughes
-From John Hughes



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