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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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,

Efficiency and organization are certainly gifts, but they are not the most important ones. There are other qualities that are more fundamental, more necessary for life.

A young naval officer was working his way up the chain of command. One day he was particularly pleased when the captain announced that the next morning the young officer would oversee the launching of the boat from port. This was a considerable responsibility, and the young officer wanted to do well. So, the next morning he gave a number of rapid commands, and the decks were buzzing with activity. Soon the boat was making its way out of port. The officer was pleased with himself and was quite sure that he had set a record for the most rapid departure from port. He was therefore not surprised when a seaman came up to him with a note of congratulations from the captain. He was, however, perplexed that the captain's note was a radio message. It read: "Congratulations on your rapid departure from port. But in your speed, you forgot one important rule: Make sure the captain is on board before you get underway."

Getting underway is something that I think a lot of us are beginning to feel. Because with Thanksgiving behind us, the holiday season is taking off. As beautiful as this season is, there is no doubt that it places increasing demands upon us. The preparation for family gatherings, for special meals, for shopping and gifts absorbs our time and our energy. Yet it is possible amid all these activities to miss what is truly important. This is why today's gospel tells us to stay awake, to stay awake to life, to stay awake to what really matters. There is no guarantee that simply because we are in a flurry of activity, we will be able to be awake to what is of true value. The ultimate success of the upcoming weeks will be in our ability to recognize the spiritual and personal dimension of all that we do.

After all, what is the value of spending hours of preparation to call family and friends together, if the activity of that preparation prevents us from appreciating the people who gather? What advantage is it to find the perfect gift for every person, if the activity of finding that gift makes us irritable or impatient with the people we love? What is the ultimate importance of checking off everything from our Christmas list, if such activity blinds us to the moments of grace that God will place in our life?

Those moments of grace are at the heart of the holiday season. Those moments are what we cannot miss. It is for those moments that we must stay awake. Christ is with us, and Christ does plan to bless us in the upcoming weeks, with tenderness, reconciliation, and joy. But the success of the holidays will depend on our ability to recognize those moments and to take them in.

So how can we do this? How can we remind ourselves of this deeper spiritual reality that is at the heart of the season? The Cherokee Indians have a beautiful creation story which says that on the day after creation was complete God asked all the plants of creation to stay awake for seven days in celebration of the earth. With each passing day more and more of the plants grew tired and fell asleep. On the seventh day only two plants were still awake: the pine tree and the holly bush. So, God blessed them and said to them, "Because you stayed awake, you will remain green forever. In the heart of the winter, you will remain sentinels of life." So, to this day the Cherokee Indians say that when winter comes, all the other plants lose their leaves and fall asleep. But the pine and the holly bush stay awake.

Now clearly the pine and the holly are traditional signs of Christmas. But I think we would do well to see them as signs of Advent, signs of preparation. So, in the upcoming weeks as you notice a pine tree or a holly bush standing green against the barren trees and the (possible) snow, think of it as staying awake. Let it remind you to stay awake to the things that really matter. After all, the upcoming weeks are not about our tasks but about our relationships, about the people in our lives. After all, the upcoming weeks are not about what we will do, but what Christ will do for us. For Christ will indeed bless us with moments of grace. Those moments are what we must not miss. It is for those moments that we must stay awake.

Now it should come as no surprise to us that the success of this season, as of every season, is the presence of Christ with us. Therefore, as this season begins, be sure that Christ is on board before you get underway.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is as follows:

Thursday, December 7th, Vigil Mass at 7PM
Friday, December 8th, 7 AM and 9 AM

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 11
7 PM

Advent Recollection by Fr. Greg Cappucino

Monday, December 18
10 AM and 7 PM

Filipino Simbang Gabi

Friday, December 22
7 PM

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24
4 PM - Fr. Nico (*Youth Choir*)
7 PM - Fr. Nico (*Handbell Choir*)
10 PM - Fr. Monteleone (*Adult Choir*)

*Please note the Youth and Adult Choirs
will sing carols 30 Minutes before Mass*

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25
8 AM - Fr. Monteleone
10 AM - Fr. Nico (Broadcast)
12 PM - Fr. Cesar

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1
9 AM

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us for our Service of Lessons & Carols,
which will be held on

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

This is a change of date and time from our usual
Sunday concert featuring our Adult, Youth and
Handbell Choirs and readings from the bible.

We hope you can join us for this radiant event on the
evening of the Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception!



ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

This liturgical work composed by Renaissance composer, Palestrina, is an extremely melodic and fluid choral work composed in the late 1500s with a libretto written nearly 500 years before that.

Because of its content, the work is often performed during Advent and Epiphany, when the Catholic church ponders and meditates on the mysteries of Blessed Mary and her virgin birth.

Our choir or cantor will chant this after Communion as we unite our hearts with the Blessed Mother and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Latin Lyrics

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,
Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti,
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.*

English Translation

Sweet Mother of the Redeemer, that passage to
heaven, gate of the morning, and star of the sea:
Assist the fallen, lift up, you who cure, the people:
you who bore to the wonderment of nature,
your holy Creator. Virgin before and after, who
received from Gabriel that joyful greeting,
have mercy on us sinners.

GIVING TREE

As we ready to start the Advent season, and prepare for our Christmas celebrations, let us not forget our neighbors in need. Our annual **Giving Tree** is the perfect way to live out our mission to do the work of Christ. "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)." This year, we will be able to offer two ways to participate! Please visit the church vestibule to select a gift tag - or visit our parish website - to help people served by Catholic Family and Community Services (CFCS), St. Martin de Porres Village (MPV), and Mercy House (MH). Please consider sharing your blessings this Christmas season by sharing a gift to help those in need in our local community.

In the words of Pope Francis, *“To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us.”*

Please return all gifts (and make online donations) by the 12 PM Mass on December 17, 2023.



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The fourth and fifth graders will have a special treat—Father Monteleone invited us to the church to see the objects of the Mass we have been studying in person. The fifth graders will also be attending a special lesson with Father Monteleone to learn about the real presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Our puppet theater has been built and the students in both fourth and fifth grade Religion classes will soon begin creating their puppet shows to teach Bible Stories to the younger students.

Finally, with Advent just around the corner - students are learning about the tradition of the Jesse Tree and will be making their own as we go through the daily reflections and Bible passages that make up this special tradition.

TREPS MARKETPLACE



Avoid the crowded malls and come shop at our student run Christmas Marketplace! Creative and unique gifts for everyone on your shopping list.

When: Saturday, December 9th
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: St. Philip Prep Auditorium

This is a cash only event and we ask that you bring small change with you to shop as well as your own shopping bag.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SCOUTS

Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 21 is having their Annual Wreath Sale after all masses this weekend. The scouts will be selling fresh wreaths as well as grave blankets and grave pillows outside of the church. Please stop by and support Boy Scout Troop 21!

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Simbang Gabi
A Filipino devotional of a nine-day series of Masses during Advent in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

Join Us

22 DEC 2023

7:00 PM

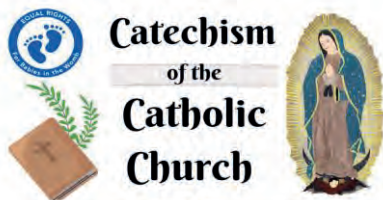
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Father Nico Quintos
Celebrant

Fellowship immediately following Mass in the Auditorium

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY



2271. Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or as a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.

COLUMBIETTES

Columbiette Blanket Ministry

The blanket ministry will meet on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome!

Thank you to Gertrude for a generous fabric donation and to Carol and Peggy for many, many skeins of yarn. You have enabled us to provide many handmade items for those in need. We have just donated hats and scarves to coordinate with the K of C coat drive. It's getting cold out there! For further information, call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Please join us on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 in Marion Hall as we celebrate the Birth of Our Savior. Collection that evening includes Diapers (size 4-6) and wipes for the Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women and goods (white rice, beans, cereal/oatmeal, Mac & cheese, PB & J, etc) for St. Michaels Food Bank.

Merry fellowship following Mass and Rosary.

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.

The next GriefShare session at Saint Philip's is on **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:30 PM** in the Youth Room of Jubilee Wing Building of the Molloy Center.

For questions, please call the Parish Office at (973) 779 6200.



AROUND TOWN...

The Theater League of Clifton will present "Sounds of the Season"

on **Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:30 PM**

at Grace Church, 45 Hazel St.

and **Sunday, Dec. 3, 4 PM**

at Living Hope Presbyterian Church,
303 Maplewood Ave.

Music will be performed by the ensemble known as "The Jalm Experience," featuring our very own Dorothy Dobkowski.

Tickets for the fund-raiser are priced at \$45 in advance for adults, and \$50 at the door. Tickets for children under 12 are priced at \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Tickets may be reserved by phone (973) 928-7668; online via the Theater League's website (www.theaterleagueofclifton.com). Seating for the performances at both venues is on a first come, first serve basis.

MEDITATION OPPORTUNITY

Join Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology for their annual daily Advent reflection series on

"The Hospitality of Advent"

as we prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas. Meditations are sent by email from December 3 through December 24.

Consider how Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and other great figures of the Gospels and Church tradition welcomed Jesus into their hearts.

How might Jesus be beckoning us this Advent to a greater understanding and appreciation of God's desire to come to us, dwell within us, and be welcomed into our homes and hearts? How might this year's Advent be a journey of an ever-deepening hospitality of the heart?

Please register

at <https://www.shu.edu/theology/immaculate-conception-seminary-advent-series.cfm>

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Sienna and Emilia

KIDS KORNER

KID'S KORNER Year 8

Gospel Today
First Sunday of Advent | Mark 13:33-37

BE AWARE & KEEP WATCH!
Always be ready for the day and hour when God comes again. No one knows when, not even Jesus or the Angels in Heaven.



FIRST WEEK OF
ADVENT
ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

BLESS THIS WREATH
Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessings upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."

WEEK 1, evening lighting prayer
Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord, Amen". Youngest child lights 1 purple candle.



The base of our wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It symbolizes **THE ETERNITY OF GOD.**

We decorate the base with **EVERGREENS** which represent **CONTINUOUS LIFE.**

Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle. Draw a flame on 1 purple candle and color the holly leaves green.

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 27, 2022 \$14,825.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 26, 2023
WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 12,577.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 5,562.00
TOTAL \$ 18,139.00
SECOND COLLECTION – PROJECT FAITH \$ 2,505.00
Upcoming Second Collections:
December 10 – Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the recently Deceased

John Tomesco, Alfonso Peterson, Teodoro Zangari, Josephine Drozd, Joseph Verderese

A Time to be Healed...

Edvie Canavan, Joanne Barrett, Peggy Nisivocchia, Manuel Bacani, Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Joseph Gore, Sikora Sisters, Linda Hilario



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

- 8:00** For all the People of the Parish
10:00 James Fernandez
Rosario Llames - 3rd Anniversary
Mario Santulli
Segundo Villegas
12:00 Robert Quinn
Rita Latona

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

- 9:00** Lea Wozniak
Andy Malonzo

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

- 9:00** Giuditta and Nicola Ruggiero

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

- 9:00** Bishop Frank J. Rodimer - 5th Anniversary
Tony Campanella - 5th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

- 9:00** Frank and Laura Slasinski
Edward Yobs
7:00 PM Vigil Mass
Harry Carline
Mary Ronayne

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

Immaculate Conception

- 7:00 AM** For all the People of the Parish
9:00 Mary and Frank Spychaj
Our Nation

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

- 9:00** F. Paul Marschalk
5:30 Jerry Jaucian - 10th Anniversary
John Gallagher
Louise Stolarz

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

- 8:00** Garry DeVos
Henry and Marie Marrocco
10:00 Christine Hadinata
Angelina and Francesco Castaldo
Rita Latona
Connie Pomposelli
12:00 For all the People of the Parish

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3rd

In memory of Henry McNamara

OFFERTORY GIFTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3rd

In memory of F. Paul Marschalk

- From the Marschalk Family



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