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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 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 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,

Most of us know the Gospel story of the woman at the well (Jn 4:1-42). Jesus and His disciples, traveling to Galilee, took the harder route through, not around, Samaria—a land and a people despised by the Jews. This choice aligns with Jesus' mission: to reach those in need of healing no matter the difficulty. Jesus awaits His disciples at Jacob's well when the Samaritan woman arrives alone at midday, hoping to avoid others.

Jesus asks her for a drink, sparking a conversation about "living water." She initially thinks of fresh, flowing water—superior to stagnant well water—but Jesus speaks of something greater: eternal life. He reveals His knowledge of her five husbands and the man she now lives with, leading her to recognize Him as the Messiah. She leaves the well and runs to tell the villagers, who also encounter Jesus and are converted. She and her people have found the One who can quench their spiritual thirst.

It is the woman many of us identify with. She is nameless to all except Jesus. Her past is filled with pain and instability; repeated failures; she is vulnerable, living on the margins. She arrives expecting anonymity but meets the One who truly knows her. She thirsts for connection and belonging. Her community knew about her but did not truly know her, leaving her as isolated as the desert around her.

When Jesus asks her for a drink and offers her living water; He invites relationship, extending mercy not condemnation. He is more concerned with her "what might be" than her "what has been," the road ahead not the dust behind. After encountering Jesus, she leaves her water jar behind; her interior well now filled with the living water of Jesus' love and forgiveness. Like her, we all have a past, a history; some with painful, shameful moments; not all pretty or pleasant. Are we hiding some part of ourselves, fearful of being discovered, our worst "whatever" becoming known; being judged and condemned?

We, too, thirst for meaning, fulfillment and healing, yet we often return to the same stagnant wells: consumerism, attachment, fear, ego, scapegoating; these and other obstacles to satisfying our thirst. Do we keep drinking the same bad water somehow hoping not to get sick? Do we recognize that only through Jesus—His Church and the Eucharist—can we receive the living water that quenches our thirst for eternal life?

As one commentator put it, we must drink deeply of Jesus until we become the one we have drunk.

Paraphrasing Robert Frost, Jesus took the road less traveled to reach the Samaritan woman, to quench her spiritual thirst, and continued on that hard road all the way to Calvary—and that has made all the difference. Some people know the difficulty required to find & drink better water. Like them and the Samaritan woman, we must choose the other road, leave behind our old water jars and drink deeply of the living water, Jesus' very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist.

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.

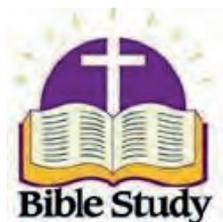
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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



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



If following Jesus was easy, wouldn't every Christian be doing it well? We know as we strive to live as disciples of Christ that the Lord offers us many graces, consolations, and blessings. Yet, we also know from our own experiences that being a disciple also has its moments of trial, difficulty, and times where we may even fall short. Thanks be to God, we have countless witnesses in our faith of those who have run the race of their Christian lives well and strove to follow Jesus both in the easy moments, but especially, in the most difficult. It's important that we hear their stories and let our own lives be inspired by theirs.

During this season of Lent, each of us has willingly entered into difficult things, namely, penance, fasting, and self-denial. Why do we do all these difficult things, and why do we do them willingly? We do them because we know they bring us closer to Jesus. They strengthen us as His disciples. As we strive to follow Jesus as intentional disciples this Lent—both in the easy times and the difficult—you are invited to join in our parish Lenten mission on March 23rd & 24th as we focus on the theme of *Living as a Disciple at All Times: From Galilee to Golgotha*.

Our presenter will be Fr. James Gebhart of the Diocese of Wilmington. Fr. Gebhart was ordained to the priesthood in 2024 and is currently serving as the associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Elkton, MD as well as at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, which ministers to students at the University of Delaware. In his work both in college and parish ministries, Fr. Gebhart enjoys preaching and working with individuals on the important topic of discipleship and living out our commitment to Christ. Father received his undergraduate seminary formation at Seton Hall University and is excited to return to New Jersey to be with our parishioners at St. Philip's.



Saint Philips has been very busy this past month! The Intermediate students have been busy working on their Writers' Café stories and are excited about the opportunity to have their work published later this year. We look forward to celebrating their creativity and hard work!

In science, students recently completed their cell projects. They created imaginative models such as countries, schools, malls, and zoos to represent a cell. By comparing these places to cells, students wrote creative analogies explaining how different organelles function. For example, students explored how "a zoo is like a cell" by matching each part of the zoo to an organelle and its job.

Our school also celebrated *Read Across America Week*! Our Early Childhood students enjoyed the classic *Green Eggs and Ham*, while fifth grade students partnered with the 3rd grade for a 50 States scavenger hunt. Students worked in pairs to circulate the room, reading facts about each state and searching for answers to their questions. Along the way they discovered some fun facts—did you know the first Walmart opened in Arkansas?

We are also excited to share that our school was recently featured in the Clifton Merchant Magazine. If you haven't had a chance to read it yet, copies are available!

Finally, TREP\$ has begun at our school. Students are learning what it takes to become entrepreneurs as they develop their own products and business ideas. They will showcase their creations at the TREP\$ Marketplace later this spring, and we look forward to seeing their innovation and hard work come to life.

HELP WANTED

PRINCIPAL

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Paterson is seeking applicants for the position of Principal of St. Philip Preparatory School, Clifton, a PK-8 elementary school, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Closing date is April 4, 2026.

Application materials can be found at: www.applitrack.com/patersondiocese/onlineapp

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

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 under New Student Application.

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

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

“Building a Culture of Life” seminar on Saturday, March 28, 2026 **Building a Culture of Life in NJ Seminar on Sat. March 28th:**

Come to **“Building a Culture of Life in NJ” seminar on Sat., March 28th, 2026 from 9:45 AM to 1:30 PM** at St. Andrew’s Parish Center, 120 Washington Ave., Westwood, NJ. Hear NJ pro-life leaders cover topics including: Effecting change for Life in New Jersey Post Roe v. Wade, the Abortion Pill, Post Abortion Healing, the Importance of School Boards and more! Refreshments, Light Lunch & Networking. Registration is \$20 by March 18th, \$25 thereafter. Visit: lifeneteducation.org/life or for more info call: 973-497-4520.

Save the Date!!!

Building a Culture of Life in NJ seminar

Sat. March 28, 2026
9:45 AM-1:30 PM

St. Andrew's Church Parish Center
Westwood, NJ

\$20 per person by 3/18/26; \$25 thereafter

Join us and...

- * Be updated by NJ leaders on pro-life topics
- * Receive tools to effect change for life in your sphere of influence
- * Network with new and old friends!

*Coffee And * Light Lunch served.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 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)

BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses on the weekends of March 21 & 22nd and March 28th & 29th. The palm cross price is \$15 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. For pre-orders, please call Phil Jakimowicz at (973)723-6111 or email: troop21clifton@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Blood Drive

The Fall K of C Blood drive will be held Good Friday April 3 from 8:00am to 12:00pm in the Gym. While appointments aren't required they are highly recommended to avoid long wait times. To make an appointment you may call Vitalant Blood Services at 1-877-258-4825, or use the QR code below. Blood supplies are quite low now so please donate if you can.



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

ROSARY SOCIETY

All are welcome at our Mass and meeting on Monday March 16 as we celebrate St Patrick and the fourth week of Lent. Mass in Marian Hall begins at 6:30 PM.

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
- 👉 To purchase a ticket, stphiliphsa.org/tricky-tray



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL
HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

MONTE CARLO NIGHT

TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 20, 2026

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

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

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• 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:
stphiliphsa.org/tricky-tray

For sponsorship opportunities e-mail sadkichsa@gmail.com
For other questions e-mail us at hssa@stphilip.org

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Andrew John

WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

Q: *Father, in the Gospel of the man born blind, why does Jesus use **saliva and clay** to heal him? 🙄🙄 If Jesus is truly God ☩, couldn't He have healed him instantly? What does this reveal about Christ—and about how God saves? 🤔*

A: Jesus absolutely could have healed the man with a single word. He has done so before. But in this miracle, He deliberately chooses to use **physical matter—saliva and clay** 🙄💧—and that choice is profoundly theological.

First, this action points back to **Creation itself**. In Genesis, God forms man from the dust of the earth 🌍. When Jesus mixes clay and places it on the blind man's eyes, He is not simply performing a healing—He is symbolically **re-creating**. This man was blind “from birth.” By using earth to restore sight, Jesus acts as the Creator restoring what was lacking. That is a silent but powerful claim to divinity 👑. Only the One who formed humanity in the beginning can reform it now. Second, this miracle reveals something deeply Catholic: **God uses material things to communicate grace** ☩. Christianity is not a purely spiritual philosophy. God became flesh. He touches. He anoints. He uses water, oil, bread, wine. The saliva and clay anticipate the sacramental principle—visible signs becoming instruments of invisible grace 💧🕯️. This Gospel prepares us to understand Baptism, where ordinary water becomes the channel of divine life.

Notice also that Jesus tells the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam 🚶💧. The healing unfolds through both Christ's initiative and the man's obedience. Grace is offered freely—but it must be received. The washing itself recalls baptismal imagery: blindness gives way to sight, darkness to light.

And that brings us to the deeper drama. The physical healing is only the beginning. The real blindness in this chapter belongs to the Pharisees 🙄🚫. They see the miracle yet refuse to believe. Meanwhile, the once-blind man gradually grows in faith—first calling Jesus “a man,” then “a prophet,” and finally worshiping Him as Lord 🙌👑.

So why saliva and clay? Because Jesus is revealing that He is the **Creator made flesh**, and that salvation is not abstract. God enters the dust of our humanity and restores it from within. He does not save us from a distance—He touches our wounds.

Lent places this Gospel before us to ask a piercing question: do we truly see who Jesus is? Or are we resisting the Light standing before us? 🙄☀️☩

WEDDING BANNERS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:



Jefferson Rannga and Anjenette Santos

KIDS KORNER



KID'S KORNER

Gospel Today
Fourth Sunday of Lent | John 9:1-41 A man, born blind, was healed by Jesus. The blind beggar's eyes were opened to our world but also, more importantly to Jesus - the Light of the World. When the townspeople did not believe Jesus healed the blind man, Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" *John 9:35* The man replied, "I do believe, Lord", and he worshiped Him. *John 9:39*

Year A

Believe... Jesus is the light of the world

He shines the light of His love on us so we don't live in darkness or sin.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



Life	Importantly
Heart	Jesus
Lent	Born
Love	Worshiped
Darkness	World
Believe	People
Man	Town
Light	Healed
Shine	Blind
Eyes	Lord

J E S U S H E A R T B E S
 B D H E B E E L P H O L S
 E V O L O L Y S R G R W E
 L R A W P L M E B I N O N
 I M P O R T A N T L Y E K
 E S E R L M N I D E I P R
 V P S L Y O U H E F L N A
 E E R D W O R S H I P E D
 T R H E A L E D L L E N T

The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery - The Carrying of the Cross

Think about how Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross.

The blind man is no longer living in the dark - he has new eyesight and in his heart a new life in Jesus, he says, "I do _____, Lord".



Some people call struggles or difficult life situations a "cross to bear". Believe that Jesus, the Light of the World, will help you like he helped & healed the blind man. How can you be like Jesus & help others?

This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with Glory Be to the Father.

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 9, 2025 \$ 18,321.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 8, 2026
WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 10,048.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 6,466.00
TOTAL \$ 16,514.00
SECOND COLLECTION- PROJECT FAITH \$ 2,310.00

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION
MARCH 22- PROJECT FAITH**

WE PRAY FOR...

For the recently Deceased...

Connie Andolino



A Time to be Healed...

Fran Kobernick, Rosanna Hampton,
 Philip Kutzenko, Angelo Torres, Nina
 Sova, Nicholas Magrogan, Antonio Bussanich, James
 Jablonowski, Terry Kolenc, Wilson Torres, Arlene
 Pompeo, Tom Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario,
 Charles Nisivocchia, Sally Conselyea,
 Margaret Sikora, Maria Torres, David A. Ricca, Daisy
 Troope, Christopher Ivan George

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

8:00 Josephine Sara Warner
 10:00 Thomas Mullin
 Daniel Mutter
 Louis P. Degnan
 Alexander Artola
 12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

7:00 AM Jean Yves Evens Fontin
 9:00 AM Diana Smith

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

7:00 AM Louis Nassaney
 9:00 AM Deceased members of the Hughes and
 McDonald families

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

7:00 AM Elsie and Ella Rodriguez
 - Special Intentions
 9:00 AM Ariston Francisco
 Anne A. Lipari

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

7:00 AM Adam Jastrzebski
 9:00 AM Irene Muzyczyn

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

7:00 AM John Matteo
 9:00 AM Frank Dara

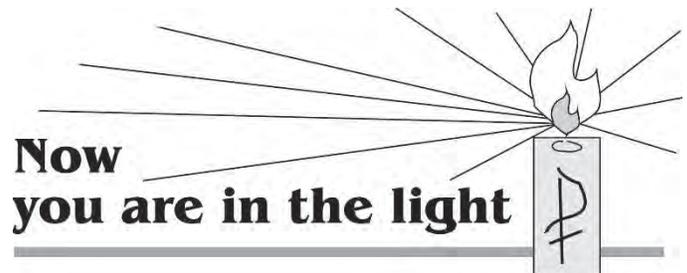
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

9:00 AM Robert Klingler

5:30 PM All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

8:00 Eric Peterson
 Deceased members of the Angeles
 family
 10:00 Stanley Makowski
 Jill Festa
 Michael Joseph Landers
 Edmund Kahn
 12:00 Anthony Pico- 22nd Anniversary
 Kitty Keilp



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