

PASTORAL TEAM

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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



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Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 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.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

A pastor of a west coast parish became frustrated by the number of people in his community who were not coming to church on Sunday, so he formed a committee to investigate it. They eventually sent out this letter.

Dear Parishioner,

You are registered here in the parish, but we have noticed that you do not come to mass on Sunday. So, we have designated next Sunday as *There Is No Excuse Not To Come To Church Sunday*. We have worked diligently to eliminate any excuse for not joining us for worship.

"Next Sunday cots will be provided for all who feel that Sunday is their only day to sleep in. Coffee and eye drops will be available for those who insist on staying out late on Saturday night. Steel helmets will be provided for those who claim that if they ever walk into a church the roof will fall. Sweaters will be provided for those who feel the church is too cold; fans for those who feel the church is too hot. There will be scorecards available for all who wish to keep track of the hypocrites who come to church on Sunday. We will have gift certificates for area restaurants for those who feel that they must stay home and cook. Finally, we are decorating the sanctuary with Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them."

The letter caused a good deal of discussion. But ultimately very few people decided to come back to church on a regular basis. This should not be surprising because you cannot argue, shame, or force people into accepting the value of church community.

Seeing the importance of a faith community is a gift, a gift that is connected to faith in Jesus Christ. This is clear in today's gospel. Peter makes a strong profession of faith in Christ. He says, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." The very first thing that Jesus reminds Peter is that his faith does not come from flesh and blood, but from the revelation of our Heavenly

Father. Peter did not believe in Christ because he was smarter or more observant than other people. He believed because he had been gifted with faith that comes from a God who loved him. The same is true for us. We have faith in Jesus Christ not because we are particularly intelligent or good. We believe because God has loved us and gifted us with faith. There is a mystery here. Why do we believe in Christ and there still are so many good and intelligent people in the world who do not share in that faith. Why is it that people we love, and we would deeply desire to believe, sometimes cannot do so. The only explanation is that we have been given faith and others have not. We should respond to such a gift in humility and in thankfulness.

Faith is a gift. It is a gift connected to community. This is also clear in today's gospel. After Peter professes his faith, Jesus establishes the church. He proclaims that it is upon the rock of Peter's faith and faith like Peter's, that his church will stand. Faith and church community go together. People who say they believe in Christ and yet to not associate themselves with a believing community have an incomplete faith, because the entire witness of Israel and of the scriptures testify that believing and church go together. In choosing Christ we do more than make an individual decision to believe, we also commit ourselves to brothers and sisters who believe the same thing with us. Faith in Christ requires a place where we worship God with others and serve one another in Jesus' name.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

2027 MASS BOOK

**The 2027 Mass Intention
book will open at
9 AM on Thursday,
September 10th.**



To accommodate everyone, please be mindful that we limit Mass Intentions to five (5) per family.
(2 Weekend /3 Daily)

You can always offer more Masses during the year.
Recommended donation for Mass Intention/Card
and Weekly Vigil Candle dedication and
sponsorship are \$20.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

We hope our students are enjoying their summer, exploring the world and making memories with their families and friends. We can't wait to hear all about their adventures.

Summer work and supply lists are available on the school website. www.StPhilipprep.com
Can't wait to see everyone on September 8th for the first day of school.

~

St. Philip Preparatory School is growing—and we couldn't be more grateful!

Thanks to increasing enrollment, we are excited to share that every grade level has been split into two classes—a wonderful milestone for our school community.

We have already welcomed several outstanding new teachers to our school family and are looking forward to an exciting school year ahead.

We are still seeking a Full Time Intermediate Social Studies and Religion Teacher and a Little Kaleidoscope Teacher for our gifted and talented program, which is a part time position, 8AM -12 PM Monday- Friday.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team, please visit <https://rcdop.org/job-opportunities> to complete an application or contact the school office for more information.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We look forward to a wonderful year at St. Philip Preparatory School!

~

Registration is ongoing through the website www.stphilipprep.com.

Summer Office hours for the month of August are Monday - Friday, 7 am - 2 pm.

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

FAITH FORMATION

**Missing Baptism, First Communion,
or Confirmation?**

Want to be a fully initiated Catholic?

We know life gets busy and takes us away from what we intend.

Allow us to help and walk with you on the journey of life in faith!

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

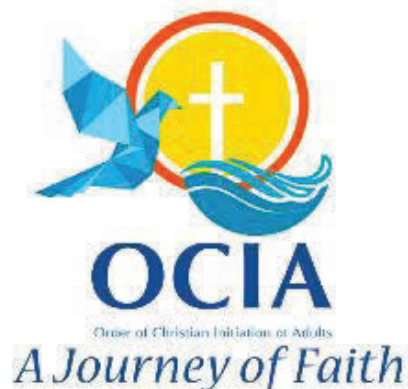
ADULTS at Saint Philip

will meet beginning

September 2026.

Let us know if you'll join us:

Call the Parish office or email lvalenti@stphilip.org



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

St. Philip's Troop 21 will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary at the 5:30 mass on Saturday, September 12th. A small reception with cake and coffee will be held after the mass. If you would like to join them to commemorate this milestone, please call Theresa Hogan at (201)787-0640 or email theresahogan292@gmail.com



KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS

St. Philips the Apostle
Knights of Columbus Council 11671
Presents our
17th Annual Bob Martin Memorial
Golf Outing



Preakness Valley Golf Course
October 12, 2026

**10 AM Registration & Breakfast. 12:00 PM
Shotgun Start**

Tickets \$200.00 per person includes,
Golf

Breakfast In The Morning
Proceeding Golf full Cocktail Hour with Prizes

For more information or to buy tickets, please
contact:

John Szerencsits 973-650-6938

Rob Martin 201-390-3325

Dennis Fitzpatrick 973-271-9577

Register on line at

**[https://st-philips-k-of-c-golf-
outing.perfectgolfevent.com/](https://st-philips-k-of-c-golf-outing.perfectgolfevent.com/)**

WEDDING BANNS

The following couples will be
exchanging wedding vows:



*Arvin Bagasala & Alyanna Argueza
And
Jose Torrealba & Grandalis Rosa*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Knights of Columbus
2026 “Coats for Kids” Drive

We will again be collecting contributions for our
annual Coats-for-kids Drive
beginning Sunday Aug 16 through Sunday Oct. 25.

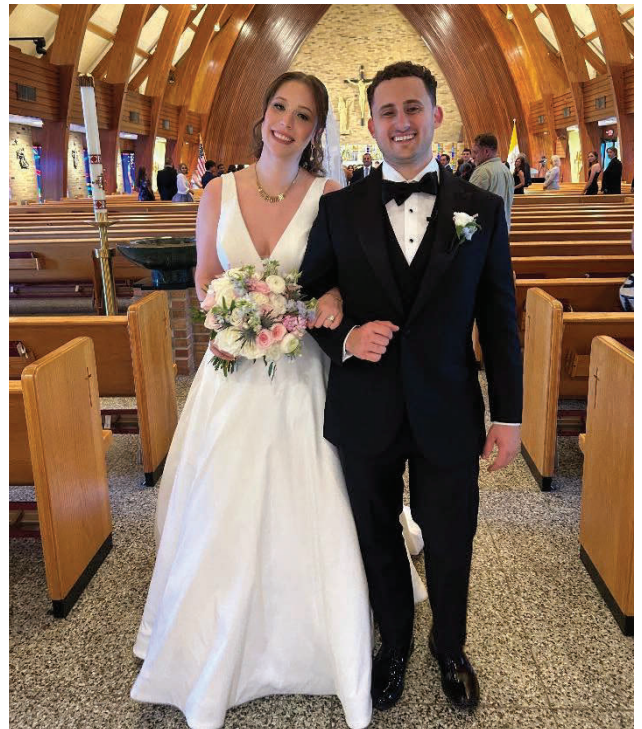
Last year, through the
generosity of everyone we were able to give out
over 200 warm winter coats to
our less fortunate neighbors right here in Clifton.

We’d love to surpass that this
year as the need is still great. Coats cost us
approximately \$285 per box of 12 but
all contributions, great or small, help out
tremendously. Please make checks out
to K of C Council 11671, note in the memo area

Coats 4 Kids and mail them to the
address below or drop the envelope into the
collection basket.

St. Philips Knights of Columbus
Coats-4-Kids
797 Valley Rd.
Clifton, N.J. 07013

GOD BLESS THE NEWLYWED



Daniel and Paulina

PLEASE NOTE

Throughout the Summer, 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.



KIDS KORNER

< KID'S KORNER >

Year A

Gospel Today | 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 16:13-20

In today's gospel, according to **Matthew**, after receiving The Holy Spirit, Peter's **faith** was solid as a rock. When Jesus asked "Who do you say that I am"? Peter responded "You are the **Messiah**, The **Christ**, The **Son** of the Living God".

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Who do you say I AM?

Jesus told Peter he was the **rock** upon which He would **build** His **church**. Peter who was firm and dependable would begin the **formation** of the church and the **key**. The symbol of Authority, would be given to him.

- The bold words are found in the puzzle -

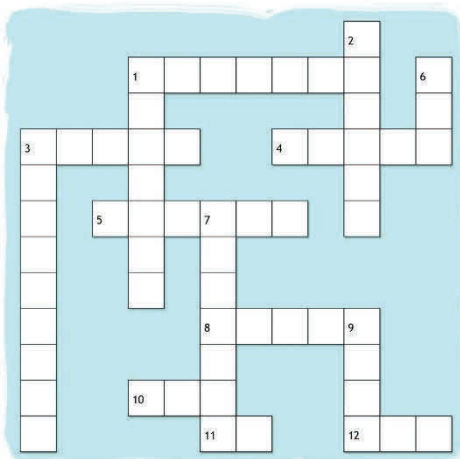


ACROSS

- 1] The Promised One
- 3] Peter's ____ was solid as a rock
- 4] To construct
- 5] A place we go to worship
- 8] The Apostle who responded to Jesus
- 10] Jesus is The ____ of God.
- 11] Jesus said "who ____ you say that I AM".
- 12] What we use to open a locked door

DOWN

- 1] Today we read the gospel of ____.
- 2] Jesus is The Messiah, or ____.
- 3] The act or process of forming
- 6] Our Father, The Almighty
- 7] To give an answer
- 9] Solid, natural mineral object



**On this rock I will
build my church.**



PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: August 17, 2025	\$ 20,428.00
Sunday Collection: August 16, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 8,838.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,079.00
TOTAL	\$ 15,917.00
SECOND COLL.	\$ 1,922.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
September 13-Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Grace Alfieri

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, James Jablonowski, Michelle Garcia

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

8:00	Peter Sienicki
10:00	Elaine M. Nielsen Evelyn Kovacs Clifford Muddell Joseph Payne
12:00	Maria Anna and Leonardo Scelfo Ernest Kolenc

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

9:00 AM	Peter Paul Sienicki, Jr
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TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

9:00 AM	Grace Alfieri
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

9:00 AM	Frank Slasinski
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

9:00 AM	Francis, Miriam and Kevin O'Brien Gloria Peterson- 7 th Anniversary
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026

9:00 AM	Marie Rup Peter Sienicki
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

9:00 AM	Marlene Chidiac- 4 th Anniversary
5:30 PM	Elizabeth Serafini Gracia Crisostomo Patricia Donlevy

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Maria and Vincent Rubino Viola R Vogel Gloria Reyes- 1 st Anniversary Peter Sienicki
12:00	Walter Tarnowski- 2 nd Anniversary Louise Stolarz

A JOURNEY TO MUSEUMS & CHURCHES IN WASHINGTON D.C.

\$325

- Based on double occupancy
- Single supplement is available for an additional +\$100



October 12-13, 2026 (Mon to Tues)

Package inclusions:

- Transportation:** Round-trip travel via an air-conditioned motor coach.
- Lodging:** Standard hotel accommodation
- Meals:** including 2 breakfasts & 1 dinner
- Guided Tours:** Professionally led tours at the Museum of the Bible, Franciscan Monastery & Saint John Paul II Shrine
- Religious Services:** Mass at the historic Crypt Church
- Entry & Fees:** General admission ticket to the Museum of the Bible, Gift offering to Monastery & SJP II Shrine, Driver & Tour Guide gratuities

Places to visit

- ✓ Museum of the Bible
- ✓ Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- ✓ Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America
- ✓ St. John Paul II National Shrine

Booking Policy

All payments are strictly non-refundable upon booking. Seats are limited & allocated on a first-paid, first-served basis

Registration Deadline

September 10, 2026

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Parishioner, Lector

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