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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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First Sunday of Advent November 30, 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,

The great season of Advent is full of rich symbolism, especially in regard to the contrast of light and darkness.

For example, Jesus is known as the “light of the world” and his birth was made known to the Magi by a bright star, as they recounted to King Herod, “For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2).

Stars then play a vital role in the symbolism of Christmas, pointing the way to Jesus Christ. The Virgin Mary is similarly known under such titles as “Star of the Sea,” and is often referred to as a “star” that leads other people to her Son, the true “light” that shines in the darkness.

In Advent and throughout the Christmas season, the Church proposes an ancient hymn known by its Latin name, *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. It was written by St. Herman the Cripple in the 11th century and is recited after the conclusion of Night Prayer.

It is a beautiful prayer, one that highlights this symbolism and points our hearts towards Bethlehem, in eager anticipation of the birth of the Savior.

Below is the Latin and English translation of this beloved hymn, which can easily be turned into a prayer throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat populo: tu quae genuisti, Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before, you who received Gabriel’s joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

The more we understand the rich traditions of the Church, the more we can grow in our understanding and in our faith.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025

Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 5
7 PM

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 9
7 PM

Filipino Simbang Gabi

Friday, December 19
6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Masses

Wednesday, December 24
4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM

Christmas Day Masses

Thursday, December 25
8 AM, 10 AM and 12 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass,

Wednesday, December 31
5:30 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1
9 AM

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

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

Monday, December 8th, 7 AM and 9 AM

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

As we enter this season of gratitude, our Pre-K to 8th-grade students would like to take a moment to express their heartfelt thanks to our wonderful parish, dedicated parents, and supportive staff. Your unwavering encouragement and guidance have nurtured their growth and learning in countless ways. Just as 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all circumstances, we are truly grateful for the blessings you bring to our school community.

~

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 begin 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.



COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting of the blanket ministry will be Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We have just donated over 250 hats and 125 scarves to the children of Clifton in conjunction with the K of C Coats for Kids drive. Also, we send out a huge thank you to Joanna and Sabina for their generous donations. We are thankful for all of the support that we receive from the parishioners! God bless you! For more information and donations of fabric and yarn, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING

LIFENET invites you to join us on the first Friday of each month to pray and fast for equal rights for babies in the womb and for an end to abortion.

*The recent Supreme Court decision in the Dobbs case does NOT end abortion in NJ. Sadly, NJ politicians have intensified efforts to make NJ a "sanctuary state" for abortion.

<https://equalrightsforbabiesinthewomb.com/prayerandfasting/>

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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!



FR. EMERSON'S APOLOGETICS CLASS

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
Clifton, NJ

NEW SEASON

APOLOGETICS Class

WITH FR. EMERSON
LEARN HOW TO DEFEND THE CATHOLIC FAITH

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

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

B.Y.O.B.
Bring Your Own Bible

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO REGISTER

FILIPINO-AMERICAN GROUP OF ST. PHILIP'S

**THE SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH
FILIPINO-AMERICAN GROUP**

Invites you to a Night of Prayer and Reflection
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**

**THURSDAY
DEC. 4TH
TIME
7:00 PM
VENUE
MARIAN HALL**

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
797 Valley Road
Clifton, NJ 07013

Simbang Gabi

A Filipino tradition of nine-day novena Masses during Advent in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

All are welcome to join the fifth day of the Novena Mass for our diocesan and parish-sponsored Simbang Gabi 2025

Friday | December 19, 2025 | 6:30 P.M.

Fr. Emerson Francisco
Main Celebrant

Fr. David Monteleone
Homilist

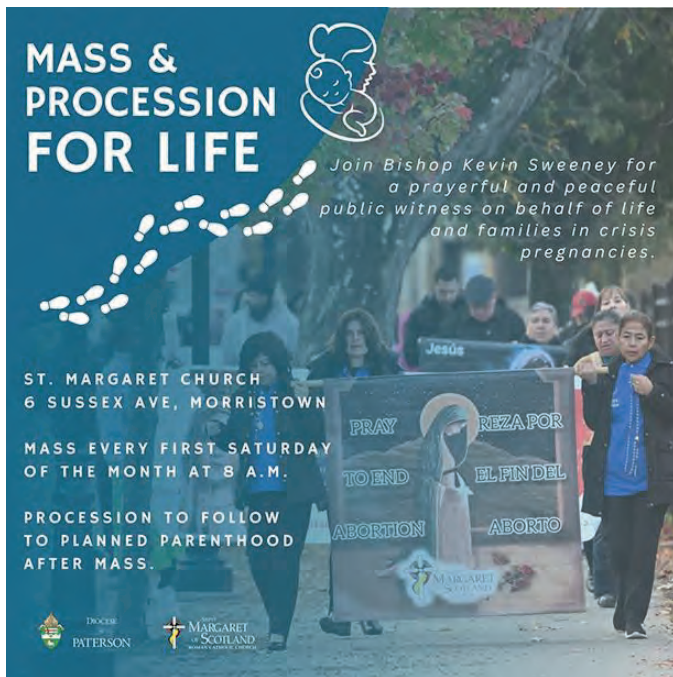
Join us for fellowship immediately following Mass in the Auditorium

For information, please contact the Parish Office at 973-779-6200 or Raquel at 973-563-6924

DIOCESAN EVENTS

 **SAVE THE DATE**

**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE
CLOSING LITURGY**
with
BISHOP KEVIN J. SWEENEY
3:00 P.M.
28 December 2025
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist



"WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

Q: Father, what is Advent really about, and how does today's Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44) help us understand it? And what's the meaning behind the Advent wreath and its candle colors?

A: Advent is one of the oldest seasons of the Church—rooted as far back as the **4th century**—and it carries a beautiful **twofold meaning**.

First, we prepare for **Christ's first coming** at Bethlehem 🌲.

Second, we prepare for **His second coming** as Judge and King 👑.

That's why today's Gospel sounds so urgent. Jesus tells us to "stay awake," reminding us that His return will be sudden—just as unexpected as the flood in the days of Noah. But remember this: we don't speculate about the end times... we get our hearts ready. Advent calls us to confession, prayer, charity, and a renewed longing for Christ.

The **Advent wreath** expresses this beautifully. Though rooted in northern European Christian homes, the Church embraced it because of its rich symbolism:

- The **evergreen circle** shows God's eternal, unchanging love 🌿.
- The **four candles** represent the four weeks of preparation.
- The **colors** teach us the spirit of the season:
 - **Three purple candles** 🕯️ 🕯️ 🕯️ for **penance, preparation, and royalty**—the color of kings and repentance.
 - **One rose candle** 🌸 for **Gaudete Sunday**, the joyful midpoint reminding us that the Lord is near.
- The **increasing light** each week symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World, breaking into our darkness.

So Advent isn't just a countdown to Christmas—it's a **wake-up call for the soul**. The King who came in humility will come again in glory. Blessed are those who stay awake, ready, and eager for His return. 🙏



*Come and spend time
with the Lord this
Advent,*



*discovering where the Lord
may be calling you...*

*and to discover
who we are!!!*



Who: young women ages 17-25

When: December 5-7, 2025

Where: Villa Walsh, 455 Western Ave. Morristown, NJ

Contact: Sr. Helen Sanchez, MPF

Email: hsanchez444@hotmail.com

Annual Diocesan Christmas Concert

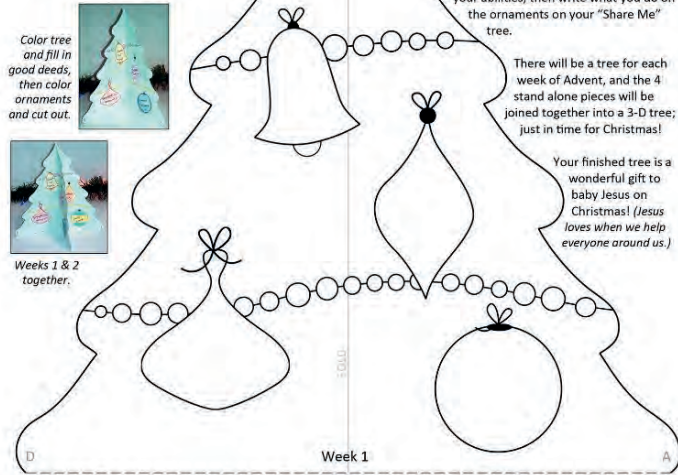
The annual Diocesan Christmas Concert will be held on Dec. 5 at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Wayne (630 Valley Rd, Wayne, NJ 07470) to help ring in the holiday season with a program of spirit-filled music.

Register: <https://beaconnj.org/event/annual-diocesan-christmas-concert/>

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Directions

- [1] Color the tree green, write your good deeds on the ornaments and color them in.
- [2] Cut out and fold at right angle to stand up by itself.
- [3] Each week of Advent complete the tree and repeat steps 1-2.
- [4] After you have 4 weeks of trees colored, filled in and cut out, attach **week 1 to week 2** by matching the corner letters and gluing or taping halves together up to the fold line. Do the same for **week 3 and week 4**, which will then attach to **week 1 and 2** to complete.



WEDDING BANNS



The following couple
will be exchanging
wedding vows:

**Steven Benkiewicz and
Andrea Comperiello**

PARISH GIVING

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT
AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

Upcoming Second Collections:
December 7- Retired Religious Fund

WE PRAY FOR...

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, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025

- 9:00 AM Anthony Hien Tran

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

- 9:00 AM Franny DiSanto
Logan Joseph Brackenbury
- 1st Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

- 9:00 AM Robert Quinn

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

- 9:00 AM Gregory Fortin
Laurie Roberts

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

- 9:00 AM Mr. Davis
Phylliss Dockray

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

- 9:00 AM Michael and Antoinette Altomare
Antonino Campanella
- 5:30 PM All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

- 8:00 Marie D. and Henry F. Marrocco
Terry Piviroto
- 10:00 Christine Hadinata
Rosario Llames- 5th Anniversary
Sarah Lombardo
Theresa Piviroto
- 12:00 Salvatore Capriglione
Aquila R. Valencia

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30th

In memory of Jack McKenna
- With love from the McKenna family



OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30th

In memory of Logan Joseph
Brackenbury



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