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# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 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 Saturday .....4:30 PM

### HOLY HOUR

Every Friday .....9:30 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 wealthy widow who lived in Washington, D.C., died. She left her entire estate to God. Now, this rather strange bequest gave rise to many legal ramifications, because if the will was to be processed, it had to follow legal form. So, lawyers drew up a lawsuit in which God was mentioned as one of the parties. There was a summons issued for God to appear in court. The summons was delivered to the sheriff whose job was to serve such documents. After some time, the sheriff sent this message to the court: "After a due and diligent search, it has been determined that God cannot be found in Washington, D.C."

Now, political considerations aside, this conclusion is obviously false. God can be found in Washington, D.C. God can be found in any place, if we know where to look. Looking is an important part of today's first reading from the book of Acts. Jesus ascends into heaven, and the disciples stand looking intently up into the sky. Then two men appear and ask them, "Why are you looking up into the sky." These men want the disciples to know that if they are looking for Jesus, they will not find him by staring up into the clouds.

So where should we look for God? Should we look in religious places like churches and pilgrimage sites? Yes, God can be found there. Should we look in the beauty of nature? Of course. Which one of us has not been enthralled by a divine sunset? Should we look in the happiest points of our life: when we fall in love, when a new child is born, when we celebrate a friendship that has lasted over decades? For sure. God is visible in all these events. And even if we group all of these events together, we have not yet exhausted the range of God's presence. God can be found in any place if we have the right focus.

There's an old song by Leonard Cohen called "Suzanne." In this song Suzanne serves as a kind of mystical guide who shows us where to look and how to see. Here is the last stanza of the song:

*"So Suzanne takes your hand and she leads  
you to the river,*

*and she shows you where to look among the  
garbage and the flowers.*

*There are heroes in the seaweed; there are children  
in the morning.*

*They are leaning out for love, and they will lean  
that way forever*

*as Suzanne holds her mirror."*

God is not only found in the religious and perfect places of our lives. God is also found in the mixed and compromised nature of human living. God is found among the garbage and the flowers.

This weekend, we celebrate Mother's Day. And it's right to honor mothers for they are a blessing in our lives, but mothers are not perfect. Like all of us, they can at times be demanding, stubborn, frustrating. But what a mistake it would be to conclude that God cannot be found in those challenging aspects of our relationship. If we know where to look, we do not see a faithfulness, a desire to bless, a leaning out for love that will lean that way forever. God is there, however perfect or compromised our relationship to our mother may be.

It is easy to believe in God's presence when we are young and healthy. But as we age, as our faculties lessen, as our health fails, we can conclude that God has left us. Look again. Can you not see God's presence in the people who love you, in those who drive you to your doctor appointments, in those who call you just to check in? Is there not a holiness on those days without any special reason that we find the strength to continue? These are the heroes in the seaweed. God is there.

God can be found in any place if we know where to look. So, for sure, we should look in those perfect and ecstatic places where all is right with the world. But we should not stop there. We should also look in the mixed nature of everyday living, in the relationships that are both genuine and compromised, in the situations that are both painful and holy. God can be found among the garbage and the flowers.

Peace,

*Fr. Monteleone*

## Happy Mother's Day!

Dear mothers,

On this special day, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all that you do. Your unwavering faith, love, selflessness, and dedication to your families is truly inspiring. We are so blessed to have you in our lives, and we thank you for all the sacrifices

you have made to help us  
become who we are today.

**Happy Mother's Day**

from all of us here at

St. Philip!



## FROM FATHER NICO

Friends, this time of year is filled with events marking milestones and transitions. Confirmations, first communions, graduations, and ordinations are some examples. With mixed emotions, I would like to share with you that I, too, will be experiencing such an event.

After four years of ministering here at Saint Philip and after careful discernment and consideration with Bishop Sweeney, it has been decided that I will be leaving Saint Philip. I have been given time to finish my degree in Professional Counseling at Seton Hall University and will assist the bishop in his ministry to our retired priests. I will also continue to serve as one of his Master of Ceremonies (MC) and serve at the Marriage Tribunal of the diocese.

I am grateful to God for all of you! Your unwavering faith and support have been a constant source of inspiration for me. My last weekend with you is the weekend of June 29th and 30th. Please keep me in your prayers during this time of transition, as I will certainly be praying for each one of you. God bless you! - *Father Nico*

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

A special thanks to Mrs. Banyai for once again putting on an amazing show at SPPS! This year the middle school put on a production of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and it received a five star review from the students who were treated to a preview at the dress rehearsal. We are so fortunate to have a program that inspires the students to pursue the arts. From the actors and singers to the stage crew, an amazing job was done by all!

The fifth and sixth grade students went on an exciting excursion to The Franklin Mineral Museum. The students got to go exploring and were allowed to keep the precious minerals that they discovered. The students were very enthusiastic about this adventure.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### FATHER ENGLISH CENTER

Many parishioners have been extremely generous in supporting the Father English Food Pantry the past two years. However, the shelves are nearly bare and many working poor depend on the supplemental food they receive every two weeks. Please consider donating the following items: canned chicken, tuna, cereals, Mac and Chesse, soups, lentils, beans, pasta, sauce (preferably in plastic containers), peanut butter and jelly. All items must be in bags or cartons. Even if you can donate a one small item, it is appreciated. Our next food collection will be the weekend of June 1 and 2. Thank you!

### CARNIVAL

St. Philips Carnival will be 3 days this year,

**Thursday, June 20, 6-10 PM**  
**Friday, June 21, 6-11 PM**  
**Saturday, June 22, 6:30-11 PM**



We are looking for new volunteers to join all of our veterans volunteers. It's 3 days of fun, laughs, and excitement. If you would like to Volunteer, please contact Maureen at (973) 773-5161

### Soda/Water Donations

Name brand soda and bottled water for the Soda & Water Booth can be left at the school kitchen door.

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.

### ROSARY SOCIETY

All are welcome to attend our special induction meeting on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 in Marian Hall. Pizza and cake following our Mass and Rosary. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

## PRIMETIMERS

### *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 meeting of the blanket ministry will be Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. This will be the last meeting for this season. For further information or donations, please call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265. Thank you for your continued support!

## 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+)**

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our St. Philip's Knights of Columbus Council 11671 meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month from September through June, only the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month during July and August, at 7:30 PM in Marian Hall. Any Knight from any council may attend these meetings as they are open to all. Non-Knight guests may also attend however, guests require an invitation; simply tell any council Knight and he will inform the Grand Knight that you will be attending or call Mike Cervine (973) 472-7505 and he will put your name on the guest list.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>.  
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!

## GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Owen Gabriel*

## GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED



*Janet and Patrick*

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### MASS OF CONSOLATION

The Diocese of Paterson Mass of Consolation Saturday, May 18, at 9:30 AM at St. Vincent Martyr Parish (26 Green Village Road, Madison, NJ). The Diocese of Paterson Office of Family Life and Respect Life Ministry is hosting a Mass of Consolation on Saturday, May 18th. All are welcome at this Mass offered for those who have lost a child.

*"Blessed are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted."*

-Matthew 5:4

### NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Did you hear wonderful things about Natural Family Planning before you were married? As you looked at beautiful images of happy couples in NFP materials, did you anticipate the wonders of being able to faithfully plan your family while also enriching your marriage? Has NFP met all those hopes? If not, don't worry. "Natural Family Planning 2.0" addresses the common issues couples face when NFP meets the reality of living out the Sacrament of Marriage. Building on your deep love for one another and your experiences in marriage, this podcast offers an opportunity to solve some of the most common obstacles couples encounter while offering important insights.

Listen to all four episodes for free by visiting [insidethewalls.org/nfp-podcast](http://insidethewalls.org/nfp-podcast).

## PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: MAY 7, 2023	\$19,715.00
Sunday Collection: MAY 5, 2024	
Weekly Collection	\$ 12,773.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 11,040.00
Total	\$ 23,813.00

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

EASTER COLLECTION 2023	\$45,066.00
EASTER COLLECTION 2024 (YTD)	\$48,921.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

May 12 - Project Faith

May 19 - Holy Father's Peter's Pence

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *For the Recently Deceased...*

Joseph Wojtowicz, Adeline DeLotto



### *A Time to be Healed...*

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

- 8:00 All the People of the Parish  
10:00 Maryann Spohn  
John Martin  
Catalina Visda  
Elaine and Jerry Cipolla  
12:00 Marlene Chidiac  
Marianna Scelfo  
Susan Cinek - 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

### MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

- 9:00 Gliceria and Leopoldo Vega, Sr

### TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

- 9:00 Lea Wozniak  
Estanislao Llames

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

- 9:00 Louise Stolarz

### THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

- 9:00 Fr. Richard Zuk

### FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024

- 9:00 Jack McKenna  
Rosemary Barrett

### SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

- 9:00 Roger Shine  
5:30 Deceased members of the Festa and Novaco Families  
Isabella Paparella  
Deceased members of the Sirvidio Family

### SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

- 8:00 Virginia Sipin  
Dr. Danilo Bolima  
10:00 Susan Voelkner - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
Raymond Fitzpatrick - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
Jose Borrajo, Sr  
Ann Albright  
12:00 All the People of the Parish

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 12

-In memory of Julia McNamara





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