

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

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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



@StPhilipClifton



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Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 5, 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,

Easter is certainly a joyful feast. But the beginning of Easter is emptiness. There is not a gospel writer who tells the story of Easter by beginning with the risen Christ. Every gospel writer begins with the empty tomb. The gospel we just heard from Matthew proves this point. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come. But what they first see is not Jesus but the empty tomb, and they hear the angel's announcement. Only then do they encounter the risen Christ and embrace him.

First comes emptiness; then comes rejoicing. First comes absence; then comes glory. Now Easter begins with emptiness because life begins with emptiness. Every time we take a step forward in life, we must leave something behind. Before we can embrace new life, we must empty ourselves of the life we already possess. Before we can take our first breath, we must leave the comfort of our mother's womb. Before we can commit ourselves to someone in marriage, we must let go of our independence. Before we can respond to a vocation or a career, we have to let go of all the other things that we might be called to do. If we are going to receive new life, **we must be empty** enough to accept it.

This is why Jesus asks us not to fill our self-up with other things. If we fill ourselves and are satisfied, if we fill our lives with resentment, anger, jealousy, or grief, Christ is still risen. But we might not be able to accept the Good News because there is **no room for it**. If we fill up our lives with goods and gadgets, if we spend our time with stratagems to increase our own importance, God still loves us. But we can never appreciate that love because there is no space to take it in. This is why Jesus spent so much of his time talking to those who were poor, hungry, and rejected. Jesus knew that they were empty enough to hear him. It is the suffering, the grieving, the poor, who have more than enough room to let God's love in.

St. Paul certainly knew this truth because he used it to describe our Baptism, our entry into Christ. He said that first we must die with Christ in the waters of Baptism so that we could rise to new life. We first must be buried with Christ, emptied by Christ of whatever holds us back so that we might rise from the waters and walk in the newness of life.

So, if Easter begins with emptiness, the way to celebrate Easter is to locate our own emptiness. That could be the emptiness of loss because

someone who we love is no longer with us. It could be the emptiness of fear: the fear of a medical condition, the fear of deteriorating health because of advancing age, or the fear of economic hardship. It could be the emptiness of disappointment: disappointment in ourselves or disappointment in others in whom we trusted. It might simply be that we have no direction in life, we do not know where we are going, and we know we need to find a direction soon. Whatever your emptiness is, do not deny it—claim it. **Emptiness is not a liability. It is an opportunity.** When we claim our emptiness, we own our dependence on God. When we claim our need we open the door to Easter.

The Risen Christ calls us to new life. Let us stand before him today in our emptiness and let his resurrection in.

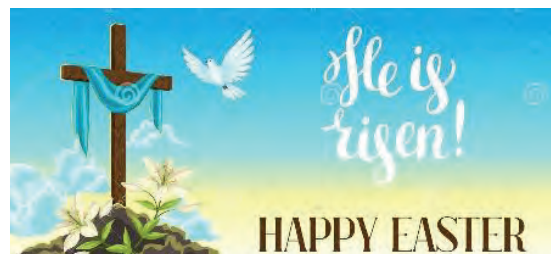
Have a blessed Easter and know you are all in my prayers.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE

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



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.



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Lent is a very special time here at SPPS. The students have been attending Stations of the Cross throughout the season and on Wednesday, the eighth graders performed their own living stations. They did a beautiful job!

Before we wrapped up for our Easter break the middle school students have been working on a variety of science skills. The sixth graders were learning about bacteria and viruses. They conducted a lab to stimulate how quickly bacterium can multiply. The seventh graders were learning about motion and completed a lab with wind-up toys to calculate speed.

Lastly, the eighth graders were learning about how organisms can produce sound. They built bugs using one of the methods they learned about.

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

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.



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



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

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

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

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/mn3riGa2Hq4h3TXJ8>



PILGRIMAGE 2026

PILGRIMAGE

Sept. 21 - Oct. 5, 2026

**PORTUGAL 20
AND SPAIN 26**

Fr. Emerson is organizing a pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain from September 21 to October 5, 2026.

If you are interested or would like more details, please email Fr. Emerson at efrancisco@stphilip.org

WHY, FATHER?" by Fr. Emerson

Q: *Father, how do we know the Resurrection really happened? 🤔 Couldn't the empty tomb simply mean Jesus' body was taken? What evidence does the Gospel actually give us? ✝️*

A: This is the central question of Christianity. If the Resurrection did not happen, the entire faith collapses. But the Gospel gives us **strong and surprising evidence** that something real—and extraordinary—took place.

First, the tomb is empty 🏰. But an empty tomb alone is not enough. As pointed out in the question, the body could have been moved. That's why the Gospel includes a very important detail: the **burial cloths**.

John tells us that the linen wrappings were lying there, and the cloth that covered Jesus' head was **rolled up in a separate place** 📖 ✨. This is not what a grave robbery would look like. Thieves would not carefully unwrap a body and neatly arrange the cloths—they would take everything quickly.

This detail is powerful. It suggests not removal, but **transformation**. Jesus did not need to be unwrapped—He passed through death itself. The arrangement of the cloths points to a Resurrection that is not a return to ordinary life, but a glorified new existence 🌟.

Second, the reactions of the disciples are telling. They are not expecting the Resurrection. Mary Magdalene assumes the body was taken. Peter runs in confusion. This is not blind faith—it is **initial doubt confronted by evidence** 🏃.

Then comes a key line: *"He saw and believed."* 👤 What did John see? Not Jesus yet—but the signs in the tomb. The empty space. The ordered cloths. Something convinced him that death had not simply been reversed—but conquered.

Third, if the story were invented, it would not include details that seem awkward or difficult to explain. The Gospel includes them because it is rooted in **eyewitness testimony** 📖 ✨.

The Resurrection is not a myth or symbol of hope. It is a real event that changed history. The tomb is empty, not because someone took Jesus—but because **He is alive** ✝️ 🇺🇸.

Easter proclaims the ultimate truth: death is not the end. Sin is defeated. Life has the final word.

And the question now is not just "Did it happen?"—but **"What does it mean for me?"** 👤 ✨

KIDS KORNER

Gospel Today

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord | John 20:1-9

On Easter morning Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found it empty. She hurried to get Peter and John. Peter entered first, and when John entered he "saw and believed."

Year A

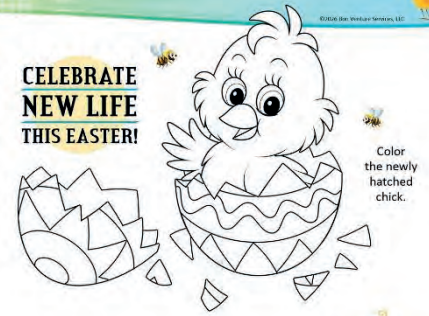
KID'S KORNER

A-MAZE-ING

Help little chick find the way back to bunny & lamb.



CELEBRATE NEW LIFE THIS EASTER!



Color the newly hatched chick.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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

Jesus	Y	R	A	M	S	T	O	N	E	A
Early	Y	L	R	A	E	N	O	M	I	S
Stone	J	E	W	G	N	I	N	N	U	R
Tomb	E	C	S	D	E	P	P	A	R	W
Removed	S	N	L	A	J	N	I	I	E	B
Entrance	U	A	O	L	O	L	S	O	M	T
Mary Magdalene	S	R	V	E	H	E	I	H	O	O
Running	O	T	E	N	N	W	R	N	V	M
Loved	E	N	D	E	V	E	I	L	E	B
Simon	P	E	T	E	R	L	O	R	D	N
Peter										
John										
Wrapped										
Linen										
Saw										
Believed										
Risen										
Lord										

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.



2025 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

Thank you to all of our Parishioners for such a positive response to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Not only does your Appeal gift help important ministries throughout the Diocese, it also helps our own Parish.

We have exceeded our 2025 DMA goal!

Our 2025 DMA Goal: \$49,125
Cash received as of March 3, 2026: \$81,960
Amount over-goal: \$32,835
March rebate: \$16,418

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED



Jefferson and Anjenette

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Cecilia Rose

PARISH GIVING

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

WE PRAY FOR...

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, 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

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

- 9:00 AM Joanne Barrett
Valentine J. Iglar

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

- 9:00 AM Michele Monteleone
Manuel and Milagros Amador

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

- 9:00 AM Fiore Serra
Samuel Louis Javier

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

- 9:00 AM Teresita Balbin Esteban

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

- 9:00 AM Carla Bellofatto

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

- 9:00 AM Michael Gordon- Special Intentions
- 5:30 PM Jill Festa
Fred Baram
Helen Sieradzki

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

- 8:00 Francis, Miriam and Kevin O'Brien
Gerald Shimansky
- 10:00 Joseph Simicevic- 26th Anniversary
Teresa Villegas
Charles Marvin
Rosina Gioia
- 12:00 All the People of the Parish

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5TH

In loving memory of Albin Rybolowik- 14th Anniversary
-From his family



OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5TH



In memory of Valentine J. Iglar
-From his loving wife and children

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