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Ms. Linda Siluk  
*Lay Trustee*

Mr. James Marrocco  
*Lay Trustee*

# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



@StPhilipClifton



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## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 21, 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,

During the first three centuries of the Church, being a Christian was no easy thing. Christianity was illegal. The first thirty-three popes were all martyred. For over three hundred years, to lead the Church from the Chair of St. Peter meant to be killed. It's no wonder that there arose in the Church such a reverence for the office of the Pope. In their earthly leader, Christians could plainly see the image of Jesus Christ, whose death opened the gates of Heaven.

Of course, it was not only the popes who became martyrs. Thousands of Christians from every walk of life—carpenters, farmers, mothers and fathers, tradesmen and fishermen, to name just a few—were martyred generation after generation until Christianity was made legal in the fourth century.

Once the Emperor Constantine joined the Church, Christianity became not just legal, but the religion of the Roman Emperor. Christian martyrs seemed a thing of the past. For hundreds of years thereafter, the Faith was wedded to the rule of empires, nations, and kingdoms throughout the world.

Unfortunately, this led to a different problem. Martyrdom often took another form. Instead of people being sacrificed, the Truth was at times sacrificed for the sake of world peace. The Faith was sacrificed at the altar of the secular.

Even in our own day, God asks us Christians to consider such a form of martyrdom. He asks faithful Catholics, the members of His Church, to stand on guard. We do not know when the truth is going to be attacked. Have you ever been surprised by something you've come across in the media which takes the truth and twists it? Have you ever heard the topic of the Church brought up in conversation, only to be met with laughs and sneers?

Throughout the Gospel accounts, you don't hear Jesus talk much about the Devil. Even when He was tempted by Satan in the desert, Jesus did not pursue Satan. Jesus simply fought against the temptations that Satan placed before Him. When Satan was through trying to tempt Jesus and fled the desert, Jesus did not give chase. The devil fled to fight another day, and century, and millennium.

In Sunday's Gospel Reading, Jesus says that what we receive within the walls of our parish churches we need to be willing to speak in public. We don't have to go searching for arguments. When we hear someone putting down the Church's beliefs, we ourselves are being put down. The Church is the Body of Christ, and we are all members of that Sacred

Body. When the Body of Christ is attacked, her teachings ridiculed, or her rights suppressed, we must be willing to speak out and at times even act against what is false and unjust.

But how do we go about doing that? Sometimes, just speaking out and saying that a remark is offensive makes someone understand his wrong doing. Yet sometimes we may be challenged by another to defend what the Church teaches, and that demands that we understand the Faith. This raises another important point about Jesus' words in Sunday's Gospel Reading.

There hasn't been a saint in the history of the Church who has completely understood everything that there is to know about the Faith. Nonetheless, we must be willing to explain as much as we do know. Furthermore, we must be willing to learn more than what we currently know, whether we do this by reading, watching television shows that accurately teach about the Faith, or simply by holding a conversation with knowledgeable Catholics.

Of course, the greatest resource we have at our disposal is God the Holy Spirit. Through Baptism we have received the Holy Spirit, and those of us who have been confirmed have been strengthened by the Spirit's seven gifts. Four of these seven gifts strengthen the human intellect to help us know the Faith: wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge. The other three gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthen our human will to help us spread the Faith: fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. All seven of these help us to speak Jesus' words in the light and to proclaim them on the housetops.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## THANK YOU, FR. EMERSON

Fr. Emerson will celebrate his final Mass with us on Sunday, June 28th. He will celebrate the 10:00 AM Mass. All are invited to the auditorium after Mass for a catered brunch.

Please RSVP for the brunch by June 22 using the link on our website at [www.stphilip.org](http://www.stphilip.org) or by calling Linda in the Parish Office at (973) 779-6200 if you are planning to attend.

## FROM FR. EMERSON

**Two years ago, I arrived as a stranger.  
Now, I leave with a family in my heart.**

Bishop Kevin Sweeney has assigned me as Parochial Vicar of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Parish in Cedar Knolls, effective July 1st. As I prepare to begin this new chapter of priestly ministry, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you.

From the very beginning, you welcomed me with open arms, generous hearts, and countless acts of kindness. Together we have celebrated the Eucharist, shared moments of joy and sorrow, marked important milestones, and grown in faith. These memories will remain with me for years to come.

I warmly invite you to join me for my final Sunday Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Parish on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM. It would be a great gift to pray together one last time and thank God for all that He has done among us.

Please continue to pray for me as I begin this new assignment. Be assured that wherever I go, you will always have a place in my heart and in my prayers.

With love and gratitude,  
Fr. Emerson



## FAITH FORMATION

### **Family Faith Formation Grades 1-8**

Online registration will be open soon.

Our parish is committed to forming disciples and supporting families in living out the Catholic faith together. Through our Family Faith Formation program, students in Grades 1–8 grow in faith alongside their parents.

At least one parent is required to remain on-site during Family Formation sessions and participate in classes with their children, creating a shared faith experience that strengthens the entire family.

We encourage children to begin Faith Formation in Grade 1.

Preparation for First Holy Communion is a two-year process: Grade 1 builds the foundation of faith, and Grade 2 focuses on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

We have finished the school year strong at St. Philip Prep!

The second graders have written goals for third grade, while the third graders completed their Solar System unit by creating paper mache planets. In Science, the fourth graders built and tested catapults and the fifth graders learned about motion and Newton's Laws by building balloon powered cars.

Our fifth grade Kaleidoscope students finished reading *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and wrote comparisons of the two main characters, Bruno and Shmuel. They concluded their novel study by watching the movie.

This past Monday, the sixth and seventh graders attended a retreat at St. Peter's Church in Parsippany.

We congratulate the sixth and seventh graders for putting on a wonderful performance of *Storybook!* Thank you Mr. Minio for your direction and guidance.

Our PreK and Kindergarten students celebrated their Moving Up Ceremonies and we know they are off to do great things!

Lastly, we wish our eighth grade Class of 2026 much success, good luck, and God's blessings as they move on to high school. As you spread your wings, always remember the strong foundation St. Philip Prep has given you.

~

**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

### **PRIMETIMERS**

#### **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.



## ST. PHILIP YOUTH SPORTS

St. Philip Prep Basketball Signups are now open for boys and girls entering 3rd to 8th grade for the 2026-2027 School Year.

This form **MUST** be filled out if your child intends to try out this fall for the 2026-2027 Basketball Season. (St. Philip School website hit dropdown box /Programs/ Athletics/ Basketball Sign-ups)

Please note: We play in a competitive league so prior basketball experience is recommended.



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### LIFE MINISTRY



"Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray they are heard."

~Sirach 3:5



## SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

A poster for Holy Hour featuring a golden sunburst with a cross in the center, set against a background of a church interior. The text "Holy Hour" is in a large, elegant script font. Below it, the text "to pray for PRIESTS" is in a smaller font. The dates and times are listed: "JUNE 28 5:00-6:00 PM", "JULY 26 5:00-6:00 PM", and "AUGUST 30 5:00-6:00 PM". At the bottom, there is a small icon of the Virgin Mary and the text "IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH 30 NORTH FULLERTON AVENUE MONTCLAIR".

*Holy Hour*  
to pray for  
**PRIESTS**

**JUNE 28**  
5:00-6:00 PM  
**JULY 26**  
5:00-6:00 PM  
**AUGUST 30**  
5:00-6:00 PM

  
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# A NIGHT OF PRAYER & REFLECTION



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

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

Theme: "Salvation has come to this house"

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

## DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES



Save the date  
for the  
Diocese of Paterson's  
*Gold & Silver*  
*Anniversary Mass*  
Sunday, November 1, 2026  
*Details and registration*  
*coming early fall.*

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Required



## "WHY, FATHER" by Fr. Emerson

**Q:** *Father, Jesus says, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna."* 🙄 +  
*What does this mean? Can anyone kill the soul? And who is the one we should fear?* 🙄

**A:** This is one of the most misunderstood sayings of Jesus. At first glance, it sounds frightening 🙄. But it is actually meant to give Christians courage.

Jesus is preparing His disciples for persecution. Some of them will be arrested, beaten, and even martyred ✝️. So He reminds them of an important truth: human beings can harm the body, but they cannot touch the soul.

This verse is also a powerful biblical argument for the **immortality of the soul** ✨. If the soul simply ceased to exist when the body died, Jesus' statement would make no sense. The soul survives physical death. This is why Catholics reject the idea that the soul is merely asleep, unconscious, or extinguished at death.

But then Jesus says, "*Fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.*" Who is this?

Some people assume Jesus is talking about the devil 🐈. But the devil does not have authority over the eternal destiny of souls. Only God is the Lord of life and judgment 👑.

In the Bible, the word "**fear**" when applied to God does not primarily mean terror. It means reverence, awe, and recognition of God's supreme authority 🙏. Jesus is teaching us to care more about our relationship with God than about human approval.

Notice the contrast. Human beings can only affect our earthly life 🌍. God is concerned with our eternal life ✨. Jesus is helping His disciples keep their priorities straight.

Then Jesus immediately gives a beautiful example. He speaks about sparrows 🐦. Not one falls to the ground without the Father's knowledge. He even knows the number of hairs on our heads 🙄.

So the message is not: "Be terrified of God."

The message is: **Do not be controlled by fear of people.**  
**Trust the God who loves you.** ❤️

The same God who has authority over eternity is the God who knows every sparrow, every tear, and every hair on your head.

That is why Jesus concludes by urging us to acknowledge Him before others +. The Christian's greatest fear should not be losing popularity, comfort, or even life itself.

Our greatest concern should be remaining faithful to the God who loves us and desires to bring us to eternal life.

## KIDS KORNER

**< KID'S >  
KORNER**

Gospel Today  
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 10:26-33

Year A

God created everything on earth, and He knows us right down to the hair on our heads. He wants us to listen to the word of Jesus, and believe. Whoever accepts Jesus on earth, will be accepted by His Father in heaven. The works of the Apostles continues.

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**SUMMER IS HERE!**

Look around at God's world. What is your favorite summer activity?  
Draw a picture of you and Jesus together. What are you doing?

Eating ice cream? Skating in the park?  
Swimming at the lake, beach or pool?  
Is your hair pulled up, or under a hat?

Don't forget to put sunscreen on!

**SWEET as HONEY**

Matthew 10:30  
Even the hairs of your head are counted.

Yes Honey, He sure is.

J.D., God is smart!

I mean really, really, really smart!

I can't even count how many hairs are in one curl, and He can count my whole head!

## PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: June 15, 2025	\$ 15,583.00
Sunday Collection: June 14, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 12,377.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,251.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,628.00
SECOND COLL.- PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,309.00

Upcoming Second Collections:  
June 28- Project Faith

## WE PRAY FOR...

### The Recently Deceased...

Orie John Zym

### A Time to be Healed...

Terry Kolenc, Wilson Torres, Arlene Pompeo, Tom Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario, 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, JUNE 21, 2026

8:00	Andrew and Emily Sokerka Msgr. Julian Varettoni
10:00	Daniel Mutter Generoso Spatola Teddy Roukas John Pogorelec, Sr.
12:00	Deceased members of the Kerner Family Salvatore Capriglione

### MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

9:00 AM	Belinda Benito
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### TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

9:00 AM	Sally Conselyea Vincenza and Giovanni Minervini
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### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

9:00 AM	James Hutchison
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### THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

9:00 AM	Ludovico and Josefina Bulacan Stevn Kessler
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### FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

9:00 AM	Joseph Scartelli Raul Paonessa
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### SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

9:00 AM	Victorino and Jose Payawal Florencio Lacuna- Special Intentions
5:30 PM	Jose Luis Santana Thomas Adamo Peter Coletti

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	John Pogorelec, Sr Fran Kobernick Peter Coletti Eileen Tuske
12:00	Fred Baram Biagio and Caterina Barone

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 21

In Memory of Jean Alex Jolly

### OFFERTORY FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 21

In Memory of Andrew and Emily Sokerka  
- From the DiDonna Family



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