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# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



## Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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 Saturday .....4:30 PM

### HOLY HOUR

Every Friday .....9:30 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,

There is an old rabbinic story about a farmer named Isaac who went to his neighbor and asked to borrow his donkey. The neighbor said, "I'm sorry Isaac, but my donkey is already out on loan to someone else." But just as he finished speaking, the donkey brayed from inside the stable. So, Isaac said, "How can you tell me that your donkey is on loan to someone else when I can hear him braying inside the stable?" The neighbor shook his head and said, "Isaac, who are you going to believe, the donkey or *me*?"

"Who are you going to believe?" That question is posed by today's gospel. In the gospel today we hear many good things. We hear of the good news of Jesus Christ. We hear that God is present in our world. John the Baptist says that Christ is coming, a powerful Christ that will baptize us in the Holy Spirit. All these things are wonderful. But they are not the only voices in our world.

There are other voices that tell a very different story: the voices of terrorism and war, that tell us we are not safe and that we may need to use violence to protect ourselves; the voices of scandal in business and in our church that undermine the institutions we value and cause us to doubt our connection to them. There may be voices in our own lives, voices of dissension and rejection that we find in our relationships—in our families, in our marriage, in our friendships—voices that tell us that trust and love are no longer possible. There might be the voices of grief, voices that tell us that we have lost something very dear; perhaps a person who has died. These voices tell us that we will never shake that emptiness. We will never be happy again. All these voices resound in our ears. They tell us that there is no good news, only bad news; that there is no reason to rejoice, only reason to weep. Who are we going to believe?

Both the words of John the Baptist and the words of Advent call us to listen. To listen for the Good News, to listen for the voice from the stable. You and I believe that Jesus Christ was born in a stable, lived his life, died and rose again as our risen Lord. We believe that he is still with us. We

believe that if we listen, we can hear his voice. We might hear it in the innocence of children, or in the faithfulness of a friend, or in the goodness of our spouse, or in the kindness of a co-worker. We might hear good news in a ministry that we engage in as part of a Christmas project here at St. Philip (the Giving Tree or food collection), or in generosity from a stranger, or in the beauty of the snow, or in the stillness of our hearts.

Wherever we hear those voices, those voices of good news, Advent tells us to listen to them and let them in. Advent tells us that the voices of negativity, the voices of gloom and fear should not be the only voices in our lives. They are not the only voices in the world. There *are* voices of good news if we can hear them. There *is* reason for hope if we can let it in.

Shouts of bad news and shouts of good news cry out at the same time. Reasons for hope and reasons for despair coexist within our world. Who are we going to believe? Advent tells us to believe in the voice from the stable, to believe in the voice of Christ. His is a voice we can trust in. His is a voice we can stake our life on. If we listen to that voice, we will not be disappointed. For even though there is darkness and brokenness in our world, his voice will lead us to good news. Even though there are real cries of sadness, in his voice we can hear peace, hope, and joy.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone



## PARISH ADVENT RECOLLECTION

Next weekend, December 16 & 17,  
**Fr. Greg Cappucino will be preaching at all the Masses as part of our parish Advent recollection.**  
**Fr. Greg will also offer reflections on Monday, December 18 at 10 AM or 7 PM on the joy Christ's birth brings to the world. Join us!**

## 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

## GIVING TREE

Pope Francis challenges us to answer God's call for us to be protectors "*showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about.*"

The holidays give us the perfect opportunity to answer the call to help people in our very own community in need of help. Please stop by the church vestibule to pick up a gift tag off our **Giving Tree** - or visit our parish website to donate - to benefit a local organization during this Christmas season!

Please return all gifts by the 12:00 PM Mass on December 17, 2023.

## ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

The great season of Advent is full of rich symbolism, especially in regard to the contrast of light and darkness.

For example, Jesus is known as the "light of the world" and his birth was made known to the Magi by a bright star, as they recounted to King Herod, "For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2). Stars then play a vital role in the symbolism of Christmas, pointing the way to Jesus Christ. The Virgin Mary is similarly known under such titles as "Star of the Sea," and is often referred to as a "star" that leads other people to her Son, the true "light" that shines in the darkness.

In Advent and throughout the Christmas season, the Church proposes an ancient hymn known by its Latin name, *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. It was written by St. Herman the Cripple in the 11th century and is recited after the conclusion of Night Prayer.

It is a beautiful prayer, one that highlights this symbolism and points our hearts towards Bethlehem, in eager anticipation of the birth of the Savior. Below is the Latin and English translation of this beloved hymn, which can easily be turned into a prayer throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

### **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.

### **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.*



## 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**

St. Philip the Apostle Parish  
797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ

Father Nico Quintos  
Celebrant

Fellowship immediately  
following Mass  
in the Auditorium



## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Saint Philip Students Grades 4-8 participated in the TREPS entrepreneurial program this weekend where they made and sold creative items at the TREPS Marketplace. What a success!

In Religion classes, students from Grades 4 and 5 learned about the tradition of the Jesse Tree, read Bible passages, and made symbols for the tree. Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story



Grade 6 is learning about the meaning of the candles on the Advent Wreath. Christmas is in the air as our students are singing and dancing at rehearsal for our Christmas show which will be on Tuesday, December 19.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTES

Columbiettes Food Drive on the second Wednesday of every month. Drop off your nonperishable donations in the church parking lot after the 9am Mass. All food is donated to St. Michael's Church in Passaic.

### LIFE MINISTRY



December 12

Our Lady of  
**Guadalupe**

**"I am your Mother full of  
mercy and love for you and all  
those who love Me, trust in Me,  
and have recourse to Me."**



The violent, pagan culture of the Mexican Aztecs practiced cannibalism, human and child sacrifice for centuries. Hundreds of thousands were sacrificed. In 1531, in response to their traditions and worship of a sun deity, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego and asked for a church to be built on Tepeyac Hill in her honor. The ensuing miracles of the winter roses and famous tilma image defy scientific explanation, converted the Aztecs and ended pagan worship and human sacrifice in their culture. The miraculous tilma remains on public display at the most-visited Catholic Shrine in the world, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City!

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The next meeting of the Widow and Widowers will be held on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in the Molloy Center. Anyone who is experiencing a loss of a significant other is welcome to attend.

### 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.

## PRIME-TIMERS

The next meeting of the St. Philip Prime Timers will be Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in Marian Hall. Coffee and cake will be served before the meeting. We will be playing Bingo. Cards are \$2 and the more that play, the more we pay. Everyone, 50 years and older is welcome. Come and join us for fun and socialization. If you have any questions, please call Jean R. (973) 253-1619.

## KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS/COLUMBIETTES

Every year for many years, our St. Philip the Apostle Knights of Columbus Council 11671 and our Columbiette sisters host a Christmas party for the children of Clifton targeted for those children with challenges be they physical, emotional, or financial. All are welcome to this grand celebration. There is no charge to anyone attending this party, child or parent, your support of Knights and Columbiette fund raising activities makes this event, just one of the many charitable causes we provide. We thank the Boy Scouts of Troop 21, the Confirmation candidates, the St. Philip's Prep HSA, and our wonderful Clifton Fire Department for helping us out every year!



## 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.



## 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>



## 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.

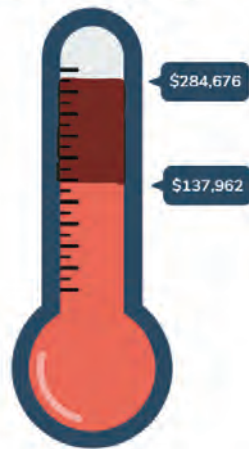
### *Thank You for Your Support*

*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!

To date we have raised \$137,962 in contributions collected and we are up to \$284,676 with all our pledges.

GOAL: \$300,000



## O'CHRISTMAS TREE

St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206, Newton, NJ 07860 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas Trees ready to choose "n" cut 7 days a week from November 24 to December 21, 10 AM to 3:30 PM.

They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with Many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more.

## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 4, 2022	\$18,975.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 3, 2023	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 10,438.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,744.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 17,182.00</b>
SECOND COLLECTION - RETIRED RELIGIOUS	\$ 3,000.00

**Upcoming Second Collections:**  
**December 25 – Project Faith**

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *A Time to be Healed...*

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



## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

- 9:00** Catherine McClane  
Anita Garbarino

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

- 9:00** Christopher Nicora

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

- 9:00** Patricia Pagoanganan

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

- 9:00** Joseph Dewland  
Carmine and Elena Monzo

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

- 9:00** The Schmidt and Kovach Families

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

- 9:00** Helen Sunga- Thanksgiving for birthday  
Samuel Villanueva  
**5:30** For all the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

- 8:00** Salvatore LoBalbo  
Kristen Bruschi  
**10:00** Deceased members of the Kerner Family  
Catherine "Kitty" Makowski  
Giacomino and Rosina Lenti  
Connie Pomposelli  
**12:00** Jim Loftus  
Rita Latona

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>

In memory of Norma Lopez



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