

## PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. David Monteleone  
*Pastor*  
frmonteleone@stphilip.org

Rev. Emerson Francisco  
*Parochial Vicar*  
efrancisco@stphilip.org

Rev. Frank Lennie  
*In-Residence*

Dcn. Nicholas Veliky  
*Deacon*  
nveliky@stphilip.org

Dcn. Robert G. Ayers  
*Deacon*  
deaconbob@stphilip.org

Mrs. Barbara Zito  
*Principal*  
PrincipalZito  
@stphilipprep.com

Mrs. Denise Pannullo  
*Faith Formation*  
dpanullo@stphilip.org

Ms. Vicky Velasco  
*Confirmation Program*  
vvelasco@stphilip.org

Mr. Frank Hydash  
*Director of Music*  
frankhydash@rocketmail.com

Mr. Carlos Arias  
*Maintenance Supervisor*  
carias@stphilip.org

Mrs. Patricia Pinke  
*Business Office, LYPC*  
ppinke@stphilip.org

Mrs. Debbie Neglia  
*School Secretary, LYPC*  
Debbie.neglia  
@stphilipprep.com

Ms. Linda Siluk  
*Lay Trustee*

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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## Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 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

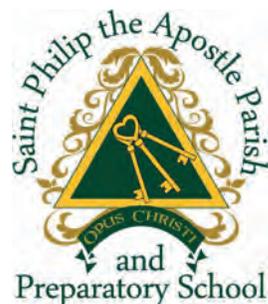
### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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,

“I can't wait until things go back to normal.” That instinct lives deep within us. Whenever life becomes uncomfortable or unfamiliar, we want what is predictable. Even if “normal” wasn't perfect, at least it was manageable.

The problem is that we carry this instinct into our spiritual lives. We fall into the same sins and habits again and again. Two options stands before us, and somehow we keep choosing the one that never satisfies. We convince ourselves that this time it will work. This time it will finally bring the happiness or relief we're looking for. And yet—nothing. Still searching.

The people of Israel did the same. Freed from slavery in Egypt and led into the desert, they quickly longed to return when the journey became difficult. Later, after being exiled to Babylon because of their own infidelity, they cried out to God to restore what they had lost. They wanted to go back.

But through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord says something striking: “Remember not the events of the past... See, I am doing something new! Do you not perceive it?” (Is 43:18–19). God is not interested in restoring “normal.” He is preparing something new.

That promise of newness runs straight through today's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus are among Jesus' closest friends. They know him. They trust him. So, when Lazarus becomes ill, they send word with confidence: “Lord, the one you love is ill.” They believe he can do something.

But Jesus delays. And Lazarus dies.

When Jesus finally arrives, Martha goes out to meet him. Her words are honest and full of faith: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Mary says the exact same thing when she comes to him.

But notice what they desire. They are not asking for something unimaginable. They are not hoping for resurrection. They wanted Jesus to come sooner. They wanted Lazarus healed before things went too far. They wanted their brother back the way he was. They wanted what we all want: the situation fixed, the suffering prevented, things restored to what they had been. In other words, they wanted “normal.”

Even the bystanders echo this mindset: “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?” The expectation is clear. Jesus should have intervened earlier. He should have preserved what they already had. But Jesus is

not content to return them to yesterday. He is preparing to reveal something entirely new.

And this is precisely where Jesus acts. “Lazarus, come out.” And the dead man walks out of the tomb.

This is not a return to normal. This is not the illness reversed. This is not a slightly improved version of what was lost. This is the invasion of divine life into the very place of death. It is something unforeseen and unforeseeable! Martha and Mary asked for healing. Jesus gives resurrection.

How often do we narrow our expectations the same way? We ask for a better job, a restored relationship, relief from suffering, a little more comfort, —normal on steroids! None of those desires are wrong. But they are limited. We tend to desire only what we can imagine.

God, however, works in ways we cannot imagine. That is the pattern of salvation history. Israel wanted to go back. God promised something new.

The raising of Lazarus is a sign pointing forward to Easter. Christianity exists not because things went back to normal, but because a dead man rose from the dead. And dead people don't do that. The Resurrection of Christ is not “normal on steroids.” It is an entirely new creation breaking into the world!

The danger for us is reducing all of this to something ordinary. We can treat faith as routine. We can approach Easter as familiar. But the Gospel confronts us with a reality that shatters normal expectations.

The same Lord who stood before Martha and Mary stands before us. He sees the places in our lives that feel sealed, stagnant, or beyond hope. He sees the sins and habits we return to because they are familiar. And he calls us not back to what we know, but forward into what we cannot yet see.

Stop returning to “normal” thinking it will finally satisfy. Stop settling for small hopes. Strain forward to what lies ahead. “See, I am doing something new. Do you not perceive it?”

The question is not whether God will act. The question is whether we will recognize—and receive—the new life He is already bringing forth.

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.



## TRIDUUM 2026

### *Holy Thursday*

**April 2**

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper (Broadcast)  
8:30 PM to 10 PM Eucharistic Adoration in the Auditorium

### *Good Friday*

**April 3**

3 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Broadcast)  
7 PM Stations of the Cross

### *Holy Saturday*

**April 4**

1 PM Easter Food Blessing

*Please note that there is NO 5:30 PM Mass. Regular confessions at 4:30 PM will NOT be heard.*

*Saturday confessions at 4:30 PM will resume on April 11.*

8 PM Easter Vigil

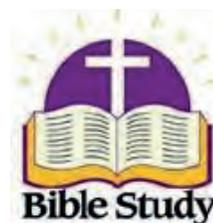
### *Easter Sunday*

**April 5**

8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast), 12 PM

## 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.  
Topic: The Sermon on the Mount



## PARISH LENTEN MISSION

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 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The school continues its annual Lenten tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross each Monday throughout Lent. Our 4th graders are also busy writing patriotic songs and poems celebrating the Northeast region of the United States. In addition, TREPS has begun, and students in grades 4–8 are working hard as they learn the basics of entrepreneurship and develop their own business ideas.

### 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](http://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](http://stphilipprep.com) under New Student Application.

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

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**“Building a Culture of Life” seminar on Saturday, March 28, 2026**

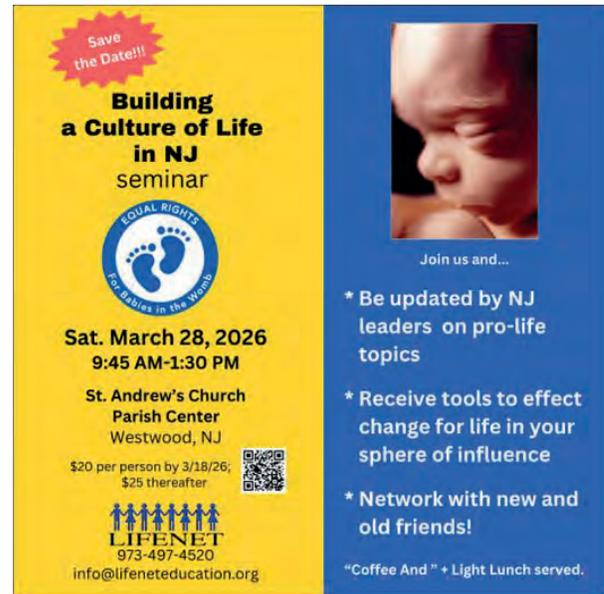
**Building a Culture of Life in NJ Seminar on Sat. March 28th:**

Come to “Building a Culture of Life in NJ” seminar on Sat., March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, \$25 thereafter.

Visit: [lifeneducation.org/life](http://lifeneducation.org/life)

or for more info call: 973-497-4520.



Save the Date!!!

**Building a Culture of Life in NJ seminar**

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.

**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

**LIFENET**  
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info@lifeneducation.org

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### BOY SCOUTS

##### Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses this weekend and next weekend-March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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

## GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Daniel Patrick*

## WEDDING BANNERS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:

*Jefferson Rangga and Anjenette Santos*



## WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** *Father, why did Jesus delay coming to Lazarus when He knew he was sick?* 😞  
*And if Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus, why did He still weep?* 😞 +

**A:** This Gospel is one of the most powerful revelations of who Jesus truly is—and it answers both questions at once.

First, **why did Jesus wait?** ⌚

When Jesus hears that Lazarus is ill, He does something surprising: He delays for two days. By the time He arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four days 🍌. This is not neglect—it is intentional.

Jesus Himself explains it: *"This illness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God."* ✨ By waiting, Jesus ensures that no one can deny the miracle. In Jewish understanding, after several days, death was considered final. There is no possibility of confusion here—Lazarus is truly dead.

This matters. Jesus is not performing a symbolic act—He is demonstrating absolute authority over death itself 👑 +. This miracle foreshadows His own Resurrection and proves that He is not merely a healer, but **the Lord of life**.

Now, **why did Jesus weep?** 😞

If He knew He would raise Lazarus, why show sorrow? Because Jesus is not only fully divine—He is also fully human 👑 👤. His tears reveal His true humanity. He does not stand at a distance from suffering. He enters into it. He feels the grief of Mary and Martha. He shares in human sorrow.

But His tears reveal something even deeper: **God is not indifferent to death**. Death is an enemy, the result of sin. Jesus weeps because He sees the pain it causes.

And yet, His tears are not hopeless. Immediately after weeping, He calls out: *"Lazarus, come out!"* 🔥 And death obeys.

Jesus is both **compassionate and powerful**. He does not merely comfort us in suffering—He conquers it.

Notice also Martha's profound confession: *"I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God."* 👤 ✨ Faith grows even before the miracle.

So why did Jesus wait? To reveal His glory. Why did He weep? To reveal His heart.

Together, they show us who Jesus is: not a distant God, but **God who enters our suffering—and defeats death itself** + 🌅.

Lent brings us here to prepare us for Easter: the tomb is real—but it is never the end. ✨

## DIOCESAN SCHOOLS JOB FAIR



Diocese of Paterson  
Catholic Schools

# JOB FAIR

Thursday, April 16, 2026

4:30-6:00pm

The Molloy Center  
(Located directly behind  
St. Philip the Apostle Church parking lot)

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

SCAN ME TO REGISTER →

OR...

Click on this link to register:

<https://forms.gle/mn3rjGa2Hq4h3TXJ8>



## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 16, 2025	\$ 16,525.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 15, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 10,301.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,612.00
TOTAL	\$ 16,913.00
SECOND COLLECTION- HUMAN DLPMT	\$ 2,234.00

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION  
APRIL 5- PROJECT FAITH

## WE PRAY FOR...

*For the recently Deceased...*

Jobo Valentin and Fran Kobernick



*A Time to be Healed...*

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  
Trope, Christopher Ivan George

## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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- 22 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Kitty Keilp

### MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

7:00 AM	Margaret Luminello
9:00 AM	Rosette DeMaala

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

7:00 AM	Sally McDonnell
9:00 AM	Rose Oliva

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

7:00 AM	Carol Ann Nadsen
9:00 AM	Elena and Carmine Monzo Jack McSweeney

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

7:00 AM	Frank Kobernick
9:00 AM	Nancy Keller

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

7:00 AM	Rosemarie Cannon - Special Intention
9:00 AM	Connie Andolino

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

9:00 AM	Frank Kobernick
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5:30 PM	Fred Baram Terry Pivirotto Antonio Quinones
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### SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 PALM SUNDAY

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Carole Costabile Veronica Durante Jose Borrajo John Pong
12:00	Mary Mazzarella DeMayo

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>

In memory of Anthony and Frances Pico



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