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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time November 5, 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,

Today's gospel is not about the Pharisees. It is about us. However, we imagine Jesus' relationship to the Pharisees during his earthly ministry, his words of criticism in today's gospel have been recorded not to criticize them but to warn us—to direct us to avoid those things which would prove shameful in God's sight. So how might we discover what Jesus is warning us about?

I would like to focus on one line, actually one word, the word “**finger**”. In making his criticism Jesus says that people are carrying heavy burdens, and you are unwilling to lift even a finger to move them. What is the impact of the expression: “unwilling to lift a finger?” It is a small movement. In fact, except for the blink of the eye, it is the smallest move that a body can make. Yet, Jesus is saying how shameful would it be if people around us are burdened and we are unwilling to lift a finger to help them, unwilling to make even the smallest move in their favor.

Now of course, one could pose a response to Jesus' criticism. If moving a finger is such a small, tiny effort then what difference does it make if you move it or not? If we are asked simply to move a finger, then what difference can either doing it or not doing it make? Here is where the word *finger* can help us.

Finger is a translation of a Greek word, *δάκτυλος*. It is a rare word in the New Testament. It only occurs one time in Matthew's gospel in the passage that we just heard about lifting your finger to help another. But it occurs also in Luke and in John. I am suggesting that if we look where the word *finger* occurs in these two gospels, it will throw light on Jesus' meaning in today's gospel. It will show us how lifting a finger can help others and help ourselves as well.

In the Gospel of Luke, *δάκτυλος* occurs when Jesus is addressing the crowd. He says, “If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.” Here the word, *finger*, is not our finger or even Jesus' finger, it is God's finger. Reading this passage about God's finger together with the passage in today's gospel about our finger reminds us that He is capable and willing of acting through our actions. If this is the case, then even a small action on our part could be

significant. If when we move our finger, God is moving God's finger through us, then we can make a real difference in the life of people, even if our movement is rather small.

The word, *δάκτυλος*, also occurs in John's gospel. Jesus uses it as he addresses Thomas. He says, “Take your finger and place it in the nail mark of my hands and do not doubt but believe.” Here the word, *finger*, is a means of faith. When we connect this use to today's gospel, it seems to be saying that if we move our finger to help another, we will be drawing closer to Christ because in touching another we are touching Christ, himself.

Even though moving a finger is a very small action, it should not be one that is discounted. When we act in even a small way for another person, God can act through us. Therefore, our action can have tremendous consequences. It can also deepen and increase our own faith.

It might seem like a very small action to pick up the phone and contact someone who has just lost a loved one in death. It is only a few minutes of your time. Yet if God is with you in that call, your action of lifting a finger can lift the grief of someone who is sorrowing. It might seem like a small decision to begin counseling when your marriage is in danger. It may seem too small to make a difference. But if God's grace is with you, then that small effort could turn the situation around and save your family. It might seem insignificant when you stop and have a thirty-second conversation with the kid in school whom everyone else mocks. Yet, you might discover that by choosing that small action you find yourself closer to Christ and more clearly his disciple.

Lifting a finger is a small action that could easily be discounted. In the gospel today, Jesus warns us not to dismiss it. For when we lift a finger to help another person it is possible that God is moving God's own finger through us. If so, then our action will help build the Kingdom of God. And that small action may not only help someone else. When we use our finger to touch the pain of another person, we should have no doubt that our own faith will be deepened, because we will be touching the wounds of the risen Christ.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

Loved ones are remembered during all Masses celebrated during the month of November and their names will be placed by the statue of Mary in the church.

We invite you to write the names of your beloved, faithful departed relatives, and friends on the paper by the statue of Mary in the church and place your memorial intentions in the vase provided. This will be available throughout the month of November.

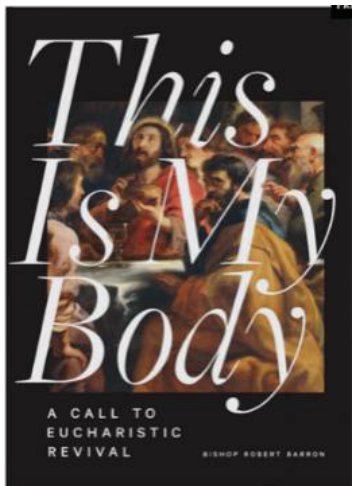
FAMILY MASS

Our Youth Choir sang at our monthly Family Mass last Sunday. We invite all families with young children and youth to our next Family Mass on Sunday, November 26, 2023.



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 SPPS students have been very busy this week! The students participated in our annual trunk-or-treat on Sunday. Even though it was inside they all had a great time! Everyone celebrated Halloween on Tuesday, October 31st. The younger kids enjoyed the parade and even had some educational fun in the classroom! The third grade class read a story about pumpkins. They made predictions about how many seeds their pumpkins would have and then got to dig into their own pumpkins. It was messy but fun!

WORK WITH US!

St. Philip Preparatory school is looking to fill two Full-Time Teaching positions: Middle School Social Studies and Middle School ELA.

For inquiries, please email Principal Gonzalez at principalgonzalez@stphilipprep.com

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER AT MASS!

We are always looking for Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Consolation Ministry & 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.

FATHER ENGLISH FOOD PANTRY

The **Father English Food Pantry** is in need of food donations. The pantry feeds the working poor and about 20,000 families are served monthly with more than 1,000 food bags distributed daily. Most clients work but cannot afford to feed their families. Let us help them by bringing only **NON-PERISHABLE** food items with you the weekend of **November 18th and 19th**, when you come to Mass. Please consider the following donations: Canned food, lentils, peanut butter, and dry cereals. Thank you and please leave your donations in a box or bag in the back of the church as you enter. All items will be picked up by 10 AM on the Monday after collection.

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.

The next GriefShare session at Saint Philip's is on **Monday, November 13th, 2023 at 7 PM** in the Youth Room of Jubilee Wing Building of the Molloy Center.

Please connect with Fr. Nico or Linda in the Parish Office at (973) 779 6200.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be having their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, November 12th from 12 to 5 PM in the St. Philip Auditorium. Monies raised help fund activities for the boy scouts. The all-you-can-eat spaghetti is prepared by the troop with homemade sauce and served with salad, bread, coffee, tea, dessert, and refreshments. Takeout orders are also available. Price is \$15, seniors pay just \$12, kids 5-11 are \$8, and kids under 4 and under are free with a paying adult. Purchase tickets at the door. For details about the dinner or joining Boy Scout Troop 21, email: troop21clifton@gmail.com.



WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Next meeting of the Widow and Widowers will be on Monday, November 13th at 2 PM in the Molloy Center. Anyone who is experiencing a loss is most welcome.

ROSARY SOCIETY

All Are Welcome! On November 13th at 6:30 PM in Marian Hall, we will be praying and celebrating Mass for our beloved deceased Rosarians and family members. Please come and join us for the Feast of St. Frances Cabrini, the first US citizen to be canonized!

COLUMBIETTES

Columbiette Blanket Ministry

The next meetings will be held Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome!

A big thank you to Georgeanna for your generous monetary donation!

If you have any questions or would like to make a yarn or fabric donation, please call Cathie Murtha. (973) 471-1265

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Family Fun night

On Tuesday, November 14th, the HSA is having a "Doughraiser" at Pizzeria Uno in Clifton. Present the flyer below and up to 25% of your check will be donated back to St. Philip Prep School!

That's a lotta dough!

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LIFE MINISTRY



FOCUS AT MSU

FOCUS – Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

This weekend, the FOCUS missionaries serving at Montclair State University will be speaking after Mass to invite to join their campaign to bring 50 students to encounter Christ, at their national conference, SEEK. For more information reach out to Alyssa Siefring at alyssa.siefring@focus.org. Is the Lord calling you to sponsor a student's registration to encounter Jesus? Scan the QR code below.



DIOCESE OF PATERSON

DIOCESAN JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Passaic Neighborhood for Women is searching for a director. It is a Full Time Position. More information can be found on the Diocesan website. <https://rcdop.org/job-opportunities>

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Dominic Daniel

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED



Congratulations, Joseph and Synthia!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

What can we do to restore the quality and beauty of the pews, kneelers, and furnishings of our church? Our "Having a Place at the Banquet of the Lord" capital campaign has begun. Please see the parish website for information about the restoration project and to make an online pledge.

Thank You for Your Support

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit distributes them. — 1 Corinthians 12:4

To all those who have pledged, contributed to, and continue to offer prayers for our "Having a Place at the Banquet of the Lord" capital campaign, a heartfelt thank you. Your kindness and generosity toward this project have gotten us off to a great start. This work could not be done without you!

Update: To date we have raised \$108,000 in contributions collected and we are up to \$241,000 with all our pledges.

GOAL: \$300,000



PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 30, 2022	\$16,684.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: OCTOBER 29, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 11,921.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,725.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,646.00
SECOND COLLECTION – PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,063.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
November 12 – Catholic Home Missions

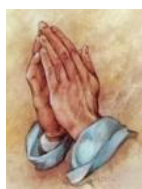
WE PRAY FOR...

For the recently Deceased

John Szerencsits, Frank LaManna, Jr,
 Deacon Joao DaSilva

A Time to be Healed...

Claire Chilazi, Asnel Rivero, Alina Nicastro,
 Edvie Canavan, Joanne Barrett, Peggy Nisivoccia,
 Harry Carline, Manuel Bacani,
 Bishop Arthur Serratelli



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

- 8:00** Jerry T. Scrosia
 Juan Leyva
- 10:00** Antonio, Vittoria, and Catarina Masucci
 Felicia and Pietro Mannarino
 Vernie Young
 Connie Pomposelli
- 12:00** For the babies in the womb
 and their families
 Rita Latona

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

- 9:00** Marie Saykanic

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

- 9:00** Frank Spychaj

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

- 9:00** Hilda Carlucci
 Natividad Gentolia

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

- 9:00** Eugene and Dorothy Riggio
 Richard Peterson, Sr

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

- 9:00** Veterans of America

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

- 9:00** Bob Martin
 Ivonne Ramirez
- 5:30** Antonino Campanella
 Eugene Markey
 Cynthia Franklin - 1st Anniversary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

- 8:00** For all the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Rosina Gioia
 Mario Santulli
 Dr. Joseph DeStefano
 Linda Pepe
- 12:00** Rita Latona
 Richard Marranzino

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5th

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 daughter



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