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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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 21, 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 PAROCHIAL VICAR'S DESK

🤔 *The Parable That Makes You Scratch Your Head...*

Let's be honest—the Gospel for this Sunday (Luke 16:1–13) sounds like one Jesus *shouldn't* have told. A dishonest steward gets caught cooking the books... and then somehow becomes the *hero* of the story? 🤔 What exactly are we supposed to take away from this?

If you're confused, you're not alone. For centuries, believers have wrestled with this parable. But that's precisely what Jesus wants. He's grabbing our attention—not to praise dishonesty, but to challenge us to think differently about urgency, wisdom, and eternal priorities.

🔍 **What's the Real Lesson?**

The steward in the story is about to be fired. He knows his time is running out. So what does he do? He uses his position *while he still has it* to prepare for what's next.

💡 *Here's the twist:* Jesus isn't praising his dishonesty—but His *decisiveness*. The steward was clever, resourceful, and most of all—he acted with urgency.

Now, Jesus wants us to ask ourselves: **“If that dishonest man could act so urgently for earthly gain, what are you doing for eternal gain?”**



👁️ **Everything You Have Is on Loan**

This is where it gets personal. The steward wasn't the owner—he was the *manager*. Guess what? So are we.

- That house you live in? Not yours.
- That job title? Temporary.
- Your skills, your money, your time? All on loan.
- Even your influence—your voice, your presence in people's lives—is something God has entrusted to you.

We are stewards, not owners. 🎁 📦

So the real question becomes:

What are you doing with what isn't yours?

✅ **Practical Ways to Live This Gospel Today**

Jesus ends with some strong words: “*You cannot serve both God and mammon.*” (Mammon = money, power, stuff.) So how do we make sure we're serving *God* and not the things of this world?

Here are some practical tips:

1 **Audit Your Resources** 📋

Take time this week to reflect:

- What are the blessings I'm not using well?
- Is there something I could give, share, or start that builds God's Kingdom?

Write them down. Pray over them. Act on one.

2 **Invest in Eternal Relationships** 🤝 🌱

The steward used his remaining time to make *friends for the future*. Jesus tells us to do the same: “make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

In other words: use your time and treasure to help others, serve the poor, support good works, forgive generously, and build relationships that echo in eternity.

3 **Be Faithful in the Small Things** 🧹 📅

Jesus says, “*The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.*” Start with the little stuff:

- Being on time.
- Keeping your word.
- Showing up in love, even when it's hard.

These small habits train your soul for greater responsibilities in the Kingdom.

4 **Detach Before It's Too Late** ✂️ 🗑️

Ask yourself: **“If God asked me to give this up... could I?”** If the answer is no, that might be your *mammon*. Don't let things rule your heart. Use things, love people, and serve God—not the other way around.

🌟 **Final Thought: What Are You Preparing For?**

The dishonest steward was smart enough to prepare for the future—because he knew his time was short. So do we.

We know that our days on earth are limited. The Gospel is reminding us: use what you've been given *now* to build what lasts *forever*.

This parable isn't about praising lies. It's about praising *urgency* in a world that often tells us to wait, to delay, to waste. But Jesus says: “*Be wise. Be ready. Use what you have today—for what truly matters.*”

So ask yourself:

🕯️ Am I living like this world is my forever home?

🏠 Am I investing in things that last?

❤️ Am I using what I've been given to love, serve, and bring others closer to God?

The clock is ticking, not to scare us—but to *awaken* us. Let's be *faithful*, *creative*, and *courageous* stewards of everything we've been given. 🙌

Because when the final audit comes, may we hear the words: **“Well done, good and faithful servant.”**



Fr. Emerson 😊

FAITH FORMATION

Know someone who missed their confirmation, and would like to receive the sacrament?

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. Please contact us at reled@stphilip.org.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students, faculty and staff of SPSPS have successfully entered their Fall 2025 school year as we quickly approach the end of September. Our school has accomplished another successful Back to School Night. We welcome all of our new students and their families to our community.

Our students have been working on their first NWEA standardized testing and will continue to work on them next week.

~

Saint Philip Preparatory School is currently accepting resumes from qualified teachers for various grade level positions.

In addition, we are in need of people to help with our After Care school program, (Monday – Friday 3PM-6PM.)

Anyone interested in either position kindly send your resume or call the school office, 973-779-4700.

Thank you for your support.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
Clifton, NJ



APOLOGETICS
Class **WITH FR. EMERSON**

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

We are still accepting anyone who wants to join the Apologetics Class!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH CHOIR

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE YOUTH CHOIR

The St. Philip the Apostle Youth Choir is inviting new and returning students who like to *SING* to come and join us for this year's choir season!

WHO CAN JOIN? Students in Grades 4 through Grade 8. Participation is open to ALL young singers within this age group from the St. Philip Preparatory School and Parish community.

WHEN & WHERE? Rehearsals are held in church on Mondays from 3:05pm to 4:05pm throughout the school year.

WHEN DOES THE CHOIR SING? The Youth Choir sings at a monthly scheduled weekend liturgy and in choir concert events sponsored by the Music Ministry program at St. Philip the Apostle Church.

Come and join us Monday, September 29, 2025!

Please contact

*Frank, Hydash, Director of Music,
for more information.*

LIFE MINISTRY

Did you know?

Fact:



The abortion pill can be reversed to save a baby's life! Treatment should begin within the first 24 to 72 hours of taking the 1st abortion pill. The sooner the reversal begins, the better. Even **if 72 hours have passed**, this hotline **(877) 558-0333** should be called for help. The 2nd abortion pill should not be taken.



For more information
please visit:

AbortionPillReversal.com

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

St. Philip Rosary Society Annual Communion Brunch



Mary: A Woman of Hope:
a Woman of our Times

Speaker: Sr. Theresa Lee, FMA

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Rosary at 9:30 a.m.

Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Brunch following in Marian Hall

Tickets: \$25

COLUMBIETTES

BLANKET MINISTRY

Columbiette Blanket Ministry
The next meetings will be Thursday, October 1 & 15, 2025 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We accept all yarn and fabric donations! Kudos to Mary Ann and Rachel for the generous yarn donations! For more information, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)



COLUMBIETTES

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 take-out. For further information or to purchase tickets, please call Pat at 973-975-7744 or

email pattyscarp@aol.com.

Tickets will be sold after all Masses on September 13/14 and September 20/21.

COLUMBIETTES

Our Columbiette meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25th beginning with refreshments at 6:30 pm. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone after our summer break and congratulate our new officers.



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

Tickets \$200.00 per person includes,
Golf

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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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GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Adeline Gene



WEDDING BANNS

The following couple will be
exchanging wedding vows:

**Joseph Agnoli and
Desiree Delgado-Anton**



KIDS KORNER

**< KID'S >
KORNER**

Gospel Today
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Luke 16:1-13
The person who is honest and trustworthy in small matters, will be honest and trustworthy in great ones.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
- Circle your answers and talk about them -

1 If you eat more than your share...
YES, it was me - I ate all the cookies. **or** NO, I don't know who ate all the cookies.

2 If you break something that is not yours...
SORRY, I broke your pencil by accident. **or** I don't know how your pencil got broken.

3 If you find property that is not yours...
I saw my friend / classmate drop this, I am glad to return it. **or** I like this, I might keep it for myself.

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+, 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!

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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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Contact the Parish office for tickets.

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: SEPT. 15, 2024	\$18,531.00
Sunday Collection: SEPTEMBER 14, 2025	
Weekly Collection	\$ 9,617.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,228.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,845.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
 September 28- Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased...

Deb Sirvidio

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, Tom Wilkinson



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Frank and Michael Sabella Generosa Spatola Ronaldo and Rena Trinidad - 40 th Wedding Anniversary
12:00	Giuseppe Carduccio Al Mayewski Esperanza Jacot

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

9:00 AM	Jim and Kitty Murtha
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

9:00 AM	Santa Marie Triolo Filipina Bacani
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

9:00 AM	Bill Loftus
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

9:00 AM	Mary and Francis Kolodziej
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

9:00 AM	Marie Rup
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

9:00 AM	Esteban Binghai, Sr
5:30 PM	Robert Brennan Doreen Macchia- Germain Barbara Sikora

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

8:00	Marilyn H. Lavender Florence Kopko
10:00	Logan Joseph Brackenbury Albert Krol Josephine Alfonzo Veronica Durante
12:00	All the People of the Parish

CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

In Memory of Richie Tattoli
 -From the Nick and Anna Caradonna



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