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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 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,

Jesus' teaching on the Church in Matthew 18 begins with two important realities: reconciliation and forgiveness. Last week the Gospel reading focused on reconciliation. Today, it turns to the other side of the coin: forgiveness. Jesus' teaching answers three simple questions: How many times do I have to forgive? What does it mean to forgive? And why forgive?

Peter walks up to Jesus and asks, "If my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Peter thinks he is being generous. But Jesus responds, "Not seven times but seventy-seven times." This isn't a debate about mathematics. Jesus is saying: forgive always.

Jesus' reference to seven and seventy-seven is intentional. The only other place in Scripture where these numbers appear close together is Genesis 4, in the story of Lamech. Earlier in the chapter, Cain murders his brother Abel and then goes off to found his own city founded on this way of being human. His descendants, then, gradually descend further into violence. We are told that Lamech, the seventh generation (a sign of the "fullness" or "completion" of this descent) boasts about killing a young man who had challenged him: "I didn't just give seven times the vengeance—I'm Lamech—seventy-seven times the vengeance!"

Whatever forgiveness is, it is incredibly counter to our nature. We are used to living according to the logic of "Cain's city": you do something to me, I get you back. Jesus' reference, then, to Cain's city reminds us how old this dynamic is. If we are going to be part of God's kingdom—if we are going to leave Cain's city and this old way of being human—things are going to have to change.

So, what does Jesus mean by forgiveness?

Jesus teaches us with a parable. A servant owes his master an enormous debt—ten thousand talents, an amount so large that it could never be repaid. The master, moved with compassion, forgives the entire debt.

But that same servant immediately encounters a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller amount. Though the man begs for patience, the servant refuses and has him thrown into prison. When the master hears what happened, he says, "I forgave you your entire debt. Shouldn't you have done the same?"

The language of the parable is that of debt. The Greek word for "forgive," *aphiemi*, means "to release, to let go, to drop." Forgiveness means releasing someone from the debt they owe you.

When someone wrongs us, they are, in a sense, "in our debt." There are two ways out: the

person who wronged you can "pay"—which is justice—or you can "pay," absorbing the debt yourself. This is forgiveness.

It sounds like a strange idea. Why would you do that? Because in God's kingdom, mercy becomes our new natural reaction. In the city of Cain, unbridled revenge is the name of the game. In God's city? Unbridled mercy.

It is also important to notice what Jesus does not mean by forgiveness. Forgiveness does not mean allowing someone to continue walking all over you. Forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same thing. Reconciliation is a two-way street. If someone sins against you, reconciliation requires that they own up what they have done, repent, and change. Forgiveness does not mean pretending things are back to normal. Restoration is a separate matter. Jesus commands us to forgive; he cannot command reconciliation, because reconciliation is not entirely within our control.

But why should we forgive?

We could talk about the psychological reasons: resentment and unforgiveness are poisonous to us, and holding onto anger often punishes us as much as anyone else. Those things are true and important. But there is a deeper reason.

Can you think of a moment in Jesus' life when he was being hurt, and he chose to forgive? On the Cross, Jesus prays, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Here Jesus is being sinned against—through a sham trial, false charges and an unjust execution—and he prays that God would forgive.

On the Cross, Jesus enters into solidarity with the human condition of sin and violence. He is living in the fullness of "Cain's city." If he were operating according to its logic, he would have fought back. Instead, he forgives. Why? Because he knows how God's Kingdom works. The Father will make it right. The Resurrection is the promise and proof of that.

As disciples, then, every moment in which we are called to forgive becomes our own participation in the life of Christ and in the Cross. Everyone wants to say that being a Christian is about loving God and loving our neighbor—and that is true. But this is where the "love your neighbor" rubber hits the road: Do you love them enough to forgive them?

It is easy and natural to live in Cain's city. To live in God's Kingdom is something else. God forgives us as we forgive others. So don't be stingy with forgiveness.

Ask yourself: Do I love my neighbor enough to forgive them?

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

A Note of Gratitude from Fr. Paul

Friends,

It is a great joy for me to begin this new chapter of my priestly ministry here at St. Philip's. My name is Fr. Paul Vincent Octubre, and I come from the Philippines. I was ordained a priest on December 12, 2020, and before coming to St. Philip's, I was formed and served as a member of the Society of St. Paul, a religious congregation dedicated to evangelization through the modern means of communication. Through this ministry, I had the opportunity to share the Gospel through media, publishing, digital platforms, and other forms of communication, helping bring the message of Christ to people in the midst of their everyday lives. This experience deepened my love for the Church, for God's people, and for the many creative ways the Lord continues to reach hearts and invite people into a relationship with Him.

As I begin my ministry here, I am truly excited to get to know you and to become part of your lives and this parish community. I look forward to journeying with you in faith—to celebrate the Eucharist and the sacraments with you, to pray for you and with you, and to accompany you through the joys and challenges of life. I also look forward to learning from you, sharing life with you, and discovering together the many ways the Lord is at work in our parish.

I am especially grateful to Bishop Sweeney for accepting into the Diocese of Paterson and to Fr. Monteleone, our pastor, for welcoming me so warmly, and to the parish staff and all of you who have already made me feel at home. Thank you for opening your hearts to me and welcoming me into this wonderful parish family. As I begin my ministry among you, I ask you to please keep me in your prayers, as I promise to keep you in mine. I am very happy to be here, and I look forward to the journey ahead with all of you.

Blessings,

Fr. Paul Vincent Octubre
Parochial Vicar



Welcoming Back Our Eagles!

We are excited to welcome back our Eagles for another wonderful school year!

We are especially happy to welcome so many new faces to our school community. With over 320 Eagles this year, the nest is very full!

Our youngest Eagles in Early Childhood recently participated in orientation, where they had the opportunity to get acclimated to the school, meet their teachers, and begin making new friends. Across the school, students are spending these first days getting to know one another and building relationships with their teachers.

Our first reading of the year reminded us of an important lesson: we can do great things when we work together. What a wonderful message to carry with us as we begin this new school year! We warmly welcome all of our new members of the faculty and student body. We are grateful to have you as part of our community and look forward to a year filled with learning, friendship, faith, and growth.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead as we spread our wings and soar!



COME WORK WITH US!

We are still seeking a Little Kaleidoscope Teacher for our gifted and talented program which is a part-time position. Teaching 3rd and 4th grade math and reading to our 1st and 2nd graders.

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!

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



2027 MASS BOOK

The 2027 Mass Intention book is now open!

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.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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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-
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COLUMBIETTES

SAVE THE DATE

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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.



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)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

CONSOLATION MINISTRY

Are you able to comfort during times of loss, able to
support during funeral liturgies? Perhaps consider
joining our consolation ministry.
Contact the Parish office.

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Sing at the 10:00am Mass on Sundays

September - June

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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*

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

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LIFE MINISTRY

Rachel's VINEYARD
Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK
RESPECT LIFE
Office of the Archdiocese of Newark

2026 Retreat Dates

February 13-15, 2026
September 25-27, 2026

For more details, contact Cheryl Riley,
Director of the Respect Life Office by
phone at 201-912-3272 or email at
Cheryl.riley@rcan.org

Hope... Healing... Forgiveness

DIOCESAN EVENTS

GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



Couples, were you married in 2001, 1976 or 1966? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60th, 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 3:00pm.

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is Friday, October 16, 2026.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed.

Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

IN THE AREA

Corazón PURO NEW JERSEY

A Heart Made New

Sept. 20
Young Adults 18 - 35

Prince of Peace Chapel
219 Pompton Rd Haledon NJ
4pm

Talk | Holy Hour | Mass | Fellowship

Speakers: Claudia Romani, Fr. Agustino CER, PRIEST

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Anna Rose

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED

Alyanna & Arvin



Glendalis & Jose

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: September 7, 2025	\$ 17,862.00
Sunday Collection: September 6, 2026	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 11,959.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,440.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,399.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
September 27-Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Joan Marie Damato, Margaret Natoli

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 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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

9:00 AM	Carlos Ricardo Reyes- 7 th Anniversary
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

9:00 AM	Martin Sudol- 1 st Anniversary
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

9:00 AM	Daniel Mutter Evelyn Kovacs
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

9:00 AM	Evelyn Kovacs Martin Sudol- 1 st Anniversary
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

9:00 AM	Grace Alfieri
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

9:00 AM	Grace Alfieri
5:30 PM	Mario Capalbo Lena Tice Jose Luis Santana

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Generoso Spatola John Pogorelec, Sr. Eugenia Riggio Esser and Provost Families
12:00	Al Mayewski Ruth Brown

CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13

In Memory of Evelyn Kovacs



OFFERTORY WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13

In Memory of Evelyn Kovacs



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