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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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## The Most Holy Trinity May 31, 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,

It is easy for the most important words of our faith to become the most familiar—and therefore the least noticed. Phrases like “Trinity” or “divine life” can drift past us without resistance, like background noise we no longer register. Yet at the very center of Christianity stands a claim so bold, so startling, that it ought to arrest our attention every time we hear it:

“God became man so that man might become God.”

This ancient expression, echoed by the early Fathers of the Church, is not a piece of theological exaggeration. It is a direct statement of the Christian vision of salvation. The Son of God entered into human life not only to forgive sins, not only to teach, but to draw humanity into the very life of God Himself.

At first hearing, this can sound misleading—if not dangerous. To “become God” might suggest power, control, or transcendence in the worldly sense: the ability to dominate, to bend reality to one’s will, to rise above others. But that is precisely the misunderstanding the Gospel corrects. If we want to know what it means to share in the life of God, we must first look at who God reveals Himself to be.

In the book of Exodus, God describes Himself to Moses in strikingly relational terms: “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, rich in kindness and fidelity.” These are not the attributes of domination, but of patient, enduring love. They reveal a God who is not in competition with His creation but deeply committed to it.

The same pattern continues throughout the New Testament. St. Paul speaks of “the God of love and peace,” urging believers to reflect that same unity in their lives. And in the Gospel of John, perhaps the most famous line in all of Scripture declares: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” Here, the very identity of God is revealed not in self-assertion, but in self-gift.

To become like God, then, is not to acquire power—it is to enter into love, the love that is God’s essence: “God is love” (1 John 4:16). It is to become merciful and gracious, to grow slow to anger, to abound in kindness and faithfulness. It is to become a person of peace. More than that, it is to become someone capable of genuine sacrifice: willing to give not what is easy or surplus, but what is most deeply cherished, for the good of another.

This vision can feel both beautiful and demanding. It asks more than moral improvement or self-optimization. It calls for a transformation of the heart, a reorientation of one’s entire way of being. And yet, it is not something imposed from the outside. It is an invitation—an invitation to share in a life that is already being offered. It is an entrance into the life of grace.

One way to glimpse this mystery is through the experience of music, particularly in a symphony. A symphony is not a collection of isolated performers, each striving to stand out. Nor is it a rigid uniformity where individuality is erased. Instead, it is a unity composed of distinct parts, each defined by its relationship to the others. The violin, the cello, the trumpet—all retain their unique voices, but their meaning emerges only within the harmony of the whole.

No one in a symphony seeks to overpower the rest. If even one musician tries to dominate, the music collapses. The beauty of the symphony depends on a shared commitment to something greater than any individual contribution. Each player must “live the life” of the music—listening, responding, and giving of themselves in a way that sustains the unity.

This offers a helpful analogy for the life of God. The Christian understanding of the Trinity is not a puzzle to be solved, but a reality to be entered: “God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange” (Catechism 221). God is not solitude, but communion: a life of perfect, self-giving love shared between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To be drawn into that life is to be drawn into relationship—into a way of existing that is defined not by grasping, but by giving.

And this begins not at some distant point beyond death, but here and now. Every act of patience, every choice for mercy, every effort to seek peace, every quiet sacrifice made for another—these are not small or incidental. They are participations in the very life of God.

Within each person lies this extraordinary calling. Not simply to be good, or even to be the best version of oneself, but to be transformed—to share in a communion of life and love that does not end. The language may be ancient, but the invitation is immediate:

“God became man so that man might become God.”

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This month our school was full of American patriotism. We celebrate our 250 America semi-quincentennial. Our school was covered from top to bottom with American Monuments with red, white and blue colors, showing how proud we are to be American.

On Friday, May 15th our students celebrated with an Americano lunch or hamburgers and hot dogs, watermelon, apple pie and ice cream!.



On Saturday, May 16th our second graders made their First Communion and that evening there was a Family Bingo at the school.

We will be having our Color Run on Saturday May 30th, It is going to be full of color, a nice activity to do with family!

On June 1st we are going to have our field day, full of games and fun!

~

**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

### 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 to join us for our final meeting of the season in celebrating St Anthony. Mass begins at 6:30 on Monday June 8 in Marian Hall with our annual pizza party and fellowship to follow. We look forward to seeing our parishioners at our flower booth at the carnival!



### 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, 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.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTES FOOD DRIVE

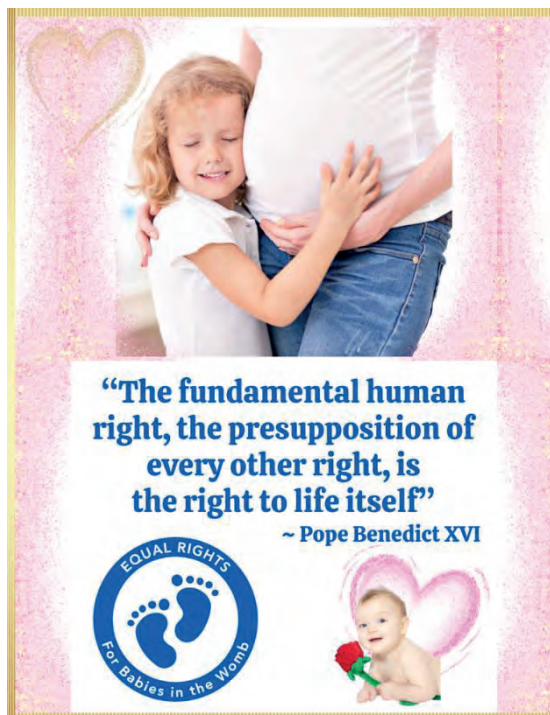
Saturday, June 6, 2026  
10am to 2pm

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



## LIFE MINISTRY



## 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.



## SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH  
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# A NIGHT OF PRAYER & REFLECTION



**JUNE 26, 2026**  
FRIDAY | 7PM  
MARIAN HALL

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
*FR. JEIDER BARRAZA*  
Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Clifton

Theme: "Salvation has come to this house"

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

## WEDDING BANNERS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:

*Matthew Bourquin and Priscilla Andrade*



## THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Mateo Dominic*

*Maximilian Antoni*



## "WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** *Father, on Trinity Sunday, why does the Gospel mainly mention the Father and the Son? Where is the Holy Spirit? And if the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible, why is this doctrine so important to Catholics?*

**A:** The word "**Trinity**" is not directly written in the Bible 📖—but the reality of the Trinity is revealed throughout Scripture. Catholics believe in **one God in three divine Persons**: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ☀️ ✝️ 🕊️. Not three gods. Not one God wearing three masks. One divine nature, three distinct Persons.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...*" ❤️ ✝️. The **Father** sends, and the **Son** is sent. But where is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not absent. He is hidden in the very word **love**. In Catholic theology, the Holy Spirit is often described as the **Spirit of Love** 🕊️ 🔥—the eternal love between the Father and the Son. The Father eternally loves the Son; the Son eternally loves the Father; and the Holy Spirit proceeds from that perfect communion of divine love.

This means God is not lonely or isolated. Before creation existed, God already was love—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in eternal communion ❤️ ✨. God did not create us because He needed love. He created us so we could share in the love He already is.

Scripture gives us many glimpses of this mystery. At Jesus' Baptism, the **Son** stands in the Jordan, the **Father** speaks from heaven, and the **Holy Spirit** descends like a dove 🕊️. At the Annunciation, the angel tells Mary that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the child will be called the Son of God.

One of the clearest passages is Matthew 28:19, where Jesus commands the apostles to baptize "*in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" Notice: **name**—singular—not "names" 👁️. Why? Because the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three gods. They share one divine Name, one divine being, one divine life.

Some say, "The Trinity is not biblical because the word is not there." But the Church does not build doctrine from one word alone. She receives the whole revelation of Scripture and guards its meaning. The word "Incarnation" is not printed as a Bible verse either, yet the truth is clearly there: "*The Word became flesh*" (Jn 1:14).

Why does the Trinity matter? Because it tells us who God is—and who we are. If God is Trinity, then reality itself is rooted in love, communion, and relationship. Salvation is Trinitarian: the **Father** sends, the **Son** saves, and the **Holy Spirit** sanctifies 🙏 🔥.

The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve. It is the divine life into which we were baptized—and the eternal love for which we were made.

**GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED**



*Hector and Michelle*

**PILGRIMAGE 2026**



**PARISH GIVING**

<b>Sunday Collection: May 25, 2025</b>	<b>\$14,454.00</b>
<b>Sunday Collection: May 24, 2026</b>	
<b>WEEKLY COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$ 8,649.00</b>
<b>ONLINE GIVING DONATION</b>	<b>\$ 6,259.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,908.00</b>
<b>SECOND COLL.- PROJECT FAITH</b>	<b>\$ 2,082.00</b>

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

**WE PRAY FOR...**

*The Recently Deceased...*

Charles Nisivoccia

*A Time to be Healed...*

Terry Kolenc, Wilson Torres, Arlene Pompeo, Tom Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario, Sally Conselyea, Margaret Sikora, Maria Torres, David A. Ricca, Daisy Troope, Christopher Ivan George, Jack Insinga, Evelyn Kovacs, Colin Jones, Daniel DiRocco, Kate Doyle, Robert Francis Sy

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**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

**MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026**

9:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026**

9:00 AM Gertrude and Fred Glinkin

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026**

9:00 AM Mildred Scrosia- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026**

9:00 AM Jessie DiDonna  
Maria Roque- Special Inentions

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026**

9:00 AM Grace Crisostomo

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026**

9:00 AM All the Souls in Purgatory  
5:30 PM Beth Bethencourt  
Fran Kobernick

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026**

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Marie D'Angelo Sr. Jeanne Agans Mary Feenan Thomas Adamo
12:00	Donald Muller- 9 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fred Baram

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