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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 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,

Late one afternoon, a teenager sneaks into the back row of church. He takes off his backpack, unplugs his I-pod and rolls his basketball under his seat. He's overwhelmed because he lives in that strange land between childhood and adulthood, and he tries to cope with everyone's expectations: the expectations of his teachers that he be a scholar, the expectations of his coach that he be a champion, the expectations of his friends that he be cool. In the quiet of the church, he centers himself. He begins to pray, "Lord, it's me, Joe."

In another part of the church a businessman sits with his head in his hands. It has been a horrible day. He had to fire five people from his small business. The work just isn't there. He tried to do all that he could to keep them on the payroll, but he couldn't make the numbers work. Although he knows it was the necessary thing to do, he now feels like the worst person in the world. As he clears his mind, he begins to say, "Lord, it's me, Sam. Help me keep this together."

Before mass begins, a woman in her forties is praying. She's reciting a prayer off a card that her friend gave her. As she says the words, her mind is somewhere else. She's thinking about yet another confrontation with her daughter, about the sure signs of her mother's growing dementia, about what she could do with the growing estrangement between her and her husband. Suddenly she stops reciting the prayer and says in her own words, "Lord, it's Megan. I don't know whether I have the strength to go on."

We all have burdens to carry. Some of them are really difficult. We get stuck in things we can't change about ourselves, about our work, about our families. And it's when we must carry those burdens that we need to know above all, that God is real and that there is someone we can turn to. It's when these difficulties of life press in upon us that we need to have faith.

That is what makes today's gospel so important. Today's gospel tells us where faith begins. It contains perhaps the most well-known line of the New Testament, John 3-16. This is the line that is held up on placards by evangelists at political rallies and football games. "God so loved the world that he sent his only son, that those who believe in him might not perish, but must have eternal life." This verse from the scriptures tells us where faith begins. It begins in the love of God. If we are to have faith, we need to believe in that love that God has for us. We need to believe that God so loves the world and so loves us that the power of God is available to us in Jesus

Christ. We need to believe that we're in a relationship with a God who cares for us, a God who will be with us in our time of need. Faith must be personal, believing in a God who cares for us and will act on our behalf.

Seen from this perspective, it is clear that faith is so much more than knowing the Ten Commandments or coming to mass on the weekend. Faith is believing in God's love for us, a love that is deep enough and real enough to be present in our lives. It is so easy to let this fundamental truth slip from our view. We begin to fall into an empty routine of just coming weekly to mass, into a routine of the externals, thinking of ourselves as Christians on holidays, on Christmas and Easter. We do not realize that faith is not just a matter of the mind. It is entering into a relationship that has the power to change us, a power that is overwhelming. We must understand that God's love for us is what grounds our belief.

So, what do you do then, if the love that God has for you seems to be absent in your life? What if you've been hurt and it's difficult for you to believe that God cares? What if you've been busy or preoccupied and God's presence in your life seems far away or even an illusion? What if you have doubts, doubts about God's real presence in your life and you can't remember the last time when your faith was personal, when your prayer was real?

The great thing about faith is that we can ask for it whenever we are ready. There are no preconditions because faith does not depend on our love for God but on God's love for us. So, we can ask for that love whenever we need it. But it's important to know what we're asking for. We're asking for the awareness of God's overwhelming love in our life. We're asking that we might know that God so loves the world and so loves us that faith can be real. And if we have that love, then everything else follows. But if we don't have that love, then faith is useless. It has no power.

So then let us ask for faith, real faith, today. We can ask for it without any preconditions. We can ask for faith in our anger or our fear. We can ask for faith in our emptiness or in our doubt. We can ask for faith in our confusion or in our joy. The burdens of life are too heavy for us to carry them on our own. So let us ask for what we want and what we need today. In whatever place or whatever time, you choose, simply place yourself in God's presence and say, "Lord, it's me. Let me know your love."

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

LENTEN MISSION

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



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.

Monday, March 11

9 AM – Mass (Msgr. Meyer)

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

Please note: There will be visiting priests available to hear confessions. Come and experience God's healing mercy.

Tuesday, March 12

9 AM – Mass (Msgr. Meyer)

7 PM – Lenten Talk (Msgr. Meyer)

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:
March 11th, 18th and 25th**

LENT 2024

7 AM MASS DURING LENT

Beginning February 15th, Monday through Friday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Monday of Lent in the church
from 7 PM to 8:30 PM
and every Saturday at 4:30 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent at 7 PM

HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 23

4:30 PM Confessions

5:30 PM Mass

Sunday, March 24

8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast), 12 PM

Holy Monday

March 25

9 AM Mass

Holy Tuesday

March 26

9 AM Mass

Holy Wednesday

March 27

9 AM Mass

TRIDUUM 2024

Holy Thursday

March 28

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper (Broadcast)

8:30 PM to 10 PM Eucharistic Adoration in the Auditorium

Good Friday

March 29

3 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Broadcast)

7 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

March 30

1 PM Easter Food Blessing

Please note that there is NO 5:30 PM Mass.

Regular confessions at 4:30 PM will NOT be heard.

Saturday confessions at 4:30 PM will resume on April 6.

8 PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

March 31

8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast), 12 PM

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students and staff have been celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday this week. We've been very excited about the books we've been reading and the crafts we've been making. As we travel through the world of Seuss, we are reminded of how important reading is and that is why our celebration includes "Read Across America." This national event is meant to motivate and create awareness. Reading unlocks a world of adventure, and our students are enjoying the journey. Happy reading to all!

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

XAVIER COMPANY

Whom Shall I Send

a musical drama depicting the call of the disciples and God's call in our own lives, through drama, music and dance, presented by the Xavier Company

Friday, March 22nd at 7 PM
Saint Philip the Apostle Church

Please Note: This performance will be presented in lieu of Friday Stations of the Cross.

MONUMENT DEDICATION

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes, and Junior High Students of the Preparatory School

Invite You

To Attend the 10 AM Mass
On Sunday, April 7th, 2024

And

Immediately following the Mass

Join Fellow Parishioners

In the Peace Garden,

Adjacent to the Front of the Church

For The Consecration of the Memorial Stone

To the 65 million Aborted Babies

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD COLLECTION

As Easter approaches, please remember our working poor in Paterson who depend on food donations from the Father English Food Pantry. If this is your first time donating, please consider the following items: canned tuna, canned chicken, pasta, sauce, dry cereals, lentils, beans, Mac and Cheese, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, soups, and any other non-perishable food items. All donations must be in bag or a carton and left in the church as you enter from the front

door. Many thanks for all the faithful donors and your most generous donations as they make a huge impact at the Center. If you are interested in volunteering at the pantry, please contact Mary Ann at 973-809-7120.

LIFE MINISTRY

Come to "Building a Culture of Life in NJ" seminar on Saturday, March 23rd from 9:30 AM to 1 PM at Holy Family Church (St. Joseph Center). Hear NJ pro-life leaders cover topics including New Jersey after Roe; Post abortion healing/Mercy House; How to graciously answer pro-abortion rhetoric, legislative updates and more! Refreshments & Networking. Space is limited; pre-registration is required: Event is free. Love offering taken.

Visit lifeneteducation.org/life or call 973-497-4520.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The Next meeting of the Widow and Widowers will be on Monday, March 11th at 2 PM in the Molloy Center. Anyone who is experiencing a loss of significant other is most welcome.

BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses on the weekend of March 16 and 17 and March 23 and 24. The palm cross price is \$14 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. For pre-orders, please call Phil Jakimowicz at 973-723-6111 or email: troop21clifton@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

A sincere thank you to everyone who participated in our Fish Fry on Sunday, February 25. It was a very successful event and will help us in our efforts to aid the poor, lonely and the outcast members of our society.

Our next event on Friday, March 29th

K of C Good Friday Blood Drive in the Gym from 8 AM to Noon.

Reservation information will be available shortly.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The HSA is hosting its annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 AM to 12 PM in the Auditorium.

Tickets are \$20 per person includes hot and cold breakfast buffet, games, and crafts.

Each child's ticket receives a 5"x7" Professional print with the Easter Bunny.

Contact the Parish Office to register.

VACATION BIBLE FUN

Mark your calendar
July 29 - August 2
8:30 AM to 12 Noon



Songs, skits, snacks,
games, crafts, logo t-shirt

Registration begins May 25th

We invited Children now in Kindergarten through
Fifth grade.

Students want 30 Community Service Hours?
Sign up to be Junior Leaders.

Don't miss out on the fun!

FIRST COMMUNION DRESSES

We have a number of exquisite Communion dresses to share with our parish family. These are beautiful white or cream-colored dresses in sizes from 7 to 18. They come in various styles and can be used for parties, weddings, and other fancy occasions. These dresses are available on a first come, first served basis. We are asking for a minimal free-will offering to be donated to the Father English Food Pantry in Paterson. If interested, call Mary Ann at 973-809-7120 or Jackie 973-237-0670. Thank you!

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: MARCH 5, 2023	\$19,191.00
Sunday Collection: MARCH 3, 2024	
Weekly Collection	\$ 11,777.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,889.00
Total	\$ 18,666.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
March 10 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Jose Borrajo, Sr, Rev. George Gothie



A Time to be Healed...

Manuel Bacani, Bishop Arthur Serratelli,
Joseph Gore, Sikora Sisters, Reverend John Klein,
Philip Kutzenko, Carol Saam, Sr. Pauline Piechocki

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

- 8:00 John Tomesco
Louise Marinari
10:00 Eric Peterson
Kimball Romney
Maria Cording
Craig Lombardo
12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024

- 7:00 Mary Matteo
9:00 Zosima Olalia

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

- 7:00 Stella Kaczmarczyk
9:00 Joseph M. Paris

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

- 7:00 Rev. George Gothie
9:00 Michael Farrell - 9th Anniversary
Mark Brackenbury, Sr

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

- 7:00 Rogelio Dela Cruz
9:00 Corazon Nunag

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

- 7:00 Francesca and Cynthia Locatello
- Special Intentions
9:00 Daniel Mutter - 7th Anniversary
Abimael Marrero

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

- 9:00 Gail Coppola
5:30 All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

- 8:00 Denise Cleary
Rey Cabanilla
10:00 Deceased members of the Hughes and
McDonald families
John Anderson, Fr
Sam Jarquesy
Pietro and Felicia Mannarino
12:00 Giuseppe Esposito
Linda Hilario





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 | FOOD | DRINKS | DANCING

Corned Beef & Cabbage, Fish & Chips, Penne Vodka,
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