

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. David Monteleone
Pastor
frmonteleone@stphilip.org

Rev. Emerson Francisco
Parochial Vicar
efrancisco@stphilip.org

Rev. Frank Lennie
In-Residence

Dcn. Robert G. Ayers
Deacon (Retired)
deaconbob@stphilip.org

Mrs. Barbara Zito
Principal
PrincipalZito
@stphilipprep.com

Mrs. Denise Pannullo
Faith Formation
dpanullo@stphilip.org

Ms. Vicky Velasco
Confirmation Program
vvelasco@stphilip.org

Mr. Frank Hydash
Director of Music
frankhydash@rocketmail.com

Mr. Carlos Arias
Maintenance Supervisor
carias@stphilip.org

Mrs. Patricia Pinke
Business Office, LYPC
ppinke@stphilip.org

Mrs. Debbie Neglia
School Secretary, LYPC
Debbie.neglia
@stphilipprep.com

Ms. Linda Siluk
Lay Trustee

Mr. James Marrocco
Lay Trustee

St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013
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Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 28, 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.



My Dear Parishioners,

All over the Paterson Diocese, many priests are in the midst of starting new assignments. Undoubtedly, some have mixed feelings about uprooting themselves and beginning again in a new part of the diocese. At such a crossroads, a priest knows to reflect upon Jesus' three years of public ministry.

Whenever we hear of Jesus' teaching and miracles, we have to be mindful that Jesus isn't just wandering from town to town randomly. He's a man on a mission. His mission is the Cross on that hill just outside Jerusalem. Jesus wants each of us to follow Him there.

At Sunday Mass, the Church's Sacred Liturgy will be marked by Ordinary Time for the next twenty weeks or so until the end of the Church year in November. Over the course of these twenty weeks our Gospel Reading each Sunday will follow this journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem.

Consider two points about this journey. Each relates to your own spiritual life, which is meant to mirror Jesus' public ministry.

First, reflect upon the sort of strength you need to persevere in the journey. There are two types of strength that are needed. There is moral strength on the natural level, which we can develop into moral virtues, especially the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. Then there is the spiritual strength that comes only from God's supernatural grace.

But think about how these two interact with each other. Atheists who want to be virtuous will rely only on the moral virtues, rejecting the idea of turning to God for His grace. Then on the other hand is the opposite, but also wrong-headed approach. This is the belief that only through God's spiritual strength can we make it through life. This false belief negates the need to cultivate the human, moral virtues. In other words, this second wrong-headed approach claims that a Christian can just receive the sacraments frequently without the hard work of cultivating the human, moral virtues.

The middle approach, which is the path that Holy Mother Church commends to us, is to integrate these types of strength. We need human, moral strength that comes from cultivating the virtues. We also need the divine strength that comes only from God's grace.

In theology, there's a basic principle that sums all this up. It asserts that "grace builds upon nature", or that "grace presupposes nature". Our human nature, including our human formation in all the virtues, is the foundation of our lives as persons. When God gives us His grace, even as powerful as grace is, it presupposes nature. If the natural foundation is not there, the supernatural grace washes away, so to speak.

Or to use a different analogy, think of a 100-floor skyscraper. If its foundation is made of sand, it doesn't matter if you build the upper stories with the strongest steel beams on the market. The whole building will eventually teeter, and then totter, and then the whole thing will collapse, including those strong, steel beams. This is the risk that each disciple faces in connection with God's grace, which must build upon the natural qualities that we do or do not have through human cultivation.

Given all that, reflect upon a second point. Reflect upon the peace that comes from following Jesus instead of following the call of the world. Jesus at the Last Supper said, "Peace, I leave you, my peace I give you" [John 14:27].

So how can we know this peace in our lives? It emerges when you focus your earthly days upon the two most important moments in your life. Whenever you pray the "Hail Mary", you speak of those two most important moments: now and the hour of your death.

Some live as if death will never arrive. Many live only for "now". Yet every "now" of our life bears a direct impact on which eternal dwelling God will send us packing for at the hour of our death. Everything we do now, or don't do now, bears on that moment at the hour of our death. Cooperating with God's grace at each earthly "now" will bring us peace not only at the hour of our death, but also during the eternity that inevitably follows death.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE



Throughout the Summer, beginning July 10th the Parish Office Schedule is as follows:

**Mondays thru Thursdays
8 AM to 4:30 PM**

Fridays 8 AM to 12 Noon

**Regular office hours will resume after
Labor Day.**

In observance of Independence Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM on Friday, July 3rd.

The Church will be closed immediately following Mass.

The Parish Office will be closed.



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



The entire St. Philip Prep community would like to extend our extreme gratitude to Principal Barbara Zito for coming out of retirement for one year to help our school.

We are delighted to announce that Jennifer Higgins will be our new principal.

Mrs. Higgins is a deeply trusted and familiar face in our community, having dedicated the past 12 years to Saint Philip Preparatory School.

During her tenure, she has formed strong bonds with our students and parents while mastering our academic curriculum. Most importantly, she deeply understands and respects the unique value of our school's rich history and traditions.

We are incredibly excited for the future of our school under her leadership. Please join us in welcoming Principal Higgins into her new role.

~

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.

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.

“WHY, FATHER?” by Fr. Emerson

Q: *Father, at the end of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says that whoever gives even “a cup of cold water” ❄️ 🍷 to one of His “little ones” will not lose his reward. Who are these “little ones”? And why does Jesus specifically mention a cup of **cold** water? 🤔 ✝️*

A: Many people assume that the “little ones” 🧒 refer only to children. While children are certainly included, Jesus means something broader. Throughout Matthew’s Gospel, the “little ones” are those who belong to Him—His disciples, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, and those who trust in God 🙏 ❤️.

Jesus identifies Himself with His followers. What we do for them, we do for Him. Later in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus will say, “*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*” ✝️

But why a **cup of cold water**? ❄️ 🍷 Today, cold water is ordinary. In the time of Jesus, however, cold water was a luxury. It often had to be drawn from a deep well or obtained from a fresh spring. It required extra effort and thoughtfulness.

Jesus is not merely talking about giving water. He is talking about giving the best welcome you can give. A cup of cold water says, “I noticed your need. I care enough to make an effort.” ❤️

The lesson is simple but profound: God’s Kingdom is often built not through spectacular miracles, but through small acts of love. Even the smallest kindness offered for Christ’s sake has eternal value ✨.

As this becomes my final “**Why, Father?**” column before my transfer to another parish assignment, I would like to thank all of you who have faithfully read these reflections in our bulletins.

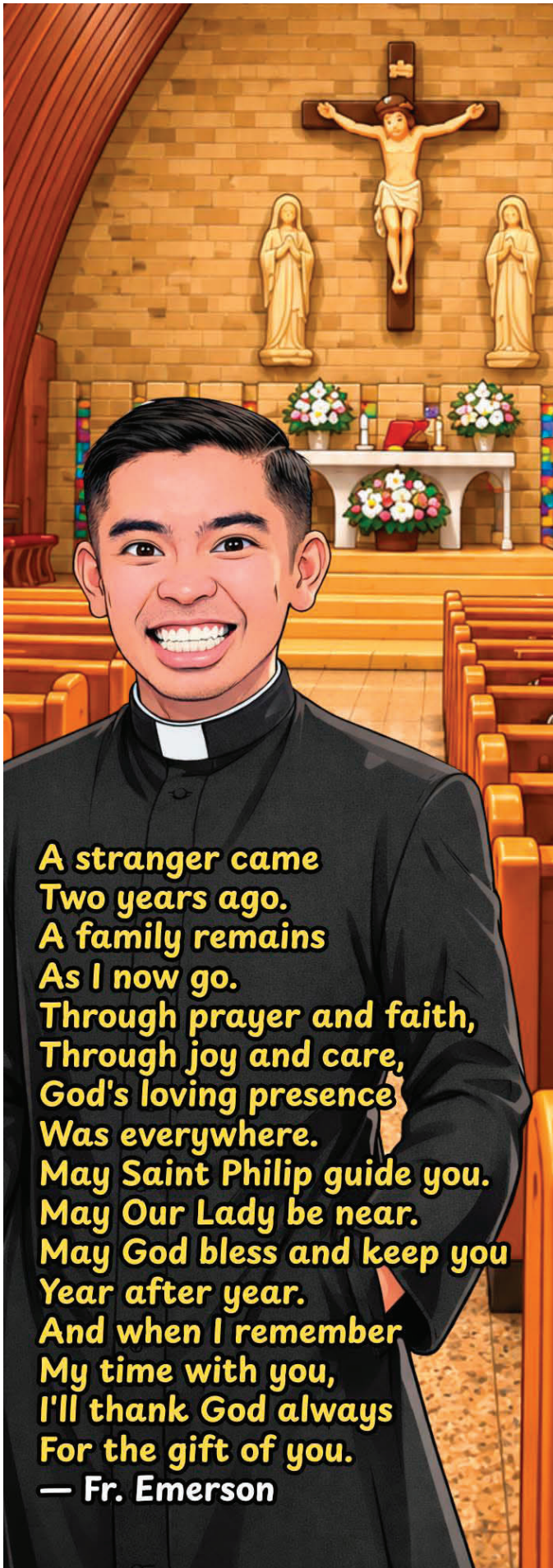
Thank you for your curiosity, your encouragement, and your desire to know our Catholic faith more deeply. Together we explored Scripture, the sacraments, Church teachings, and many of the questions that Catholics and non-Catholics alike often ask. 📖 ✝️

My hope has always been that these columns helped you discover that our Catholic faith is beautiful, reasonable, biblical, and worth living.

Please continue asking questions about our faith, continue seeking truth, and most importantly, stay close to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Thank you for allowing me to accompany you through these pages. May God bless you and Our Lady watch over you, always. 🙏 ❤️

- Fr. Emerson 😊



**A stranger came
Two years ago.
A family remains
As I now go.
Through prayer and faith,
Through joy and care,
God's loving presence
Was everywhere.
May Saint Philip guide you.
May Our Lady be near.
May God bless and keep you
Year after year.
And when I remember
My time with you,
I'll thank God always
For the gift of you.
— Fr. Emerson**

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Connor Aloysius



Nathan



Angelo Jack



Sienna Mae



Isabella Flora



Arianna Rose



August Matthew

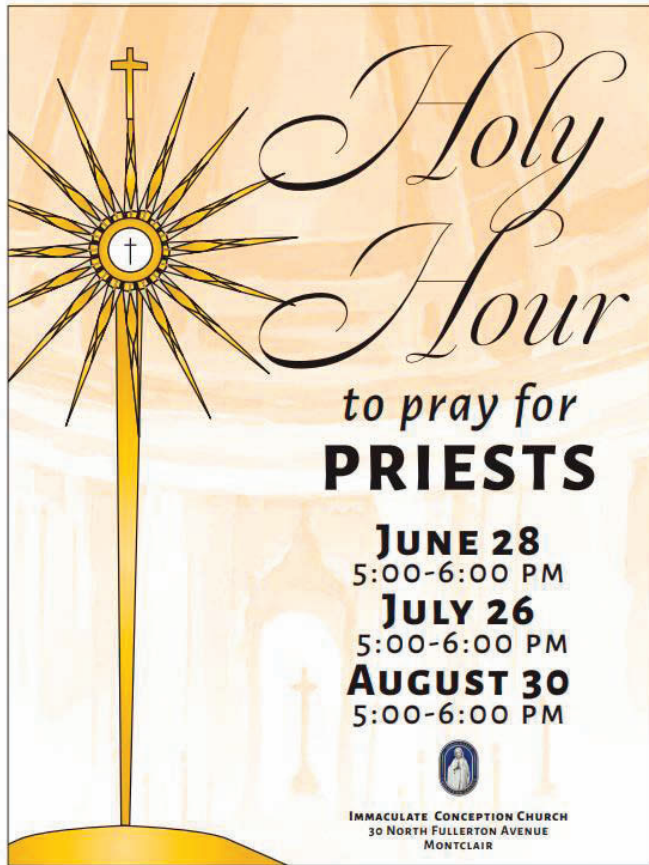
WEDDING BANNERS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:

Kevin Vicente and Karen Cuasay



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: June 22, 2025	\$ 14,443.00
Sunday Collection: June 21, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 10,863.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,956.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,819.00
SECOND COLL.- SEMINARIAN	\$ 2,825.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
 July 5- Beacon
 July 12- Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

The Recently Deceased...

Rudolph Dolfi, Evelyn Kovacs

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, Colin Jones, Daniel DiRocco, Kate Doyle

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026

9:00 AM	Emilia Rodriguez
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TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

9:00 AM	Joseph Torres- 18 th Anniversary
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

9:00 AM	Gerardina Spatola Melvin Banas- 2 nd Anniversary
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THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

9:00 AM	Antonio Volonnino
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FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

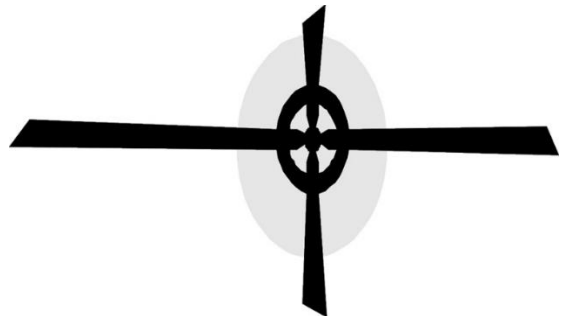
9:00 AM	Belinda Benito Raymond Parysz
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SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026

9:00 AM	Ralph Pennella Gregory Belous
5:30 PM	Jill Festa Gary Saurborn Anthony Barbary

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

8:00	Gary DeVos Jimmy and Sonia Bozios
10:00	Francesco Pugliano Grace Cristostomo Norma Rosales Veterans of U.S.A. Armed Forces
12:00	All the People of the Parish



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