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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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**Pentecost Sunday**

**May 24, 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.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Almost 2000 years ago on this day, the Church was born. The Church would be nothing without the Holy Spirit. The Church couldn't have been born without the Holy Spirit, and she could not live today without the Holy Spirit. Where the Church is strong, it's because of the Holy Spirit. Where the Church is weak, it's because the Holy Spirit is not given His due.

When I say "where", I don't just mean in different parts of the world. It's true that the Church is stronger in some parts of the world than others. Certainly, the Church in the Western world is not as strong—doesn't live the Gospel with as much fidelity—as the Church in many third-world countries. In countries where the Church has fewer material resources, the Church tends to be stronger, for opportunities to experience the suffering Christ are more present, whereas the West fosters an antisepic culture in which many wear blinders.

When the event of Pentecost occurred almost 2000 years ago, the apostles were greatly changed by their "encounter" with the Holy Spirit. How were they changed? The Holy Spirit didn't make them taller, richer or stronger. The Holy Spirit doesn't try to change us in these ways, because He isn't interested in our bank accounts, or the vehicles we drive, or our looks, but only the state of our souls.

So how were the apostles changed? What did the apostles "get out of" their encounter with the Holy Spirit? It was a spiritual change, certainly, but we need to be more specific. The apostles didn't receive the Holy Spirit in order to help them feel good about their relationship with God. The apostles didn't receive the Holy Spirit in order to tickle the ears of others by preaching about sunshine and daffodils, but instead to call others to an adult faith: that is, to a catholic faith that preaches and lives out even the hard teachings of the Church.

This is just as true today. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to apostles and prophets, clergy and lay people, in the first and twenty-first centuries, in order to build the Church on earth by means of self-sacrifice. There are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To each person the Holy Spirit is not given to make him feel

better about himself. The Holy Spirit is given to make possible greater self-sacrifice.

We receive the Holy Spirit in simple ways. Among other examples, we receive the Holy Spirit when devoutly reading Scripture, and by carrying out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. But as we receive Him—as we grow spiritually—the gifts and graces of the spiritual life that we receive are to be laid at the feet of others.

We see this when we look at the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Through Baptism, a person becomes a member of the Church: an individual member of the Body of Christ. Through Confirmation, a person is prepared to offer his or her life in service for the sake of the Church, for the sake of that Body of which he or she is one member.

The Holy Spirit leads us in our spiritual life. He leads us in making decisions about how to serve the needs of others. There are countless opportunities to do good each day of our lives. But we cannot do them all.

Likewise, we sometimes ask God to help us accomplish something: to help us see how to get something done that we want to do. We often need to realize, though, that the Holy Spirit is not going to show us how to do something that He has no interest in us doing in the first place. If we do not feel that God is guiding us, it may be because that path would lead us in a direction that God does not want us to travel.

At this conclusion of Eastertide, ask God to help you to be open to the Presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Ask this not simply for your own sake, but to help you seek and serve the needs of others, because no one can find salvation on his own.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## PLEASE NOTE

In observance of  
Memorial Day  
on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>,  
Mass will be celebrated  
at 9 AM.

The Church will be  
closed following Mass.  
The Parish Office will  
be closed.



## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Pre-K 3 class is working on letter X. We are discussing shapes and patterns, and discussing sizes: small, medium and big.

We are also discussing butterflies and their life cycles.



**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

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTES



#### MONTHLY MEETING

The Columbiettes meeting for May will be held on Thursday, *May 28th*. Our Social time refreshments will begin at 6:30 pm followed by our

regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

Please remember to bring new or gently used pocketbooks filled with toiletries to this meeting. Please do not make the pocketbooks too heavy.



#### 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)

### PRIMETIMERS

The Johnny Cash Review Show for June 18<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.



## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **SIGHT AND SOUND TRIP**

Join Us for Our Soul Nourishing Trip to:

SIGHT & SOUND Live Stage Theatre  
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## **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 in the Parish Office  
May 1-July 6, 2026.



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTES FOOD DRIVE



Saturday, June 6, 2026  
10am to 2pm

### STOP AND SHOP

Broad Street, Clifton  
Please support the  
Columbiettes  
Donations will benefit  
Father English Center and  
St. Michael's  
Food Pantries



## KIDS KORNER

**< KID'S >**  
**KORNER**

Gospel Today | Pentecost Sunday | John 20:19-23 Year A

Jesus said "Peace Be With You". Jesus wants us to feel peace within our hearts. He helps us by forgiving us when we do something wrong, as long as we are sorry. Jesus also asks us to forgive others.

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### COMMUNICATION IS A BIG WORD!

It means we can talk and interact with people, and understand each other. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they spoke in different languages and everyone understood. Today is the Feast of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brings us PEACE, LOVE, UNDERSTANDING and FORGIVENESS.



## "WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** Father, why does Jesus breathe on the disciples and say, "Receive the Holy Spirit"? 🕊️  
Did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit twice—once on Easter night and then again at Pentecost? 🤔 Why would they need the Spirit twice?

**A:** This Gospel is filled with deep theological meaning and gives us one of the clearest biblical foundations for the Church, the sacraments, and the Holy Spirit 🔥 ✝️.

First, notice what Jesus does: "He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" 🕊️ 🕊️ That action is not random. It deliberately echoes **Genesis 2:7**, when God breathes life into Adam. In other words, Jesus is performing a kind of **new creation**. Humanity fell through sin; now Christ, risen from the dead, breathes divine life into His apostles. This is a powerful hint of Jesus' divinity 👑 ✨. Only God gives the breath of divine life.

Then Jesus gives them authority: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." 🙏 This is foundational Catholic teaching. Jesus is not telling the apostles merely to announce forgiveness symbolically. He gives them real authority to forgive sins in His name. This becomes the basis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the apostolic ministry of the Church ✝️.

But what about Pentecost in Acts 2? Did they receive the Holy Spirit twice? 🔥 🕊️ In a sense, yes—but for different purposes.

On Easter night, the Spirit is given inwardly for **new life, peace, forgiveness, and apostolic authority**. The disciples are renewed spiritually. Pentecost, however, is the public outpouring of power for mission 🌍 🔥. Think of it this way: Easter evening is the Spirit breathed *into* the Church; Pentecost is the Spirit poured *out through* the Church.

This actually happens throughout Scripture. God often gives deeper outpourings of grace for new missions and responsibilities. Even today, Catholics experience this pattern sacramentally: Baptism gives the Holy Spirit 💧, while Confirmation strengthens and empowers the gifts of the Spirit 🔥.

Notice also the transformation of the apostles. On Easter night, they are still behind locked doors 🚪 in fear. At Pentecost, they burst into the streets preaching boldly to the nations 🌍. The same Spirit is at work—but now in fullness and power.

Pentecost reminds us that Christianity is not merely a philosophy or moral system. The Church lives because the Spirit lives within her 🕊️ ✨.

The risen Jesus still breathes life into His people. The Spirit still forgives, strengthens, and sends. And the fire of Pentecost has never gone out. 🔥 🙏



## PILGRIMAGE 2026



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

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 A DAY TRIP TO GIBRALTAR!

For more details, please contact:  
**FR. EMERSON**  
 at [efrancisco@stphilip.org](mailto:efrancisco@stphilip.org)

## PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: May 18, 2025	\$15,007.00
Sunday Collection: May 17, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 8,670.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,740.00
TOTAL	\$ 15,410.00
SECOND COLL.- PETER'S PENCE	\$ 2,153.00

Upcoming Second Collections:  
 June 7 - S. American/ Latin/ AM/ OVS

## 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, Kate Doyle

## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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

### MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

9:00 AM	Rocco Carlucci- 41 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Jeremiah Frain
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### TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

9:00 AM	Elmer Gentolia
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### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

9:00 AM	Emily Sokerka Laura Slasinski
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### THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

9:00 AM	Joseph Scafidi- 21 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
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### FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

9:00 AM	Sal and Frances Monteleone
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### SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

9:00 AM	Virginia Sipin- Special Intentions Mark Schram
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

8:00	Samuel Raia Richard Kochan
10:00	Thomas Hayes, Jr. Fran Kobernick Patricia Ann Larson John DeSomma
12:00	Fred Baram Jean Alix Jolly

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24

In Memory of Irene Chmura- 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary



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