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Mr. John Hughes
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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

www.stphilip.org ~ (973) 779-6200



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 10, 2025



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.



@StPhilipClifton



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“Do Catholics Believe Everyone Goes to Heaven?”

You’ve probably heard it before: “He’s in a better place now.” It’s said at funerals, in casual conversations, and on TV. It sounds comforting and hopeful. But it raises an important question: **What do Catholics actually believe about heaven?**

This Sunday’s Gospel from **Luke 12:32–48** invites us to reflect deeply. Jesus says, “*Be like servants who await their master’s return... ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.*” He adds a strong warning: “*Blessed is that servant whom the master finds vigilant... but if that servant says, ‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat the other servants and get drunk, the master will come at an unexpected hour... and will punish him severely.*”

Who is Jesus talking about? Not unbelievers, but **His own servants**—people who belong to His household. In short, baptized believers – that’s you and me. The warning is not for strangers to the faith, but for those who have already received it. This Gospel reminds us that **heaven is not automatic**—it’s the fruit of a lived relationship with God.

Heaven Is Relationship, Not Just Reward

Many people picture heaven as a peaceful place where all “good people” end up. But Catholic teaching goes deeper: heaven is not just a *reward* for goodness—it is **eternal communion with God**, who is Love.

The Catechism tells us: “*Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness*” (CCC 1024). That happiness comes from **being with God**—seeing Him face to face, and loving Him without limits.

Heaven, then, is not just about what we *do*, but *who we know and love*. And we can’t fully love someone we don’t try to know. That’s why Jesus calls us not to drift through life but to *stay ready*, to nurture the relationship we already have with Him through faith, prayer, and love.

Not Everyone Automatically Goes to Heaven

One of today’s most widespread beliefs—even among some Catholics—is **universalism**, the idea that everyone ends up in heaven, no matter what.

It feels compassionate. But it contradicts both Scripture and the Church’s teaching.

Jesus speaks clearly: “*That servant who knew his master’s will but did not make preparations shall be beaten severely.*” This is not about a vengeful God—it’s about a **just** God who respects our freedom.

The Catechism puts it plainly: “*We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely against him, against our neighbor, or against ourselves*” (CCC 1033).

God **desires** everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), but **He doesn’t force** anyone into heaven. We must respond to His invitation through a life of faith and love.

How to “Stay Ready”

Being ready for heaven doesn’t mean living in fear. It means living in **friendship** with God—starting now.

Here are five simple ways to prepare your heart:

1. **Stay in a State of Grace** – Confession restores us to God when sin has separated us.
2. **Pray Every Day** – not just during emergencies. Even just five minutes helps keep the relationship alive.
3. **Attend Mass Regularly** – The Eucharist is a taste of heaven on earth.
4. **Love Your Neighbor** – Jesus will ask us how we treated “the least” of His people.
5. **Keep Learning the Faith** – The more we understand, the more we can love.

Final Thought: The Master Who Serves

There’s a powerful twist in the Gospel. Jesus says if the master finds the servants ready, “*he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and wait on them.*”

Think about that: **God Himself will serve those who were faithful.**

That’s not fear—it’s promise. That’s not pressure—it’s joy.

So this week, let’s not just assume we’re headed to “a better place.”

Let’s ask: *Am I preparing my heart for the One who’s already prepared a place for me?*

Fr. Emerson 😊

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15th is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Schedule is as follows:
Thursday, August 14th,
7 PM Vigil

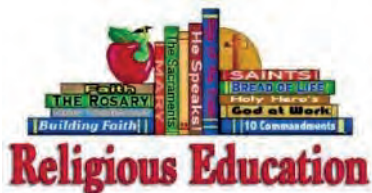
Friday, August 15th,
7 AM and 9 AM

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

If you haven't already registered your child for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact the main office or visit the school website, <https://stphilipprep.com>. We welcome new families with school age children to consider joining our St Philip Prep community, home of the Archangels where students soar to new heights.

Have a safe and wonderful summer vacation.
We look forward to seeing you all in September.

FAITH FORMATION



Registration for our Religious Education and Confirmation Programs is now open! If you have a child in grades 1 through 10, we invite your family to join our program. For details, please visit our Parish website at www.stphilip.org

If you have any questions, please email us at: reled@stphilip.org

If your child is being registered for Grades 1 - 8 in the Faith Formation Program, there will be two class sessions each month they are expected to attend. In addition, parents will be expected to attend a special parent session the first of these two sessions.

Please remember that each child must complete the registration in the Religious Education Program or Confirmation Program in order to be admitted into their first class session.



**Missing Baptism, First Communion,
or Confirmation?**

Want to be a fully initiated Catholic?

We know life gets busy and takes us away from what we intend.

Allow us to help and walk with you on the journey of life in faith!

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF
ADULTS** at Saint Philip

will meet beginning
September 2025.

Let us know if you'll join us:

Call the Parish office or email lvalenti@stphilip.org

~

Family Faith Formation Volunteers

Is the Holy Spirit stirring your heart to serve?
We are currently seeking Catechists and Classroom Helpers for the 2025-2026 catechetical year. If you feel called to share the faith and help form the hearts of the next generation, we invite you to consider this joyful ministry. Whether you're discerning for the first time or returning to serve, we are here to support you every step of the way.

We will help you:

- Explore the vocation of catechesis
 - Answer your questions
 - Reflect on how God may be calling you
- Interested or want to learn more?

Please contact us at reled@stphilip.org.

PLEASE NOTE

Throughout the Summer the Parish Office Schedule is as follows:

**Mondays thru Thursdays
8 AM to 4:30 PM
Fridays 8 AM to 12 Noon**

**Regular office hours will
resume after Labor Day.**



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

**St. Philip the
Apostle Parish**
Clifton, NJ



APOLOGETICS

Class

WITH FR. EMERSON

**LEARN HOW TO DEFEND
THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

5 SEASONS



**B.Y.O.B.
BRING YOUR
OWN BIBLE**

SEASON 1 SCHEDULE:

(WEDNESDAYS)

SEPT. 3 | SEPT. 10 | SEPT. 17

OCT. 8 | OCT. 15

**6:00PM IN THE
MARIAN HALL**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT THE
PARISH OFFICE**

THE SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH FILIPINO-AMERICAN GROUP

**Invites you
to a Night of Prayer
and Reflection
with the theme:**

**September
5th**

**FRIDAY
7PM**

*Gratefulness
& Hope*

Guest Speaker:
Fr. Jun Vizcara
Parochial Vicar of
St. Joseph Parish
Mendham, NJ

VENUE:
The Marian Hall
at St. Philip
797 Valley Road
Clifton, NJ 07013



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

CONSOLATION MINISTRY

Are you able to comfort during times of loss, able to support during funeral liturgies? Perhaps consider joining our consolation ministry.

Contact the Parish office.

FATHER ENGLISH CENTER

We are smack in the middle of summer and our pantry shelves are nearly empty! In June we were blessed to have an excellent turnout of donations and would love to see this happen again.

The Next collection will be **August 16th and 17th**.

The following items are needed: canned tuna and chicken, beans, rice, pasta, sauce, cereals, lentils, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, canned fruit and pancake mixes. All items are needed and appreciated. Blessings to All!



LIFE MINISTRY

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved, and forgiven." ~ Pope Francis

The Church can also be a place to heal. We are called to "be merciful like the Father."

So many are suffering from the effects of abortion. Where can they heal? Where can they feel safe and loved?

The Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office will be hosting an upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreat to heal the wounds from abortion.

Retreat date is: Sept. 19-21, 2025 (English & Spanish)

Contact the Respect Life Office for more details by calling 973-497-4350 (Spanish option 2) or e-mail

cheryl.riley@rcan.org (English)

elvinedoderaquelin@rcan.org (Spanish)

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

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Drawing on **December 31st, 2025** at **12:00PM**
Winner does not need to be present at drawing

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797 Valley Rd, Clifton, NJ 07013 | (973) 779 - 6200
Contact the Parish office for tickets.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

"Coats for Kids" Drive

We will again be collecting contributions for our annual Coats-for-Kids Drive beginning Sunday Aug. 10 thru Saturday Oct. 25. Last year, through the generosity of everyone we were able to give out over 200 warm winter coats to our less fortunate neighbors right here in Clifton. We'd love to surpass that this year as the need is still great. Coats cost us approximately \$275 per box of 12 but all contributions, great or small, help out tremendously. Please make checks out to K of C Council 11671, note in the memo area Coats 4 Kids and mail them to the address below or drop the envelope into the collection basket.

St. Philips Knights of Columbus
Coats-4-Kids
797 Valley Rd.
Clifton, N.J. 07013

PRIMETIMERS

Atlantic City Trip

Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, August 26. Bus leaves from St. Philip Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$50. For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286.



PRIMETIMERS

Prime Timers News

We are scheduling 3 below listed matinee excursions for this Fall:

- 1 -Fiesta De San Gennaro La Greci's Staaten, Sept 23, 2025 (\$125)
- 2 -Oktoberfest Jersey Shore Club October 7, 2025 (\$125)
- 3 -Hunterdon Hill Playhouse Christmas Show Dec. 9, 2025 (\$125)

Up to 45 tickets are available for each event and the price will be finalized in early September as the cost will vary depending on how many people wish to attend Each event includes bus transportation to/from the event. All events include a full course meal and entertainment. Events 1 & 2 also feature an open bar for one hour.

If you are interested in any or all events call Mike Cervine (973)472-7505.

We will also need a \$50 deposit for each person for each event made out to Prime Timers with the event name in the memo section of your check and mailed to

St. Philip's Prime Timers,
797 Valley Rd.
Clifton, NJ 07013.

Full payment for Fiesta De San Gennaro and for Oktoberfest is due on or before Aug. 15th. Full Payment for Hunterdon Hills is due on or before Sept. 15th.

Our first regular meeting of the year will be Friday Sept. 5th at 1:30pm in Marion Hall.

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



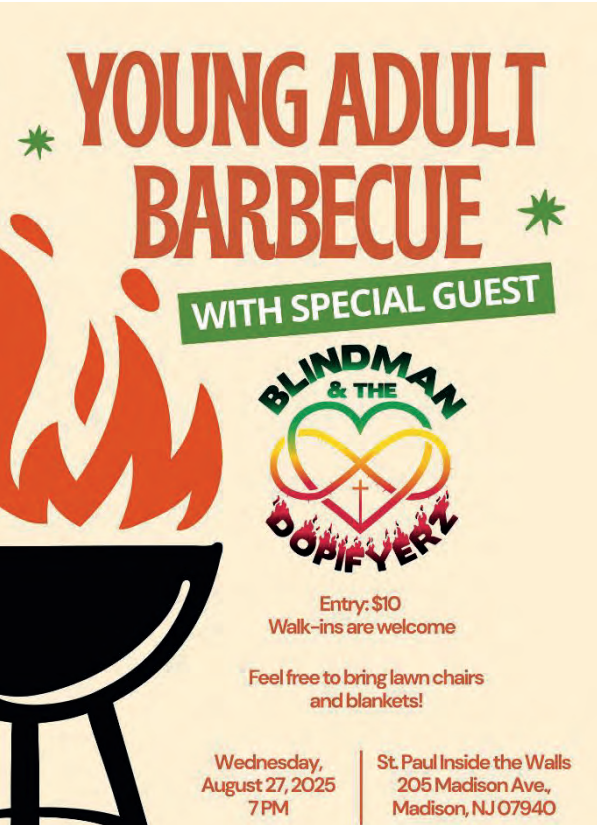
Hale Hartley and Harold Harland Haze

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED



Jason and Priscilla

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES



YOUNG ADULT BARBECUE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Entry: \$10
Walk-ins are welcome

Feel free to bring lawn chairs and blankets!

Wednesday,
August 27, 2025
7 PM

St. Paul Inside the Walls
205 Madison Ave.,
Madison, NJ 07940

Diocese of Paterson

Mass of Consolation



September 6th
10AM
St. Paul Inside the Walls
205 Madison Ave. Madison, NJ

Join us for a special mass to remember and celebrate the lives of our beloved children we have lost too soon.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4



Office of Family Life



- Support and Healing
- Miscarriage Resources
- Post Abortive Resources
- Infertility Resources
- Community Building

WEDDING BANNS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:
Patrick Ferry and Ann Attardi



PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: AUGUST 4, 2024	\$ 17,997.00
Sunday Collection: AUGUST 3, 2025	
Weekly Collection	\$ 12,004.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,144.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,148.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
August 17- Missionary Cooperation Plan

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

Marge Sikora, Robert Rup, Fran Kobernick, Rosanna Hampton, Philip Kutzenko, Angelo Torres, Nina Sova, Nicholas Magrogn, Antonio Bussanich, Rosemarie Carlee, James Jablonowski, Terry Kolenc, Wilson Torres

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Stephen Mokis Marino and Anne DePasquale Angela Ancheta Nyberg
12:00	Deceased Members of the Canavan Family Sandy Fecko

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025

9:00 AM	Michael and Anntionette Altomare
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

9:00 AM	Margaret and George Dikdan
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025

9:00 AM	Bill Loftus
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025

9:00 AM	For all the sick
7:00 PM	Maria Leuterio

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM	All the People of the Parish
9:00 AM	Joseph Michael Paris John N. Russo, Jr- 9 th Anniversary

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

9:00 AM	For the Unborn and their parents
5:30 PM	Michael Thomas Zavala - Special Intentions Leonard Shark William Wittig

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

8:00	Angeles Family- Special Intentions
10:00	Deceased members of the Azario Family Ambrosia Cruz- 25 th Anniversary Jim Rumely
12:00	All the People of the Parish

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