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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



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Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time August 24, 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.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

I believe it was Winston Churchill who said, "Democracy is a terrible form of government." But then he added, "There is no other form that is better." Sometimes our best choice is far from perfect. We end up choosing something that really does not please us, but we do so precisely because no better options are available.

This seems to be the situation with Peter in today's gospel. Many people are finding that Jesus' teaching is difficult, hard to accept. So, they are leaving. They are no longer traveling in His company. Jesus asks Peter, "Do you also want to leave?" and Peter says, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Now notice, Peter is not affirming Jesus' teaching. He is not saying that he is happy with it. He understands why so many people are leaving, but he is going to stay. But he is not staying because he is excited about staying. He is going to stay because where else can he go. Even though Jesus' teaching is difficult and troublesome, Peter knows that there is no better option available to him.

Now the good news about today's gospel is that Jesus lets Peter stay. Even though Peter is unhappy, even though he finds the teaching difficult, Jesus is willing to accept Peter as a disciple on those terms. Peter can remain a disciple even though the only reason he is staying is because he does not have a better place to go.

Now, Jesus' acceptance of Peter's faith clarifies for us what discipleship and what faith are about. Sometimes we think that we believe in God because it is going to make us happy. Indeed, sometimes it does make us happy. But that is not why we believe. We believe in God because it is true, and the truth of that belief does not guarantee that life will be easy. Sometimes we think that we believe in God because it is going to answer all of our questions. Sometimes it does give us a good deal of insight. But that is not why we believe. We believe in God because He is real. But that faith does not give us all the answers and does not guarantee that we will be pleased with the answers we receive.

We can be disciples of Jesus even though we are discouraged, even though we have doubts, even though we are afraid. When troubles in our family continue to disrupt our lives, when our health deteriorates, when people whom we love make

decisions that wound us, it does not mean that our faith is misplaced or that God is not God. It is a reminder to us that God's ways are often unclear and frequently burdensome. The troubles and difficulties of our life tell us that faith is as much about persevering as it is about celebrating and much more about trusting than understanding.

Now, of course, all of us would prefer a life that is simple, clear and easy. But those are not gifts which discipleship guarantees. Sometimes we merely need to hold on because there is no better place to go. And Jesus, like he did with Peter, is more than willing to accept us and our faith on those terms.

When we understand what faith and discipleship are truly about, we can pray, "Lord Jesus, even though it is difficult, even though I am confused, even though it hurts, I still believe in you. But thank you for giving me the freedom to say I'm not happy about it—and if I had better option, I would take it."

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

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.

Mrs. Zito 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>.

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

Religious Education



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

WITH THANKS

FR. ENGLISH FOOD PANTRY

With grateful hearts to all those who gave so generously and to those who helped us load the cars after the 12 noon Mass this past weekend. We had three cars filled with food! Blessings to all...

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

CHOIR

Come sing with us! The Choir of St. Philip will resume its ministry with our first rehearsal on Monday, September 8th. Rehearsals are held regularly in church on Monday evenings 7:00-9:00pm and the choir sings for the 10am mass on Sundays throughout the season. We welcome returning members, as well as new members who are interested in joining this ministry! Please speak with our Director of Music and Organist, Frank Hydash, after mass with questions or for more information.

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

LIFE MINISTRY



NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE
with every woman, for every child

MASS- 9:30 AM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

RALLY- 11:00 AM
MARCH- 12 PM
TRENTON, NJ

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2025

"HOW CAN THERE BE TOO MANY CHILDREN? THAT'S LIKE SAYING THERE ARE TOO MANY FLOWERS."
-MOTHER TERESA

Join pro-life advocates from the state of New Jersey to peacefully rally and march for the dignity of the human person in Trenton on Sept. 25, 2025. Mass is at 9:30 a.m., followed by the rally at 11 a.m. and the march at noon. Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney is the homilist. Transportation is available in Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties. Roundtrip is \$35. Visit <https://insidethewalls.org/njmarchoforlife> to register!

The rally and March for Life will begin at 11 a.m. at the Statehouse Annex, a short walk from the cathedral.

THANK YOU

We thank everyone who gave their support and prayers to the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), where a second collection was taken last weekend, through Mr. Greg Darr of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

May God Bless you for your generosity!



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.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The first meeting of the blanket ministry will be September 17, 2025 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! Thank you to Lynne for a very generous donation. If you would like to learn to crochet, come and join us. For questions or donations, please call Cathie At 973-471-1265.

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



GOLF OUTING

St. Philips the Apostle
Knights of Columbus
Council 11671

Presents our
16th Annual Bob Martin
Memorial
Golf Outing



Preakness Valley Golf Course

October 27, 2025

10 AM Registration & Breakfast. 12:00 PM Shotgun
Start

Tickets \$200.00 per person includes,
Golf

Breakfast In The Morning

Proceeding Golf full Cocktail Hour with Prizes

For more information or to buy tickets, please contact:

John Szerencsits 973-650-6938

Rob Martin 201-390-3325

Dennis Fitzpatrick 973-271-9577

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Register Online At kofc11671.org/golf

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

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

GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



Couples, were you married in 2000, 1975 or 1965? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60th, 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!*

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Jackson John

Vincenzo



GOD BLESS THE NEWLYWED



Patrick and Ann

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: AUGUST 18, 2024	\$ 15,104.00
Sunday Collection: AUGUST 17, 2025	
Weekly Collection	\$ 14,219.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,209.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,428.00
Assumption Collection	\$ 3,255.00
Upcoming Second Collections:	
September 14- Project Faith	

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased...

Terry Piviroto

A Time to be Healed...

Marge Sikora, Robert and Marie 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 24, 2025

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025

9:00 AM	Rose Devins
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

9:00 AM	The O'Brien and Rogers Families Abimael Marrero
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025

9:00 AM	Jim Loftus Chester Choynowski
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

9:00 AM	Nancy Hreha
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025

9:00 AM	Marlene Chidiac- 3 rd Anniversary
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025

9:00 AM	Gloria Reyes
5:30 PM	Louise Stolarz Serafina and Giovanni Colabro Romulo Genato

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Melvin Banas Deceased members of the Begazo Family Terry Piviroto
12:00	Sandy Fecko Walter Tarnowski- 1 st Anniversary

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