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Mr. James Marrocco  
*Lay Trustee*

# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013  
www.stphilip.org ~ (973) 779-6200



@StPhilipClifton



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## Second Sunday of Lent

March 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

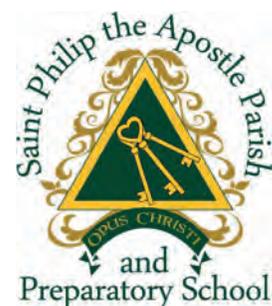
### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday .....4:30 PM

### HOLY HOUR

Every Friday .....9:30 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,

If you've ever prayed the Rosary, odds are good you know the *Salve Regina* — the *Hail, Holy Queen*, a prayer passed down to us from the Middle Ages and prayed by the faithful the world over. But you may not know that it's only one of four Marian Antiphons — prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mother that are recited at the end of night prayer by Catholics everywhere.

Each of the four belongs to a particular season. From Advent through Candlemas, we pray the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, during Easter the *Regina Caeli*, from Pentecost through the end of Ordinary time, it's the *Hail, Holy Queen*. And as of Ash Wednesday, we're singing the *Ave Regina Caelorum*, which is translated in the Liturgy of the Hours as follows:

Hail, Queen of heaven;  
hail, Mistress of the Angels;  
hail, root of Jesse; hail, the gate  
through which the Light rose over the earth.  
Rejoice, Virgin most renowned  
and of unsurpassed beauty.  
Farewell, Lady most comely.  
Prevail upon Christ to pity us.

What's remarkable about the Church's choice of this hymn for the weeks leading up to Lent and then the seemingly interminable weeks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, is that there's nothing particularly dolorous about it. One would expect Lent to be marked by the *Stabat Mater*, a hymn to Mary at the foot of the Cross. Instead, we have a hymn of joy.

"Ave, Regina," we sing, echoing the greeting Gabriel offered Our Lady at the Annunciation. Interestingly, this "Ave," so dully translated "Hail" throughout English prayers, might better be translated, "Rejoice." "Rejoice!" Gabriel cried to an unsuspecting Mary in Nazareth. And "Rejoice!" we cry here.

Starting on the very day she offered her son as a sacrifice in the Temple, we begin singing to her, asking her to rejoice. As the ashes are traced on our foreheads, a reminder of the death we deserve and the death offered in our stead, we remind Mary—and ourselves—to rejoice.

On days of abstinence, again we sing, "Rejoice!" As we follow our Lord into the city where he will be slain, we grit our teeth and continue our Lenten cry: rejoice! Only on Holy Thursday and Good Friday does the Church allow us to silence what may seem an unnatural refrain. As Jesus is dragged before the Sanhedrin, as he lies dead in the tomb, the joy of the coming resurrection is almost—almost—

overshadowed by sorrow. And so, we stand in silence beside the Blessed Mother, waiting in hope for the promise to be fulfilled.

Because that has been the reason for our joy all along. As we take a deep breath and get ready for Lent, we focus not on the suffering but on the joy. All through the dreary weeks of February, we call to Mary, to each other, and to ourselves, to rejoice. As we take up our Lenten penance, we fix our eyes on the joy the other side of the cross. When the lack of caffeine or protein or pop music threatens to defeat us, we choose to rejoice. Even as we veil our statues and cry out for Pilate to crucify our king, each night we're called back to Mary's side, where we ask her (and ourselves) to choose joy. Because Lent isn't ultimately about the Cross, it's ultimately about the resurrection.

Our lives aren't ultimately about the Cross. Our lives are about the resurrection.

It seems nearly impossible to believe that on some days, when the weight of illness and loneliness and poverty and sin come close to pushing us under. Mary may have felt the same way, knowing what her son was about to endure, watching him suffer as none had ever suffered. And she didn't paste a Pollyanna grin on her face. No, Mary's joy wasn't pretended happiness. Mary's joy was hope, a deep trust that whatever she might suffer, at the end of it all was an empty tomb and the embrace of her savior.

I imagine myself, while reciting this prayer, standing beside a white-lipped Mary, murmuring to her. "This is awful. But you're going to be the queen of heaven. This is awful, but think how the angels are about to rejoice. This is awful! But your life has given us the dawn from on high, the Messiah, the Lord of all. "

When we pray this antiphon, I think Mary returns the favor. I think she acknowledges the pain of our lives, but points through Good Friday to Easter Sunday. "Rejoice!" she whispers. "God will work even this for good."

We are a week into Lent, a long Lent! Would you join me, and millions of Catholics around the world, in committing to pray this antiphon every night from now until the Wednesday of Holy Week? Let it be a reminder: However ugly life might get; there is always something—Someone—to rejoice over.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

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

**Holy Hour is every Friday following 9 AM Mass.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30 PM and every Monday of Lent from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Church.**

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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



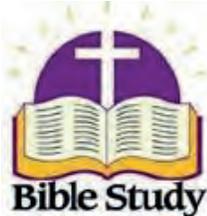
## PLEASE NOTE

For your safety and out of an abundance of caution, when our school is closed for a snowstorm, the church will be closed as well. The priest will celebrate the Mass privately.

Your safety is important. Stay safe, stay warm and know that you will be in our prayers.

## BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Fr. Monteleone for Bible Study this Lent  
Mondays 10:00am~11:00am  
Through March 30th  
Youth Room in the Molloy Center  
The Sermon on the Mount



## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

### HELP WANTED

SPPS is seeking a Middle School long term substitute science teacher, to start immediately. Interested applicants may call the school at 973-779-4700

**Applications for New families for the 2026-2027 School year** are being accepted now. Applications can be found and submitted at [stphilipprep.com](http://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](http://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.

## ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE

St. Philip the Apostle Parish  
14th Annual

**St. Patrick's Day  
Dinner Dance**

ALSO CELEBRATING  
*St. Joseph*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH**  
**6:30 - 10:30 PM**  
St. Philip Auditorium

**TICKETS ONLY \$50 PER PERSON**  
**\*21 + ONLY | BYOB**  
Entertainment by:  
**The Alan Quinn Orchestra**

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Soft Drinks, Coffee/ Tea

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## HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

- 🎰 ✨ **Tricky Tray Tickets Are On Sale!** ✨ 🎰
- 📅 Join us for **Monte Carlo Night Tricky Tray**
- 📅 Friday, March 20
- 🎰 A glamorous evening of chance 🎰, amazing prizes
- 🎁, and lively fun 🎉
- 🎰 \$35 – General Admission
- 💎 \$65 – VIP Package
- 📄 Check the flyer below for details! ✨



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# MONTE CARLO NIGHT

## TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER

*Friday, March 20, 2026*

Saint Philip Preparatory School  
797 Valley Rd. Clifton, NJ

*Join us for a night of chance, prizes, and glamour.*

**COST: \$35 PER TICKET**  
INCLUDES 1 GENERAL BIDDING SHEET  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM FOR GENERAL ADMISSION  
DRAWING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM  
MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND

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- EARLY ENTRY (DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 PM)
- FRONT TABLE SEATING
- VIP LOUNGE ACCESS WITH BUFFET DINNER
- EARLY ACCESS TO PRIZE BIDDING

*VIP packages are limited!*

TO PURCHASE A TICKET,  
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT:  
[stphilipsa.org/tricky-tray](http://stphilipsa.org/tricky-tray)

For sponsorship opportunities e-mail [sadikichsa@gmail.com](mailto:sadikichsa@gmail.com)  
For other questions e-mail us at [lisa@stphilip.org](mailto:lisa@stphilip.org)

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4 and 18, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! For more information or yarn/fabric donation, please call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

### PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers next regular Meeting will be on Friday March 6th at 1:30pm (coffee/and 1pm) in Marian Hall. Our guest speaker will be from the Passaic County Department of Senior, Veterans and Disabled Services talking about the services available to seniors from Passaic County.

The following trips are planned for 2026:  
April 1, La Greci's Staaten – DOO-WOP to Disco Party – Cancelled for insufficient interest  
May 27, Delaware River Cruise -Filled  
June 18, Hunterdon Hills – Johnny Cash Review \$140 still a few seats available  
Dec. 2, Hunterdon Hills – 50th Anniversary Christmas Show \$140 – Seats Available

### All trips require a minimum of 35 people.

Full payment for Delaware cruise – OVERDUE ! We have a waiting list for this. If you haven't paid by Feb. 27 th your place will be given to those on the waiting list.

Full Payment for Johnny Cash show due by March 31. 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.

There will not be a Prime Timer's meeting in April due to the easter Tridium and school closure Easter week.

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.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH AND CHIPS

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 8 th 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 Masses in the church vestibule on the weekend of February 28-March 1. Tickets can also be purchase on-line at [kofc1167.org](http://kofc1167.org), you can use your smartphone and the QR code here or you can contact Mike Cervine at (973)472-7505.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### BEEFSTEAK

Msgr. Peter J Doody Scholarship\*  
Beefsteak Dinner

Saturday April 18, 2026  
St. Philip's Auditorium 7pm

Adrian Branch, our Guest Speaker, is a retired American professional basketball player. Branch was drafted into the NBA in the second round by the Chicago Bulls in 1985. To learn more about Adrian scan on the QR Code below...



Order tickets online at:  
KofC11671.org or call/email:  
Ray Lill (973) 472-1756  
Dennis Fitzpatrick (973) 271-9577  
Tickets Prices\*\*

Adults - \$65

Chicken also available but must be ordered in advance



\* Provides Catholic high school scholarships to St. Philip's Prep School graduates and tuition assistance to needy St. Philip's school students.

\*\* If paying by check for the Beefsteak tickets payable to: St. Philip the Apostle Council 11671

\*\*\* If donating to the Scholarship Fund (for tax deduction) payable to: Msgr Peter J Doody Scholarship Fund

## SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH  
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# A NIGHT OF PRAYER & REFLECTION

MARCH 13, 2026  
FRIDAY | 7PM  
MARIAN HALL



GUEST SPEAKER  
FR. FRANK LENNIE

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

## WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** *Father, why does Jesus reveal His glory at the Transfiguration **before** His Passion, Death, and Resurrection? 🤔 +*  
*And why do Moses and Elijah appear with Him—what does this tell us about life after death and the faithful departed?*

**A:** The Transfiguration is not an isolated miracle or a dramatic display of power. It is **intentional preparation**. Just days after Jesus predicts His suffering and death, He takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain and allows them to see His divine glory ✨. His face shines like the sun, His clothes become dazzling white, and the Father's voice proclaims, "This is my beloved Son... listen to Him." 👑 🔥

Why does this happen **before** the Cross? Because what the disciples are about to witness will shake their faith. The Passion will look like failure. The Transfiguration gives them a memory to hold onto when everything seems lost. It reveals that the suffering Messiah is not defeated—but freely giving Himself. Lent places this Gospel before us for the same reason: so that when we walk toward sacrifice, repentance, and the Cross, we do so knowing that **glory is the destination** + ➡ 🇺🇸.

Then there is the striking appearance of **Moses and Elijah**. They are not visions, symbols, or memories—they are real persons, **alive and conversing with Jesus** 🗣️ ✨. Moses represents the Law 📖; Elijah represents the Prophets 🔥. Their presence declares that all of Scripture points to Christ and is fulfilled in Him.

But there is also a powerful truth here. Moses and Elijah are clearly conscious, recognizable, and engaged. They are not "sleeping" or unaware. This directly challenges the idea that the dead are unconscious until the resurrection. Instead, the Transfiguration shows us that the faithful departed are **alive in God's presence** 🙌. Death does not erase identity or communion—it transforms it.

This scene also strengthens our belief in the **Communion of Saints**. Those who have gone before us in faith are not distant or disconnected; they are alive with God and united with us in Christ ☀️.

The Transfiguration teaches us two unshakable truths: Jesus is truly the Son of God, and eternal life is not a vague hope—it is real. The glory revealed on the mountain assures us that beyond the Cross lies resurrection, and beyond death lies life with God forever. + ✨

## GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Lyla Rose*

## IN THE AREA

Nutley's 47th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held next Saturday, March 7th at 1 PM, from Holy Family Church in Nutley. St. Philip Preparatory School teacher, Ms. Bennett, is a Parade Dignitary as Member of the Year. The day begins with an Investiture Mass at 10 AM, at St. Mary's Church, also in Nutley. All are welcome!



## PARISH GIVING

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION  
MARCH 8- PROJECT FAITH

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *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, Margaret Sikora, Maria Torres, David A. Ricca, Daisy Troope



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 8:00  | Mike Barbetta<br>Lennie Salvatori   |
| 10:00 | Maria Beloni<br>Deceased members of the Ayers and Pritch families<br>Ronald Werner<br>Michele Dibello |
| 12:00 | Jill Festa<br>Nancy Menengus  |

### MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

- |         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| 7:00 AM | Gerard Molloy |
| 9:00 AM | Julio Morales |

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

- |         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 7:00 AM | Frank Fishetti          |
| 9:00 AM | Tirsito and Lelita Gala |

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 7:00 AM | Fran and Cindy Locatelli<br>- Special Intention<br>Mike Barbetta                         |
| 9:00 AM | Efren Francisco<br>- Special Intention<br>Loretta Pennella- 21 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary |

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

- |         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM | For all the souls in purgatory |
| 9:00 AM | Janice Carter                  |

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

- |         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| 7:00 AM | Augie DeSimone |
| 9:00 AM | John Lyons     |

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Lauryne Coleman<br>Arnulfo Garay- 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary        |
| 5:30 PM | Jill Festa<br>Kimberly Castelli<br>Marge Esposito and Mildred Balick |

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 8:00  | All the People of the Parish   |
| 10:00 | Leonard Zwerver<br>Un Kong<br>Pable Fernando Gernandez<br>Rose Oliva |
| 12:00 | Paul Ganowski<br>Fred Barum  |

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3

In Memory of Rosemarie Carlee  
- From a friend



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