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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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Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 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,

Likely you've seen those license plate frames with sayings on the top and bottom. One of them states: "Insanity is hereditary: you get it from your children." We might say that the capacity to drive others insane is something we're born with. My parents would agree with this! The capacity for self-sacrifice, however, must be acquired.

The capacity for self-sacrifice is the measure of authenticity in the Christian life. By contrast, the world around us encourages us to do what is contrary to the path that Christ asks us to walk. Instead of choosing self-sacrifice, we choose self-glorification and self-gratification. Or in contrast to Christ's path of self-sacrifice, we fudge a little bit: we make sacrifices, but not of our selves. We sacrifice things to which we have no attachment. We're like the child on Ash Wednesday who proudly announces that he's giving up spinach and homework for Lent.

Our children receive our attention regarding the discernment of their vocations, and rightly so. But our efforts will be of no avail if we don't help each young person free himself to accept whatever call God makes of him. In other words, putting knowledge about vocations into our young people's minds is not enough.

A vocation is also a matter of the will. After all, education in any subject requires a shaping not only of the intellect, but also of the will. Any school that only gives knowledge about math, English, music, etc. is largely wasting its time. If a school doesn't first give its students a love for those subjects, then the knowledge will likely evaporate after the final final exam.

Love in the will must be the start of seeking knowledge. Yet the will also has a role at the end of education. The will takes the acquired knowledge and puts it into action, whether practical or speculative, secular or sacred.

A similar process has to guide a young person's search for his or her God-given vocation. It's not enough for the young person to learn what that vocation is. The young person also has to want what is learned. The young person has to want whatever God wants for him or her. But for a young person to be able to want whatever God wants, a change has to happen inside the young person.

A young person's own fallen human will has to be purified like the biblical gold that's tried in fire, so that what emerges is the capacity for self-sacrifice. This is the capacity described poetically by Saint Paul in Sunday's Second Reading, where he paints a portrait of self-sacrifice in the Flesh, in the person of Jesus, who, "though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave ... He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

For sinners to grow in this capacity requires purification. For while it's true that each human being is conceived and born with free will, that free will is tempted from the start by selfishness. Any parent of a two-year-old can tell you that his favorite word is "No!", while his next favorite word is "Mine!" Unfortunately, self-will doesn't disappear on a child's third birthday. We human beings don't spontaneously become more selfless as we grow older. Instead, we learn social skills that help us mask our selfishness. Giving up our selfishness is something that comes only with difficulty.

To accept a vocation in Christ is to recognize that my life is not "mine", but "His". To live a vocation in Christ is to say "Yes!" to God's Will for me. God our Father calls us to spend our earthly lives not like the first son in Jesus' parable: saying "No" to the father's will, and only later doing it. Nor does God will for us to be like the second, who's all talk and no follow-through. To call God our Father means to be a child who not only says "Yes" to Him, but also always puts the words that we mouth inside church into action during the week when we're outside church and in the world.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

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 be starting shortly.

Let us know if you'll join us:

Call the Parish office
or email lvalenti@stphilip.org

PLEASE NOTE

For security purposes, on weekdays, the church will
be open for the 9 AM Daily Mass and
close at 12 Noon.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

It was another busy week at Saint Philip, with lots of learning happening throughout the building and an exciting new addition to our school day!

This week we officially opened the Eagles' Café, and it was a huge success! Students enjoyed meals prepared by Chef Todd and his crew, and the reviews were definitely positive. Many students said the food exceeded their expectations, with some even calling it the best school lunch they have ever had! We are looking forward to enjoying all of the different meals on the menu in the weeks ahead.

In the classrooms, our youngest Eagles are continuing to settle into their routines while building important early skills. Early Childhood students are practicing writing their names and numbers, learning classroom procedures, and making new friends. Kindergarten students are also working on their penmanship and developing good writing habits.

Our Intermediate students are putting their creativity to work as they learn about and write mystery stories, while our fifth-grade mathematicians are learning about decimal place value. Middle School students have been working on 9/11 essays, allowing them to reflect on the events of September 11 and their significance. A lot is happening at Saint Philip as our Eagles continue to learn, grow, 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.



GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Ryan Joseph



Cora



WEDDING BANNS

The following couples will be exchanging wedding vows:



Peter Nazario & Nikaela Baldovino

~

Mark Bigica & Theresa Natoli

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DIOCESAN WORKSHOP

Navigating the Annulment Process

Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

St. Philip the Apostle Church – Marian Hall (Located along St. Philip's Drive)

Entry: \$10 – Will be returned after the session

Do you have questions about the annulment process? Presenter: Rev. Marc Mancini, JCL, Judicial Vicar, will lead this session and give step-by-step support for those going through this difficult experience.

Register using this link:

<https://insidethewalls.org/navigating-the-annulment-process>

~

GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 2001, 1976 or 1966?

The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60+, 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!



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

The annual Troop 21 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held in the St. Philip the Apostle Auditorium on Sunday, October 11th from 8 am to 12 pm (last seating at 11:30 am). Prices: Adults \$18.00, seniors \$15.00, and children 12 and under \$10.00. Children under 4 eat free with a paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please come enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice & coffee and support Troop 21! For more information please contact:

troop21clifton@gmail.com



COLUMBIETTES

COLUMBIETTES FUNDRAISER

Outback Steakhouse

191 Berdan Avenue, Wayne, NJ

\$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.

Tickets will also be sold after the Masses on the weekends of September 26/27 and October 3/4.



CONGRATULATIONS COLUMBIETTES!

St. Philip's Columbiette Auxiliary has once again received the Margaret Mary J. Mangan Award. This prestigious award is presented by the Supreme Council to auxiliaries that have demonstrated outstanding good works throughout the Columbiette year. If you are interested in joining the Columbiettes, please contact Karin Christiaens at [973-420-8212](tel:973-420-8212). You must be a female Catholic aged 18 or older to join.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY

“Thousand Strong Rosary for Life”

On Tues. Oct. 13th at 7:00 PM

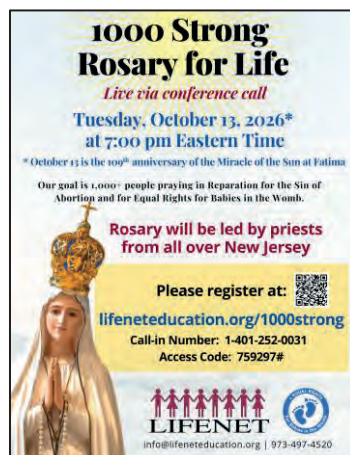
Our Lady of Fatima “1000 Strong Rosary for Life” on Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 7:00 PM:

Please join the “1000 Strong Rosary for Life Conference Call” on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 PM which is being organized by LIFENET. Join priests from all over NJ to pray for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in reparation for the sin of abortion. Note: October 13th is the 109th anniversary of the ‘Miracle of the Sun’ at Fatima. Our Lady wants us to pray the rosary! For more info: 973-497-4520.

To join via conference call, register at:

lifeneteducation.org/1000strong

Conference Call Number: 1-401-252-0031; Code: 759297#



ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE YOUTH CHOIR

The St. Philip the Apostle Youth Choir is inviting new and returning students who like to SING to come and join us for this year's choir season!



WHO CAN JOIN? Students in Grades 4 through Grade 8.

Participation is open ALL young singers within this age group from the St. Philip Preparatory School and Parish community.

WHEN & WHERE? Rehearsals are held in church on Mondays from 3:05pm to 4:05pm throughout the school year.

WHEN DOES THE CHOIR SING? The Youth Choir sings at a monthly scheduled weekend liturgy and in choir concert events sponsored by the Music Ministry program at St. Philip the Apostle Church.

Come and join us Monday, September 28, 2026

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE HANDBELL CHOIR

Join us for rehearsals Mondays at 6:00pm

Starting October 5th

Handbells ring seasonally at Lessons & Carols and on Christmas Eve and Palm Sunday. New Ringers Welcome - high school age and up!

Questions? See us after mass!

Frank Hydash, Music Director

or email: dorothyd318@gmail.com



All music ministries are open to persons high school age and up. For those preparing for Confirmation, participation in one of our music ministries is a great way to fulfill service hours! Regular attendance at rehearsals is expected.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

2026 “Coats for Kids” Drive

We will again be collecting contributions for our annual Coats-for-Kids Drive 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

THE ROSARY: A SCHOOL OF FAITH AND HOLINESS

As we approach the month of October, traditionally dedicated by the Church to the Holy Rosary, I would like to invite our parish community to rediscover this beautiful prayer—not only as a familiar Catholic devotion, but as a prayer that can truly shape our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

For generations of Catholics, the Rosary has been more than a familiar set of beads in our hands or a prayer we learned as children. It has accompanied families through ordinary days and extraordinary moments, through celebrations and sorrows, through uncertainty and hope. Many of us learned the *Our Father* and the *Hail Mary* long before we fully understood their meaning. Yet perhaps this is one of the quiet gifts of the Rosary: we grow into the prayer, and the prayer gradually grows within us.

I know this from my own family. When I was growing up, praying the Rosary together every day was non-negotiable. Whatever else was happening, the family gathered and prayed. As a child, I cannot say that I always appreciated it. At first, it was simply a duty—something we had to do because our parents told us to do it. But looking back now, I realize that those countless *Hail Marys* were quietly forming something within us. Before I knew how to articulate faith for myself, my family was teaching me how to pray, how to trust God, and how to place our lives in His hands.

In time, what began as a duty became a grace. The Rosary became part of the soil in which my own religious and priestly vocation grew. In different ways, it also helped my siblings discover how God was calling each of them in life. And when our family entered difficult chapters, the Rosary remained with us. There were circumstances we could not change, questions we could not answer, and burdens we simply had to carry. We may not always have known what to say to God, but we knew how to take the beads into our hands and pray. Through the years, the Rosary has remained for us a source of strength in trials, joy in blessings, and consolation in moments of sorrow.

Perhaps that is because the Rosary teaches us something essential about Christian discipleship. **Mary always leads us to Jesus.** We repeat the *Hail Mary*, but the mysteries upon which we meditate are the mysteries of Christ. With Mary, we contemplate Jesus conceived and born, preaching and healing, suffering and dying, risen and glorified. Her words at Cana summarize her place in our spiritual life: *“Do whatever he tells you.”* The more closely we walk with Mary, the more faithfully she directs our attention toward her Son.

And as we contemplate these mysteries again and again, they begin to form us. The Rosary becomes a **school of virtue and holiness.** At the Annunciation,



Mary teaches us humility and obedience: *“May it be done to me according to your word.”* At the Visitation, she teaches us to go beyond ourselves in loving service.

At Bethlehem, we learn simplicity and poverty of spirit. At Cana, we learn attentiveness to the needs of others and trust in Jesus. At Calvary, Mary teaches us fidelity when following Christ becomes difficult. And in the glorious mysteries, we learn to hope in God's promises even beyond suffering and death.

This is why I especially encourage you: **teach the young to pray the Rosary.** Do not be discouraged if children are restless, if they do not yet understand everything, or even if at first they pray simply because you require them to. Sometimes practices learned first as discipline become treasures understood only much later. Plant the seed. Teach them to hold the beads, to make the Sign of the Cross, to say the prayers, to name their intentions, and above all, to know that they can always turn to Jesus with Mary.

Our children will face mysteries in their own lives that we cannot foresee and crosses from which we cannot always protect them. One of the greatest gifts we can give them, therefore, is to teach them where to turn. Give them a faith they can carry in their hearts and a Rosary they can carry in their hands.

So as October begins in the coming days, perhaps we can make this a simple commitment as a parish community: **take up the Rosary again.** Pray it personally. Pray it with your spouse. Gather the children and pray it as a family. Bring to the Rosary your gratitude and your worries, your joys and your sorrows, your hopes and the people you love. Allow Mary to accompany you through all the mysteries of life and to form in you a heart more like hers—a heart that listens to God, trusts His will, serves generously, perseveres faithfully, and always points to Christ.

Ad Iesum per Mariam—To Jesus through Mary. This is where the Rosary ultimately leads us. As we enter this month dedicated to her Rosary, may Mary take our parish and our families by the hand and bring us ever closer to her Son. And there, with Jesus, may we discover anew the holiness, joy, and consolation for which our hearts were made.

May this beautiful chain of prayer bind us more closely to one another, to our Blessed Mother, and above all, to Jesus Christ, her Son.

— **Fr. Paul Octubre, SSP**
Parochial Vicar

WITH THANKS

THANK YOU FROM FR. ENGLISH FOOD PANTRY

Just when the shelves at Fr. English were becoming bare, we stood in awe at the incredible response to our food collection last week. The outpouring of donations was overwhelming, proving once again the deep kindness and generosity that defines our parish family. Thank you to everyone who donated... with appreciation and blessings to all.

PARISH TRIP

ST PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH
goes to
**SACRED SPACES
AND
YULETIDE PLACES**

\$68
* non-refundable /person
* (bus driver tip & Shrine tour included)

December 02, 2026

TRIP SCHEDULE:

7:30 AM Bus leaves from St Philip The Apostle Parish (St. Philip Drive) at lower parking lot
9:30 AM Arrival at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
10:00 AM Tour of the Shrine with 15 minute Video Presentation
11:30 AM Concelebrated Mass at the Shrine Chapel (lower Church)
12:30 PM Bus leaves to Peddler's Village
1:00 PM Arrival at Peddler's Village – Lunch on your own
----- Christmas Market -----
6:30 PM Return to St. Philip the Apostle (Arrival 8:30 PM)

Places to visit

- ✓ The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
- ✓ Christmas Market at Peddler's Village

Booking Policy

All payments are strictly non-refundable upon booking.

Reserve your bus seat ticket. Seat assigned upon payment, on first come first serve basis.

Bus departs at 7:30am sharp. St. Philip lower parking lot (please arrive 15mins early)

Contact Us St. Philip Parish Office (973) 779-6200 ~ Virginia Signe (973) 760-8484

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: September 21, 2025 \$ 16,967.00

Sunday Collection: September 20, 2026

WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 11,273.00

ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 6,566.00

TOTAL \$ 17,839.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

October 11-Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Sabina Guzman, Mary Thompson

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, Kate Doyle, Isabel Pereiras, James Jablonowski, Michelle Garcia



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

8:00	Martin Sudol
	Grace Alfieri
10:00	Deceased members of the Choir
	Deceased members of the Provost and Esser Families
	Denise Papay
	Evelyn Kovacs
12:00	All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

9:00 AM	Geroge Terlikosky
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

9:00 AM	Georgie Octobre
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

9:00 AM	Rudy Pohle
	Reid Charles Krevis

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

9:00 AM	Maria and Giuseppe Esposito
	Manuel and Milagros Amador

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

9:00 AM	Peter Coletti
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

9:00 AM	Grace Alfieri
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

8:00	Francis, Miriam and Kevin O'Brien
	Lino Calello- 2 nd Anniversary
10:00	Grace Alfieri
	Veronica and Frank Dudash
	Richard Lendemann, Jr.
	Cliff Muddell
12:00	Loretta and Ralph Pennella
	Rosario Impoco

CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27

In Memory of Domenic DeFelice



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