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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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**Ascension of the Lord
May 17, 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,

Today's gospel reading is the conclusion of St. Matthew's account. In many ways, it is the summation of the entire gospel. Jesus reminds us of His authority, noting, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me." But He does not stop there. Through His authority, Jesus grants the disciples power to baptize and make disciples of all nations. Jesus also gives us the same instruction: GO!

There is an urgency in Jesus's command. There is work to be done. There is good news to be shared. Fortunately, we do not do it alone, for Jesus promises, "I am with you always, until the end of the age." Things will look different going forward, but as St. Paul prays in the second reading, "May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of Him." Christ is always present within us, and our relationship with Christ informs all we do.

Like the disciples, we are called to make disciples, baptize, and teach in the name of Jesus. What Jesus instructs the disciples to proclaim is that God holds out to all people the priceless raiment of divine forgiveness and asks only in return that they let themselves be clothed with power from on high to turn away from anything that stands between them and the divine clothier. Disciples are not to stand looking at the sky, gazing at the One who has now been taken up. Their work, our work is to teach others that same trust in the power of the word to uphold them and cloth them with power. This "Great Commission" gives the disciples and us a decisive direction after Jesus's Ascension, all with the promise of His continued presence with them and with us. May we all continue to follow and continue Jesus' invitation to bring others to Him.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This month in Pre-K 4, we have been working hard every day to prepare for kindergarten! It is hard to believe how fast this school year has gone by. We are so proud of the amazing students our class has become and the big kids they are growing into each and every day. Their confidence, kindness, and love for learning have grown so much throughout the year.

Our students are practicing writing their full names, learning important personal details, and reviewing their letters and sounds to strengthen their early reading skills. We are so proud of all the progress they have made and how excited they are to learn each day.

We also have a very exciting event coming up — our very first field trip to the Bergen County Zoo! The students are looking forward to exploring, learning about animals, and sharing this special experience together. It is sure to be a fun and memorable adventure for our Pre-K 4 class!

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

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The last meeting for the season will be Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We have donated baby blanket and hat sets to St. Mary's Hospital Outreach Center. Other donations include shawls for our good friend Sr. Christine Liegey and the Sisters of the Presentation and baby blankets for a mother's group in Newburgh, NY. Thank you to our donors Cynthia, Joan, Tony, and Joanne! Now is our summer break! We will resume in September. For more information or fabric and yarn donations, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

ROSARY SOCIETY

All are welcome at our next meeting in Marion Hall on Monday May 18. Mass begins at 6:30- refreshments and comradery to follow! Join us in celebration during this month of Mary.

PRIMETIMERS

The Johnny Cash Review Show for June 18th has been cancelled due to too many last-minute cancellations. We will be changing our sign-up process to avoid this. Going forward all trips will require a \$25 per person deposit at sign-up and full payment 2 months prior to trip date. All deposits will be non-refundable unless for that event we have a waiting list and can get someone on that list to take and pay for your seat. If you have to cancel and there is no waiting list, you must get someone to take the spot and reimburse you. The minimum number of people we can schedule a trip for is 35 and our pricing is based on that number. Our trips are not limited to Prime Timers so if your non-member friends would like to attend they are welcome under the same terms. If we cancel a trip due to insufficient numbers we will, of course, return your checks for deposits and payments. Our trip planning committee will be working on the excursions for the 2026-2027 Prime Timers year early this summer. It is suggested that members bring their checkbooks to each meeting for event deposits since sometimes opportunities arise with short notice. Our June meeting, on June 5th, which is our final meeting until September, will be a pizza party at 1:30pm. There is no cost for this to Prime Timers members whose dues are paid up and \$3 per person for non-members. Prime Timers membership is open to anyone age 50 and up and meets on the first Friday of each month September through June at 1:30pm (1pm coffee/and) in Marian Hall.

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.



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 - Columbette Baby Shower Chair
Katherine Bennett - St. Philip Preparatory School
NJHS Adviser



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.

We will have a committee meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd in Marian Hall at 7 PM.

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 homemade 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. We would appreciate if you can sell them to family friends etc over the next two months until June 20th. More tickets 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 people's 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.



AROUND TOWN

Societa' Franese di Mutuo Soccorso

Presents their annual Festa Frainese
In honor of Santa Maria Mater Domino

Sunday, June 14th at Holy Face Monastery in Clifton.
12:30 PM Mass (outside) Italian and English following procession with the band.

2:00 PM A Variety of tasty Italian foods served in the picnic area

4:30 PM Procession with statue of our own Mater Domini will conclude the religious festivity.

Music – Fun – Friendship – Family

Please bring your own chair

Food will be available for Purchase.

Please note that on Sunday, May 31st there will be a candlelight procession and benediction at 7:30 PM at the Holy Face Monastery.

For any questions, please contact Nick at (973) 778-9328.

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.



THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Valentina Lilia, Beau Campbell,
and Noah Arnold*

*Lucia
Grace*



*Isabella
Aquino*

*Charlotte
Susannah*



"WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

Q: *Father, why does the Gospel for the Ascension not actually describe Jesus ascending into heaven? ☁️ 🤔 Why does Matthew say that some disciples still "doubted" even after seeing the risen Jesus? And why do some places celebrate the Ascension on Thursday while others celebrate it on Sunday? ✝️*

A: This Gospel is fascinating because it emphasizes not the mechanics of the Ascension—but its meaning.

Unlike Luke and Acts, Matthew never explicitly describes Jesus rising into the clouds ☁️. Instead, the Gospel ends with Jesus standing on the mountain, giving the Great Commission: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." 🌍 🔥

Why? Because Matthew wants us to focus not on Jesus "leaving," but on Jesus **remaining**. The final line is the key: "I am with you always, until the end of the age."

✝️ ✨ The Ascension is not Jesus abandoning the world. It is Jesus entering into a new mode of presence—reigning gloriously while remaining with His Church through the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, and the sacraments 🌿 🏠.

Then comes a surprising line: "When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted." 🤔 This detail is actually powerful evidence for the reliability of the Gospel. If the story were invented, why include doubt at all? The apostles are not portrayed as naïve or gullible. They struggle, hesitate, and wrestle with what they are seeing.

The word "doubted" here does not necessarily mean total unbelief. It can also mean hesitation, awe, or uncertainty before something overwhelming. Imagine standing before the risen Christ 👑 ✨. Their reaction is both worship and astonishment.

This strengthens the Resurrection accounts. The disciples were not easily convinced dreamers. Something dramatic happened that transformed fearful men into bold witnesses willing to die for Christ 🔥.

Now, why Thursday or Sunday? 🗓️ Traditionally, the Ascension is celebrated **40 days after Easter**, because Acts 1:3 says Jesus appeared to the disciples for forty days before ascending. That places the feast on a Thursday ✝️ ☁️.

However, in many dioceses in the United States and other countries, the celebration is transferred to Sunday. Why? Because the Church desires more faithful to participate in this important solemnity 🙏. The celebration itself does not change—only the pastoral scheduling.

The Ascension is not about Jesus disappearing into space 🚀 ☁️. It is about Christ taking His glorified humanity into heaven and opening the way for us.

The disciples looked up into heaven—but Jesus immediately sent them back into the world 🌍 🔥.

And that is still the mission of the Church today: to worship Christ, even amid questions, to trust His presence, and to bring the Gospel to all the world.

PILGRIMAGE 2026



PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: May 11, 2025	\$18,102.00
Sunday Collection: May 10, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 10,776.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,900.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,676.00
SECOND COLL.- PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,360.00

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS EASTER!

EASTER COLLECTION 2025	\$ 55,039.00
EASTER COLLECTION 2026 (YTD)	\$ 52,976.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
May 24- Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

The Recently Deceased...

Eileen Tuske, Gracia Crisostomo



A Time to be Healed...

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, Daniel DiRocco

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Louis P. Degnan Connie Andolino Michael Petullo Thomas B. Hayes, Jr. Louis F. DeStefano- 25 th Anniversary
12:00	Deb Sirvidio Fred Baram

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

9:00 AM	Thomas Adamo
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TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

9:00 AM	John Divine Salvatore Scafidi
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

9:00 AM	Olympia Coelho
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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

9:00 AM	All Souls in Purgatory
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FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

9:00 AM	Margaret Calligaro Irene Chmura
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SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

9:00 AM	Dorothea Anthony Jose Luis Santana
5:30 PM	Bill Wittig- 1 st Anniversary Kathryn Miragliotta Frank Cannata

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

8:00	Joseph Drelich Sam Raia
10:00	Deb Sirvidio Marie Rup Jeremiah Frain Connie Andolino
12:00	All the People of the Parish

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- From his daughter



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