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# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



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## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 5, 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,

I read this article in the National Catholic Register. It was excellent and gives good insight to how we can be Catholic and patriotic. I was written by Daniel Gallagher, a professor at Ralston College in Georgia. I hope you enjoy it and it can bring two topics together for us American Roman Catholics.

Each Independence Day is an opportunity to appreciate anew the distinctiveness of being Catholic and being American. If there were any doubts one could be good at both, they were dispelled by the last conclave.

Yet the issue of whether and how one can — and indeed should — cultivate patriotic values while practicing the Catholic faith continues to evolve in unprecedented ways. This is only natural since the Catholic faith necessarily orients us toward eternal life in a way that earthly citizenship does not. That leaves room for discussion and debate about the relationship between Church and state, religious and civic duty, and law and freedom.

The Catholic tradition is blessed with a long history of thinking through these issues. St. Augustine made the radical claim that, for Christians, the love of God should prevail to the extent that all earthly concerns and individual desires are to be subjugated to it.

In the pagan worldview, the two were indistinguishable. It was impossible to tease out civic duties from religious duties and vice versa. Polytheistic worship and sacrifice were not only permitted in ancient Rome, but considered a sacred civic duty. If neglected, ruin could ensue upon the empire. No major political decision was made, no battle undertaken, without meticulous consultation of the auspices, which consisted primarily in the interpretation of avian innards.

Christianity, Augustine explains, disentangles the two, such that individuals can be citizens of the City of God and of the Earthly City since everything — family, commerce, government — can be shaped by the love of God and contribute to man's proper end of union with Him. Paganism, on the other hand, considers the world — the "cosmos" — the ultimate horizon, and the gods are part of the world. The gods are the highest and best, but, unlike the Christian God, they are nonetheless part of the world.

Christian faith, in contrast, sees the necessities of the world and the essentials of the cosmos as contingent upon the free, unnecessitated choice of the Creator. For Christians, the world or "cosmos" is *not* the ultimate horizon, but rather the result of

God's generosity and his free act of creation. In Christianity, it is possible to conceive the world as never existing, something impossible for the pagan mindset.

Why is this important for patriotism? Because it allows for a kind of civic and religious freedom that was simply unthinkable in the ancient world. It opens up space for an "immunity of coercion" that allows men and women to fulfill their duty of worshipping God based solely on the exigences of the City of God.

"It is one of the major tenets of Catholic doctrine that man's response to God in faith must be free" (*Dignitatis Humanae*, 10). This means that a constituent part of American Catholics' devotion to their nation is their indebtedness to the freedom enshrined in their nation's founding principles. To observe Independence Day is to gratefully acknowledge that we live in a country that recognizes and affords the freedom to direct not just our religious practices but our civic activity toward the City of God.

If we fail to revisit the distinction between the Christian and pagan worldviews outlined above, we slide into a suspicion of the freedom afforded by our country. To guard against this suspicion, we must also remember that the very liberty our country affords us also affords us the freedom of tying that liberty to truth. This is also a bedrock of Catholic social teaching, as evident in a wonderful encyclical by Pope Leo XIII from 1888 entitled *Libertas Praestantissimum* (On the Nature of Human Liberty).

Leo called attention to the essential bond between human freedom and truth, noting that a freedom which refuses to be bound to the truth descends into mere arbitrariness and submits itself to self-gratification and vile passion.

More than a century later, Pope John Paul II, in *Centesimus Annus*, would recall that the origin of every evil Leo XIII wanted to respond to in *Libertas Praestantissimum* and *Rerum Novarum* is a kind of freedom, "which, in the area of economic and social activity, cuts itself off from the truth about man." The devotion to one's country known as "patriotism" instills in one's heart a love for a nation that explicitly acknowledges and professes an obligation to honor and protect a freedom that, for Catholics, is not only in accord with human dignity but essential for pursuing the City of God in a manner consistent with the Gospel itself.

Leo XIII and John Paul II were both aware that the citizens of a nation such as ours could fall woefully short of living in accord with the ends toward which civic freedom is directed. They also both knew that if a state curtails civic and religious freedom for that reason — i.e., the reason that there is

no guarantee the citizens will bind that freedom to truth — the consequences will be even more disastrous. Thus, “whenever heretics or innovators have attacked the liberty of man,” wrote Leo XIII, “the Church has defended it and protected this noble possession from destruction.” He then lists moments in history, such as during the crises of Manichaeism and Jansenism, when the Church proclaimed and defended human freedom with particular earnestness.

Pope Leo XIV has made it clear that such freedom is also absolutely crucial for the kind of interreligious dialogue that can promote world peace.

“I believe that religions and interreligious dialogue can make a fundamental contribution to fostering a climate of peace,” he [told](#) members of the Diplomatic Corps May 16. “This naturally requires full respect for religious freedom in every country, since religious experience is an essential dimension of the human person. Without it, it is difficult, if not impossible, to bring about the purification of the heart necessary for building peaceful relationships.”

This 250th Independence Day, as American Catholics wave the Stars and Stripes, march down Main Street, and honor the men and women who have served their country, they should have no fear that *this* is the kind of freedom their Church teaches and promotes. This is the kind of patriotism their Church encourages. This is the kind of liberty that can lead us to the City of God.

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.**



## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Registration is ongoing through the website [www.stphilipprep.com](http://www.stphilipprep.com).

Summer hours for the month of July are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7 am - 2 pm.

If you need assistance with your registration, call Mrs. Neglia at 973-779-4700 ext 2.

## 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 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.



## WEDDING BANNERS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding vows:

*Kevin Vicente and Karen Cuasay*



## GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Nico Tello*

## SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



## DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

Accompany Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney (Diocese of Paterson, NJ) along with Fr. David Wells (St. Martin of Tours, MD), his brother, Kevin Wells (author of "Priest and Beggar"), and Fr. Ian Wintering (Seaton Catholic Prep., Chandler, AZ) on a 4 day pilgrimage to Mexico City.

This life-changing pilgrimage will take place from Friday, September 18- Monday, September 21, 2026. Experience the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe- the most visited Marian shrine in the world. See the miraculous tilma of St. Juan Diego (an image created by God) and attend a pilgrim Holy Mass with the Bishop at the Basilica. Go to Tepeyac Hill where the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego and see so much more. Next, travel to the Sisters of Mary at the World Villages for Children (WVC) Girlstown in Chalco, Mexico, to witness how the Sisters are transforming the lives of impoverished children in the most desperate circumstances through education, faith formation and vocational training.

Act Fast! Limited Space Is Available.

Register online by August 18, 2026 at:

<https://worldvillages.org/events/sweeney-wells>

For tour inquiries email:

[pilgrimages@worldvilages.org](mailto:pilgrimages@worldvilages.org) or Call: 1-800-662-6316



# MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

**OCTOBER 17, 2026**

## THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Tours of the chapels
- Confessions in Crypt Church
- Catechetical Sessions in English and Spanish
- Divine Mercy (multi-lingual)
- 2:30 p.m. Liturgy w/Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney and priests of the Diocese



## ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE

- Transportation and Gratuity
- All day activities at the Shrine
- Rest stop going - Meal stop on return
- Depart Washington at 4:15 p.m.

\$70/person Deadline: Oct. 1, 2026

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE OFFICE

Father Michael Rodak, director  
973-827-8030  
pilgrimage@patersondiocese.org



## OVERNIGHT OPTION - DEPART FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- Friday visit the Museum of the Bible with lunch
- Accommodations at Westin Hotel
- Friday banquet w/Bishop Sweeney
- Saturday Breakfast at hotel
- Transportation and Gratuity

\$325/dbl. occ. \$395/sgl. occ.  
Call Pilgrimage Office to register.  
Deadline: Sept. 11, 2026



## PARISH GIVING

**THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.**

Upcoming Second Collections:  
July 12- Project Faith

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *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, Isabel Pereiras



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

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

### MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

- 9:00 AM Jerry T. Scrosia- 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

### TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026

- 9:00 AM Rudy and Helaine Pohle  
Romula L. Genato

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

- 9:00 AM Steven Amato- 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

- 9:00 AM James Carolan  
Sally Conselyea

### FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

- 9:00 AM Walter Tarnowski  
Thomas DiSanto

### SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

- 9:00 AM Jerry Jaucian  
Denise Papay
- 5:30 PM All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

- 8:00 Marie M. and Henry Marrocco  
Evelyn Kovacs
- 10:00 Angel Doria  
Maria Guarinello  
Deceased members of the DiBiasi and  
Kimberley Families  
Lydia Campbell
- 12:00 Luis A. and Clemencia Cruz  
Luis E. Cruz and Gozalo Cruz

### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>

In Memory of Jill Festa



# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 11:25-30

Blessed are the children and child-like who are open to receiving the Word of Jesus. Living His Word will give peace and rest.

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### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words...  
left, right, up,  
down or diagonally.

Some of the words are  
listed two or three times,  
can you find them?



- Blessed
- Children
- Open
- Receiving
- Praise
- Father
- Lord
- Heaven
- Earth
- Living
- Word
- Jesus
- Knows
- Peace
- Revealed
- Come
- Burdened
- Take
- Learn
- Meek
- Gentle
- Humble
- Heart
- Rest
- Find
- Yoke
- Upon
- Easy
- Light

N	O	R	B	D	N	I	F	A	F	E	S	A
R	P	G	G	E	N	T	L	E	A	R	T	H
H	U	M	B	L	E	V	N	S	T	S	E	D
A	E	E	K	A	T	B	Y	H	H	E	K	I
E	N	G	Y	E	H	L	S	L	E	M	O	C
S	G	N	I	V	I	E	C	E	R	A	Y	C
U	N	I	R	E	N	S	A	L	E	A	R	N
E	E	V	N	R	P	S	K	V	J	D	G	T
C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	N	E	P	O	H
A	E	L	R	K	A	D	O	L	S	N	A	G
E	V	O	E	C	I	R	W	O	U	O	D	I
P	W	E	S	T	S	I	S	R	S	P	A	L
R	M	H	T	D	E	N	E	D	R	U	B	W

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