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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25, 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

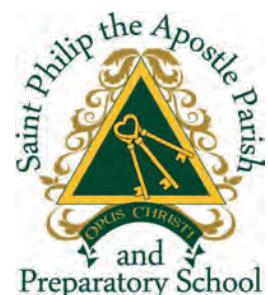
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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,

This Sunday's Scripture passages focus our attention upon the Word of God. The Gospel Reading is from only the fourth of the 28 chapters of Matthew's Gospel account. The first two chapters, of course, focus on the advent and infancy of Jesus. So, today's Gospel Reading takes place early in Jesus' public ministry and focuses on the basics.

That's fitting for this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The beginning of the Church year, of course, focused on the advent and infancy of Jesus. So, today's Gospel Reading during the early part of Ordinary Time focuses on the basics of following Jesus.

After Jesus calls two sets of brothers to become "*fishers of men*", He labors at three works of public ministry amidst "*all of Galilee*". Jesus teaches, preaches, and cures the sick. Yet the fact that the short form of today's Gospel Reading ends by focusing upon Jesus' preaching suggests how central preaching is to His public ministry.

In fact, the only words that we hear Jesus preaching in today's Gospel Reading are: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" Repentance is the first word of Jesus' preaching the Word of God. From the perspective of those who hear the Word of God, repentance is the first word of following Jesus. When Jesus later commands His disciples to take up their crosses each day [Luke 9:23], this command includes the embrace of daily repentance.

Saint Paul in today's Second Reading draws our attention to the link between preaching and the cross of Christ. It's telling that the occasion for Paul writing this is divisions among the Corinthians. Paul's remedy for divisions within the Church is the cross of Christ. He even speaks to one of the pitfalls that he, as a preacher, has to work to avoid. This pitfall is the "*human eloquence*" that captivates in the short term but can bear no lasting fruit, and in fact does lasting harm by creating an expectation and desire within Christians for what is shallow.

The depth of the Word of God is only found finally in the cross of Christ. Every word of the Old Testament is fulfilled in the cross of Christ on Calvary on Good Friday, just as each word and work during Jesus' public ministry was so

fulfilled. Every word and work of Jesus after His Resurrection, as every word in the New Testament books that follow the four Gospel accounts, and as every work of the Church in her sacraments, flows from the power of the cross of Christ. Of no sacrament is this more true than the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, where the Word made Flesh offers Himself in sacrifice, so that we can join sacramentally in His singular act of salvation.

By embracing Jesus' cross, we can come to communion with the divine Person of Jesus Christ Himself. Only through this Cross can the Christian enter the life of the Son, and through the Son enter the embrace of the Father. In the order of salvation, this is the providential role of the Word of God.

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

Applications for New families for the 2026-2027 School year will begin 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.



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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY

Request a Mass for Life



GOAL: 7,500 Masses by 12/31/29

5,020 Masses arranged to date!!!

Let's pray for and expect miracles for life!

"The celebration of Holy Mass has the same value as the Death of Jesus on the Cross."

-St. Thomas Aquinas

Ask your Church Secretary to schedule one or more Masses to be said "For the Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families." (Sunday Mass is preferred, but any day will do). Make an offering to the Church, typically \$10 per Mass.

Then, email info@lifeneteducation.org with the Church name, and date(s)/time(s) of the Masses and we'll add it to the tally. **That's it!!**

PLEASE NOTE- Mass Intentions at St. Philip's are \$20

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.

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.



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

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FEB. 27 - MARCH 1, 2026

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CAR RAFFLE

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

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Winner does not need to be present at drawing

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"WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

Q: Father, in today's Gospel Jesus simply says, "Follow me," and people leave everything immediately. 🐟👣

Why does Jesus expect such obedience—and why does the Church still claim the authority to call people to conversion and mission today? 🤔+

A: This Gospel reveals something radical about Jesus: **He does not ask permission. He speaks with authority.** 🎗 When rabbis taught, they explained the Law. When Jesus speaks, **the Kingdom arrives** 🎉. His command—"Follow me"—is not advice; it is a divine summons.

Christianity is not built on personal opinion or private interpretation. It is founded on the **authority of Christ**, who calls, forms, and sends disciples. When Simon, Andrew, James, and John leave their nets 🐟, they are not abandoning responsibility—they are recognizing **who is speaking**.

Jesus begins by preaching **repentance**, because conversion is the doorway to discipleship 🕊. The Church continues this call today not because she enjoys making demands, but because Christ entrusted her with His mission 🏛️✨. To encounter Jesus and remain unchanged would be a contradiction.

Notice also **where** Jesus begins His ministry: in **Galilee**, a place considered ordinary and even suspect 🚫. This shows that God's salvation is not limited to holy places or perfect people. Grace breaks into everyday life—and that's where Christ still calls us.

Finally, Jesus calls His disciples not just to follow, but to **become** something new: "*fishers of men.*" 🐟 Faith is never meant to stay private. If the Gospel is true, it must be shared.

This passage challenges us: Do we see Jesus as a teacher we admire—or as a Lord who commands? Because once Christ calls, neutrality is no longer an option—and following Him always leads to life. 🙏🌟

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Michael Jude



Joseph Peter



Vincenzo

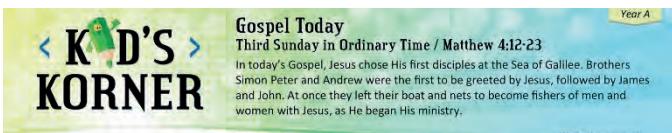
PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JAN 19, 2025	\$ 13,858.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 18, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 6,814.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,428.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,242.00
CHRISTMAS 2024	\$ 84,404.00
CHRISTMAS 2025 (YTD)	\$ 87,149.00

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.

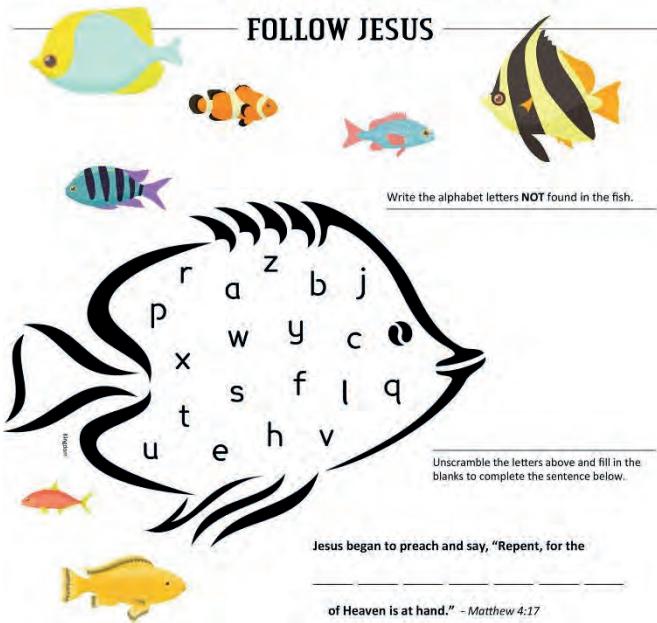
KIDS KORNER



Brothers James and John left their father Zebedee, their boat and nets, and followed Jesus.

As fishers of men and women, they would now help Jesus gather the people and preach the Good News.

FOLLOW JESUS



WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Joseph Tolvay, Linda Donnelly, Manuel Bacani, Jean Yves Evens Fontin

A Time to be Healed...

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, Charles Nisivoccia, Sally Conselyea



MASS INTENTIONS

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
12:00	Debbie Sirvidio
	Robert Takacs

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

9:00 AM Daniel Mutter

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

9:00 AM Special Intention of Fr. Emerson
Anne Schrimpe

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

9:00 AM Ann Jasionowicz- 22nd Anniversary
Eileen and John Sagui

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

9:00 AM Jovita Pena- Special Intention
Anthony Lipari

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

9:00 AM Marlene Chidiac

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

9:00 AM	Michele Monteleone- 40 th Anniversary
	Benigno Biason
5:30 PM	Nick Mangold
	Jill Festa
	John Hackett

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

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25th

In memory of Ruth Ann Frasco
-From the Poskonka family



OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25th

In Memory of Marlene Chidiac



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