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# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

[www.stphilip.org](http://www.stphilip.org) ~ (973) 779-6200



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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 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

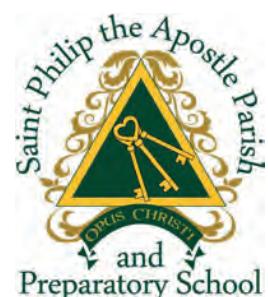
### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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,

As I was discerning my vocation Cathedral Seminary Residence in NY, I was particularly struck by a famous quote from St. John Henry Newman, which was used in a discernment group in which I was participating: **God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work.** I wanted my life to have meaning and purpose. I deeply desired that I had a responsibility and a mission in this life, but I was terrified that becoming a priest would strip me of that possibility. Newman's words gave me confidence that the Lord has called me to something particular and specific, something nobody else has been called to do. This notion gave me great confidence as I discerned my vocation to the priesthood.

Our readings this weekend give us certainty that we have a specific and individual call from our Creator. We don't just have to wander through life, hoping we'll figure out what to do next. As a college chaplain, I see so many of our young people thinking they need to "find" or "create" their own happiness or meaning. This is a quick path to sadness!

Isaiah presents us a clear picture of the situation in our First Reading: The Lord said to me: You are my servant. God has a specific plan for me, and it involves a life of service and gift to Him. A key to understanding the spiritual life is realizing that my specific call inherently involves the necessity of service. The Lord created me out of a free gift, so my life will only make sense when I return it fully as a gift to God and His people. God's plan for my life must involve a deep element of sacrifice and service, like that of a servant.

Paul continues this theme in his first letter to the Corinthians by rooting himself in God's divine providence for Him: Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. Paul was "called" for a particular purpose, and it was the will of God that he be called! His life is not an accident or a up to his own determination. This truth must have comforted and strengthened him during many times of difficulty, when he wondered whether this was

all worth it and whether he should jump ship. John the Baptist understands his ministry in just these terms. His job was to point out Jesus Christ. All the sacrifices, the fasts, the long nights... they were all worth it, because he knew his mission and call. Knowing my mission, that I have a responsibility of service, gives me strength during hard times.

Understanding my call from the Lord is the most important thing I can do in this life! I have a vocation, a call from the Lord. This comes in the form of big things... am I called to be a priest, a religious, to be married? Everything else is very small in comparison to understanding this call. Do I take it seriously? Am I open to the possibility that the Lord is calling me to something different and new? If I'm a parent, am I supportive of my child's discernment, or do my kids not even consider the priesthood or religious life because they think I would disapprove? This is a great tragedy, because it limits our young people from living out their call from Christ

But my vocation also involves much smaller things; it involves the daily calls of Christ to service, sacrifice, and evangelization. There is something specific that the Lord is calling me to, something that is only my mission, that the world will be worse for if I do not undertake. Am I open to the Lord's promptings and moving in my life, or do I have my own plan?

The world tells us to create our own identity, meaning, and purpose, a worldview that has led to catastrophic sadness. Do I believe the Lord has called me to something in particular? Do I think that he has a specific mission entrusted to me? Am I going to do anything about it?

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## PLEASE NOTE

**In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Church will be closed immediately following Mass. The Parish Office will be closed.**

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The eighth graders have reached several milestones this past week! They had their Graduation pictures taken in their caps & gowns and have also received their HSPT scores. They will be receiving their high school acceptance letters soon! Good Luck to the Class of 2026 during this exciting time!

Fifth grade is hosting a Family History Celebration. They're writing personal narratives and researching traditions or a story that's important to their family.

Seventh grade is starting preparations for their Mission to Mars trip in May! They have several team building Science activities to do that will be applied on their trip.

Eighth grade is getting ready to see a knee surgery and interact with a surgeon at Liberty Science Center!

Second graders are preparing for their upcoming Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Intermediate & Middle School students are taking their Midterm Exams.

Kindergarten is currently engaged in their initial exploration of addition, in preparation for an upcoming assessment and they have also completed their January reading evaluations, demonstrating advancements in their reading skills.

We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month. This year's theme is: Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community. Our Kickoff to Catholic Schools Week will be on Sunday, January 25th at the 12:00 Mass.

Like St. Philp said to Nathanael, "Come and see."



## THANK YOU, FR. ABE

On Sunday, January 11th at the 8 AM Mass, we had a Catechetical Mass celebrated by Rev. Abraham Feliciano.

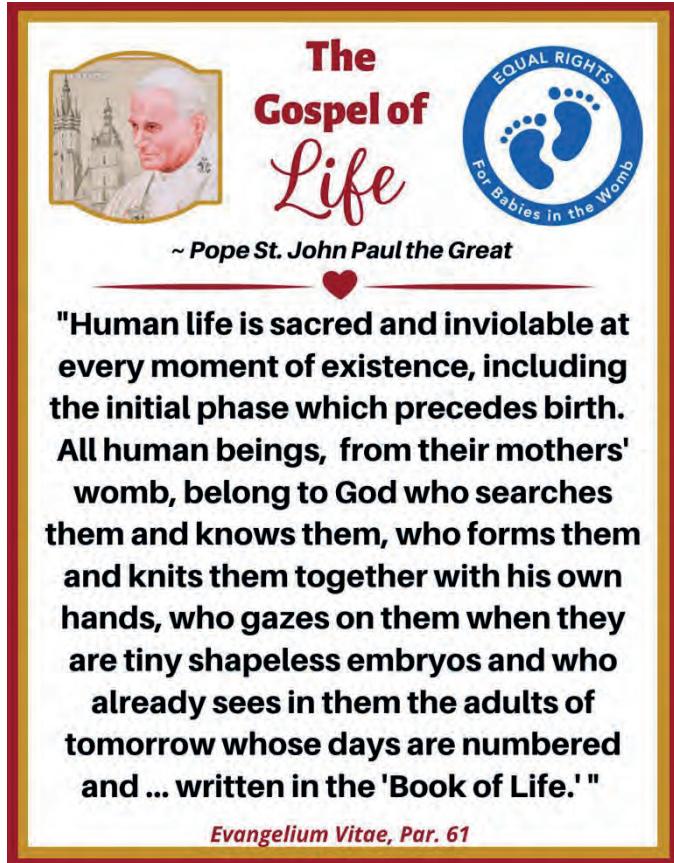
Targeting our Faith Formation students, he explained the two parts of the Mass, as well as why we sing Holy, Holy, Holy and how to make a throne for our King.

Thank you Fr. Abe. Fr. Abe is currently serving as the Director of Don Bosco Prep High School in Ramsey, NJ.



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### LIFE MINISTRY



**The Gospel of Life**  
~ Pope St. John Paul the Great

**"Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers' womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and who already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and ... written in the 'Book of Life.'**

*Evangelium Vitae, Par. 61*

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be January 21, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We have recently donated numerous shawls and blankets to Project Linus, St. Catherine Health Care Center and Complete Care at St. Vincent's.

We wish everyone a blessed and healthy 2026! For donations or additional information, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

### COLUMBIETTES

Happy New Year to all! The next Columbiette meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22nd. An Initiation Ceremony will take place at 6:30 pm. Refreshments and regular meeting to follow the Initiation Ceremony.



## 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 \$125 - \$135pp
- May 27, Delaware River Cruise -Filled
- June 18, Hunterdon Hills – Johnny Cash Review \$125 - \$135pp
- Dec. 2, Hunterdon Hills – 50 th Anniversary Christmas Show \$125 - \$135pp

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.

Prime Timers 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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS



**NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE  
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NACIONAL MARCHA POR LA VIDA  
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**Together, we march for life**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**JANUARY 23RD, 2026**

**Join the Diocese of Paterson at the National March for Life. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Sweeney. The march will take place directly after Mass.**

**Únase a la Diócesis de Paterson en la Marcha Nacional por la Vida. La misa será celebrada por el obispo Kevin Sweeney. La marcha tendrá lugar inmediatamente después de la misa.**

For more information on travel and how to register, scan the QR code or go to <https://insidethewalls.org/national-march-for-life>

Para obtener más información sobre los viajes y cómo registrarse, escanee el código QR o visite la siguiente página web: <https://insidethewalls.org/national-march-for-life>

## 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.



## CAR RAFFLE

Car raffle tickets will be sold after all masses  
until Jan 25th!!!

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# RAFFLE!



## "WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** Father, when John the Baptist calls Jesus the "Lamb of God," what does that really mean? Why does the Church repeat this phrase at every Mass—and is it just symbolic, or does it point to something real about who Jesus is and what He came to do?

**A:** When John the Baptist points to Jesus and declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," he is making one of the **boldest claims in all of Scripture** . This title is not poetic decoration—it is a **theological proclamation**.

For Jewish listeners, "lamb" immediately recalled **sacrifice**. The Passover lamb saved Israel from death in Egypt, and daily lambs were offered in the Temple for the forgiveness of sins. John is saying something astonishing: **Jesus is not just another sacrifice—He is the final and perfect one** .

Christianity does not teach that Jesus merely teaches us how to live better. It teaches that He **takes away sin itself**. And how does He do that? By offering His own life. The Lamb is not symbolic—He is real, and so is His sacrifice .

That's why the Church places these words at the heart of the Mass. Right before Holy Communion, we proclaim: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world." This isn't repetition for tradition's sake—it's a declaration of faith. The same Jesus John pointed to is truly present on the altar .

John also testifies that he saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus , confirming that He is the Son of God. Our faith rests on **witness**, not myth—on what was seen, heard, and handed on.

So when we hear "Lamb of God," we are being invited to do what John did: stop, look, and believe. The One before us is not just a teacher or prophet—but the Savior who gives His life so that the world might be free from sin.

**Behold the Lamb. And follow Him.**



## KIDS KORNER

**KID'S KORNER**

**Gospel Today**  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | John 1:29-34

John was told by God to look for the sign of a dove descend upon His Chosen One. John saw the dove when he baptized Jesus, then told the others Jesus was "The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

*"I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."*  
JOHN 1:34

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**  
Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



John	N	D	R	B	R	L	H	F	R	O	M	J	A
Baptist	J	O	H	N	R	A	V	S	E	N	T	C	Y
Testimony	S	V	L	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y	B
Behold	L	E	S	G	V	B	L	T	A	K	E	S	S
Jesus	W	N	N	J	E	S	U	S	I	G	N	C	P
Revealed	A	O	A	T	A	G	L	T	N	J	O	H	I
Lamb	H	I	R	W	L	H	S	T	W	A	T	E	R
God	E	H	A	L	E	N	G	A	Y	R	N	Z	I
Holy	R	Y	C	A	D	L	O	H	E	B	R	I	T
Spirit	I	L	V	N	T	Y	D	D	L	M	O	T	S
From	Y	E	A	H	L	N	O	Y	R	A	V	P	P
Heaven	N	E	S	O	H	C	T	H	U	L	M	A	E
Sent	Y	W	H	N	I	T	S	I	T	P	A	B	S
Sign													
Dove													
Remain													
Baptize													
Water													
Chosen													
One													
Takes													
Away													
Sin													
World													

## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JAN 12, 2025	\$ 16,367.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 11, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 11,856.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,630.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 18,486.00</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION—PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,250.00
CHRISTMAS 2024	\$ 84,404.00
CHRISTMAS 2025 (YTD)	\$ 86,934.00

## WE PRAY FOR...

### For the Recently Deceased...

Rose Oliva, Maria Beloni

### 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, Arlene Pompeo, Tom Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

8:00	Deceased members of the Angeles family
10:00	Mary DiGaetano Leonso Raymond Richards Stephen Smith Mario Silvestri Steven Salerno Rosario Impoco Angela Coffaro
12:00	

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

9:00 AM	Maria and Ariston Francisco
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### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

9:00 AM	Fred Baram
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### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

9:00 AM	Rosario Llames
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### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

9:00 AM	John Anderson
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### FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

9:00 AM	Rosemarie Francisco - Special Intention Dorothy Cervine- 5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
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### SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

9:00 AM	Sr. Rene Donohue- 14 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
5:30 PM	Deceased members of the Gentolia Family Rosario and Columbia LoMauro Christopher John VonSee

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	George Piviroto Miriam Salme- Special Intentions Henry and Jeanett Hummel Domenic DeBenedetto Frank and Delilah Debbie Sirvidio Robert Takacs
12:00	

## CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18th

In memory of Luigi Gioia  
-From the Gioia family



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