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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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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 29, 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

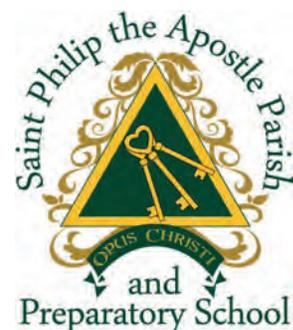
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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,

It is said that adults are just tall children! At times, there are similarities, such as some adults are always looking for attention, just like kids do. But one of the biggest similarities is that they are always asking "why?" Just like a child is always asking their parents "why" they must do certain things or can't do other things, some adults are always asking me "why" the Church teaches certain things or why I've made certain rules or decisions.

While parents (and me) can understandably get annoyed at this constant questioning, there's something good and important about it. The Church and the Lord don't always demand that I "obey blindly." It is good to desire additional information or the reasoning behind certain situations. Many superstitions and instances of abuse of power have been avoided by inquiry and questioning. Many harmful people and groups have amassed power by suggesting that questions should not be asked.

This interplay between obedience and questioning is prevalent throughout the Christian experience, and it is of particular interest to the Gospel we hear before the Procession at the Palm Sunday Mass. Jesus gives two of his disciples' directions to go to a neighboring village and acquire an ass and a colt from one of the villagers. Their obedient response is reasonable and expected.

The direction they must give to the villager is much vaguer. While the disciples have directions directly from the Lord that won't cost them anything, the villager is asked to give up his ass and colt because "the master has need of them." While seemingly vague, the owner evidently quickly grants the disciples' request.

While we are not privy to the villager's response, we can easily imagine our own reaction. "Why?" Why are you trying to take my animals? The response, "The master has need of them" is seemingly unsatisfying. "Why?" Why does the master need them? Why mine? Why now? It would have been easy for them to put up excessive roadblocks to the Lord's will with questions and concerns.

What is obvious is that the owner of the ass and colt knew the master. When the disciples state that has need of his property, it is not a random request. They know the Lord Jesus Christ; they have seen His goodness and might. Thus, if He has need of something, He must have a reason. If He has sent disciples to retrieve them, it must be something important. The owner isn't blind or naïve; they know the Lord, so they are sure that a request from Him is good.

How would I respond? Do I know the Master well enough that I would respond quickly when I heard He had need of something? What about the things He asks me for every day? The sins He is asking me to cast away, the habits He's asking me to kick. What about the brave thing He's asking me to undertake... the vocation, the mission field, the virtue? Do I constantly need a why, a complete explanation of His plans before I say yes? Or do I know the master well enough that I'm sure that anything He's asking me is for my good and the good of the Church?

There's nothing wrong why asking "why," but sometimes our need for all the answers keep us from saying yes to something great. This Holy Week, where does the master have need of something in my life, and where will I be brave enough to trust Him.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30 PM. **For Lenten Confessions**, the last day will be March 30th, Monday of the Holy Week, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Church.

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

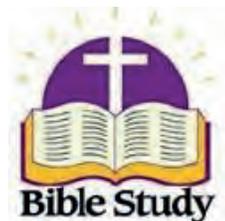
PLEASE NOTE

The Parish office will be closed for Holy Thursday, April 2nd and Good Friday on April 3rd.

On Monday, April 6th, Mass will be celebrated at 9AM. The church will be closed following the Mass. The Parish Office will be closed.

BIBLE STUDY

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



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
Join us on Sunday, April 12th at 3 PM in the church for Holy Hour and recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy.
Confessions will be available.



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 (Broadcast)

Easter Sunday April 5

8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast), 12 PM

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

St. Philip's Preparatory School continues to be a vibrant place of learning, creativity, and community spirit.

We are pleased to share that this year's Tricky Tray was a wonderful success, bringing together families, friends, and supporters for an evening filled with excitement and generosity. The event not only raised important funds for the school, but also reflected the strong sense of unity that defines our St. Philip's community.

In the classrooms, learning has been equally engaging. Our fifth grade students recently brought history to life by participating in a mock trial of the Boston Tea Party. With thoughtful arguments and enthusiastic participation, students explored multiple perspectives of this pivotal moment in American history, deepening both their understanding and critical thinking skills.

Our younger students had a special opportunity to meet a visiting author of the beloved "My Weird School" series. Students in grades 2 through 5 enjoyed an interactive session where the

author answered questions, shared insights into the writing process, and encouraged budding writers to begin creating stories of their own. As an added treat, students were given a sneak peek at an upcoming, unpublished book, sparking excitement and inspiration throughout the group.

Meanwhile, our middle school students are hard at work preparing for the spring play. Rehearsals are already underway, and the energy and dedication of the cast and crew promise a performance that will surely delight our school community.

At St. Philip's, each day brings new opportunities for growth, creativity, and connection. We are grateful for the continued support of our families and parish as we nurture both the minds and hearts of our students.

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

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses this weekend. The palm cross price is \$15 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. Please support Troop 21!



Pancake Breakfast

The annual Troop 21 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held in the St. Philip the Apostle Auditorium on Sunday, April 12th from 8 am to 12 pm (last seating at 11:30 am). Prices: Adults \$18.00, seniors \$15.00, and children 12 and under \$10.00. Children under 4 eat free with a paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please come enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice & coffee and support Troop 21! For more information please contact: troop21clifton@gmail.com

PRIMETIMERS

Atlantic City Trip

Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, May 26 and also on Tuesday, June 23. Bus leaves from St. Philip Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$50 for each. For tickets, please contact Jean R. at (973) 253-1619.



COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! Thank you to Mary Diane and an anonymous donor for their generous donations. We are grateful for our supporters! We recently donated blankets to Clifton school children who face physical challenges. For more information or donations of yarn or fabric, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

COLUMBIETTES

SAVE THE DATE COLUMBIETTES FUNDRAISER

Outback Steakhouse
191 Berdan Avenue
Wayne, NJ 07470
\$20.00 per ticket

Valid only on:

Monday, April 20th to Thursday, April 23, 2026
Each ticket includes 1 appetizer per 2 tickets, choice of entrée, salad, choice of side and dessert. This does not include gratuity. The back of the flyer/ticket lists the menu options. This flyer/ticket is good for lunch, dinner or take-out. For further information or to purchase tickets, please call Pat at 973-975-7744 or email pattyscarp@aol.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. 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

WITH THANKS

The Knight of Columbus Council 11671 thanks all parishioners and friends who participated in our annual Fish-fry. The event was a huge success with serving over 200 dinners. The profits from this will allow us to continue to serving the needy and outcast members of our community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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>

KIDS KORNER

< KID'S KORNER >

Gospel Today Year A
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord | Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Gospel of Matthew gives us a detailed account of the events of Holy Week. From the Lord's Supper, the Agony in the Garden, Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest to His Trial and the Way of the Cross.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Take and eat; this is my body."
Matthew 26:26

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

Holy Week	M	K	N	I	R	D	F	Y	P	R	A	T	E	G	T	B
Jesus	E	U	O	E	T	H	O	L	P	P	S	S	O	R	C	G
Last Supper	S	T	K	S	L	S	R	O	I	A	U	A	F	E	D	N
Twelve Disciples	E	F	S	A	L	U	G	H	L	R	P	C	A	S	O	I
Thanks	R	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	A	B	P	K	T	H	I	P
Eat Bread	T	H	N	U	C	K	V	O	T	P	E	L	H	D	V	E
Body Cup	H	S	E	J	O	E	E	H	E	E	R	B	E	E	F	E
Drink Blood	O	I	C	R	O	W	N	T	W	D	A	E	R	B	O	L
Forgiveness	E	N	Y	A	R	T	E	B	E	V	U	W	S	I	N	S
Sins	V	D	R	E	A	T	S	T	I	E	L	M	S	E	L	R
Fathers Kingdom	L	O	G	E	T	H	S	E	M	A	N	E	U	E	E	E
Night Gethsemane	E	H	J	T	S	E	P	T	N	J	E	S	U	S	W	G
Sleeping	W	B	E	K	R	J	T	H	O	L	N	S	T	S	I	O
Resting Praying	T	H	O	R	N	S	I	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
Judas Betray	S	A	A	D	H	F	O	R	E	P	N	A	G	H	G	R
Arrested Pilate	T	P	R	A	Y	I	N	G	U	G	C	H	D	H	V	P
Crown Thorns	W	E	E	N	O	C	E	P	R	S	K	N	A	H	T	O
Cross Son																
God Messiah																

WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

Palm Sunday

Q: Father, why did the people shout "Hosanna," wave palm branches 🌿, and lay their cloaks on the road—and why did Jesus choose a donkey 🐴 instead of a royal horse? 🤔

A: Every detail is intentional—and deeply biblical. "Hosanna" means "Save us!" 🙏 The crowd is recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Palm branches 🌿 were symbols of victory and kingship in Jewish culture, while laying cloaks on the road was an ancient sign of royal honor 👑. They are treating Jesus like a king—but misunderstanding what kind of king He is. And then, the donkey 🐴. This is crucial. Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9: "Behold, your king comes... humble, riding on a donkey." A war horse would signal conquest by force. A donkey signals **peace, humility, and mission**. Jesus is not a political revolutionary—He is a **Savior who conquers through sacrifice**, not violence 🕊️.

Holy Thursday

Q: Father, why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet 🦶? And is the Eucharist just a symbol—or truly His Body and Blood? 🤔 🕊️

A: The foot washing and the Eucharist belong together. By washing their feet 🦶—a servant's task—Jesus teaches that true authority is **humble service** ❤️. He shows that love is not abstract—it kneels, serves, and sacrifices. Then He says: "This is my Body... This is my Blood." 🕊️ 🍷 If this were symbolic, it would make no sense to His Jewish audience. Drinking blood was forbidden. Yet Jesus insists—and the early Church believed Him literally. The Eucharist is not a symbol. It is **the Real Presence of Christ**. God does not remain distant—He gives Himself to us in a tangible way. We receive Him—and we are called to become like Him.

Good Friday

Q: Father, why do we venerate the Cross on Good Friday? Isn't it strange to honor an instrument of torture? How can the death of Jesus bring salvation?

A: The Cross is shocking—but that is precisely the point. Christianity does not hide suffering; it transforms it. Jesus does not die as a victim of circumstance. He freely offers His life: "No one takes it from me" (John 10:18) 🕊️. His death is a sacrifice—like the Passover lamb 🐑—but now fulfilled perfectly. Sin has real consequences. Love requires justice. On the Cross, Christ takes upon Himself what we could not bear. Mercy and justice meet ❤️ 🔥. We venerate the Cross not because we love suffering—but because **through it, God conquered sin and death**.

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

Bishop Kevin Sweeney invites you to the
2026 Garden Party
at St. Paul

Inside the Walls in Madison
on Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m.

The evening celebrates the evangelizing work of
St. Paul Inside the Walls and the
Office of Evangelization over the past year.

During the event,
Msgr. Raymond Kupke,
an esteemed priest of the

Diocese of Paterson, will receive the
2026 Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli
Award in Evangelization. Msgr. Kupke has served as
Archivist of the Diocese of Paterson since 1976,
co-hosts the popular podcast Coffee
with Kupke, and has taught widely in Church history.

For more information and to purchase tickets or
sponsorships, please
visit: insidethewalls.org/gardenparty

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the dates for our Vacation Bible Fun

Mark your calendar July 27- 31

8:45 AM – 12 Noon

This year's theme is
"Rainforest Falls"

Stay tuned for more information regarding
registration dates.



PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 23, 2025 \$ 14,886.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 22, 2026
WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 9,713.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 5,767.00
TOTAL \$ 14,480.00
SECOND COLLECTION- PROJECT FAITH \$ 2,652.00

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION
APRIL 5- PROJECT FAITH

WE PRAY FOR...

For the recently Deceased...

Jose Luis Santana



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
Troope, Christopher Ivan George, Jack Insinga

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

9:00 AM	Lydia C. Ibanez Eric Angeles, Sr- 2 nd Anniversary
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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

9:00 AM	Joan Hughes- 8 th Anniversary Edward Szerencsits- 1 st Anniversary
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

9:00 AM	Joyce and Ray Tkach Mauro D'Alto
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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 PM	All the People of the Parish
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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 PM	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
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SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

HOLY SATURDAY

8:00 PM	All the People of the Parish
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SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

8:00	Deceased members of the Conocer Family Fran Kobernick
10:00	Joseph Scafidi Antoinetta and John Rubino Rosa and Germano Grompone Angel Doria
12:00	Fred Baram Rose Oliva

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