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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 19, 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,

It is easier for us to see what is negative rather than what is good. We tend to focus on what is wrong rather than on what is right. We find ourselves more willing to criticize than to praise. Just look at today's gospel, the Parable of the Talents. What is it about? If I were to take a survey here this morning, I would wager that the majority of people would say, "This parable tells us that God will punish us if we do not use our talents."

We focus on the negative. We focus on the one servant who buried his money out of fear and received his master's wrath. But there were two servants who used their talents and who receive their master's praise. So, if you look at this parable simply from a quantitative standpoint, it tells us that God is more likely to praise us for our successes than criticize us for our failures. Or to say this in another way: there is more affirmation in the parable than there is judgment.

So, if we take this positive approach to the parable, what does it say about affirmation? Two things: that we should take it in and we should spread it around. Clearly the master in the parable stands in the place of God. Therefore, this parable is telling us that God affirms us. God is pleased with us. God takes delight in the way that we use the talents that have been given to us. If God is affirming us, how important it is that we take that affirmation in. For you see, affirmation is power. Affirmation can change us. It causes us to grow. Just look at the way that the servants grow in the parable as they are affirmed by their master. They once were only capable of a few things, but now they are trusted with more. They once were unsure, but now they are confident and enter into their master's joy.

Because God is affirming us, we must let that affirmation in. We are always inclined to look at the negative parts of our life, our failures. But there is no power in our failures. The power comes from accepting God's affirmation and love. God is affirming us every moment of our lives. God is saying to us, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant. You are a good parent. You are a good spouse. You are a good grandmother, a good sister. You have used your talents generously, faithfully, and creatively. You have been strong and a support to others."

It is especially important it is to take in God's affirmation when we have experienced a setback in our lives—after an argument with a friend, after we have let down someone that we love, if we experience divorce. In these moments more than others, we have to claim that God is still affirming us, saying to us,

"You are still good, because I have made you good. You are still talented, because I have given you talents. You are still loved, because you are my daughter or my son." God's affirmation of us is the source of power and life. We must take it in.

It is also important to spread affirmation around. For when we give affirmation, we act like God. We act like God when we affirm others, especially those who are closest to us. It is all too seldom that we praise the people with whom we live. We certainly love them, but the way we show love can often be counterproductive. Sometimes we think that the way to express love is to warn others, to save them from their mistakes. Parents frequently choose to love in this way. They can base their loving on warnings: "Don't do this. Never forget to do that. Do not make this mistake." They are motivated, of course, out of a desire to protect their children. They seek to make their sons and daughters better people. There is no power in emphasizing the negative. Power comes from affirmation and love. When was the last time that you praised your daughter or your son? When was the last time that you said, "I am so proud of you. You do this so well." Can you imagine the power that is released when such affirmation comes from a mother or father? When was the last time that you paid a compliment to your spouse, or to a close friend? When have you said, "You amaze me at how well you do this. How patient you are, how generous you are, how creative you are." Can you imagine the sense of power and healing that are released when someone who loves you affirms you in that way? We are truly like God when we decide to spread our praise around.

It is always easier to see the negative, to recognize what needs to be changed. Power and life, however, come from affirmation. This leaves us with two questions: How will I let in the affirmation God has for me, and who will I affirm today? My suggestion is that for the rest of this liturgy you put out of your mind any problems or failures or shortcomings, and simply recognize that God is present here among us. Open your hearts to receive the love, the delight, the pleasure that God takes in you. God will never stop loving you. You are God's beloved son or daughter. Then, once you are filled with God's affirmation, allow the Holy Spirit to suggest to you three people who you will affirm this week. Once you have identified those people, affirm them. Once you have affirmed them, repeat the process again. Make it a pattern of life. Become a person of affirmation—taking it in, spreading it around.

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.

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

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please mark your calendars 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!

FAMILY MASS

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



THANKSGIVING DAY

Let us come together to thank the Lord for all His goodness in our lives, both big and small.

Holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23, 2023, will be celebrated at 9 AM.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and we pray that your hearts may be filled with joy and gratitude.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

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 on **THANKSGIVING DAY**, when you come to the 9 AM 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.

LIFE MINISTRY



Happy Thanksgiving

"And whatever you do, in word or deed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Col. 3:17



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, November 27th, 2023 at 7 PM** in the Youth Room of Jubilee Wing Building of the Molloy Center.

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

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Though Halloween is barely over, and we have not yet celebrated Thanksgiving, the students of St. Philip Prep are gearing up for the annual Christmas show. Joyous voices are ringing throughout the classrooms as we prepare for this much anticipated annual event to celebrate the reason for the season!

The fourth grade religion classes are making posters to share their thoughts of how to change a bad attitude to gratitude. The students are working in pairs to make colorful posters to share with the school.

October is the month of the rosary. The fifth graders did a project in which they studied the different mysteries of the rosary. Each student made a medallion of the Virgin Mary and reflected on the mysteries. The medallions are displayed on a bulletin board in the main hallway.

Last week our students honored our US Veterans in a special school assembly. Students brought their family members who have served in the US armed forces.



SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for St. Philip Prep's TREP\$ Christmas Marketplace run by our own student entrepreneurs!

Saturday, December 9, 2023
from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
St. Philip Prep Auditorium.
More information to come!

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

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SCOUTS

Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 21 is having their Annual Wreath Sale after all Masses the weekends of November 25th & 26th, and December 2nd & 3rd. The scouts will be selling fresh wreaths as well as grave blankets and grave pillows outside of the church.

Call Phil Jakimowicz at (973) 723-6111 for pre-orders or more information.

Please support Boy Scout Troop 21!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Coats for Kids Thank You

Our Knights of Columbus Council 11671 send our sincere thanks to everyone in our parish who donated so generously to this year's Coats for Kids campaign. We gave away about 100 coats on Nov. 4th at school 12 and will be giving away more over the next few weeks to school 17 and Christopher Columbus Middle School.

Next year we are planning on asking the school board to announce the distribution information to all the schools in the district as we're sure there are needy children everywhere in town. We'd like to especially thank our Columbiette sisters for all the hand-crocheted hats and scarfs they made to distribute with the coats; these were fabulously popular. Clifton has several signs indication we are a "City that Cares." St. Philip's parishioners are a community the "Really Cares."

Thank you so very much!



PRIME-TIMERS

The next meeting of the St. Philip Prime-Timers will be on Friday, December 1st at 1:30 PM in Marian Hall. Coffee and Cake will be served before the meeting.

Karen will be doing chair exercises to music. If you do not want to exercise, you can listen to music. Come and learn some chair exercises that you can do at home.

Everyone, 50 years and older, is welcome. Come and be our guest and join us for fun and make new friends. If you have any questions, please contact Jean R. (973) 253-1619.

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.

AROUND TOWN...

2023

THEATER LEAGUE OF CLIFTON

Sounds of the Season

Sat., Dec 2nd 7:30pm
Grace Church - 45 Hazel St, Clifton

Sun., Dec 3rd 4:00pm
Living Hope Church - 303 Maplewood Ave., Clifton

A concert featuring Christmas & Holiday favorites.

Adults: \$45 advance \$50 door
Children: (under 12) \$20 advance \$25 door

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

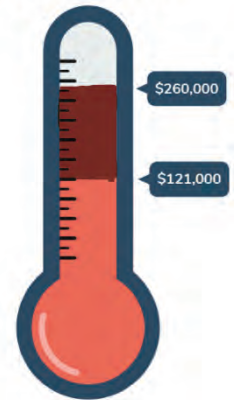
What can we do to restore the quality and beauty of the pews, kneelers, and furnishings of our church? Our "Having a Place at the Banquet of the Lord" capital campaign has begun. Please see the parish website for information about the restoration project and to make an online pledge.

Thank You for Your Support

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

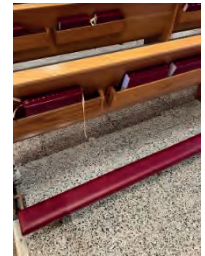
To all those who have pledged, contributed to, and continue to offer prayers for our "Having a Place at the Banquet of the Lord" capital campaign, a heartfelt thank you. Your kindness and generosity toward this project have gotten us off to a great start. This work could not be done without you!

GOAL: \$300,000

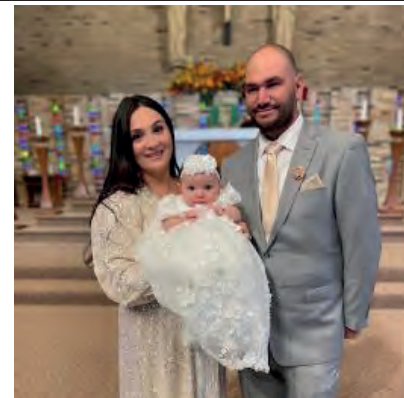


Update: To date we have raised \$121,000 in contributions collected and we are up to \$260,000 with all our pledges.

Please see the pictures below of the sample pew has been restored.



GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Briella Michele

DIOCESAN NEWS

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 1**

St. James, Totowa
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3**

St. Margaret, Morristown
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Project ANDREW

Join other single, Catholic young men - high school age to young professionals - to learn more about the priesthood by joining Bishop Sweeney and other priests and seminarians from the Diocese of Paterson for an evening of prayer, dinner and conversation.

- Learn about the life of a priest
- Ask what's on your mind
- Listen to witness talks
- Enjoy faith, food and fellowship with Bishop Sweeney and more.

Scan the QR code to register or contact us:



Registration Suggested
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"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 13, 2022 \$ **15,646.00**

SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 12, 2023

WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 8,311.00

ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 7,724.00

TOTAL \$ 16,035.00

SECOND COLLECTION—CATHOLIC MISSIONS \$ 2,048.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

November 26 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the recently Deceased

Viola Finale, David Kidd, Norma Aguliar Moises, Martha Shadwell

A Time to be Healed...

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



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

- 8:00** Joseph Gondola
Manuel Calle
- 10:00** Erna DeIntinis
Paul, Marie, and Paul II Konzelman
Margaret White
Luz Rodriguez and Luz Soto
- 12:00** For all the People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

- 9:00** Michael T. Renda
Jane Bayo-Ang and Dolores Visto

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

- 9:00** John Szerencsits
Thomas Joseph Batelli

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

- 9:00** Elizabeth Ann Fournier
Segundo Villegas

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

- 9:00** Owen O'Rourke
Bob Martin

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 2023

- 9:00** Thomas J. and Ruth C. Mullin
Domenick and Josephine Pagano

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023

- 9:00** Mary and Frank Spychaj
Deceased members of the Sunga Family
- 5:30** For all the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

- 8:00** Edward Leber
Kristen Bruschi
- 10:00** Ralph Saam - 22nd Anniversary
Domenick Pagano
Connie Pomposelli
Rita Latona
- 12:00** Maria Sciancalepore
Victor Shami
Bernard Pompeo-22nd Anniversary

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19th

In memory of Fred and Dorothea Anthony
-from the Anthony Family



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