PASTORAL TEAM

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Ms. Linda Siluk

Lay Trustee

Mr. James Marrocco Lay Trustee

St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 23, 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
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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,

This Sunday's feast is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. "King" is the key word. The word "king" distinguishes this Sunday from other Sundays. Every Sunday focuses upon Our Lord Jesus Christ. But this Sunday we focus upon His kingship, and upon the battle that this King engages in.

Today's Gospel Reading describes this battle in progress. "The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, 'He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God.' ... they called out, 'If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."" These earthly rulers are extremely logical. If Jesus could save others, why would he not save himself? Of course, their sneer shows that they're not serious in what they say. They don't believe that Jesus could save himself. They probably don't believe that Jesus saved others, either. They likely claimed that those people whom Jesus reportedly saved were never really sick or dead in the first place. The claims of Jesus working miracles were mere tricks. So of course, given that Jesus couldn't really save others, he would not because he could not—save himself. What's clear in their way of thinking—a way of thinking that's just as prevalent in the twenty-first century as in the first—is that the golden rule of life is "Me first".

No one with power gives up power willingly. No one with power does not use power for the greater glory of the most unholy trinity of "Me, Myself, and I". Yet what the logic of this egoism overlooks is what Saint Francis of Assisi sang so ardently about: that "it is in giving that we receive; ... in pardoning that we are pardoned; and ... in dying that we are born to eternal life." This is the logic of God. This is the logic that leads to Calvary, from which Divine Mercy flows. It is for mercy that Christ reigns as King upon the Cross. Why, after all, would the Church proclaim on the feast of Christ the King the Gospel passage describing Jesus in His last moments before death? It's because the Cross is the earthly throne of Christ the King. Thorns make up His crown. Christ the King shows us His power not in living for Himself, but in dying for us poor sinners.

In this regard, we need to paraphrase the Prayer of St. Francis, because it's in Christ the King dying that we are born to eternal life. The King has laid down His life for us peasants. Given all that, why do we Catholics gather each Sunday before an altar on which Christ the King sacrifices His life for

us? We do not only assemble there to give thanks for Christ the King's sacrifice. We also gather there to share in the sacrifice of Christ the King. At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass so that you and I would have a means of being transported mystically to the foot of Jesus' Cross.

During Holy Mass we are present on that afternoon of Good Friday in order to enter into His kingly sacrifice: that is, to make His sacrifice our sacrifice. After all, we are members of Christ's Mystical Body through baptism and therefore share in his regal vocation. Christ the King strengthens us not only so that each of us can get to Heaven. He strengthens us through His Body and Blood, soul and divinity so that we might lead our daily lives in Him. We accept the love of God at Holy Mass so that we'll be strong enough to love everyone in this fallen world with the very love of God. Of course, love is a notoriously slippery term. Some people just think of love as an emotion or feeling. But Christ the King shows us on the Cross that divine love actually is self-sacrifice.

If, when we leave Holy Mass, we wonder about how we can love others better, then we need to remember the ready answer that the Church offers us. The Church points our attention towards the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Christ calls us to leave His Church, filled with the strength of His Body and Blood, soul and divinity, in order to share that love concretely with those in the world. Peace.

Fr. Monteleone

THANKSGIVING DAY

Let us come together to thank the Lord for all His goodness in our lives, both big and small.

Holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 2025, will be celebrated at 9 AM.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and we pray that your hearts may be filled with joy and gratitude.

PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Office will close on Wednesday, November 26 at 12 Noon for Thanksgiving and reopen on Monday, December 1st.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Saint Philip Prep students have been working hard in school. Seventh grade has been working on the Art of Persuasion. Middle School Science students have been learning about cells, weather and atmosphere and the natural world.

Primary students have been learning about the First Thanksgiving. They read about how the Pilgrims sailed over and how the Native Americans helped. Students are excitedly beginning to practice their songs for the upcoming Christmas Concert.



The whole school community wishes everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

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, (Mon-Fri, 3-6PM) Anyone interested in either position kindly send your resume or call the school office, 973-779-4700. Thank you for your support.

GIVING TREE

As we ready to start the Advent season, and prepare for our Christmas celebrations, let us not forget our neighbors in need. Our annual **Christmas Giving Tree** is the perfect way to live out our mission to do the work of Christ. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) This year, we will be able to offer two ways to participate! To participate in our **Online Christmas Giving Tree** and make a donation, please visit our website to read through

this year's information. You can also visit our church vestibule to help pick a gift tag off our **In-Person Christmas Giving Tree**, which provides a note on what can be donated.

Please return all gifts (and make online donations) by the 12:00PM Mass on December 14, 2025.



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 21 is having their Annual Wreath Sale after all masses the weekends of November 29th -30th and December 6th-7th.



The scouts will be selling fresh wreaths as well as grave blankets and grave pillows outside of the church. Call Phil Jakimowicz at (973)723-6111 for pre-orders or more information.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Events

The annual St. Philip the Apostle Knights of Columbus Blood Drive will be held in the GYM on Sunday, November 30 from 9am to 1PM. Although walk-ins are welcome we strongly suggest you make an appointment to avoid potentially long delays. You can make an appointment at: https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointm

https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointment/guest/phl/timeSlotsExtr?token=bsZELHLr84f2nPgc1PaqBrIuf4gbmNHbwBLfC%2Fh1DWc%3D

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SEASON 2 SCHEDULE: (WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM) NOV. 5 IN THE AUDITORIUM

> NOV. 12 | NOV. 19 DEC. 3 | DEC. 10 IN THE MARIAN HALL

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with the theme:

From Parol to Divine Mercy: Finding Joy and Hope in Advent

In this joyful Advent Reflection, Fr. Martin Bradtke invites us to rediscover the deeper meaning of the season through the symbols and devotions we cherish - from the glow of the parol to the spirit of mercy that prepares our hearts for Christmas.

A message filled with light, hope, and good humor to guide us through this beautiful time of waiting.

GUEST SPEAKER FR. MARTIN BRADTKE

ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH STOCKHOLM, NJ





LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025 at 7:00PM for a Service of Lessons & Carols featuring our Adult, Youth and Handbell Choirs and seasonal readings from scripture. We hope you can join us for this radiant event!

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Julian Robert

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is as follows:

Friday, December 8th, 7 AM and 9 AM

GOD BLESS THE NEWLYWED



Steve and Angela

WEDDING BANNS



The following couples will be exchanging wedding vows:

> Steven Benkiewicz and Andrea Comperiello

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, November 16, 2025 the following parishioners celebrated the Silver and Gold Wedding Anniversary Mass presided by Bishop Kevin Sweeney at St. John's Cathedral and renewed their Wedding Vows.

Congratulations!



Edward and Sharon Ament 50th-Married on August 30, 1975 Daniel and Lesia Albizati 50th- Married October 18, 1975 James and Carol Meng 60th- Married on May 1, 1965 Terry and Rosalie LaCorte 63rd-Married on February 25, 1962

"WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

Q: Father, why do we call Jesus "King" when the Gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King (Luke 23:35-43) shows Him dying on a cross? Shouldn't a king look victorious?

A: That's exactly the point—and exactly why this

If Jesus were merely an earthly king, His kingdom would have collapsed the moment the nails pierced his hands. But the Church boldly proclaims Him **King of the Universe** because what happens on Calvary is not a defeat—it is a coronation. w

Look at the scene: the rulers mock Him, the soldiers laugh, the crowds sneer... and yet one man, the Good Thief, sees what no one else sees. In a bruised and bleeding Jesus, he recognizes a King whose power is not destroyed by suffering but revealed through it.

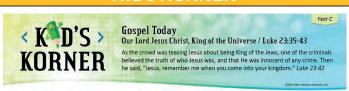
He asks, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." And Jesus—who seems powerless—speaks a royal decree no earthly ruler could ever give: "you will be with Me in Paradise."

This is the heart of our faith: Christ's kingdom is real precisely because no earthly **power could stop it.** Empires rose and fell... yet the Crucified King still reigns, His Church still stands, and sinners still find mercy at His throne.

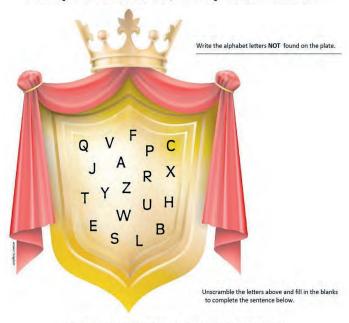
So yes—we dare to call Him King, because only a divine King could turn a cross into a throne and a dying thief into a saint. $\mathbb{A} \rightleftharpoons$

- **Q:** Follow-up question, Father. Since Jesus told the Good Thief, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise," doesn't that deny Purgatory?
- **A:** Not at all. In fact, this verse actually *supports* Catholic teaching.
- 1 No commas in Greek. The original Greek had no punctuation—so the line could be read: "Amen, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise." This doesn't change the promise, but it shows the verse *cannot* be used to reject Purgatory.
- **2 Jesus can purify instantly**. The Good Thief made a perfect act of repentance—confession, humility, faith. Jesus, the divine Judge, can grant instant purification when a soul is fully surrendered.
- 3 "Paradise" isn't necessarily Heaven's final glory. Jesus Himself says after the Resurrection: "I have not yet ascended to the Father" (Jn 20:17). So "paradise" here refers to the blessed state, not skipping all purification.
- **1** The Good Thief is the exception that proves the rule. Christ can cleanse a soul in a moment—but most of us need the loving purification that Scripture calls a "cleansing fire" (1 Cor 3:15).
- **Bottom Line:** This Gospel doesn't deny Purgatory—it reveals the **power of perfect repentance** and the **mercy of the King** who prepares every soul for Heaven.

KIDS KORNER



From the Sacred Heart of Jesus love is passed to the hearts of all who accept Him. The Kingdom of God continues to expand through the love of His believers.



Jesus, remember me when you come into your

Luke 23:42

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: NOV. 17, 2024 \$16,787.00

Sunday Collection: NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Weekly Collection \$ 9,938.00
Online Giving Donation \$ 6,869.00
TOTAL \$ 16,807.00
2ND Collection- Catholic Home Mission \$ 2,709.00

Upcoming Second Collections: December 7- Retired Religious Fund

WE PRAY FOR..

Recently Deceased...

John Salierno

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 Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Fr. Dennis Conway
	Ellen Baker
	Frances Pico- 21st Anniversary
	Guiseppe Carduccio
12:00	Maria Anna Scelfo
	Paul, and Maria Konzelmann and Paul
	Konzlemann II

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025

9:00 AM Domenick and Josephine Pagano

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025

9:00 AM Leonora Alfonso Lelita Gala

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025

9:00 AM Fr. Dennis Conway- 1st Anniversary Domenick Pagano

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025 Thanksgiving

9:00 AM Heather Hopler

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025

9:00 AM Kathryn Miragliotta Ruth C. and Thomas J. Mullin

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

9:00 AM	Enrique R. Angeles
	Suzanne McIntosh
5:30 PM	Malcolm Hall
	Ella DeBenedetto
	Constantino Cortez

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

8:00	Jose Villegas- 8 th Anniversary
	Joseph Rubino and John Trotta
10:00	Joan Hughes
	Leonard Passenti- 1 st Anniversary
	Logan Brackenbury- 1 st Anniversary
	Ralph Saam- 24 th Anniversary
12:00	All the People of the Parish

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23rd

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- From Francesca

OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23rd

In Memory of Anthony and Frances Pico





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