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*Lay Trustee*

# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



@StPhilipClifton



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## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 28, 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 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

Once a friend spoke to me about his money troubles. He told me, "Money has always been a struggle in my spiritual life. I'm not rich—my bank account proves it! —but I can be stingy. I tithe 10% to my parish, but I have it deducted automatically so I don't have to feel the pain of writing the check. Yet, every day, I encounter opportunities to help the poor. It's not that I lack the funds; it's that giving hurts. My problem isn't money, it's my hardness of heart, where the poor don't come first."

Today's Gospel (Luke 16:19-31) illustrates this through the story of a rich man and Lazarus, a poor man at his gate. The rich man, dressed in fine clothes and feasting daily, ignores Lazarus, who suffers in poverty. After death, Lazarus is comforted in Abraham's bosom, while the rich man faces torment. The issue isn't just wealth, it's the rich man's hardness of heart, rooted in his love of money, which blinds him to the poor.

Money can quickly lead to spiritual trouble. St. Paul warns in 1 Timothy 6:8-10, "If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation... For the love of money is the root of all evils." Paul's point is clear: chasing wealth leads to harmful desires and spiritual ruin. The rich man didn't need to solve world hunger; he simply failed to help the man at his doorstep. His self-absorption, his hardness of heart—caused him to overlook Lazarus entirely.

What does a hardened heart look like? It's complacent and covetous, consumed with thoughts of what to buy or scrolling through social media obsessing over clothes, cars, or status symbols. It's a heart chasing frivolous pleasure, worrying about the next restaurant or party while ignoring others' suffering. A hardened heart has a blunted conscience, indifferent to the homeless on the street or the person with tattered shoes passed on the way to buy an expensive pair. As Pope Francis wrote, such a heart is "caught up in its own interests... with no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades" (Evangelii Gaudium, 2).

The rich man's story reveals the progression of sin: love of money leads to vanity, which leads to pride. First, money, meant to be a tool, becomes an idol. We prioritize it over everything, working Sundays or taking jobs just to buy more things. This

shifts to vanity, where life revolves around appearances. We buy fancy cars or name-brand clothes not for utility but to signal status. Even cultural traditions, like a quinceañera, can become about showing off wealth rather than gratitude to God. Finally, vanity breeds pride, where we act like gods, blind to others' needs. The rich man didn't refuse to help Lazarus—he didn't even see him.

This Gospel is meant to make us uncomfortable. We might think, "I'm not rich, so this doesn't apply to me." But Jesus told this story to unsettle us, to make us reflect on whether we, too, overlook the poor. Notably, the rich man's name is omitted, but we know Lazarus' name. In society, we often know the names of the wealthy—like celebrities—but not the poor neighbor down the street. Jesus flips this: in God's Kingdom, the poor matter most.

This story challenges us because we can't plead ignorance. Jesus warns in Matthew 25:45, "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." We're called to see and help the poor around us—not out of guilt, but because it's central to our faith. The rich man's failure wasn't just his wealth; it was his self-centeredness, his inability to let God's love move him to act.

Rather than a feel-good message, Jesus gives us a wake-up call. We must examine our hearts, confront our attachment to money, and ask: Do we see the poor? Do we care? The Gospel demands we soften our hearts, prioritize the least among us, and live not for ourselves but for God and others.

## FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



**In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the blessing of animals will take place on **Saturday, October 4th at 1:30 PM** at the St. Anthony Shrine, next to the parking lot.**

## 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 October 2025. Let us know if you'll join us:  
Call the Parish office or email [lvalenti@stphilip.org](mailto: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](mailto:reled@stphilip.org).

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The middle school is back and ready for a great year. The sixth grade is getting used to middle school, seventh grade is getting ready for its big trip of the year. Eighth grade is ready to begin the journey through their final moments with Saint Phillip Prep School

~

### WE ARE HIRING!

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

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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

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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.*



## HANDBELL CHOIR

Interested in participating in a music ministry but not a singer? **Handbell** rehearsals are held regularly in church on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 6:45pm. The **Handbell Choir** rings at Lessons and Carols, and seasonal masses on Christmas Eve and Palm Sunday. Any prior musical experience is appreciated, but not required. We encourage returning and new members to please join us for our organizational meeting and first rehearsal on **Monday, October 6th at 6pm.**

*All music ministries are open to persons high school age and up. For those preparing for **Confirmation**, participation in one of our music ministries is a great way to fulfill **service hours**! Regular attendance at rehearsals is expected.*

## LIFE MINISTRY



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD**

**DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING**

**EQUAL RIGHTS**  
For Babies in the Womb

Please join in prayer and fasting on October 3rd (First Friday) for Equal Rights for Babies in the Womb in NJ, for an end to abortion and for a favorable pro-life outcome to the 11-4-2025 election in NJ. Fasting can be from food, media, etc. as you are able. The goal is to get 500 people praying monthly for the unborn in NJ. Prayer changes things!

Add your name to the tally each month at:  
[EqualRightsforBabiesintheWomb.com/prayerandfasting/](http://EqualRightsforBabiesintheWomb.com/prayerandfasting/)

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### “Coats for Kids” Drive

We will again be collecting contributions for our annual Coats-for-Kids Drive thru Saturday Oct. 25. We’d love to surpass last years generosity of over 200 coats 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

#### UPCOMING MEETING

St. Philip’s Prime Timers Senior Social Club will meet of Friday October 3 in Marian Hall of the Malloy Center at 1:00pm for coffee-and; the meeting will start at 1:30pm. We are always looking for new members so if you’re not sure or just curious about what we are all about just come and find out. Anyone 50 and older is welcome to attend the meeting.

### 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 Wednesday, 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 FUNDRAISER

Valid only on:

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

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

email [pattyscarp@aol.com](mailto:pattyscarp@aol.com).

**ROSARY SOCIETY**

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## GOLF OUTING

**Presents our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob  
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10 AM Registration & Breakfast. 12:00 PM Shotgun Start

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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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*John and Danielle*

## WEDDING BANNNS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding  
VOWS:



**Joseph Agnoli and  
Desiree Delgado-Anton**

## KIDS KORNER

# KID'S KORNER

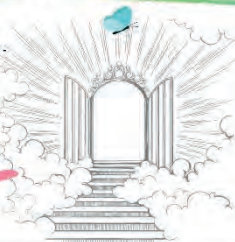
**Gospel Today**  
**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Luke 16:19-31**

Today's parable of the rich man and Lazarus is an example of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Plain, in Luke, Chapter 6. "Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours." *Luke 6:20* and "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation." *Luke 6:24*

X3021 / BOP (World Service, LLC)

**Definition**

*Sumptuously* - very rich, expensive, splendid



**"Blessed are you who are now hungry. For you will be satisfied."** — *Luke 6:21*

*Lazarus, poor, sick and hungry on earth, is comforted in Heaven.*

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.

- Rich
- Man
- Wore
- Festive
- Garments
- Ate
- Sumptuously
- Avoided
- Sharing
- Lying
- Outside
- Poor
- Sick
- Hungry
- Beggar
- Both
- Died
- Angels
- Carried
- Lazarus
- Heaven
- Other
- Buried
- Tormented
- Abraham
- Denied
- Warning
- Five
- Brothers
- Change
- Behavior

H	T	E	V	I	F	G	G	A	R	M	E	N	T	S
R	C	D	O	G	N	I	N	R	A	W	R	T	C	U
E	V	I	T	S	E	F	I	I	P	H	O	N	A	M
C	R	S	R	D	E	I	R	U	B	E	W	P	R	P
E	O	T	H	E	R	T	A	S	T	A	I	O	R	T
A	H	U	N	G	R	Y	H	J	S	V	M	O	I	U
B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	U	L	E	A	R	E	O
R	E	S	L	K	T	O	R	M	E	N	T	E	D	U
A	G	G	B	E	H	A	V	I	O	R	S	E	H	S
H	N	R	G	T	Z	I	D	C	A	G	N	I	Y	L
A	A	D	E	A	P	O	R	I	R	I	O	E	C	Y
M	H	E	L	A	R	N	S	L	E	G	N	A	L	K
H	C	A	V	O	I	D	E	D	F	D	B	O	T	H



## 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!*

## PARISH GIVING

<b>Sunday Collection: SEPT. 22, 2024</b>	<b>\$16,481.00</b>
<b>Sunday Collection: SEPTEMBER 21, 2025</b>	
<b>Weekly Collection</b>	<b>\$ 11,127.00</b>
<b>Online Giving Donation</b>	<b>\$ 5,840.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,967.00</b>

Upcoming Second Collections:  
October 12- Project Faith

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *Recently Deceased...*

Anna Jacobowitz, Jerome Morici

### *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 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

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

9:00 AM	Marilyn Loftus Dennis Quinlan
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### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

9:00 AM	Reid Charles Krevis Michael Robinson- 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

9:00 AM	Maria and Giuseppe Esposito Edgar DelaTorre - Special Intention- 50 <sup>th</sup> birthday
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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

9:00 AM	Manuel and Milagros Amadot Marty and Phil Oslin - Special Intention- 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

9:00 AM	Peter Cavallero Francis, Miriam and Kevin O'Brien
---------	--

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

9:00 AM	Ralph and Loretta Pennella
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

8:00	Giuseppe Carduccio Deb Sirvidio
10:00	Francesco Pugliano Veronica and Frank Dudash Edward Maksym Sr. Mary Canavan, S. C.
12:00	Irene Sadvary- 26 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jean Tarnpowski

### CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

In Memory of Ralph and Loretta Pennella  
-From Jane and Walter Beck



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