

**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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*Lay Trustee*

# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



@StPhilipClifton



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## Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 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.



My Dear Parishioners,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus Christ is, of course, the Good Shepherd—but he also gave us shepherds: the Apostles, and their successors, the bishops. So, it's worth asking: why did the earliest Christians make the Apostles' teaching so central (see Acts 2:42)? Why did it take such a decisive role in their lives? And does it still matter for us today?

One way to get at this is by looking at how we live now. Think about our relationship with phones and social media. When I was a young priest, one of the things that I got tasked with—because you're young and hip and cool, apparently (I was never hip or cool!)—is to hang out with all the high school kids. What struck me in this is how completely their lives are meshed with their screens. On average, teens spend over seven hours a day on them—more than three on social media alone. And what I also noticed is that adults aren't much better!

These platforms are filled with “influencers”—athletes, celebrities, commentators, even ordinary people who gain massive followings. You can find someone to follow for anything: fitness, cooking, investing, decorating, parenting. There is always someone ready to tell you how to live better in your pocket at a simple touch of the screen.

But here's the point: we don't just watch them. We follow them. We take their advice seriously. Over time, they begin to shape what we think is important—what we spend our time, money, and energy on.

The question is why? Why do we do this? Because they promise us something: a better life, better health, better relationships, better homes, better habits. Something fuller, more satisfying. And so, we follow.

But it's worth asking: Do they really deliver the fullness of life they promise?

In our readings today, but all throughout Scripture, we are compared to sheep—like, a lot. And if you know anything about sheep, then you know that's not exactly a compliment. Sheep are dumb, so dumb! If you leave a sheep on its own, it will make the worst decisions. If you have a flock of sheep, they will follow any sheep anywhere—they're just so dumb!

St. Peter says it plainly: “You had gone astray like sheep” (1 Peter 2:25). That's not just poetic—it's accurate. We drift. We think we're on the right path, but it doesn't take much to pull us off course. And we

don't need many examples; we can all supply our own.

If that's true, then we need a shepherd. Without one, we're defenseless. Without one, we don't know where to go. Without one, we're lost.

And before you say, “I'm no sheep, Father. I'm a lone wolf!” Well, I doubt it. Again, the data seems to show, your phone seems to show, the TV shows you watch, the news you watch and read—all of this would seem to say otherwise. Everyone follows somebody. It's how we work.

We are made to follow. That's how we learn anything—whether it's getting in shape, learning a skill, or building a life. We look to someone who knows the way.

And that's just as true in faith. So, when it comes to Jesus Christ—the one who makes the astonishing claim in John 10:10, “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly”—the question becomes unavoidable: who do you follow to understand what that life actually looks like?

The earliest Christians had a clear answer: the Apostles.

Why were they so central? Because they were chosen by Christ himself. They knew him. They listened to him. They were entrusted with his flock. And they handed on what they received.

That's why the early Church devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching (see Acts 2:42). Not as one voice among many, but as the decisive guide. Without that, everyone is left to make things up—to follow whatever voice happens to be loudest or most appealing.

So, the challenge is simple: what if we gave the same time and attention to the Apostles, the teachings of the Church, to the leadership of our local Apostle, the Bishop, and our parish's pastor and that we give to influencers? What if their teaching shaped how we see the world—what we think is important, how we spend our time, our money, our energy? What if we didn't just pick and choose the parts we like, but took it seriously—fully?

Because in the end, we are going to follow someone. The only real question is whether the one we follow can actually lead us to the fullness of life promised in John 10:10.

The earliest Christians believed the Apostles could—because they led them to Christ. And Christ, the Good Shepherd, does not promise distraction or improvement at the margins. He promises life—abundant life.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Kindergarten and First Grade have been planting seeds for Earth Day. Second Grade is getting ready for their First Communion. We are all getting ready to celebrate America's 250th Birthday. We will be doing research, projects, art and so much more in preparation for the big celebration. Our hallways will be transformed the second week of May.

### HELP WANTED

#### 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

#### FR. ENGLISH CENTER FOOD COLLECTION

Once again we are in need of food supplies for the pantry. As the warmer weather approaches, more folks make the trip to the pantry to receive supplemental food supplies for their families. In addition to food, we also need volunteers to help out at the pantry. We will soon be returning to our original location at 435 Main St. Paterson, and there is a secure parking lot there and a newly renovated building. *Help is needed!* If you'd like to volunteer please contact MaryAnn P at 973-809-7120. As for non-perishable food items, cereals, lentils, canned tuna and chicken, beans, pasta, sauce, canned fruit, mac and cheese and peanut butter/jelly are always in demand. Even one item is valued and appreciated. Our next collection will be the weekend of **May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

In the words of Mother Teresa:

*If you can't feed one hundred people, then just feed one.*

## CARNIVAL

### St Philip's Annual Carnival is coming soon:

The Carnival this year will be June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

We are collecting brand name soda and water donations, which can be left at the auditorium doors.

We always love having new volunteers. It's great 3 days of fun with the St Philip's family! We will be having a volunteers meeting on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in Marian Hall.

However, any current or new volunteers can start signing up by contacting Maureen Koehler at 973-773-5161.



## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### PRIMETIMERS

The next Prime Timers meeting is Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 PM in Marian Hall. Coffee and cake will be served before the meeting. We will have our annual Tricky Tray at this meeting. We ask everyone to bring at least one new unwrapped item to the meeting. Everyone 55 years or older is welcome. Come and join us. Please come a little early at 1 o'clock so we can set up our Tricky Tray tables.

For more information call Jean R. at (973) 253-1619.

#### Johnny Cash Review Show

Want to remember the "Man in Black"?

The Prime Timers are going to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> for the Johnny Cash Review Show. The cost is \$140 and includes your bus transportation from St. Philip's Drive, a full lunch, the show and a fabulous all you can eat dessert bar.

The playhouse does all their own baking and there are baked goods available for take-home purchase. They also have fashion boutique.

Come and join us we still have a few tickets left.

Contact Mike Cervine

(973)472-7505

Michael.cervine@gmail.com

#### 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.



## COLUMBIETTES

### MONTHLY MEETING

The Columbiettes meeting this month will be held on Thursday, *April 30th*. Our Social time refreshments will begin at *6:30 pm* followed by our regular meeting at *7:00 pm*.



### COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. **ALL CRAFTERS ARE WELCOME!** A huge thank you to Gertrude, Joanne, and Tina for their generous donations. You help us in perpetuating our ministry. We just donated blankets and shawls to NJ Hospice patients, our most vulnerable. One of our homebound members recently wrote, "Let us continue to knit & crochet for all in need with God's blessings leading us on." For more information or donations, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year our Parish is jumping with excitement as we are having Rainforest Falls, a special Vacation Bible Fun program created especially for Catholic children. Our program will provide memorable scripture-based activities, games, snacks and interactive Bible adventures. Children will collect Bible Memory- Buddies and People of Faith cards, and create fun crafts to take home.

Rainforest Falls is an exciting way for kids to learn more about their faith. Each day concludes at Rainforest Falls Finale...a send off that celebrates that day. We hope Rainforest Falls will give our children a wonderful experience of fun and faith this summer.

Rainforest Falls begins on July 27<sup>th</sup> and continues through July 31, 2026.

Time 8:45 am to Noon daily.  
Save the dates!

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 48 CHILDREN...only \$25 per child.

Sign up May 1-July 6, 2026.



## 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](https://insidethewalls.org/gardenparty)

## PILGRIMAGE 2026

**PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL & SPAIN**  
SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 5, 2026

**VISIT IN PORTUGAL:**  
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COIMBRA • LISBON • FARO

**VISIT IN SPAIN:**  
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**FR. EMERSON**  
at [efrancisco@stphilip.org](mailto:efrancisco@stphilip.org)

## "WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** *Father, why is this Sunday called **Good Shepherd Sunday**? 🐑 And why does Jesus call Himself both the **shepherd** and the **gate** 🚪? Who are the "thieves and robbers" He warns about? 😬✝️*

**A:** This Sunday is called **Good Shepherd Sunday** because the Gospel focuses on Jesus as the One who knows, leads, and protects His people 🐑❤️. In the ancient world, a shepherd was not just a guide—he lived with the sheep, defended them, and even risked his life for them. By using this image, Jesus reveals not just what He does—but **who He is**: the One who personally cares for every soul.

Now, why does Jesus call Himself both the **shepherd** and the **gate**? 🚪

At first, it sounds confusing—but it is deeply meaningful. In ancient sheepfolds, there was often no physical door. The shepherd himself would lie across the entrance 🚪, becoming the gate. Nothing entered or exited except through him.

This shows that Jesus is both the **protector** and the **way**. As Shepherd, He leads and knows His sheep. As Gate, He is the **only entry point to salvation** ✝️. This directly challenges the idea that all paths lead equally to God. Jesus does not say, "I am one of many ways." He says, "**I am the gate.**"

Now, who are the "**thieves and robbers**"? 🐱 Jesus is warning against false leaders—those who claim authority but do not come from God. In His time, this referred to religious leaders who misled the people. Today, it includes any voice that promises life, truth, or fulfillment apart from Christ.

Not every spiritual voice is trustworthy. Not every teaching leads to life. Jesus says these voices ultimately "steal, kill, and destroy" ⚠️—they take away truth, distort morality, and lead souls away from God.

In contrast, Jesus says: "*I came so that they might have life—and have it more abundantly.*" 🌈🌟 This is the key difference. False shepherds take. Christ gives.

Good Shepherd Sunday reminds us that Christianity is not just about rules or ideas—it is about a **relationship with a living Shepherd** who knows us, calls us by name, and leads us to life.

The real question is: whose voice are we listening to? 🐑🙏

Because only one voice leads to life—and His voice still calls today. ✝️🌟

## FEAST OF SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE

St. Philip the Apostle Parish  
Clifton, NJ

# Feast of SAINT PHILIP the Apostle



The feast day of our parish patron, **Saint Philip the Apostle**, is on **May 3**. A **first-class relic** (from the bones) of Saint Philip will be exposed for veneration at all Masses on **May 2** (Saturday) and **May 3** (Sunday). All are invited to come and venerate his relic.

## THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Everly  
Grace*



*Kayden  
Michael*

## KIDS KORNER

**KID'S KORNER** Year A  
 Gospel Today | Fourth Sunday of Easter | John 10: 1-10  
 JESUS SAYS, " \_\_\_\_\_ write your name \_\_\_\_\_  
 come follow Me. I am the Good Shepherd, you are My little lamb and we know each other. I will show you the way to My Father in Heaven."  
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### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

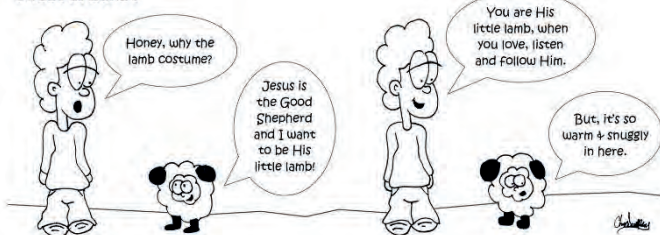
Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



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 R T I R T S S S  
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 S S S L A I A A

Peter Apostles  
 Passover Passages  
 Lamb Scripture  
 Hearts Miracles

### SWEET as HONEY



## PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: April 20, 2025 \$ 520.00  
 Online Giving

Sunday Collection: APRIL 19, 2026

WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 10,332.00  
 ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 6,790.00  
 TOTAL \$ 17,122.00

*THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS EASTER!*

EASTER COLLECTION 2025 \$ 55,039.00  
 EASTER COLLECTION 2026 (YTD) \$ 52,111.00

Upcoming Second Collections:  
 May 10- Project Faith

## WE PRAY FOR...

*For the Recently Deceased...*

Nicholas Magrogan, Thomas Adamo



*A Time to be Healed...*

Rosanna Hampton, Philip Kutzenco, Angelo Torres, Nina Sova, 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 26, 2026

8:00 All the People of the Parish  
 10:00 Fred Anthony  
 Fred Baram  
 Lina Calello  
 Cristina Apostadero  
 12:00 Joseph Cortese and Joey Cortese  
 Jean Alix Jolly  
 Maya Bobev- Special Intention

### MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

9:00 AM Agnes and Charles W. Hahn

### TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

9:00 AM Salvatore Scafidi

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026

9:00 AM Margaret Potoczak- 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
 Carlos Basurco

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

9:00 AM Mary Matteo

### FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

9:00 AM All the Souls in Purgatory

### SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

9:00 AM Anne Nausad- Special Intention  
 5:30 PM Constantino Cortez  
 Delia Russo  
 Jean Alix Jolly

### SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

8:00 Raymond Fitzpatrick  
 Christine Dujets  
 10:00 Rosemarie Michele  
 Antonio and Victoria Masucci  
 Anna Maria and Nicolo Pansini  
 12:00 All the People of the Parish

### CANDLE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

In Memory of Margaret Potoczak- 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
 - With love, from her Children, Grandchildren  
 and Great-Grandchildren



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