

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. David Monteleone
Pastor
frmonteleone@stphilip.org

Rev. Frank Lennie
In-Residence

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

Mrs. Jennifer Higgins
Principal

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

www.stphilip.org ~ (973) 779-6200



@StPhilipClifton



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Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 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

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah"

My dear parishioners,

Today's Responsorial Psalm comes from Psalm 95. The last section of Sunday's Responsorial ties most directly to the rest of the day's scriptures. The refrain of the Responsorial comes from this final section and is a paraphrase of Psalm 95:7-8: "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." One notable feature of this sentence is that it speaks in the plural. Its command is to "harden not your hearts", not "your heart". Psalm 95 is a "community psalm", to use a modern phrase. As so many of the psalms make clear, they were composed for liturgical worship, which by its nature is communal rather than individualistic.

This is good to remember when we as Christians are tempted to reduce our faith to something simply between "me and Jesus". Just as in Jesus both the divine nature and human nature fully dwell, so living one's faith in Jesus means both fully loving God and fully loving one's neighbor. As soon as we prefer one of these to the other, our faith is no longer focused squarely in Christ.

This leads us to ask why Psalm 95 exhorts us not to harden our hearts when we hear the Lord's voice. What about the Lord's voice might tempt us to do so? The answer is two-fold.

The first is that He commands us to love Him with faith. During the Exodus, God's people demanded signs from God of His power. This is what Psalm 95 is referring to directly. In our own lives each of us sins when we lose faith in God's providential love, in which all things—even sin and evil—work together for good, in the words of Saint Paul [Romans 8:28].

We are also tempted to harden our hearts when the Lord's voice calls us to love our neighbor, especially in the form of forgiveness. Here the Responsorial Psalm ties together this Sunday's other Scripture passages. The Second Reading explains God's command that we love our neighbor. The First Reading and Gospel Reading focus on God's command to love our neighbor by offering fraternal correction.

Offering fraternal correction can easily lead to the hardening of one's heart. It can lead to cynicism and self-righteousness or can be thwarted by our fear of the other's response. But these threats to our spiritual peace don't excuse us from the Lord's

command. One of the helpful points from today's Gospel Reading is that Jesus situates our need to offer fraternal correction within the setting of the Church.

In only two passages in all the four Gospel accounts does the word "church" appear. In fact, these two passages are very close to each other: in chapters 16 and 18 of Matthew. In both, Jesus gives His Church the power "to bind and to loose". In today's passage, Jesus explains that He's speaking about that power in the context of a brother's sin.

Jesus is very clear about the steps that need to be taken. The first step is to speak directly with the sinner himself before discussing the matter with others. God demands that a sinner not be tried, convicted, or sentenced in absentia, because it's the sinner's welfare that is at stake as much as the welfare of the one who is sinned against. In our modern throw-away culture, we may not wish to love the criminal, but only the victim. Jesus is calling us to love both, as He Himself did on His Cross.

Here's a practical suggestion for the next time you need to offer fraternal correction. If you struggle to offer fraternal correction, whether because your heart is fearful or callous, go first to God in the Sacrament of Confession. Admit there your own sinfulness to Him who is the Father of both you and the one whom you must correct. Being on the receiving end of Divine Mercy will help form you into a bearer of mercy. The experience will also help you approach your brother with a love akin to that which Jesus showed on the Cross. This is the love that effects communion within the Church, and that makes Jesus present in the midst of us.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE

In observance of Labor Day on
Monday, September 7th,
Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM.
The Church will be closed immediately
following Mass.
The Parish Office will be closed.



9/11 MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

25th anniversary of 9/11

Mass of Remembrance

Please join us as we gather in prayer to remember and honor the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

We remember. We pray. We will never forget.

Friday, September 11th at 7 PM

St. Philip the Apostle Church



Also on Friday, September 11th following the 9 AM morning Mass, we will have a Holy Hour for Peace.

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.

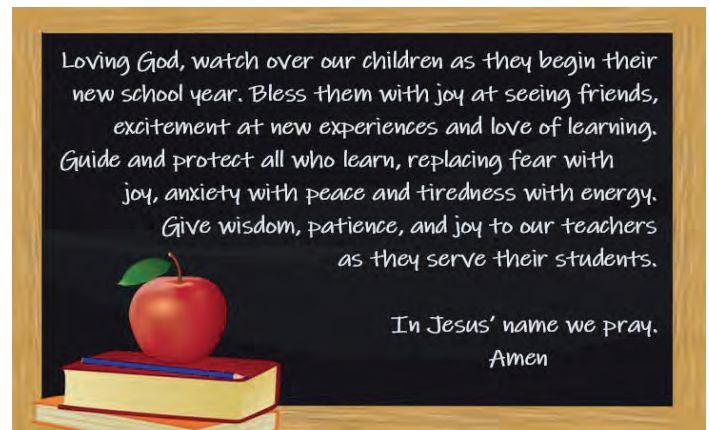
ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER



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 Middle School ELA Teacher and a Little Kaleidoscope Teacher for our gifted and talented program for the 1st and 2nd grades, 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!

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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

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



You are invited to join us for the
National Day of Remembrance
for Aborted Children
Saturday, September 12, 2026
All are welcome to join us.

We will attend the 9 AM Mass and after Mass we
will have a prayer vigil in the Church.

For more information please call
Sharon Festa 973-464-6608
or John Hughes 973-897-8860

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16,
2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. This will be the
beginning of our 15th year! All crafters are welcome,
crocheters, knitters, sewers, quilters, etc. You do not
have to be a Columbiette to
join.

We welcome all yarn and new fabric
donations. Thank you to Terry, Edvie, Janet, and Rita
for their generous donations. Please call Cathie
Murtha for more information and donations. [\(973-471-1265\)](tel:973-471-1265)

PRIME TIMERS

The first meeting of St. Philip's Prime Timers will be
held on Friday, September 11th, Patriots Day, at
1:30pm in Marian Hall, coffee/and at 1pm since the
first Friday of September is Labor Day weekend.
Anyone age 50 and up is eligible to be a Prime Timers
Member, dues are only \$15 per year per member.
Invite your family and friends to join our happy
seniors.

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



COLUMBIETTES

SAVE THE DATE
COLUMBIETTES FUNDRAISER
Outback Steakhouse



191 Berdan Avenue
\$20.00 per ticket
Valid only on:

Monday, October 5th to Thursday, October 8th 2026
Each ticket includes 1 appetizer per 2 tickets, choice
of entrée, salad, choice of side and dessert. This does
not include gratuity. The back of the flyer/ticket lists
the menu options. This flyer/ticket is good for lunch,
dinner or take-out. For further information or to
purchase tickets, please call Pat at 973-975-7744 or
email pattyscarp@aol.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/)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE ADULT CHOIR

Join us for rehearsals Mondays at 7:00pm

Season begins September 14th

Sing at the 10:00am Mass on Sundays
September - June

New Singers Welcome - high school age and up!

Questions? See us after mass!

Frank Hydash, Music Director

or

email: dorothyd318@gmail.com



FR. ENGLISH COLLECTION

Once again our parish is having a Food Collection for Fr. English food pantry in Paterson the weekend of September 19th and 20th. The usual list of nonperishable items is as follows: canned tuna, chicken, pasta and sauce, mac and cheese, peanut butter/jelly, cereals, condiments, beans, lentils, soups, and canned fruits.

You have always been so generous and I leave you with this quote: *You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works. Pope Francis*

LIFE MINISTRY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DIOCESE
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Altar Servers Day

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Free

- Fun Games & Sports
- Lunch & Dessert
- Mass & Eucharistic Procession with Bishop Kevin Sweeney

SAINT PAUL INSIDE THE WALLS
205 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ 07049
Contact Vocations Office for information:
973 777 8818 ext. 711

Registration Required

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: August 31, 2025	\$ 15,711.00
Sunday Collection: August 30, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 13,200.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,397.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,597.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
September 13-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, James Jablonowski, Michelle Garcia

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

8:00	Rose Aliga Bernabé Begazo Aliga
10:00	Helen Dressel Norma Rosales Kevin Duff For the protection and safety of all Law Enforcement officers & all 1 st Responders
12:00	All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

9:00 AM	Andrew Sokerka Elsa Muñoz
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

9:00 AM	Rocco Carlucci Kathryn Miragliotta
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

9:00 AM	Valerie Paternoster
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

9:00 AM	Robert Parillo Deb Sirvidio- 1 st ANniversary
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

9:00 AM	Giuseppe Spatola Emily Sokerka
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

9:00 AM	National Day of remembrance for Aborted Babies.
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish Marie Rontondo- 7 th Anniversary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

8:00	Theresa and Joseph Raia Chris Dujets
10:00	Angel Doria Eileen Tuske James Hutchison James Hogan
12:00	Antonio B. Garcia Catherine Hughes- 10 th Anniversary

CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6

In Memory of Deb Sirvidio- 1st anniversary
- From her friend, Mary Farkas

OFFERTORY WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6

In Memory of Shirley E. Stover
-From the Jarkowsky Family

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Parishioner, Lector

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