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Mr. John Hughes
Lay Trustee

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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



Fourth Sunday of the Easter

April 21, 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,

A Jewish couple living in Texas decided to participate in a cultural exchange program in which Jews from throughout the world came to visit the United States. So, around Christmas time a rabbi from the back woods of Russia showed up to live with them for a while. They wanted to provide the rabbi experiences that he could not have in his native Russia, so they called together some family and friends and took him out to their favorite Chinese restaurant. All during the meal the rabbi was speaking in glowing terms of the beauties of North America. At the end of the meal the owner of the restaurant came forward and presented to each diner a small metal Christmas tree ornament as a token of the season. After the owner left, someone pointed out that on the back of the ornament it was written "Made in India." Everyone had a good laugh. Then they noticed that the rabbi was crying. His hosts became concerned and questioned him whether he was offended because he was given a gift that was connected to a Christian holiday. But he shook his head, "No, no," he said, "I'm crying tears of joy, joy to be in a country where a Buddhist can give a Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu."

The tears of the rabbi were holy tears, and in our hearts, we know it. Because regardless of background or religion all people recognize that when those who are different cooperate, when men and women reach across borders that separate them, when divisions are healed, God is at work. The Jewish tradition knew this profoundly. The Jewish Bible begins with God creating all things and making all people in God's likeness. The Jewish Torah instructs Jews to love and care for the resident aliens, people of other countries who lived in their midst. They were directed to welcome the stranger. Jesus being a good Jew placed this truth at the heart of his message saying that we who welcome the stranger welcome Him. In today's gospel He uses the image of the shepherd and the sheep, first of all to emphasize His closeness to us and then to make it clear that He has other sheep that do not belong to our fold. In this way He reveals that God's ultimate intention is to have one-fold and one shepherd.

This vision of a humanity united across its divisions is God's vision. All too often we see our faith as a way of connecting God to us, and those that we know and love. But God has a broader vision. God's intention is to extend respect and unity

across the entire earth. And this vision is not marginal to the Good News but at its center. Because every vision we have of God's Kingdom includes all people united in respect and peace.

Now we do not often reflect upon this central part of our faith, because it is so much easier, so much more comfortable, just to stick around with the people who are like us—the people who think the way we do, the people who come from the same background and have the same perspectives. It takes an effort to reach out to someone who is different, to accept someone who seems strange to us. Yet our faith calls us to do just that. If the Kingdom is to come, then we must be willing to recognize and to welcome those who are strangers to us.

People who are different surround us regularly. We run into them at work or at school, or when we shop or when we go to the movies. We are constantly rubbing elbows with people who are different: different because of their race, because of their religion, because of their sexual orientation, because of their nationality. We must not forget that God sees us in terms of the way that we see them. Therefore, it is part of our calling to take the decision to reach across the boundary and accept someone who is different, who is a stranger to us.

This can be done in simple ways. We do not have to welcome a Russian rabbi into our home. It can be as simple as smiling to someone who is different from us or offering them a confident "Good Morning." If the situation allows, we might ask someone, "How was your weekend?" or share with them how our weekend was. These small actions reflect an attitude of openness and welcome. Each time we offer them it is so much more than being an open-minded and nice person. It is taking a step closer to God's intention for the world, a step closer to building the Kingdom of God.

It is always more comfortable to remain in our own flock, to mill around with sheep that are just like us. But the shepherd whom we love has other sheep. If we intend to serve him, we must be willing to accept those sheep as well. Every time we do so we contribute to God's intention for the world. Every time we welcome someone who is stranger to us, we move closer to the day when there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This week at SPPS the students have been very busy!

The second graders have been getting ready to make their first communion. They are practicing in class, and making sure they know their prayers.

Third graders are learning about animals; their traits, how they protect themselves, and even where they live. They are getting ready for a field trip to the Turtle Back Zoo in May!

The middle school students have been rehearsing for their play, Willy Wonka. The whole school is excited for their performance in May! Don't forget to get your tickets for the weekend show!!

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The next meeting of the Widow and Widowers will be on Monday, May 13 at 2 PM in the Molloy Center. Anyone who is experiencing the loss of a loved one is most welcome.

PRIMETIMERS

The next Primetimers meeting is Friday, May 3 at 1:30 PM in Marian Hall. Coffee and cake will be served before the meeting. We will have our annual Tricky Tray at this meeting. We ask everyone to bring at least one new unwrapped item to the meeting. Tickets will be 8 for \$5 and you could win a nice prize.

Everyone 55 years or older is welcome. Come and Join us. Please come a little early at 1 o'clock so we can set up our Tricky Tray tables. For more information call Jean R. at (973) 253-1619.

Atlantic City Trip

Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, May 21. Bus leaves from St. Philips Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$50. For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286.



COLUMBIETTES & MINISTRY IN SUPPORT OF LIFE "Baby Shower" Clothing Drive

In honor of our Blessed Mother, we are having our Annual Parish Drive By Baby Shower on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Main Parking Lot. We are collecting new or gently used items in sizes Newborn to size 6 Children, for St. Mary's Hospital Family Center.

Many Thanks and Blessings for your Generosity!



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Find your inner Bob Ross and join us for Paint and Sip Nite on Friday, May 17 at 7 PM in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$50 per person and includes step by step instruction.

Coffee and Cookies will be served. BYOB.

Must be 21 years old.



ST. PHILIP PREP HSA

PAINT NITE

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH
7-9 PM
SPPS - AUDITORIUM
DOORS OPEN AT
6:30 PM

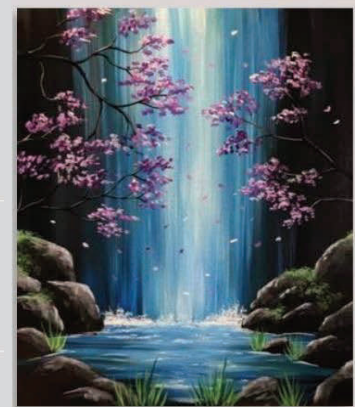
TICKETS ARE

\$50 PER PERSON.

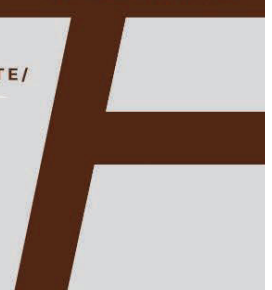
SPACES ARE LIMITED.
TICKETS CAN ONLY BE
PURCHASED ONLINE AT

[HTTPS://STPHILIPPREP.COM/PAINTNITE/](https://stphilipprep.com/paintnite/)

THIS IS A BYOB EVENT
ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE AT
LEAST 21 YEARS OLD.
NO CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED.



TROPICAL WATERFALL



VACATION BIBLE FUN

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



Songs, skits, snacks, games, crafts, logo t-shirt
Registration begins May 25th.
We invite Children in Kindergarten
through Fifth grade.
Students want 30 Community Service Hours?
Sign up to be Junior Leaders.
Don't miss out on the fun!

KIDS KORNER

< KID'S KORNER > Year B
Gospel Today
Fourth Sunday of Easter | John 10: 11-18
Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will give up His life for us, His flock.

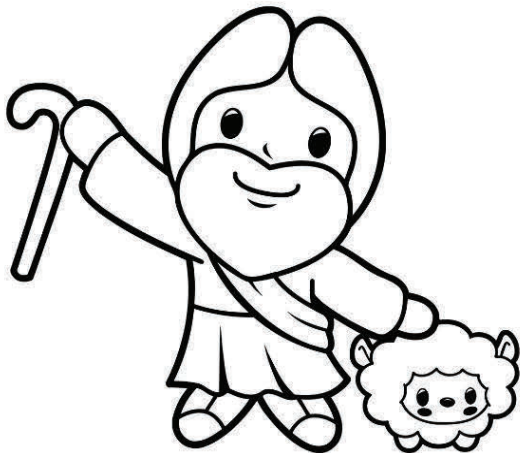
THE LOST SHEEP These sheep are lost, but when they hear the voice of Jesus, they find their way.

I HEAR THE GOOD NEWS I believe 

I HEAR THE GOSPEL I believe 

I HEAR THE WORD OF GOD I believe 

- color and cut the lost sheep and add them to the flock of believers below -



GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Santino Angelo



Attilio Edward



Ella Louise

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. 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 \$244,515 in contributions collected and we are up to \$377,962 with all our pledges.

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: APRIL 16, 2023	\$19,064.00
Sunday Collection: APRIL 14, 2024	
Weekly Collection	\$ 9,927.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,092.00
Total	\$ 17,019.00

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS EASTER!

EASTER COLLECTION 2023	\$45,066.00
EASTER COLLECTION 2024 (YTD)	\$48,701.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
May 12 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Rev. Joseph Anthony Robinson, Mary Hudak,
Joan Blake, Ann DePasquale, Rev. Richard Zuk

A Time to be Healed...

Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Joseph Gore, Sikora Sisters,
Reverend John Klein, Philip Kutzenko, Sr. Pauline
Piechocki, Tom Mullin, Khameryn Oliver



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

- 8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Louis D'Angelo
John Anderson, Jr.
Michael Joseph Landers
Myles Jaffrey Martinez
12:00 Joseph Dressel
Pasquale Isola

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

- 9:00 Eric Angeles, Sr

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024

- 9:00 Fr. Richard Zuk

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

- 9:00 Kim McWilliams

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

- 9:00 Agnes and Charles W. Hahn
Marilyn and Jim Loftus

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

- 9:00 Eric Angeles, Sr.
Fred Anthony

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

- 9:00 Special Intentions of Rosario Dela Cruz
5:30 Donald Christiaens
Isabella Paparella
Stephanie Pitoniak

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

- 8:00 John Michal
Diana Smith
10:00 Salvatore Scafidi - 10th Anniversary
Jack McSweeney
Louis and Frances DeStefano
Anita Ferruggiari
12:00 For All the People of the Parish



*Come with me and you'll be in a world of
Pure Imagination...*

Tickets are now available for purchase through Eventbrite for
SPPS Middle School production of
Roald Dahl's
Willy Wonka, Jr.!



Each performance has a different link.
Total cost per ticket is **\$15.00**.
Please note, Eventbrite may charge an
additional credit card fee.

**Friday, May 3 at 7 PM
First Performance.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spps-willy-wonka-7pm-friday-may-3-2024-tickets-867482452367?aff=oddtcreator>



**Saturday, May 4 at 7 PM
Second Performance.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spps-willy-wonka-7pm-saturday-may-4-2024-tickets-867512151197?aff=oddtcreator>



If seats do not sell out, tickets will be available for purchase at the door. However, please note, tickets at the door will cost \$20 each (cash only) and those who have purchased tickets through Eventbrite will be seated first.

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