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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



The Epiphany of the Lord January 7, 2024



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,

Why would anyone choose to give myrrh to a baby? This is very likely what was going through Mary's mind as the magi presented their gifts to her son. Gold? Gold is always useful, especially if your economic situation was as dire as that of the holy family. Frankincense is less desirable, but at least it could add an aroma to the air around the house. But myrrh? Myrrh was a spice used to embalm a dead body—hardly a gift to present to a newborn child. What could this exotic man from the East have been thinking to offer such a gift? Obviously, he could have benefited from a personal shopper.

Yet, even as we appreciate Mary's perplexity, from the viewpoint of two thousand years it is obvious to us that the gifts of the magi were more symbolic than practical. If this newborn child was truly human (and everything we celebrate in this Christmas seasons attests that he was) then the wise men knew that his life would be a mixture of the three things that their gifts represented: the gold of achievement and success, the frankincense of happiness and joy, and the myrrh of suffering and death. Every human life is a mixture of these three things: success, joy, and pain. By presenting these gifts to the Christ child, the wise men were testifying that he was truly human. They were celebrating the fact that God really became one of us.

But of course, there is more. Through the incarnation, Christ not only took up our humanity, but he also redefined what it is to be human. Through his life, death, and resurrection, we now have the opportunity of living these three aspects of our humanity in a different and deeper way. As his disciples we can approach the achievements with humility. We can approach our joys with thanksgiving. We can approach our suffering with strength.

But, like Mary, it is the myrrh that trips us up. With God's grace we can usually learn to be humble in our achievements and thankful in our blessings. But trying to be strong in our pain and suffering is the real challenge of life. When an evil which we cannot avoid or change enters our life, when we must deal with the death of someone that we love, with divorce, with cancer, with the betrayal of a friend, with addiction, with a terrible mistake that has hurt others, it is possible to respond in three ways. We can respond with denial, with despair, or with acceptance.

Those who choose to respond to pain with denial try to protect themselves from the suffering by rejecting what is real. Although this might soften the pain, it does so at the cost of separating those who choose denial from the real joys and the real relationships in their life. Those who choose the way of denial will in time have to live without love, because denial suffocates what is vital and valuable in living. Those who take the approach of despair go in a different direction. They wrap themselves in their own self-pity and give up on life. They emphasize only what is wrong in their life. They ignore every possibility of hope. They distance themselves from those who love them, isolating their lives in their suffering. But there is a way of dealing with pain that is neither denial nor despair. It is possible to accept the things that we cannot change. Those who take the approach of acceptance strive to emphasize the good things that are still present in their life, the people who still love them, and try to move forward attentive to every sign of hope. It is here where Christ is most important, because with Christ there is always hope. What we have learned from this newborn child is that our God will never abandon us, that God who moved his own son beyond the cross will move us beyond our suffering to new life. For those who have faith in Christ, it is possible to accept the things we cannot change with strength. It is possible to find hope even in the shadow of death.

So, who would give myrrh to a baby? A wise man. A wise man who understood that this child would give new depth to our humanity. In this child we can be humble in our achievements, thankful in our blessings, and strong in our pain. As life presents us with these three aspects of our humanity, we are called to live them out as followers of Christ.

So, if you wake up tomorrow morning and find some myrrh on your doorstep, do not deny it or let it lead you to despair. Instead accept the things you cannot change with the strength and the hope that comes from the newborn King of the Jews.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



PLEASE NOTE

In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM on Monday, January 15th.

The Church will be closed immediately following Mass. The Parish Office will be closed.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

As students and staff return to school after a much-needed break with our families and friends, we hope you all had a blessed Epiphany!

Students will be continuing their second marking period studies in preparation for mid-term exams during January.

We are also looking forward to Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month.

Pray for good weather!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTES

Columbiettes Food Drive on the second Wednesday of every month. Next Collection will be January 10th. 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.



Fr. English Center Collection

Our next Food Collection date for our parish is January 20 and 21st. This ministry supports the working poor at the Father English Center in Paterson. Please consider donating the following items when you come to Mass that weekend: Non perishable items include canned soups, pasta, sauce, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter and jelly, Mac and cheese, cereals, dried lentils and beans. All food items need to be in bag or carton. If anyone is interested in volunteering at the pantry, please contact Mary Ann at (973) 809-7120. Thank you for your continuous and generous support!

LIFE MINISTRY



The
Gospel of
Life



~ Pope St. John Paul the Great

"Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers' womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and who already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and ... written in the 'Book of Life.' "

Evangelium Vitae, Par. 61

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Mark Your Calendar

St. Philip's Knights of Columbus has two big events in January.



Saturday, January 13 the will be the Annual Free Throw Contest

The Gym starting at 10:00 AM to Noon is open to all students, both boys and girls, ages 9 to 14.

Hot dogs and refreshments provided.

There is no charge for this event, but a parent or guardian must be present to sign up the child.

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required to assist our preparations. Contact Steve Shukaitis at sshukaitis@preferredtank.com or Mike Cervine at

michael.cervine@gmail.com

Saturday, January 27th at 7:00 PM is the Msgr. Peter Doody Scholarship Beefsteak



This all you can eat beefsteak is only \$45 per person. Former pastor and initial sponsor of the St. Philip's Knights of Columbus Council, Msgr. Peter Doody, will be in attendance.

Bob Holly, a Clifton High School and St. Philip's alumnus and former pro-quarterback for the Washington, Philadelphia, and Atlanta football teams will be a featured speaker along with St. Philip's Prep School Principal, Danielle Gonzalez.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at: Kofc11671.org or by contacting: Dennis Fitzpatrick (973) 271-9577, Ray Lill (973) 472-1756 or Rich Donkersloot (973) 650-3327, or by using the QR code below. These special guests will make for a memorable evening so please order your tickets promptly.



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Calendar Raffles

Calendar Raffles are available for sale.

Tickets are \$10 each for 90 chances to win \$10,000 in prizes. Drawings begin February 1st. Each date is a different amount to win.

Contact the School or Parish office for more information.

St. Philip Preparatory School
 2024 CALENDAR SWEEPSTAKES
 \$10,000 in Prizes
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 ALL TICKETS ELIGIBLE TO WIN MONEY THEM ORCE!
 Drawings will start on February 1st, 2024
 Weekly Drawing at St. Philip's School at 8:00PM each Monday during Sweepstakes
 WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED
 Get weekly results by visiting stphilprep.com/calendar-results
 (Please do not call school or rectory)
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 (No substitution of the offered prize made for results)
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Cigar and Whiskey Night

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
6:30 PM
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\$65 PER PERSON
 ** Must be 21 years old**
 Price includes: Buffet dinner, 2 Cigars and Whiskey Tasting.
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Tickets are \$65 per person and include Buffet dinner, 2 cigars, and Whiskey Tasting. For tickets or more information, please contact Anton at (862) 247-3899.

**HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SAVE THE DATE!**



St. Philip Prep HSA will be hosting
“Adventure Awaits” Safari Tricky Tray
 on **Friday, March 8th**
 in the School Auditorium.
 Doors open at 5:30 PM
 Tickets will be **\$ 25 each**
 No one under 18 permitted.
 Stay tuned for more details!

Donations of new, unused items are now being accepted.

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.



KIDS KORNER

**< KID'S >
KORNER**

Gospel Today
 The Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12

The 3 are called **wise men, kings, or magi** - they saw and understood that the baby Jesus was truly God. They took a different route home and did not go back to Herod.

Year B

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates God's revealing Himself to us in the baby Jesus.

CELEBRATE WITH A KING CAKE!



King Cake season goes from the Feast of the Epiphany through Shrove Tuesday (*Mardi Gras*). This round "crown" cake, represents the journey of the 3 kings, and is decorated in purple (*justice*), green (*faith*) and gold (*power*) icing or sugar. Some cakes have a hidden bean or tiny plastic baby hidden inside and the one who finds it is "crowned", or responsible for the next cake.

Ingredients

1 cup milk (scalded) 1/3 cup butter (melted in milk) small bowl	1/4 cup warm water 1 package yeast 1 tsp. sugar small bowl	2 eggs beaten 1/2 cup sugar pinch salt small bowl	Let all ingredients sit about 15 minutes, add to flour - mix well 4 cups flour large bowl
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Directions

Knead on floured surface, 10 minutes (*add more flour if needed*). Rub dough ball with vegetable oil and place in covered oiled bowl in warm place to rise, 1 hour or double in size. Roll flat into rectangle and brush on oil or melted butter, sprinkle with sugar cinnamon. Roll into log starting on long edge. Form into ring (crown), pinch edges together and let rise on baking tray. Bake 350° for 15 - 20 minutes or until golden brown.



SWEET as HONEY

Buy a king cake online, at a local store/bakery or make your own.

Colored sugar: In a jar add 1/2 cup sugar, 1-2 drops food color... green or yellow or red/blue (*purple*) and shake well. Decorate with green, purple & yellow (*gold*) cake icing and colored sugar. *This cake does not include a bean or baby, as in some traditions, due to choking hazard.*

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.

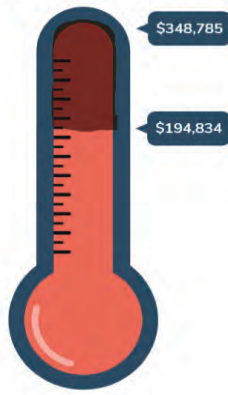
Thank You for Your Support

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 \$194,834 in contributions collected and we are up to \$348,785 with all our pledges.

GOAL: \$300,000



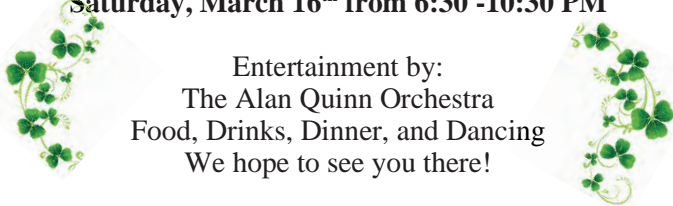
SAVE THE DATE

Our Parish will celebrate our annual
**St. Patrick, St. Joseph, and St. Lorenzo
Dinner Party**

on

Saturday, March 16th from 6:30 -10:30 PM

Entertainment by:
The Alan Quinn Orchestra
Food, Drinks, Dinner, and Dancing
We hope to see you there!



PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: JANUARY 1, 2023	\$16,642.00
Sunday Collection: DECEMBER 31, 2023	
Weekly Collection	\$ 13,581.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 8,237.00
Total	\$ 21,818.00

*THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS
CHRISTMAS!*

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2022	\$84,882.00
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2023 (YTD)	\$67,367.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
January 15 - Beacon

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

Joanne Barrett, Manuel Bacani,
Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Joseph Gore,
Sikora Sisters, Reverend John Klein,
Philip Kutzenco



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

- 8:00** Robert Mancinelli
Elizabeth Zakopcsan
- 10:00** Connie Pomposelli
Hulbert Schreiber
David Young
Barbara Bell
Harry Carline
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024

- 9:00** Robert Ferrari
Rosemary Barrett

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

- 9:00** Agustin and Consuelo Tabaranza

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

- 9:00** Lea Wozniak

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

- 9:00** Rogelio Dela Cruz

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

- 9:00** Corazon Nunag

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

- 9:00** Fred Anthony - 12th Anniversary
Fr. Earl Keating
- 5:30** All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

- 8:00** Deceased members of the McNamara Family
Giuseppe Esposito
- 10:00** Martha Sirvidio
Mark Meola
Barbara A. Bell
Rose Jenkins
John Tomesco
- 12:00** Connie Pomposelli
Marlene Chidiac

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7th

In memory of Annette C. Russo - 1st Anniversary
-With Love from Carol Vitovic



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