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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 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,

Today's gospel is not about plants. It's about people. It is not about vines. It's about life. The image of the vine and the branches which Jesus uses in this gospel is a way of saying that we as branches will share in Christ's very life, the life of the vine. If we abide in Him, we will have life to the fullest. Now this is a very positive and exciting image, and yet there is one line in today's gospel that can stop us short and perhaps even frighten us. The line is this: "The branches that bear fruit my father will prune so that they bear more fruit." That line tells us that we who are disciples of Christ must expect to be pruned by God, that something which belongs to us might indeed be cut off or taken away. This can frighten us, because as much as we want life, as much as we desire to abide in Christ, we do not want to lose anything that belongs to us. We do not want something which is ours to be cut off. Yet, it is central to the teaching of Jesus that this kind of pruning is at times necessary.

This is one of the earliest lessons that I learned in ministry. One day while I was a deacon in Sparta, NJ, a man came in to talk to me in great distress. He said, "My wife is divorcing me." I expressed my regrets and then asked him, "Did you see this coming?" "Oh yes," he said, "We've been living in a loveless marriage for at least ten years. We argue all the time and hardly ever talk about anything of substance. I can't remember the last time that we were intimate. A while back I wanted to go to a counselor, but my wife refused. In time, I too lost the will even to try." "Why did you stay together?" I asked. "It was for the kids, of course. We wanted to keep our family together. But now they are off to college, and my wife says that there is not anything left in our relationship." "Do you disagree with her?" I asked. "Not really," he responded. "But"—and here is the line that I will always remember— "All my life," he said, "I dreamed of a perfect marriage. I dreamed of someone who would share their life with me for as long as I lived. I wanted a relationship around which we could build a family. It is so difficult to let that dream die."

This man's words rang true the first time that I heard them, and they still ring true today. We hope for the best in our lives. We make big plans. But when those plans fail and there is nothing that we can do to prevent it, it is still difficult to let those dreams die. This man had been living without love for over

a decade. He argued constantly. His wife left him and now divorced him. His marriage was over. And yet it was still difficult for him to let go of the dream of the good marriage he desired. Yet if his life was going to continue, if his life was to have a future, he would need to face the truth and let God prune that dream away.

This is one of many examples which tell us that at times we need to face the hard truth and let something in our life end. As difficult as it might be, at times we need to face what is real and move forward. Are there areas in your life that are dead and need to be removed? Do you find yourself in a manipulative or abusive relationship, and yet want to hold onto the dream that this relationship is good and gives you joy? Do you find yourself addicted to alcohol, or drugs, or pornography, and yet say to yourself, "My life is healthy, there is nothing that needs to change"? Do you find yourself in a dead-end job or circumstance, and yet continue to hold onto the belief that your life is just as it should be? Do you find yourself surrounded with self-pity over someone or something that you have lost, and refuse to let go of the dream that you want things to be as they once were—that you don't want things to change?

Dreams not only inspire us, but they can also at times hurt us. Dead branches in our life not only hinder us, but they can also at times kill us. That is why, when there is nothing else we can do, we need to let go and let God remove what is dead from our lives. To do anything less would be living a lie. But the good news is this. Letting go, as difficult as it is, is not meant to cause pain, but to foster life. Cutting off what is dead is not cruelty, but an act of a loving God who removes barren branches so that other parts of our life can thrive. Jesus promises us life and joy in its fullness, and He is serious about what he says. We must believe Him. If we want joy, we need to trust Him. If we want life, we need to let Him take what is dead in our lives and prune it away.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

A lot has been going on in Saint Philip Prep the last week. The cast of Willy Wonka are working diligently to practice the play so it's ready for its debut. We also celebrated Administrative Assistants Day as well. Second grade is also preparing for their First Holy Communion which is coming up in two short weeks. Third grade celebrated Earth Day by making solar robots. And first grade planted flowers to celebrate Earth Day as well.



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



The Filipino American Group at Saint Philip the Apostle Parish invites you to a Prayer Gathering and talk on

Saint Joseph *With a Father's Heart*

by Father Nico Quintos

on Friday, May 10, 2024, 7 PM
at Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
(Marian Hall)
797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ

****Fellowship To Follow ****

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

CARNIVAL

St. Philip Annual Carnival will be held June 20-22 this year. We are looking for new volunteers and hoping to see all of our previous year volunteers back again. If you're interested in volunteering this year, or you're an annual volunteer please reach out to Maureen at (973) 773-5161 to get your name on the volunteer list. We will be having a volunteer meeting in May. Looking forward to seeing you all again this year!

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 Prime Timers 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. Philip Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$50.

For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings of the blanket ministry will be Thursday, May 2 and 16, 2024 at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. These will be the last meetings for this season.

For further information or donations, please call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

Thank you for your continued support!

COLUMBIETTES & MINISTRY IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

In honor of our Blessed Mother, we are having our **Annual Parish Drive-By Baby Shower** on Saturday, May 4 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 FAMILY FUN NIGHT

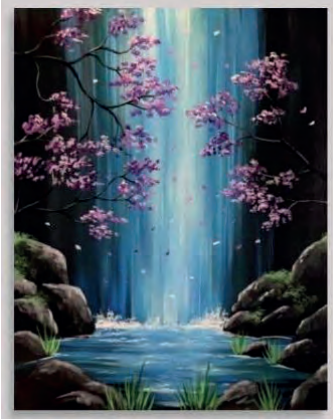
Don't want to cook? On Wednesday May 1, Pizza City in Woodland Park will donate up to 20% on Take out or delivery orders (within their set area) to St. Philip Preparatory School.

Pizza City is located at 1051 McBride Ave, Woodland Park, NJ; (973) 890-0990

PAINT NITE

Find your inner Bob Ross and join us for a fun evening at Paint and Sip Nite on Friday, May 17 at 7 PM in the Auditorium.

Tickets are \$50 per person and includes step by step instructions on how to paint your masterpiece of "Tropical Waterfall"



Coffee and Cookies.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://stphilipprep.com/paintnite/> or from the QR code below.

This is a BYOB event.
Must be 21 years old.
No Children allowed.



COLUMBIETTES



**St. Philip Columbiettes
Mary Ellen Valentin
International Dinner**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024
1:00pm to 4:00pm**

**Salad
Buffet Entree
Bread & Butter
Dessert, Coffee, Tea
Cold Beverage**

Advance Ticket Purchase Required!

Tickets \$30 (age 10+)

*** Prizes***

Call Barbara Ann 201-906-1372
Email: barblissi@comcast.net
columbiettes11671@gmail.com

columbiettes11671.wixsite.com/stphilipchurch



St. Philip the Apostle Church
797 Valley Rd | Clifton NJ

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!

FROM THE DIOCESE



**Diocese of Paterson
Catholic Schools**

JOB FAIR

Thursday, May 2, 2024

4:00-7:00pm

Pope John Paul II Center

775 Valley Road

Clifton, NJ 07013

SCAN ME TO REGISTER →

OR...

click on this link to register:

<https://forms.gle/TbPWuLhseFXmzX8L7>



GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Nico Julian and Cameron Thomas



Joseph Robert

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: APRIL 23, 2023	\$16,163.00
Sunday Collection: APRIL 21, 2024	
Weekly Collection	\$ 10,860.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,950.00
Total	\$ 17,019.00

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

EASTER COLLECTION 2023	\$45,066.00
EASTER COLLECTION 2024 (YTD)	\$48,741.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
May 12 - Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Olga Fernandez



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 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

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

- 9:00 Rev. George Winne

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024

- 9:00 Rosalia Cirrito Orlando

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

- 9:00 Michael Dikdan

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

- 9:00 Rizaldy Quintos

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024

- 9:00 Sharon Barber

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

- 9:00 John Anderson, Jr
Magna Jumao-as
- 5:30 All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

- 8:00 Beatrice Warchol
Monica Shields
- 10:00 Raymond Belli
Domenic and Ella DeBenetto
June Bohny
Joseph A. DiTrolio
- 12:00 Robert Drozdowski
Patricia Fox

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28TH

In memory of Marge and Tom Sirvidio
- With love from Deb



*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 3at 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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