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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



Christmas 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,

“Let it be done to me according to your Word.” The history of the world turned on that line. All that God planned to do to save us, the gift that divine love wanted to give us hung on Mary’s response, on her willingness to cooperate. Her choice was a free choice, for Mary could have said “no.” It would have been easy to find many reasons to say “no.”

She could have responded to Gabriel by saying, “Wow! This is unexpected. Sort of out of the blue. How long before you need my answer? I’d really like to think about this. I know that God has a plan, but I’m rather upset about being brought into it at the very last minute. You might want to suggest that if God expects human cooperation, it might be good to give a little lead time, a few months so you could think things over. I’m sure that God would get a much better response using that approach. And really, to tell you the truth, it’s not the best time for me. I’m busy with the wedding and all coming up. We still must pick a hall and get flowers; I’ve already bought the dress and it’s not going to fit if I’m pregnant. And the more I think about it, this idea of conceiving by the Holy Spirit without a human father, it’s kind of peculiar, isn’t it? I really wish God would rethink that part of the plan. Joseph is a great guy, but I don’t think he’ll sign off on that. So why don’t we just leave it this way: first, tell God that I’m very honored to be considered. But the plan is nebulous and really not that well thought out. So why don’t you take it back and work on it a bit? Put some more detail in it, iron out some of the wrinkles, and we’ll talk again after the wedding.”

Mary could have said “no,” but she didn’t. What she said was, “Let it be done to me according to your Word.” Without much preparation, with very few details, and with a lot of things that were unsettling at best, Mary said “yes” to God. She said “yes” because she trusted that God had a plan and would not abandon her. Because she said “yes,” we have Jesus; we have eternal life; and we are preparing to celebrate Christmas.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On this great feast of Christmas, let us give thanks to God for the gift of His son, Jesus. Let us also give thanks for our families and friends. May your heart be filled with joy and peace. Be assured that the priests of St. Philip Rectory are praying for all. May this season of hope bring a brightness to your world and ignite a spark in your soul. We live in a world that does not always welcome the Christ Child as we do, may our hope, brightness, & witness open the hearts and minds who do not. That is my prayer and may it be yours as well.

Fr. Monteleone

+++

The celebration of Jesus's birth reminds us of God's enduring love and light, the promise of eternal life, and the joy of salvation.

I am grateful for every one of you. Your support and dedication in our parish are an inspiration to me. May we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love, following the example set by Christ.

Wishing you and your families
a blessed and joyful Christmas!

Fr. Nico

PLEASE NOTE

**The Parish Office will be closed on Friday,
December 22nd and will reopen on
Tuesday, December 26th.**

~

***The St. Philip Parish Staff would like to wish you
and yours a very Merry Christmas!***



CHRISTMAS IS ON A MONDAY?

Question: Since Christmas is on Monday this year, can I go to a Christmas Vigil Mass on Sunday and have it fulfill my Sunday and Christmas obligations?

Answer: As you note, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. And like all Sundays, Catholics are required to attend Mass in person, unless there is some legitimate reason (like illness or inclement weather) that makes attending Mass unduly difficult or impossible.

Of course, the following Monday, December 25, is Christmas Day, which is also a holy day of obligation. Because there are two days of obligation — Sunday and Christmas — this means that there are two distinct obligations to speak of. Each separate obligation needs to be fulfilled by attending a separate Mass. That is, you cannot “double dip” by attending a Christmas Eve Mass that happens to be on Sunday and having this one Mass fulfill two obligations. (In years when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, Christmas essentially replaces the Sunday liturgically, which means there is only one obligation.)

Now for the part that can get confusing: Even though you must attend two Masses to fulfill the two obligations, all this means is that you must go to Mass on that calendar day or attend a vigil Mass the evening before. The readings and prayers do not necessarily need to match the day whose obligation you are fulfilling. So, you could go to a Christmas Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 24, and have it count as your Sunday obligation this year; but if you intend for this to fulfill your Sunday obligation, then you must also attend another Mass on Christmas Day to fulfill your obligation for the holy day.

Of course, if you were to attend a vigil Mass on Saturday for Sunday, and then the Christmas vigil Mass on Sunday (Christmas Eve) for Christmas day, then you’ve got it all covered.

— — —
Jenna Marie Cooper holds a licentiate in canon law and whose column appears weekly at OSV News.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23
5:30 PM

Sunday, December 24
8 AM (No Music), 10 AM (Broadcast)
and 12 PM (No Music)

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

OPLATKI

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland. This Christmas custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity. The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. Packages of Polish Oplatki will be available in the vestibule of the Church.



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This past week, the stars were shining extra bright at the school Christmas Show on December 19th. The middle school students worked on Joy projects, writing letters of Joy to the teachers, faculty, and staff. This coming week was a fun-packed week with Christmas Sweater day, Santa Hat day and other activities. The students are excited for their Christmas recess.

The students, faculty and staff of St. Philip Prep would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!



A great **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who came out to support our young student entrepreneurs at our TREP\$ Marketplace. The marketplace opened with an official blessing and ribbon-cutting by Fr. Monteleone. It was a beautiful sight to see our auditorium filled with eager business owners and supportive shoppers! Success meant different things to different kids. For some, it was the independence of earning their own money and for others it was the skills they learned along the way. Many of the students sold out of their products while others took future orders for customized items. The support of the community showed the children that their hard work has value and gave them a great feeling of accomplishment. Stay tuned for future TREP\$ marketplaces!

*Thank
you!*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTES

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

LIFE MINISTRY

Merry Christmas

"For a child is born
to us, a son
is given us;
upon his shoulder
dominion rests.
They name him
Wonder-Counselor,
God-Hero,
Father-Forever,
Prince of Peace."
Is. 9:5

EQUAL RIGHTS
For Babies in the Wombs

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Cigar and Whiskey Night

On Thursday evening, January 18th, those 21 and older are invited to join us for a Whiskey tasting and Cigar night at Franklin Steakhouse in Fairfield. Tickets are \$65 per person and includes Whiskey Tasting, Cigar and buffet dinner. Please contact Anton at (862) 247-3899.

Calendar Raffles

Calendar Raffles are now available for sale. Tickets are \$10 each for 90 chances to win \$10,000 in prizes. Contact the School or Parish office for more information.

PRIME-TIMERS

The next meeting of the St. Philip Prime Timers will be Friday, January 5th 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.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings of the blanket ministry will be Thursday, January 4 and 18, 2024 at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! For more information, call Cathie Martha. (973) 471-1265.

Thank you to Grace for a generous donation of yarn! Also thank to the members of St. Philip's that have given us your support.

We wish all of you a healthy and peaceful 2024!

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, 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.



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 \$149,768 in contributions collected and we are up to \$297,732 with all our pledges.

GOAL: \$300,000



KIDS KORNER

< KID'S >
KORNER

Gospel Today
Fourth Sunday of Advent | Luke 1:26-38

Year B

BE AWARE, PREPARE, REJOICE, SEE THE LIGHT!
The Angel Gabriel came to Mary with good news. She would give birth to Jesus, and her cousin Elizabeth would give birth to John the Baptist, for nothing is impossible with God.

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1ST Day of Winter even in the short daylight hours
We See the Light!

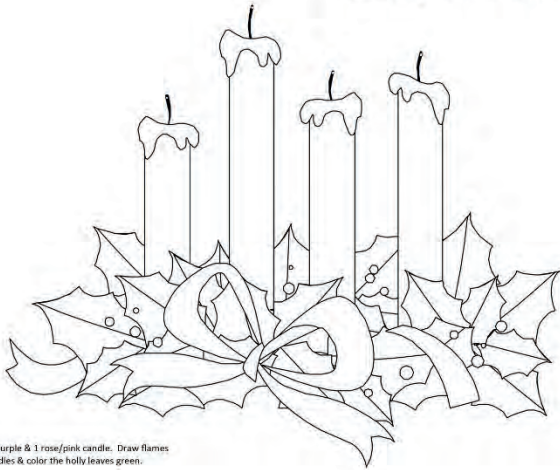
4 bright candles – Jesus is coming soon...

WEEK 4, evening lighting prayer
Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy Grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Father or head of household lights all the candles.

**We are Aware, We are Prepared,
We Rejoice, We see the Light!
Christ, Light of the World.**



Color 3 purple & 1 rose/pink candle. Draw flames on 4 candles & color the holly leaves green.

PARISH GIVING

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

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

WE PRAY FOR...

For the recently Deceased...

Jean Maiuri

A Time to be Healed...

Joanne Barrett, Peggy Nisivoccia, Manuel Bacani, Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Joseph Gore, Sikora Sisters, Reverend John Klein



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

- 8:00** For all the People of the Parish
10:00 Harry Carline
Guiseppa Esposito
All those who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces
12:00 David Kidd
For Our Nation

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2023

- 4:00 PM** Elvira Maldonado
Roberta Soccol
7:00 PM Charles Marvin
John Anderson, Jr.
10:00 PM Joseph Scaffidi
Emily and Andrew Sokerka
Pat Hassert

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

- 8:00** For all the People of the Parish
10:00 Angela Coffaro
The Schmidt and Kovach families
Domenick and Josephine Pagano
12:00 Marlene Chidiac
John Michal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

- 9:00** Beatriz Jumao-as
Manuel Moran

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

- 9:00** Ben Ricucci - 1st Anniversary
Leandro Salme

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

- 9:00** Helaine Pohle
Josefina Bulacan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023

- 9:00** Thomas Reck
James Elbert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

- 9:00** Daniel Joseph DiGioia
William Gary Crum
5:30 For all the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

- 8:00** For all the People of the Parish
10:00 Donald Muller
Connie Pomposelli
12:00 James Elbert
Rita Latona

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24th

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



OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24th

In memory of John Anderson, Jr
- from the Kerwin family



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