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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 1, 2026



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

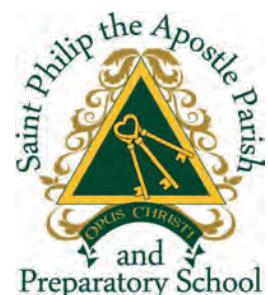
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday	4:30 PM
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HOLY HOUR

Every Friday	9:30 to 10:30 AM
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For a Communion visit and/or
Anointing of the Sick,
please contact the Parish office.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Today's Gospel passage is the first twelve verses of the fifth chapter of Matthew: the start of the Sermon on the Mount. In our own day, preachers often start a sermon with a story or a joke. Jesus decided to begin His Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes.

However, before he starts giving us Jesus' sermon, St. Matthew the Evangelist mentions a few interesting details about Jesus. The evangelist relates to us that when "Jesus saw the crowds, He went up the mountain, and after He had sat down, His disciples came to Him." Consider just two points here: that Jesus went up the mountain, and that He sat down there.

Why did Jesus have to go up a mountain in order to preach a sermon? Obviously, He didn't have to. Jesus preached many other sermons during the three years of His public ministry, and most of them were preached in other settings. But in St. Matthew's account of the Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' first sermon, so Jesus is teaching us here not only by His words, but also by the setting that He chose, and by choosing to sit down.

Why did Jesus choose a mountain to be the site of His first sermon? St. Matthew clarifies this throughout the course of his Gospel account. Through the way he structures his Gospel account, St. Matthew portrays Jesus as a New Moses. Both the mountain setting and act of sitting to reach His disciples reflect this. One reason for portraying Jesus as the New Moses is that unlike many other New Testament books, Matthew's Gospel account was written for converts from Judaism.

Moses was, for the Jewish people, the Prophet without peer. In the last chapter of the last book of the Jewish Law—Deuteronomy Chapter 34—following the description of Moses' death, the Bible says that "there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, ... and for all the mighty power and all the great and terrible deeds which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel" [Deut 34:10-12].

Yet even more important than all the signs and wonders and all the great and terrible deeds which Moses worked was the fact that the Lord chose him—Moses—to bear the Ten Commandments to His People. During the course of their Exodus from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, God's People stopped at Mount Sinai. There, while the rest of God's People remained below, Moses alone ascended Sinai to receive from God His Ten Commandments. Moses then had to descend the mountain to give to God's People this Law, the means by which His People might keep right with God.

But here in St. Matthew's account of the Gospel, it's not only Jesus who ascends the mountain. Jesus draws His disciples up with Him. In turn, it's not a voice from the heavens that speaks there to a prophet. Instead, the New Moses, God in the Flesh, speaks to His people face to face. Jesus gives to us, His people, not ten commandments, but nine beatitudes.

There is a wealth of spiritual riches within the beatitudes. But keep in mind that Jesus put the Beatitudes at the start of the Sermon on the Mount because a good teacher puts the most important lesson first. Likewise, then, we ought to consider the first of the nine beatitudes as being first for a reason.

Maybe as you ponder all nine of the Beatitudes, another of them—not the first—will strike you. Meditate on that beatitude during the week. But meditate nonetheless on the first beatitude: first to fall from Our Lord's lips because He wants it first to shape our hearts.

The Lord has given us everything we need for the journey to Heaven. He's given us life, grace to strengthen us for the journey, and the journey's roadmap in these nine beatitudes. The first, upon which all the others rest, is humility: poverty of spirit. The Lord has even helped us to acquire humility. We do so by gazing upon the humility He shows in His compassion, His Divine Mercy, and His self-sacrifice on the Cross.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

***“Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return”***

7 AM Mass

9 AM Mass

4 PM Prayer Service

7 PM Prayer Service

Please Note that we will add a 7 AM Daily Mass Monday through Friday during Lent beginning Thursday, February 19 through Friday, March 27th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening in Church at 7 PM beginning Friday, February 20th through Good Friday, on April 3rd.



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The faculty, staff and students at St Philip Prep have embarked on the second half of the academic year with their characteristic enthusiasm, positive attitudes, and diligence. The students in 5th to 8th grade have completed their midterm examinations and are ready to start fresh for the second semester.

The Literature Kaleidoscope program is in full swing with the students embarking on a discovery and love of poetry. What an engaging tool to process emotions, empathy, and build confidence through self-expression! The students are also keeping busy reading some of the classics such as *The Great Gatsby*, *The Outsiders*, and *Wonder* to name a few. Critical thinking, sophisticated writing, and connecting literature across disciplines is what they engage in on a daily basis. A recent essay on the topic of “*God Is Music to our Ears*” and an art project painting music disks helped launch the theme of Catholic School’s Week.

The St. Philip School participated in many special events for Catholic Schools Week. The flurry of activities began on Tuesday, after our snow day, with a special 9AM mass celebrated by Bishop Sweeney. Some of the activities during this week included Buddy Day/Ice Cream Social, Career Day Presentations by the parents, Jersey Day and Favorite Princess/Superhero Day, and even a Chili Cookout! Tours were given to prospective students and their families throughout the week to witness first-hand what makes the St Philip’s student body good, better, best!



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Applications for New families for the 2026-2027 School year began January 26, 2026. Applications can be found and submitted at stphilipprep.com under New Student Application.

Completed applications include:

- Standardized Test Scores
- Current Academic Records
- Current ISP/ IEP, if applicable
- References

Academic Records and References need to be uploaded and attached to the application. There is a \$75 non-refundable application fee. Applicants will be contacted regarding the status of the application.

Upon acceptance copies of the child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate and Immunization record will need to be provided.

All detailed information regarding the school can be found on our website stphilipprep.com under **2026-2027 Registration**

Any questions please contact the school at (973) 779-4700

**Registration for each class will be ongoing until the capacity of students has been reached, which is 25. At that time, waiting lists will be generated.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Christmas is over (except for the bills) and Lent is just around the corner (Feb. 18, 2026) only about a month away so it's time to think about that Lenten menu. Our Knights of Columbus Council will have our annual fish-fry, catered by Tastefully British, on Sunday March 8th from 1pm to 3pm. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, fish prices have sky-rocketed and our costs are up 20% from last year so tickets will be \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door since we only have a limited number of door-sales tickets available. Brother Knights will be selling tickets after weekend Masses in the church vestibule at a yet to be determined weekend shortly.

Tickets can also be purchase on-line at kofc1167.org or you can contact Mike Cervine at (973)472-7505.

PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers next regular Meeting will be on Friday February 6th at 1:30pm (coffee/and 1pm) in Marian Hall. The following trips are planned for 2026:

April 1, La Greci's Staaten – DOO-WOP to Disco Party \$127pp

May 27, Delaware River Cruise -Filled

June 18, Hunterdon Hills – Johnny Cash Review \$140pp

Dec. 2, Hunterdon Hills – 50th Anniversary

Christmas Show \$140pp

Final price per person will be determined by no. of people attending.

All trips require a minimum of 35 people.

Balance of payment for Delaware cruise must be made by January 23, 2026 Deadline for April 1st trip to LaGreci's is January 23, 2026.

You needn't be a Prime Timers member to go on our trips; they're open to everyone however, Prime Time Members do get priority.

While there's still room on each of these trips they're filling rapidly. If you want to join us contact Mike Cervine (973)472-7505.

Prime Timers membership is open to anyone age 50 and over. Meetings are held the first Friday of every month Sept. through June in Marian Hall at 1:30pm, coffee/and at 1pm. Dues are \$15 per person per year due prior to Jan.1.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings will be Thursday, February 4 & 18, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome. We just lost one our faithful volunteers, Sue, who generously gave her talent and time to our ministry. We thank her for all of her good works and may she rest in peace.

Recently we received a thank you note saying, "We're grateful for all of your stitches That keep our residents warm and happy!" This makes us happy too!

For more information or donations, contact Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

ROSARY SOCIETY

Please join us as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and Saint Valentine's Day on Saturday, February 14. We will gather for 9:00 Mass with the Rosary following in Church.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Monte Carlo Night Tricky Tray will be held on March 20, 2026. Enjoy an evening of elegance, excitement and extraordinary prizes.

Our Tricky Tray fundraiser is St. Philip Preparatory School's biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need your help to make it a great success.

As we prepare, here are some opportunities:

- **Become a sponsor.** If you own a business or you would like to sponsor the event as a family. Email Sadiki Christie, HSA president at sadikichsa@gmail.com.
- **Invite businesses** to become sponsors or donate services and goods.
- **Donate items** from our Amazon Wish list.
- **Donate** baskets and other gift-wrap items.
- **Volunteer.** Active and Partial Involvement families will be contacted shortly. However, all families are invited to volunteer. Email us if interested.
- **Attend** and invite family and friends. Ticket sales coming soon. New this year: Choose your seat and VIP packages for a premium experience.

Thank you for your support. Email us with questions, hsa@stphilip.org.



ALTAR SERVERS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS!

We are excited to invite boys and girls from Grade 2 through high school to join our altar server ministry! If you've received or will soon receive your First Communion, this is a wonderful opportunity to serve at Mass and grow in faith.

Altar servers play an important role in our liturgies, and we would love to have you as part of our ministry. If you're interested, please email Fr. Emerson or contact the Church Office.



SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE
for our Annual

St. Patrick's/ St. Joseph's Dinner Dance.
March 14, 2026
6:30- 10:30 PM

More details will be coming out shortly.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

TO HELP YOUNG MEN DISCOVER THEIR CALLING IN LIFE

LOYOLA JESUIT CENTER

3-day, 2-overnight retreat for young men ages 16 and up. No fee; meals included; private rooms.

BISHOP KEVIN SWEENEY

Retreat led by Bishop Sweeney and will include:

- Holy Mass
- Adoration
- Retreat talks
- Confession

SCAN TO REGISTER



Contact: Fr. Charlie Lana

(973) 777-8818 x.715
vocations@patersondiocese.org
patersonvocations.org

Sponsored by Paterson Diocese Office of Vocations



FEB. 27 - MARCH 1, 2026

**LOYOLA JESUIT CENTER
MORRISTOWN, NJ**

"WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

Q: Father, the Beatitudes sound beautiful—but are they realistic? 🤔 How can Jesus call the poor, the meek, and those who suffer “blessed” in a world that prizes success 💼, power 💪, and comfort 🚧?

A: The Beatitudes are not sentimental poetry or unrealistic ideals—they are Jesus’ declaration of what true happiness really is 🤴💡. Christ does not deny the reality of suffering. Instead, He reveals that those who remain faithful to God in the midst of hardship are not forgotten or defeated. They are blessed because their hearts are open to grace 🤝. Christianity does not promise ease or constant success. It promises meaning, redemption, and eternal life ✝. The Beatitudes challenge the world’s obsession with wealth 💰, influence 💪, and control. They proclaim that lasting joy is not found in what we possess, but in who possesses us—God ❤️.

That is why the saints could live with peace even in suffering 🌟. They believed Jesus when He said that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who trust Him, even when the path is narrow.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2)

Q: Father, if Jesus is truly God , why is He presented in the Temple—and why does this feast focus so strongly on light and candles ?

A: The Presentation reveals a profound truth: **God enters His Temple in humility, not in power** . Mary and Joseph faithfully obey the Law by offering Jesus to the Father—not because He belongs to the Law, but because **He fulfills it**  .

Simeon proclaims Jesus as the **Light for revelation to the nations**  . This is why the Church blesses candles today. The light is not merely symbolic—it points to **Christ Himself**, the Light who enters the darkness of the world.

Simeon also foretells that Jesus will be a **sign of contradiction** . Christ will be embraced by some and rejected by others, but that division reveals truth. The Presentation reminds us that the Cross is already present at the beginning of Jesus' life . The Child offered in the Temple will one day offer Himself on Calvary. The Light has come—and the cost of salvation has already begun.

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JAN 26, 2025	\$ 19,185.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 25, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 5,094.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,052.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,146.00
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK COL.	\$ 1,613.00

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION FEBRUARY 8- PROJECT FAITH

WHAT IS PROJECT FAITH?

EVERY PARISH IN THE DIOCESE HAS A DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT. PROJECT FAITH IS THE COLLECTION TO HELP PAY THE PARISH'S ASSESSMENT TO THE DIOCESE.

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Rosemarie Carlee



A Time to be Healed...

Fran Kobernick, Rosanna Hampton, Philip Kutzenco, Angelo Torres, Nina Sova, Nicholas Magrogan, Antonio Bussanich, James Jablonowski, Terry Kolenc, Wilson Torres, Arlene Pompeo, Tom Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario, Charles Nisivoccia, Sally Conselyea

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

8:00	Barbara Salemme Deceased members of the Moises Family
10:00	Tammy DiSanto Dermot O'Connell Albin Rybolowik- 14 th Anniversary Leonard VanderWende
12:00	All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

9:00 AM	Donald Muller
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

9:00 AM	Barbara Kaminsky
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

9:00 AM	Brian James Lipari
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

9:00 AM	Joyce Comperatore
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

9:00 AM	Thomas Reck
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

9:00 AM	Greg Conforti
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

8:00	Carol Stauhs Alice Nancarrow
10:00	Estanislao Llames- 27 th Anniversary Delia Russo Jill Festa Fred Baram
12:00	Rosario Impoco Robert Takas

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1st

In memory of Ted Vanak



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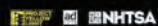


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