

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Not all of Jesus' parables describe the bright future Kingdom of God. Some of them describe our present world. Those are often tragic parables. We have an example of this in today's Gospel of the Parable of the Vineyard. This parable presents to us a downward spiral of destruction and violence in which everyone is harmed.

To understand the force of that downward spiral, we must appreciate where the parable begins. It begins in a very good place. There is a verdant and protected vineyard with a hedge around it, a winepress in it, and a tower to guard it. There is every indication that this vineyard will be profitable, that it will produce an abundant harvest for all who are associated with it: for the owner who possess the land, built the tower, and dug the wine vat and for the workers who till the field and harvest the grapes. The parable begins with optimism and hope.

Then things go astray. The tenants decide that they are going to cut the owner out of his due produce. We are not told why they make this decision, only that they do. But their conviction about doing it is so strong that they are willing to go by any means to accomplish it. This leads to violence. They beat and kill the messengers and finally the owner's son. Moreover, the violence of the tenants leads to corresponding violence from the owner, who kills the tenants. By the end of the parable everyone has been harmed, and the vineyard is destroyed.

Why does Jesus tell such a grim parable? He is warning us about making crucial decisions which can lead to a downward spiral. In the parable it was the decision by the tenants to cut the owner out. It was the decision by some that the goods of the vineyard did not need to be shared with everyone. Now we might call this decision greed, but we might even more appropriately call it pride. It was pride that led some in the vineyard to conclude that their life and needs were more valuable than the life and needs of others. It was pride to decide that the rights of others could be negated.

This parable can be applied on many levels in our life. Our families could be the vineyard. Families, when they work together, produce life and joy and a bright future. But if some members of the family decide that their needs, wants, and dreams are more important than those of other members of the family, then jealousy and resentment emerge. The life of the family is undermined. The vineyard could be our country. Our country is blessed with bounty and resources for all its citizens. But when some politicians decide that it is more important to be elected than to serve the common good, when economic and social structures are set up in a way that they benefit some of the people and not the others, then the bounty of our country is dissipated. The downward spiral begins.

Now, of course, none of us can by our decision alone change the planet or our country or even our families. But this parable reminds us that we should never take that first prideful step. We should never accept the thought that our life, ideas, or agenda are more important than those of others. The parable reminds us that we all share the same vineyard. Therefore, either we will thrive together, or we will go down together. This is why we must remember our connectedness to one another and avoid the temptation of trying to cut someone out. For when we make that prideful choice, the spiral of recrimination and violence begins. And, trust me, when that happens, it's a long way down.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the blessing of animals will take place on **Sunday, October 8th at 2 PM** at the St. Anthony Shrine, next to the parking lot.

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

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22: 6

September was a busy month! We had to acclimate to our classrooms, learn to be patient with ourselves and others, and work through our first round of assessments. Now that October has arrived we have some field trips and fun science experiments to look forward to.

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 November 6, 2023, in Marian Hall at 7 PM as Fr. Jared Brogan discusses some of the important points Bishop Barron made in the book.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER AT MASS!

We are always looking for Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, & Altar Servers to serve at our Sunday Masses!

If you are interested in volunteering at Mass, please contact Linda in the Parish Office at (973) 779-6200.

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MINISTRIES FORMATION SESSION

We invite all those involved in our parish ministries (Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Ushers, Consolation Team, and Parish Organizations) to join us for a **Ministries Formation Session** led by **Father Jared Brogan** on **Monday, October 16, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Marian Hall.**

Father Jared will share valuable insights and guidance to enrich and strengthen our ministries.

This formation session is an opportunity for learning, growth, and fellowship within our parish community.

We look forward to your presence and participation in this special event. Your dedication and service to our parish ministries are greatly appreciated, and we believe this formation session will greatly benefit us all.

Please mark your calendars, and we hope to see you there!

LIFE MINISTRY

1000 Strong Rosary for Life

Live via conference call

Friday, October 13, 2023*
at 7pm Eastern Time

* October 13 is the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima
Our goal is 1,000+ people praying in Reparation for the Sin of Abortion
and for Equal Rights for Babies in the Womb.

Rosary will be led by priests
from all over New Jersey

Please register at:



lifeneteducation.org/1000strong

Call-in Number: 1-401-252-0031

Access Code: 759297

Alternate Call-in Number: 1-425-436-6277

Access Code: 652492



info@lifeneteducation.org | 971-497-4500



COLUMBIETTES

Make A Difference Today!

Food Drive

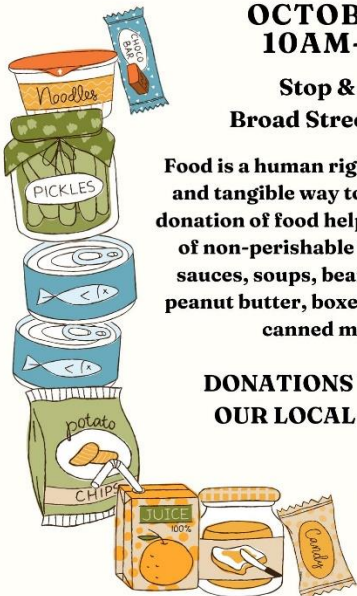
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14
10AM-2PM

Stop & Shop
Broad Street, Clifton

Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone. Every donation of food helps. We accept donations of non-perishable food. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, boxed juices, long-life milk, canned meat and tuna.

DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT
OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS!

Sponsored by
St. Philip Columbiettes



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.

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.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMETIMERS



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 Council 11671 Wants YOU!

Calling all Catholic men 18 and older to join our fraternal brotherhood of men unafraid to wear our faith as a breastplate, and demonstrating through works of Charity, Unity Fraternity that Catholic values are still relevant and highly valued in our secular society. The time commitment is minimal, and the rewards are huge. Call or text Mike Cervine, Grand Knight (973)220-3095 or go to kofc.org web site and click on "Join" or simply copy the take a picture of the QR code below with your smart phone.



Our Council number is 11671 and promo code is: [blessedmcgivney](https://www.blessedmcgivney.com).

Coats-For-Kids

KoC will again be collecting contributions for our annual **Coats-for-kids Drive** until Saturday October 21, 2023. Last year, through the generosity of everyone we were able to give our 220 warm winter coats to our less fortunate neighbors right here in Clifton. We'd love to surpass it this year as the need is still great. Coats cost us approximately \$275 per box of 12 but all contributions,

great or small, help tremendously. Please make checks out to K of C Council 11671, note in the memo area **Coats-for-kids** and mail them to the address below or drop the envelope into the collection basket.

St. Philips Knights of Columbus
Coats-4-Kids
797 Valley Rd.
Clifton, N.J. 07013

Need to know about Medicare?

Mike Cervine a Passaic County volunteer SHIP Counselor is again running his introduction to Medicare in the Clifton Senior Center on October 10 & 17 at 2:00 - 3:30 PM repeated 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

The course is FREE but you must register by calling the senior center at (973) 470-2234.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings of the blanket ministry are Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center.

All crafters are welcome!

For information or donations, please call Cathie Murtha (973) 471-1265.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS



Join The Fun!

The Ancient Order of Hibernians invite you to Half-Way to **St. Patrick's Day** Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Party Beer, Wine & Soda

Honoring:

Msgr. Kevin Flanagan,

Dennis Fitzpatrick & John Hughes

Saturday, October 28th, 2023, at 7:00 PM

St. Philip School Auditorium

Music by Captain & O'Neill Band

For tickets or tables call,

Ray (973) 472-1756, John (973) 472-0061

Donation \$50.00

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 60th, 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!



PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 2, 2022	\$20,091.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 1, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 11,614.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,514.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,128.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
October 8 - Project Faith
October 22 - Mission Sunday

WE PRAY FOR...

The Recently Deceased....

Rosella Quintavella, Barbara Reilly

A Time to be Healed...

Claire Chilazi, Asnel Rivero, Alina Nicastro,
Edvie Canavan, Joanne Barrett, Peggy Nisivoccia,
Harry Carlina, Manuel Bacani



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

- 8:00** Mariano Laya, Jr
Robert "Bob" Martin
10:00 Deceased members of the McNamara Family
Dr. Robert Feliciano
Francesco Pugliano
Living and Deceased Rosarians
12:00 For All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

- 9:00** Catarina Raffaella Masucci
1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

- 9:00** Millie and Jerry Scrosia

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023

- 9:00** Connie Pomposelli
Thomas Viggiano

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

- 9:00** Robert and Catherine Frank

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

- 9:00** Jimmy Valle
Martha Sirvidio

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

- 9:00** Pasquale Pugliese
5:30 For All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

- 8:00** Connie Pomposelli
John Matteo
10:00 Thomas Trommelen
John Strangeway - 7th Anniversary
Marge Sirvidio
Michael Gallagher
12:00 Kathleen Criscuola
James Frain