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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 15, 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 woman decided that she was going to have a dinner party for a good number of her friends. So, she spent most of the week cleaning, baking, cooking, and preparing the table. And when everyone finally arrived and sat down to eat, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Honey, why don't you say the blessing?" "Mommy," she said, "I don't know what to say." "Just simply say what you hear Mommy say." So, the little girl bowed her head and said, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all of these people to dinner?"

Like the woman in the story, you and I can occasionally have regrets about the invitations that we offer. But that is not the case with our God. **For our God is a God of invitation.** A God who is constantly inviting all people into relationship, inviting all to share in divine life and love.

The parable that we hear today portrays this God of invitation. It also tells us something important about ourselves and our own worthiness to accept God's call. The king in the parable is constantly inviting people to come to the wedding banquet of his son. But no one wants to come. Finally, in frustration he says, "Look, the dinner is ready, but those who were invited were unworthy." What does it mean in the world of this parable to be "unworthy"? It is simple. Unworthiness consists in refusing the invitation.

Underlying this parable is a fundamental, theological belief that the invitation of God is supreme. It is really the only thing that matters. Our worthiness, our successes and our failures do not count as much as God's call. Therefore, worthiness does not result from all the good things that we have done, but simply from our willingness to say "yes" to the invitation. Unworthiness is not determined by the mistakes and sins that we have committed, but simply our stubbornness in refusing to come to the wedding banquet.

The parable is very clear on this. Look who ends up at the wedding banquet: everyone that the

slaves can bring in off the streets, the good and the bad alike. The point here is that our moral condition is secondary, secondary to God's invitation. **The banquet is ready, and God wants us to come.**

Now, this insight can clarify a few misperceptions that we can have about the Christian faith. At times we may think that faith is about *us being good*. But it is really about *God being good*. At times we may think that faith is about *us making the choice to love God*. But faith is really about *God making the choice to love us*. All the good things that we do, all the wonderful qualities that we have do not make us worthy of that love. All the mistakes we have made, all the sins that we have committed, do not disqualify us from the invitation that God is offering.

God invites us, and worthiness depends upon whether we say "yes" or "no" to that invitation. To say this in another way, ***God does not love us because we are good; we are good because God loves us. We are good because we have said "yes" to God's invitation and despite any of our successes or shortcomings, we have chosen to come to the feast.***

Clearly, once we have said "yes" and accepted the invitation, we try to live a moral life. We try to do good and avoid evil. But all of us know that our success in that area is rather uneven. Yet, our success or failure is secondary, secondary to God's invitation. It is God's call that counts.

So, never think that God loves you because you are good, because you come to church, because you give to charity, because you are a good parent or spouse or friend. All of these things are commendable. But God's love for you is prior to, and greater than, any of your achievements. None of the good things you do have any claim on God's love. Because, before all of them God freely chose to create you, to save you in Jesus Christ, and to call you to eternal life.

Never believe that God has stopped loving you because you have sinned, because you have failed, because you have cheated or lied, because you have hurt other people, because you are prejudiced or selfish. God's love is prior to, and greater than, any of your sins or failures.

Our God is a God of invitation. God invites us all into relationship, into the divine life. Our worthiness depends only on our willingness to say “yes” So, let us say “yes.” Let us forget all of our successes and failures, all of our virtues and vices. Let us simply say “yes” to God’s love. The wedding banquet is prepared. Come to the feast.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

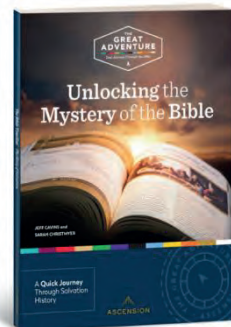
BIBLE STUDY

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.

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



FAMILY HOLY HALF HOUR
Saint Philip would like to welcome all families with young children to a **family holy HALF hour** on **Friday, October 27, at 5:30 PM in Marian Hall** in the Molloy Center.

A Holy Hour is where we are in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, exposed in front of us, on the altar. It is a beautiful experience that families often miss out on due to fear of their children’s inability to sit still for long durations. This format is geared towards kids by shortening the time to a half hour and having music and activities that will help your children and you, as parents, understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We encourage you to come and spend time with Jesus as a family.

If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. Nico,
or call the Parish Office at
(973) 779 6200.



VIVERE CHRISTUS AWARD

This year’s recipient of the **Vivere Christus Award** from our parish is **Mr. Mike Cevine**. He will receive the Award from Bishop Kevin Sweeney on Sunday, October 15th at 3 PM in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

This Diocesan Medal is awarded to those who selflessly give their time, talent, and treasure for the good of their parish. Mike has been an active parishioner of St. Philip for 40 years, and most recently serving as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus.



EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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 entitled “This Is My Body.”

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The early childhood wing has been hard at work. We have done many educational activities that our hanging in the hallway.

We have been learning all about fall and St. Francis of Assisi.

This week have started to learn about fire prevention.



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



On Sunday, October 8th,
Fr. Monteleone blessed our animals.



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 29, 2023.

Let us know if you'll join us: lvalenti@stphilip.org

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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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!

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.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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, and 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 at (973) 220-3095 or go to kofc.org web site and click on "Join" or simply take a picture of the QR code below with your smart phone.



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

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

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

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar!

All Are Welcome!

Come join us for our Rosary Meeting as we remind ourselves of the angel's words to Mary: "Nothing will be impossible for God (Lk 1:37)."

We will celebrate Mass and pray the Rosary on **Monday, October 23 at 6:30 in Marian Hall**
Fall Trick or Treats too!

SCOUTS

CUB SCOUT FUNDRAISER

Cub Scout Pack 21 of St. Philip's will be selling packaged pasta as their fundraiser this year. It will be held before/after all masses the weekend of October 21st & 22nd. Cash, Check, Venmo, and Zelle will be accepted forms of payment. Please support Pack 21!

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting of the blanket ministry is Thursday, October 19th at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! For information or donations, please call Cathie Murtha (973) 471-1265.

IN THE AREA...

SETON HALL PREP

New Jersey's oldest Catholic prep school will be hosting its annual Open House for 7th and 8th grade boys and their families on Sunday, October 29 (registration required at www.shp.or/openhouse). Visitors will tour the campus and their 44-acre Kelly Athletic Complex, their state-of-the-art

John J. Murphy '52 Science Center, learn about the application process, and have the opportunity to meet with teachers, coaches, parents, and current students. For more information, please contact Michael T. Zinsmeister, Director of Admission, at (973) 325-6640 or visit www.shp.org.

Hazard Zet Forward!

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Ava Lynne



Dominic Anthony



Shane Dylan

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 9, 2022	\$18,520.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 1, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 9,777.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,461.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,238.00
SECOND COLLECTION:PROJECT FAITHS	\$ 2,503.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
October 22 - Mission Sunday
October 29 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

Claire Chilazi, Ansel Rivero,
 Alina Nicastro, Edvie Canavan,
 Joanne Barrett, Peggy Nisivoccia,
 Harry Carline, Manuel Bacani



MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

- 9:00** Robert Baran

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

- 9:00** Deceased members of the
 McNamara Family
 Robert Shalboub

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

- 9:00** Alberto Gentolia

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

- 9:00** Connie Pomposelli

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

- 9:00** Ed Kovacs
 Pasquale Ferro

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

- 9:00** Charles Maikisch
- 5:30** Joseph Paz
 Marge Sirvidio
 Babies in the womb and their families

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Luigi Gioia
 Edward Kovacs
 Victor & Dorothy Robinson
 Mario Santulli
- 12:00** Victor Shami
 Annette Avolio

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