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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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Fifth Sunday of Easter May 3, 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,

As we continue basking in Easter joy, our diocese also celebrates the hundreds of people who joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. By all accounts, this was a banner year for the Diocese of Paterson and for most every diocese in the country when it comes to conversions. Church after Church shared stories of hope and confidence this Easter season. The news from Europe is just as encouraging, as many countries saw a surge in interest in the Church after years of decline.

While short term trends are not guarantors of long-term goals, it is well worth attempting to learn some lessons from this surge in Catholic interest. Various theories have been placed forward... the Washington Post even suggested it might be a way for young men to find dates... at the end of the day the answer is simple: Jesus Christ.

The Apostles are clearly confused in our Gospel, feeling that Jesus is being too vague in explaining how the future will work. Thomas doesn't know where Jesus is going, so he doesn't know how they will get there. Philip wants to see the Father, but he isn't sure how that would work. They have desires in their heart, but they aren't quite sure how they will be fulfilled.

These are fair questions, and they are questions that we ask in one way or another. Where am I going? What is it that I want? Give me this one thing, and that will be all I need. They are the same questions those who entered the Church this past Easter were asking? Is there anything out there that could answer the deep questions of my heart?

The modern world has provided us with an immense amount of junk that has masqueraded as the answer to these questions. Whether is social media, sexuality, alcohol, money, or so much else, people have tired of all the fake and damaging substitutes that modern man has been sold. Raising depression and anxiety, broken families, and misguided priorities have left us with a sad population. As St. Augustine knew so well so long ago, "You have made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you".

In response to Thomas and Philip's questions, Jesus gives two related answers. 'How can we know the way? I am the way and the truth and the life! Show us the Father, and that will be enough for us. Whoever has seen me has seen the

Father. One thing is clear; the answer to every question we have ever asked is Jesus Christ.

More than anything else... more than dates or trends or the intellectual life... this is what explains the rise in converts this past Easter. People have questions, and Jesus Christ is the answer. He is, indeed, the way, the truth, and the life. I am made in the image and likeness of God, and Jesus Christ died on a Cross and rose from the dead to save me from sin and death, so everything in my life comes back to Him, and I will be restless and sad until I return to Him.

Two practical's come to mind as we celebrate this great truth. The first is that when I think about my own life, Jesus Christ is the answer to the great questions of my life, and I must frame every decision I make with that truth. Of course, that doesn't explicitly tell me what I should do for a job or vocation or anything like that, but unless life in Christ is the foundation for all of my decisions, everything will come up short. Does Christ control my decision making? Or will I keep doing my own thing, and remaining restless and frustrated?

Secondly, Jesus Christ is the answer to the questions and desires in the hearts of everyone else around me. How often we are anxious and nervous about talking about Christianity or Jesus Christ, but the truth is that the Lord is something that everyone wants, whether they know it or not. May we be bolder in proclaiming Christ and presenting people with the real answer to their desires.

Jesus Christ is truly the way, the truth, and the life, and to see Him is to see the Father. May He change everything about how we see the world, and may we be bold in offering this Answer to everyone in our lives.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE

HOLY DAY

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been permanently transferred in the Dioceses of New Jersey, replacing the Seventh Sunday of Easter. This year that is Sunday, May 17, 2026
All Sundays are Holy Days of Obligation.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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 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

FAITH FORMATION

Family Formation students prayerfully prepare their hearts for their First Holy Communion on May 16 with Father Monteleone during their special Jesus Day Retreat.

Through activities, reflection, and learning about the Eucharist, they deepened their understanding and grew closer to Jesus on this important step in their faith journey.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

DRIVE -BY BABY SHOWER

The St. Philip Parish Columbiettes and the St. Philip Preparatory School National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring a Drive-By Baby Shower on Saturday, May 23rd from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. The Baby Shower is in honor of our Blessed Mother and all our mothers both with us and in heaven. St. Mary's Hospital Family Center in Passaic, which serves our surrounding areas, including Clifton will benefit from the items collected. The following items are needed and greatly appreciated:

- Baby food
- Diapers (size 4 & up)
- Baby wipes
- New/Gently used clothes (Size: newborn, babies, toddler, young children up to 8 years old).
- Boys & Girls pajamas, shoes, & socks (same sizes as above)
- Boys & Girls underwear (toddler to young children)

Items can be dropped off on Saturday morning, May 23rd from 9:30 - 11:00 in the upper church parking lot by the basketball courts. *If raining, we will be under the awning that connects the church & school. NJHS members will be available to help take items out of your car.

We greatly appreciate your generosity to help those in need from our local community.

Blessings,

Sharon Festa - Columbiette Baby Shower Chair
Katherine Bennett - St. Philip Preparatory School
NJHS Adviser



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. ALL CRAFTERS ARE WELCOME! For more information or donations, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

PRIMETIMERS

Johnny Cash Review Show

Want to remember the “Man in Black”?

The Prime Timers are going to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Thursday June 18th 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.



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 27th 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 in the Parish Office May 1-July 6, 2026.



CARNIVAL

St Philip's Annual Carnival is coming soon:

Our Annual Carnival will be held June 18,19,20. 3 fun filled days of rides, food, music, and laughs. We are always looking for new volunteers. Please call Maureen Koehler at 973-773-5161.



Soda/Water Donations:

We are now accepting soda and bottled water donations. All donations can be left at the auditorium doors. (Pepsi, Coke, Diet Pepsi, Diet Coke, Seltzer, Ginger Ale, Sprite, 7Up etc)

Carnival Bake Sale:

We will be accepting home made baked goods for our carnival bake sale. All donations can be dropped off starting June 17 and straight through June 20th on daily basis.

Carnival super 50/50 raffles

Our Super 50/50 books were mailed to all parishioners last week. We would appreciate if you can sell them to family friends etc over the next two months until June 20th. More tickers are available in the parish office if need be. Drawing will be June 20th at 10pm!

Carnival Family/Business/Ride Booth sponsorships:

The forms are available in the rear of the church and will also be online within the next 2 weeks, All participants receive a banner in the auditorium or Booth/Ride with their family name or business name.

White Elephant Sale:

We will be doing our annual white elephant sale in the school gym. We will NOT be picking up items from peoples homes this year. Everything needs to be dropped off during the specified times. We will be announcing the required guidelines for items and days and times for drop off in the coming weeks.

WEDDING BANNES

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:



Hector Martinez and Michelle Keim

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Preston Maryon



Kaiden Dallas



Maya Maria

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Gospel Today
Fifth Sunday of Easter | John 14:1-12

Year A

At the Last Supper, Jesus tells us there is room for us in His Father's house (Heaven) and the way there is through Jesus.

The church helps us find our way to heaven.



Jesus said,
"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- John 14:6

The Church is our Father's house on earth. In the gospel our Father's house is Heaven.

"WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

Q: *Father, in this Gospel, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" —and also, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Is Jesus claiming to be God? And why does Saint Philip still ask, "Show us the Father"? What does this reveal about the Trinity—and about our faith today?*

A: This Gospel is one of the clearest and most powerful revelations of **who Jesus truly is**.

When Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," He is not offering one option among many. He is making an **absolute claim**. He does not say, "I show the way." He says, "**I am the way.**" This directly challenges the idea that all religions are equal paths to God. Jesus presents Himself as **the unique and definitive path to the Father**.

Then comes the even more striking statement: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." This is not poetic language—it is a revelation of the **unity between the Father and the Son**. Jesus is not the Father, but He is perfectly one with Him. This is the mystery of the **Trinity**: one God, three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Son reveals the Father completely because He shares the same divine nature.

Now here is where **Saint Philip the Apostle** enters the scene. He asks: "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

At first, it sounds like Philip is missing the point. But in reality, he is voicing a deep human longing: **to see God**. And Jesus responds almost with surprise: "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me?" Philip's question becomes a moment of revelation. He represents all of us who seek clarity, certainty, and vision. And Jesus' answer is profound: **to see Him is to see God**.

This is why Philip is so important for us today—especially as we celebrate his feast day today (May 3). Tradition tells us that Philip went on to preach Christ boldly, even to the point of martyrdom. The one who once asked to "see the Father" came to give his life proclaiming that he had found Him—in Jesus.

This Gospel gives us three essential truths:

- 1 Jesus is not just a teacher—He is **God revealed**.
- 2 The Father and the Son are perfectly one in divine nature.
- 3 Faith grows from questions honestly asked—and answered in Christ.

The real question now is not Philip's—but ours: Do we truly recognize who Jesus is?

PILGRIMAGE 2026



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PLUS:
 A DAY TRIP TO GIBRALTAR!

For more details, please contact:
FR. EMERSON
 at efrancisco@stphilip.org

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: April 27, 2025	\$16,214.00
Sunday Collection: APRIL 26, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 11,503.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,710.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,213.00

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS EASTER!

EASTER COLLECTION 2025	\$ 55,039.00
EASTER COLLECTION 2026 (YTD)	\$ 52,701.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
 May 10- Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

Rosanna Hampton, Philip Kutzenko, 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, Evelyn Kovacs, Colin Jones



MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

9:00 AM	John Anderson, Jr Clarissa Biason- Special Intention
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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

9:00 AM	Thomas Adamo
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

9:00 AM	John Anderson, Jr- 3 rd Anniversary
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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

9:00 AM	Dr. Damilio Bolina
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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

9:00 AM	Carmen Carides
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SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

9:00 AM	Erlinda Tumanda
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

8:00	Virginia Castiglia Rosa Masino
10:00	Teresa Pivirotto Stanislawa Skorupa Robert Drozdowski Carole Costabile
12:00	Fred Baram Rosemarie Carlee

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