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Rev. Frank Lennie *In-Residence* 

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Ms. Linda Siluk *Lay Trustee* 

## St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



@StPhilipClifton





## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 7, 2025



#### CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening	5:30 PM
•	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Broadcast) & 12:00 PM
•	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

My Dear Parishioners,

Asking God for things is a tricky business. We might even say that of the four basic types of Christian prayer (that is, petition, adoration, contrition, and thanksgiving), the prayer of petition demands the most deliberation.

The First Reading addresses this challenge indirectly, asking rhetorically: "Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends? For the deliberation of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans." We might paraphrase these verses by asking, "When I pray, how can I get my human free will to align with God's divine and providential will?"

So, to "fine tune" our prayers in order to make them more effective, here's a question for you. But be careful, because it's a trick question: "When we petition God in prayer, should we pray for a good thing?" The answer is "Yes... and No." Today's Scripture passages explain why by giving us examples of, and by describing, the virtue of prudence.

To most persons, prudence does not seem the most compelling Christian virtue. After all, it's not as simple as humility, as bold as courage, or as sublime as charity. As virtues go, prudence sort of seems like oatmeal.

Nonetheless, if someone were to ask you, "Should you pray for a good thing?", then you should answer "No!" The definition of prudence shows us why we should not pray just for a good thing. Notice in this definition the two tasks that prudence enables us to carry out.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines prudence as "the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance, and to choose the right means of achieving it" [CCC 1806]. Prudence empowers us to do two things: first, to see our "true good" in a given circumstance; and second, to choose the means to reach this "true good". So, prudence guides both our intellect (in seeing the true good), and our will (in choosing the true good). Prudence is really the most practical of all virtues, because it guides the marriage of our intellect and will in daily life.

Nonetheless, as insightful as this definition is, it begs an important question. What is this "true good"?

Our Scripture passages today show us how this "true good" is not just the good as opposed to the bad. The true good is the best good out of many good choices.

When we were little, our parents taught us to make moral choices by recognizing right from wrong; good from bad; what is holy from what is evil. This is the first stage of moral wisdom. This is the foundation of making moral choices. It's essential that we understand that difference. In fact, to put it bluntly, this difference is the difference between Heaven and hell. But as a Christian, you have to build upon that foundation. God doesn't leave us to do whatever good on earth we might choose.

So, while the foundation of Christian morality is about good versus bad, we build upon that by hearing God call us beyond only choosing what is good. God wants us to do far more: He wants us to choose what is best over and above what is merely good. It's in this sense that God does not want you to choose a good thing: God wants you to choose the best thing. "Good" is not good enough. Only "the best" is good enough for God, and for you and your vocation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church uses a striking image to describe prudence, calling prudence the "charioteer" of all the other virtues. In other words, you might think of prudence as being the "inner ear" of the Body of Christ. As your inner ear controls your body's sense of balance, prudence controls the balance of your soul, including the balance of your moral choices. You could be the strongest football player, the most poised ballerina, or the most agile sprinter in the world. But if that one little part of your inner ear didn't work, then you and your strength, poise, and agility would fall flat on your face.

Everyone needs a sense of balance: not only physical balance, but even more so moral balance. Other virtues may be more powerful and even more important. But without prudence, they won't allow you to reach for the greatest good in life.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

#### ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

We're back!! Students, faculty, and staff have settled back nicely into a new school year at SPPS. Welcome to our new staff and families. It's always nice to see fresh faces along with our "returnees"! We are truly blessed to have your support and look forward to a happy, healthy, and productive academic year.



#### FAITH FORMATION

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 lyalenti@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. Please contact us at <a href="mailto:reled@stphilip.org">reled@stphilip.org</a>.

#### 2026 MASS INTENTION BOOK

The 2026 Mass Intention book will open at 9 AM on Thursday, September 11<sup>th.</sup>



A Journey of Faith

To accommodate everyone, please be mindful that we limit Mass Intentions to five (5) per family.

(2 Weekend /3 Daily)

You can always offer more Masses during the year. Recommended donation for Mass Intention/Card and Weekly Vigil Candle dedication and sponsorship are \$20.

#### **SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

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



# APOLOGETICS WITH FR. EMERSON

LEARN HOW TO DEFEND THE CATHOLIC FAITH



OWN BIBLE

SEASON 1 SCHEDULE: (WEDNESDAYS) SEPT. 3 | SEPT. 10 | SEPT. 17 OCT. 8 | OCT. 15

6:00PM IN THE MARIAN HALL

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO REGISTER



#### **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.

#### **LIFE MINISTRY**



## 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

#### **SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **PRIMETIMERS**

#### Oktoberfest

There's still a little time and a few seats available for the Prime Timers bus trip to The Shore Club Oktoberfest event on Tuesday October 7th. The cost is \$125 per person. If interested call Mike Cervine at (973) 472-7505.

#### **ROSARY SOCIETY**

All are welcome to join us on September 15 to commemorate our Lady of Sorrows. Mass begins at 6:30 in Marion Hall, followed by the Rosary, our ice cream social and camaraderie!

## COLUMBIETTES 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.

## SAVE THE DATE COLUMBIETTES FUNDRAISER

Outback Steakhouse 191 Berdan Avenue Wayne, NJ 07470 \$20.00 per ticket Valid only on:

Monday, September 29th, to Thursday, October 2nd, 2025

Each ticket includes 1 appetizer per 2 tickets, choice of entrée, salad, choice of side and dessert.

This does not include gratuity.

The back of the flyer/ticket lists the menu options. This flyer/ticket is good for lunch, dinner or takeout. For further information or to purchase tickets, please call Pat at 973-975-7744 or email pattyscarp@aol.com.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 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

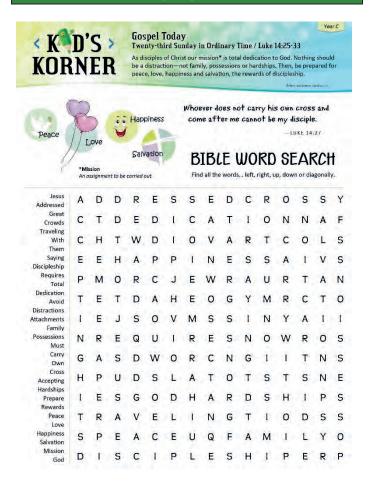
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John Szerencsits 973-650-6938
Rob Martin 201-390-3325
Dennis Fitzpatrick 973-271-9577

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#### **KIDS KORNER**



#### **DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES**

#### 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+, 50<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> 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!* 

#### **CAR RAFFLE**



# 2025 MERCEDES-BENZ GLA 250 W4 - APPROX MSRP \$48,770 BLACK | ALL-WHEEL DRIVE | REMOTE START NAVIGATION | AND MORE

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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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#### **WEDDING BANNS**

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:

John Hughes and Danielle Gonzalez



#### GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Aurora Olivia

#### **PARISH GIVING**

Sunday Collection: SEPT. 2, 2024	\$1	15,777.00
<b>Sunday Collection: AUGUST 31, 2025</b>		
Weekly Collection	\$	9,262.00
<b>Online Giving Donation</b>	\$	6,501.00
TOTAL	\$	15,762.00

Upcoming Second Collections: September 14- Project Faith

#### **WE PRAY FOR...**

Recently Deceased...

Marie Rup

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

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

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

8:00	Theresa and Joseph Raia
	Ailen Abrena
10:00	Frank Lechleither- 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
	Albert Pineda- 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	Helen Dressel
	Marie Palazzone
12:00	All the People of the Parish

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

9:00 AM Rocco Carlucci Kathryn Miragliotta

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

9:00 AM Mary Anderson Anne Schrimpe

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

9:00 AM Alexander Artola Lino Calello- 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

9:00 AM Giuseppe Spatola Cornelia A. Moises

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

9:00 AM Alcira Summa and Jorge Serrano

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

9:00 AM

Antonio B. Garcia-14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
National Day of Remembrance for
Aborted Babies
5:30 PM

All the People of the Parish

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

8:00	Vincent J. LoProto, Sr
	Carlos Ricardo Reyes- 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
10:00	Ruthann Anderson- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
	Lina Salvemini
	Rita Hogan
	Katiuska M. Zapata & Ivan Santiago
	Gutierrez
12:00	Irene Chmura
	Joseph and Joey Cortez

#### CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

In memory of Robert Parillo
-With love, from Pat.



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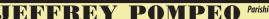
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