PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. David Monteleone *Pastor* frmonteleone@stphilip.org

Rev. Nico Quintos Parochial Vicar nquintos@stphilip.org

Rev. Jared Brogan In-Residence

Dcn. Nicholas Veliky *Deacon* nveliky@stphilip.org

Dcn. Robert G. Ayers Deacon deaconbob@stphilip.org

Ms. Danielle Gonzalez *Principal* Principalgonzalez @stphilipprep.com

Mrs. Denise Pannullo Faith Formation dpanullo@stphilip.org

Ms. Vicky Velasco Confirmation Program vvelasco@stphilip.org

Mr. Frank Hydash Director of Music frankhydash@rocketmail.com

Mr. Carlos Arias Maintenance Supervisor carias@stphilip.org

Ms. Linda Siluk Lay Trustee

Mr. John Hughes Lay Trustee



@StPhilipClifton

St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



First Sunday of Lent February 18, 2024



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening	5:30 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Broadcast) & 12:00 PM
Monday thru Saturday	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday4:30 F	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.



@StPhilipClifton

Dear Parishioners,

On the first Sunday of every Lent, we find Jesus in the wilderness. He is in the desert without food, without shelter. He is tempted by Satan. We have three accounts in the gospels of Jesus' temptation. The one in Mark, which we have just read, is the shortest—only two verses. But its brevity does not reduce its meaning.

I think the most important detail about this gospel is that if Jesus is in the desert, He did not choose to go there. Mark says that immediately after his baptism, the Spirit drove him out into the desert. Being in the wilderness was not a part of Jesus' plan, but nevertheless He found himself there in barrenness and isolation. This detail invites us to ask whether we can locate deserts in our own lives. Are there barren circumstances in which we find ourselves and into which we have not chosen to come?

Perhaps these barren places are caused by the financial situation in which many of us find ourselves: fearing for our jobs, dealing with reduced income, worrying about our future. We didn't choose this situation, but here we are, and there doesn't seem all that much we can do about it. Perhaps there is a barren place in our life caused by sickness, either physical or emotional. We find ourselves coping with disease either in our own lives or in the lives of someone that we love. We didn't choose to have this evil in our lives. But here it is, and we have to face it. Maybe we are dealing with a desert experience because of a failure in a relationship: a fiancé who rejected us, a marriage that came to an end, the loss of a friend. We didn't choose that these relationships fall apart. But they have, and now we find ourselves in barrenness and loss.

The gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus, just like us, had to experience periods of barrenness and desolation in his life. The gospel also shows us how to deal with those deserts. In just a few words, it describes Jesus' desert experience, "He was with the wild beasts, and angels ministered to him." What are the deserts of our lives like? They are places in which we find both wild beasts and angels. Both of them are true.

The deserts of our life are populated by wild beasts. Beasts can bite. The evils of our lives are real. They are not illusions. They have teeth. It is a real loss when we find ourselves no longer available to afford the college that a son or daughter wants to attend, or when we have to rethink the viability of retirement. It is painful when someone rejects us in a relationship. There is justified fear when we have to deal with a sickness that will cause us to alter our life significantly and perhaps even brings it prematurely to an end. Our faith does not insure us that we will avoid suffering and pain. The beasts in our desert are real. It is understandable how they frighten us as they circle around us. There is no guarantee that they will not pounce upon us.

But if the beasts in our desert are real, so are the angels. If there is evil in our life, there are also blessings. In the darkest moments there are nevertheless rays of light. In our driest deserts there are moments of grace. And often that grace is more clearly seen when it comes to us in the desert. When we have to deal with financial concerns, they often provide us with an opportunity to recognize more deeply the importance of family. When we must cope with hardships, those hardships give us the opportunity to express love and sacrifice to one another in deeper ways. When some people reject us, it provides the opportunity of us appreciating more deeply the people who still stand with us. When we must depend upon others in our sickness, we can perhaps for the first time realize how deeply we are loved.

Deserts are dangerous places. That is why none of us choose to go there. But when we find ourselves in the wilderness, it is important that we accept the full truth of our circumstances. If there is fear and suffering and pain, there are also God's blessings. We must both recognize those blessings and embrace them. It is only by accepting our blessings that we will survive.

After forty days Jesus came out of the desert. We believe that we too in time will be able to come out of the deserts of our lives. But as long as we have to remain in those waste places, it is important to recognize the complexity of our situation. There is not only evil, but also grace. There is not only fear, but also blessing. God is with us in the wilderness, and we must never forget that. Even as we cope with the fear of the wild beasts, we must not ignore the angels. We must find them and let them minister to us.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

LENT 2024

7 AM MASS DURING LENT

Beginning February 15th, 7 AM Mass will be celebrated, Monday through Friday.

The book for Mass Intentions is available for the 7 AM weekday Masses during Lent. Please call the Parish Office to offer Masses for your loved ones living or deceased.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays during Lent at 7 PM beginning Friday, February 16th through Good Friday, on March 29th. *On Friday, March 22nd, the Xavier Company will present "Whom Shall I Send?" in the Church at 7 PM More Information will follow.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Fr. Monteleone will be leading the Bible Study on the Book of Isaiah during Mondays at 10 AM during Lent in the Youth Room of the Jubilee Wing.

Mark the Dates: February 26th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

St. Philip Preparatory School celebrated Valentine's Day early this year. We started with a lovely Sweetheart Social dance where each student could bring their 1st Forever Sweetheart. The evening was



Also, the middle school is preparing for this year's theatrical production of Willy Wonka Jr. What fun it's going to be to see!



LENTEN MISSION

Monsignor Robert S Meyer, Pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Summit will be joining us this 4th Sunday of Lent to speak on the Spiritual Works of Mercy!

March 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2024



Monsignor Meyer is an experienced Pastor with a demonstrated history of working in diverse and complicated communities of faith. He is skilled in building up Nonprofit Organizations, successful Financial and Cash Flow Management, Budgeting, Event Planning, Editing, Career Counseling, and Public Speaking. He received his JD from Seton Hall University School of Law, propelling him to become a strong social services professional and social justice advocate, who focuses on community involvement and responsibility. "Father Bob," as he is affectionately known, serves in numerous capacities in higher education, legal, religious and community affairs.

Saturday, March 9

4:30 to 5:00 PM – Confessions (Msgr. Meyer) 5:30 PM – Mass (Msgr. Meyer)

Sunday, March 10

8 AM – Mass (Celebrant: Fr. Monteleone | Homilist: Msgr. Meyer)
10 AM – Broadcast Mass (Msgr. Meyer)
12 PM – Mass (Celebrant: Fr. Nico | Homilist: Msgr. Meyer)

Monday, March 11

9 AM – Mass (Msgr. Meyer)
7 PM – Lenten Talk and Parish Penance Service (Msgr. Meyer)

Tuesday, March 12

9 AM – Mass (Msgr. Meyer)
7 PM – Lenten Talk (Msgr. Meyer)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fish Fry Dinner

Fish Fry Fund Raiser - Our annual Fish Fry is a generalpurpose fund raiser helping us to run the totally free annual Kids Christmas Party, fund a team at the Tank Pull supporting veterans and combat handicapped, various local sports teams, the free-throw contest, the Keep Christ in Christmas contest and so much more. Please mark your calendars for Sunday February 25th for some excellent fish & fries and some fun socialization. Coffee-Tea, soda and water will be available and feel free to BYO. Fish Fry Sunday February 25th 1:00pm – 3:00pm eat—in or take out

Fish or chicken (Chicken advanced sales only) Advanced Tickets \$20- Day of Fry (limited, \$25) Order on-line credit card purchases at : Home | Knights of Columbus 11671 (square.site) Contact Mike Cervine (973)220-3095 or (973)472-7505 or use QR Code:

BOY SCOUTS

The annual Troop 21 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held in the St Philip the Apostle School Auditorium on March 3rd from 8 AM to 12 PM (last seating at 11:30 AM). Adults \$15.00, seniors \$12.00 and children 12 & under \$8.00



Children under 4 eat free with paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please come enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice & coffee and support Troop 21! For more information please

contact: troop21clifton@gmail.com

PRIMETIMERS

Fun for Seniors! Come and be our guest at our next meeting on Friday, March 1st at 1:30 PM in



Marion Hall. Coffee and cake will be served before the meeting. We will be playing Bingo. The cards are \$2 and the more that play, the more we pay! Everyone 50 years and older is welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact Jean R. at (973) 253-1619.

If you are unable to make the meeting, we meet the First Friday of each month.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NY Yankee Game

The Groundhog said Spring is on its way and with that comes America's Favortie Pastime- Baseball! On Sunday, April 21st Join the St. Philip Prep HSA as

the NY Yankees take on the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium at 1:35 PM.



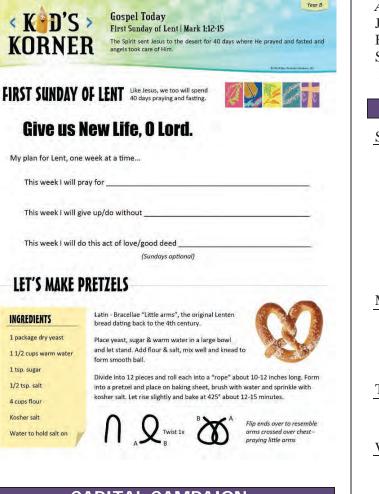
Ticket prices range from: Field level seats: \$100 per person Main level seats: \$80 per person

Terrace level seats: \$60 per person ***Package Includes**: Ticket, Backpack, and \$15 Loaded Value (to use at the concession stands or stores)

Contact the Parish Office to reserve your tickets.



KIDS KORNER



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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. This work could not be done without you! To date we have raised \$220,005 in contributions collected and we are up to \$367,112 with all our pledges.

PARISH GIVING

DUE TO THE WEATHER COLLECTION INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING

Upcoming Second Collections: February 18 - Eastern Europe February 25 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

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



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

- 8:00 Albert Pogorelec, Sr. Alice Casey John Tomesco
- 10:00 Mark Medina Diane Levy Alice Nancarrow Ana and Manuel Santana - 25th and 10th Anniversary
- 12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

7:00 For the health and well-being of Deb DeLuca
9:00 Lea Wozniak
For Dr. M. Widmann and Deb DeLuca and a successful surgery

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

- 7:00 Rogelio Dela Cruz
- 9:00 Richard Berdnick

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

- 7:00 Tom Matteo
- 9:00 Josefina Baldoza

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

7:00 Robert Anzalone9:00 Gertrude Siber Anastacio Cubero

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

- 7:00 Fortunato Campanella
- 9:00 Rizaldy Quintos

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

9:00 Corazon Nunag5:30 All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

- 8:00 Angeles "Lito" Cabigao Sheriff Richard Berdnik
- 10:00 Emily Klopotek Caroline DeAngelo Ralph Tommaro - 1st Anniversary Giuseppe Esposito
- 12:00 Peter and Lena Bartolo Connie Pomposelli



St. Philip the Apostle's 12th Annual



ST. PATRICK'S DAY Dinner Dance

ALSO CELEBRATING ST. JOSEPH & ST. LORENZO RUIZ SATURDAY, MARCH 16th 6:30 - 10:30 PM

> **ST. PHILIP AUDITORIUM** ENTERTAINMENT BY

The Alan Quinn Orchestra And other Cultural Performances

MUSIC I FOOD I DRINKS I DANCING

Corned Beef & Cabbage, Fish & Chips, Penne Vodka, Chicken Marsala, Pork Adobo, Rice, Desserts and More! Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Coffee/ Tea

TICKETS ONLY \$50 PER PERSON

Visit StPhilip.org or Call 973-779-6200

MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER





FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CALL: 800-364-0684 BON VENTURE SERVICES, LLC • P.O. Box 850, Flanders, N.J. 07836 inside

