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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



@StPhilipClifton



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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 17, 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.



🛡️ “When Following Jesus Divides the Family”

What’s one of the hardest things about living your Catholic faith?

For many, it’s not the sacrifices. It’s not the teachings. It’s the silence at the dinner table. The eye rolls from adult children. The tension when you mention Mass or morality. It’s the **division in your own family**.

In this Sunday’s Gospel (Luke 12:49–53), Jesus speaks directly to that painful reality: *“Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division... A father will be divided against his son and a son against his father...”*

This is one of the most difficult things Jesus ever said. But it may also be one of the most **honest and relatable**.

❤️ The Pain of Division Isn’t New

Jesus doesn’t rejoice in family division—but He **predicts it**. Why? Because truth **confronts** us. It challenges the world’s values. It calls for change. And not everyone is ready to hear it—even those closest to us.

If you’ve ever felt like the “religious one” in the family... If you’ve ever prayed for a child who’s fallen away... If your spouse or sibling no longer shares your faith... You’re not alone. You’re living exactly what Jesus said would happen. And He says it not to discourage you—but to **strengthen you**.

🔥 Why Truth Can Divide

We live in a culture that says, *“You believe your truth, I’ll believe mine.”* It sounds peaceful. But it’s not real peace—it’s **relativism**.

As Catholics, we believe that **truth is not invented—it’s revealed**. Jesus is not *a* truth; He *is* the Truth. And when you hold to Him and His Church, not everyone will agree.

That’s why division happens—not because you’re trying to argue, but because **truth makes a claim**. It challenges the idea that “anything goes.” It insists that some things are always good, and others are always harmful—even when society disagrees.

And yes, that may put you at odds with family or friends. But defending the truth—**with love**—is one of the most important ways you imitate Christ.

🌱 What Should I Do When My Family Pulls Away?

Jesus isn’t calling you to pick fights or cut people off. He’s calling you to **remain faithful**, even when it’s uncomfortable.

Here’s how you can respond when your faith creates distance in your family:

1. **Stay Faithful** – Don’t water down your beliefs to avoid conflict. Your quiet witness matters.
2. **Pray Constantly** – Offer Masses, Rosaries, and sacrifices for their return to the faith. God works in ways you cannot see.
3. **Speak Gently** – When opportunities arise, speak truth with love—not lecture or fear.
4. **Avoid Despair** – Even saints like St. Monica waited years—and tears—for their loved ones to return.
5. **Live Joyfully** – A life of authentic Christian joy is one of the most powerful evangelizing tools you have.

🔥 Final Thought: Division Isn’t the End of the Story

The Gospel is clear: **division may come**, but that’s not the final word. The Cross came before the Resurrection. The conflict comes before conversion.

Jesus’ words remind us that faith isn’t always easy—but it’s worth it. The fire He brings purifies our motives, strengthens our witness, and deepens our trust.

So this week, if following Christ has made you feel alone in your own family, remember this:

You are not abandoned.

You are not failing.

You are carrying your cross—with Jesus right beside you.

Hold fast to the truth. Keep loving. Keep praying.

And trust that the same fire that causes division now...

...can bring healing and unity in God’s time.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

St Philip Preparatory School is very pleased to announce that Mrs. Barbara Zito will be returning as Principal this coming school year.

Our commitment to maintaining a Christ-centered, academically excellent and spiritually nurturing environment at St. Philip Preparatory School for a school community remains steadfast.

In the coming days, Mrs. Zito will send out a communication and she looks forward to sharing an exciting school year with everyone.

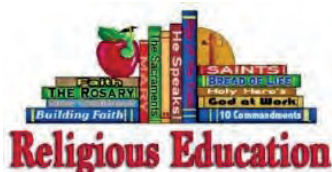
If you haven't already registered your child for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact the main office at 973-779-4700 or visit the school website, <https://stphilipprep.com>.

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.

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.

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



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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



APOLOGETICS *Class* **WITH FR. EMERSON** **5 SEASONS** **LEARN HOW TO DEFEND THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

5 SEASONS

**LEARN HOW TO DEFEND
THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

SEASON 1 SCHEDULE: (WEDNESDAYS)

SEPT. 3 | SEPT. 10 | SEPT. 17
OCT. 8 | OCT. 15

6:00PM IN THE MARIAN HALL

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

**PLEASE CALL THE PARISH
OFFICE TO REGISTER**

**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.

LIFE MINISTRY

Queenship of Mary
AUGUST 22

"... for behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me
blessed. Because He that is
mighty, hath done great things
to me; and holy is His name."
~ Lk. 1:48-49

Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013



Thanksgiving Mass
for the Canonization of
SAINT CARLO ACUTIS
SAINT PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 (MONDAY) AT 9:00AM
PRESIDER: FR. EMERSON FRANCISCO

**THE VENERATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT CARLO
AND SAINT PIER GIORGIO WILL FOLLOW AFTER MASS**

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Contact the Parish office for tickets.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

SAVE THE DATE

The St. Philip's Knights of Columbus
Annual Communion Breakfast
Sunday – September 7, 2024

After the 8 AM Mass tickets will be on sale after
The Mass on the weekend of

August 23 - 24 & August 30 -31

Or call Jim Marrocco
@ 201-417-2432

Our guest speaker is
Father Michael Barone Chaplain,
Catholic Cemeteries –
Archdiocese of Newark



“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

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.



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

GOLD and SILVER

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS


Couples, were you married in 2000, 1975 or

1965? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60+, 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: **Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 3:00pm.**

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Friday, October 17, 2025.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

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

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Zackary David &
Eliza Marie*

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: AUGUST 11, 2024 \$ 16,638.00

Sunday Collection: AUGUST 10, 2025

Weekly Collection \$ 16,699.00

Online Giving Donation \$ 7,585.00

TOTAL \$ 24,284.00

Second Collection- Project Faith \$ 1,829.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

August 24- Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased...

Diane Cartaina

A Time to be Healed...

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

9:00 AM	Zofia Drobik
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025

9:00 AM	Marie Riegrova
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

9:00 AM	Estinislao and Rosario Llames Raquel Nael Marrero - Special Intentions
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

9:00 AM	Edward Szerencsits
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025

9:00 AM	Anne Wascoe
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

9:00 AM	For all the Souls in Purgatory
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

8:00	Gloria Peterson- 6 th Anniversary
10:00	Theresa Giaquinto Richard Betzold
12:00	Maria Anna Scelfo Peregrina and Bonifacio Dulva

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