COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION TO OUR PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Throughout the season of Lent and culminating in our Easter celebration we offer a Parish Retreat titled, **Companions on the Journey**. You are invited to join us as we experience the Lord and the love of each other more fully. The Retreat will unfold in the weekend homilies, liturgical music, bulletin reflections/stphilip.org, and workshop.

Our Lenten church banner pictured above displays symbols of the various themes of our parish Lenten retreat.

Our Journey begins with God who creates us, accompanies us through life, death and resurrection until we return to God in glory. Our journey is from, “glory to glory.” (2Cor.3:18) Along the way we are transformed into the image and likeness of Christ. God holds our hand on the journey and we are invited to hold the hands of our brothers and sisters on every step.

We are **Companions** on the Journey with God and with each other. The **Two Figures** shown form a **Heart Shape** as they companion one another in a bond of divine and human love. The word companion has its origins in two Latin roots; *com-*with and *pan*-bread. We “break bread” and share meals with the ones we love.

The **Host** and **Chalice** remind us of the precious **Sacrament** of the **Eucharist** where we share intimate communion with the Lord, our **Bread of Life**, and with each other.

The **Cross** in the center of the Host is the sign of our belief in the love of our God, Father, and Holy Spirit. The **Vertical** line of the Cross calls to mind that everything, everyone and even we ourselves come **From God** as free gifts and grace.

The **Horizontal** line of the cross suggests the purpose for our lives which is to share our gifts **For Others**.

Our Prayer for Lent – **Using Our Hands**

**Giving thanks** before meals is a holy practice which keeps us mindful that all that we have is a gift **From God**.

Making a **Sign of the Cross** as a simple blessing or grace before a meal is a way to reflect our Mission to share our gifts **For Others**.

During this Lent, you are invited to give thanks with a prayer of **grace** before each meal.

Trace the sign of the cross, saying or thinking:

FROM

FOR

GOD

OTHERS

**Grace** means gift; we acknowledge all that comes **From God** and remember to share what we have and are **For Others**.

**Week I**

**Readings**

- God places the rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant, a loving relationship between God and God's people.
- Christ opens the way to our eternal journey, through suffering, death and resurrection. Christ now sits at God's right hand in glory.
- Jesus undergoes trials in the desert but emerges eager to share the Good News. God is present “at hand.” All that is needed is for us to turn to God and live the Gospel as loving companions to one another.

**Reflection**

Seeing a rainbow is a wondrous experience. In the book of Genesis the rainbow is a sign of God's goodness and a symbol of the truth of God's everlasting covenant. We, however, only see a portion of a rainbow. When a rainbow is observed from a plane or a high mountain, a rainbow is seen in its completeness, as a circle. On the ground, a rainbow is not seen in its fullness due to our limited perspective. From another vantage the rainbow can be appreciated as whole, a continuous round of color and light. The journey of our life is like a rainbow, complete and whole, a continuous circle from God's glory to God's glory.

In order to experience the fullness of our life journey we need the vantage of spirituality. Spirituality enables us to see from an eternal perspective. We tend to view life as divided into the holy and the profane or the secular versus the sacred. This is a limited horizon.

The wholeness of creation and every person are all graced gifts from God to be shared for others. This fuller theological perspective enables us to experience the wonder of our God in all things and in all people.

Paths to seeing spiritually:

- Giving thanks for all things as blessed gifts everyday
- Seeking the truth, beauty and goodness already placed in our hearts by God in prayer
- Walking hand-in-hand in service while doing Christ's work which is our Mission.

We are colorful **Companions on the Journey** sharing life for we believe in the love of our God.

**LENTEN HYMN REFRAIN**

We are companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share for we believe in the love of our God, we believe in the love of our God.
Season of Lent Opportunities
Renew your faith and your spiritual life for service to one another.

Lenten Practices:
- **Grace** before each meals with a sign of the Cross. See Companion Lenten Prayer above.
- Participating in weekly or even daily celebration of the **Eucharist** is the most perfect prayer and Lenten observance.
- **WELCOME HOME TO HEALING**: Sacrament of **Reconciliation**; Monday 7 to 8:30 PM Saturday 11 AM to 12 Noon in church
- **Stations of the Cross** Fridays 7:00 PM.
- **Feb. 27**: Processional
- **Lenten Penance** includes acts of self-denial as a tool for mindfulness of God's bountiful gifts and presence and/or an increase in charitable acts and works of kindness.
- Days of **Fast and Abstinence**: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence when we refrain from eating meat and have one full meal and two lesser meals. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**
Bible Study sessions will resume on Monday February 23rd at 11 AM and 7 PM in the Molloy Center.

We will continue studying the Gospel of St. Luke and the human side of Jesus, his teachings, miracles and being a true disciple. Please bring your Bible and all are welcome.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION/RCIA**
Join us at 7:00 PM in the Russo Room on Monday, February 23rd. The topic is the Sacraments of Healing.

**SPRING ROYALE**
Saint Philip the Apostle Parish and Preparatory School Presents

Sunday, March 22nd, 2015
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Valley Regency
Tickets: $50 per person

Tickets are sold after mass this weekend and through the School or Parish Office:
- Includes $25 Gift of Chips for Gaming Tables
- Butler served hors d’oeuvres, Carving Station
- Complimentary: Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee, Tea
- Gourmet Desserts, Cash Bar, Piano Music
- Gaming Tables: Black Jack, Roulette, Craps, Wheel of Chance
- Gift Baskets for Casino Winnings, Silent Auction, Super 50/50

**AD JOURNAL**
HONORING
Monsignor Kevin Flanagan, our distinguished honoree, generously shares God's gifts through faithful ministry. You are invited to express your gratitude and thankfulness for all that Father Kevin has done and continues to do for our Church and School community. Share a special message, prayer or goodhearted wish for Fr. Kevin in our **Spring Royale Ad Journal**.

REMEMBERING
Sister Rene Donohue, FSP served as our dynamic School principal from 1979 to 2001. Sister’s commitment to social gatherings, music, theater and the arts is a rich part of our heritage. We honor her memory with the creation of The **Sister Rene Donohue Cultural Arts Legacy** which will be funded by the proceeds of our **Spring Royale**. This year her legacy is continued by providing new lighting and a refurbished sound system for our auditorium. Remember Sister Rene, and contribute to her legacy, by taking an **Ad in our Journal** in loving memory of Sister or in support of God’s gifts of fellowship and the Arts.

**SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTER**

**Recognition of Your Gift**
- 3-for-1
  - Glossy ad in the printed journal
  - Display on the "Big Screen" at the event
  - 31 day website PDF

**Full-Color Ad Journal**
- $100 - Benefactor (Full Page)
- $65 - Patron (Half Page)
- $35 - Sponsor (Qtr. Page/Business Card)
- $25 - Contributor (Name only)

**Table Sponsor**
- $500 - Leadership Sponsor (Table Sponsorship)

*Directions: At stphilip.org, click on the Spring Royale Event, or telephone the Molloy Center (973-779-6200), with your order request*

**Seeking donations for Silent Auction:** (See Fr. Joe)
Vacation package: home/condo in a vacation destination
Airline Miles
Jewelry
Flat Screen TV
Theatre Tickets
Sporting Event Tickets
Restaurant Gift Certificates
iPad
Laptop

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**YOUTH GROUP**
Youth Ministry has been very busy recently. Preparation for the Antioch Retreat is beginning. The winter retreat will be held the weekend of February 27, 28, & March 1. Upcoming youth group meetings are:
- Thursday, March 5
- Thursday, March 19
All youth group meetings begin at 7 PM in the Youth Room.
5th Annual St. Patrick’s Day
(And St. Joseph’s Day) Dinner Dance

St. Philip’s will host its 5th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 7, at 7 PM (doors open 6:30 PM) in the school auditorium. This year we’re also celebrating St. Joseph’s Day and will combine the best of both traditions! Tickets are $35 pp and includes a traditional Irish dinner with beer, wine, soda, coffee and tea, plus a St. Joseph’s Day dessert table. Entertainment will be provided by The Peter McKiernan Band. To purchase tickets, send your name, phone number, the number of tickets requested, along with payment (make check payable to St. Philip the Apostle) to: St. Philip the Apostle Parish, 797 Valley Rd., Clifton, NJ 07013. Attn: St. Patrick’s Day Tickets, no later than February 28. For more information call Donna @ 201-321-4376. This event sells out quickly so order your tickets early! Tickets will not be available at the door.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Columbiettes

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 in Cerullo Hall. We will be collecting school supplies at this meeting to fill back packs. Our goal this year is to fill 35 backpacks for children in need. Also we will have blood pressure screening after the meeting. Call Sharon at 973-742-0926.

Widow and Widowers

The Monday Night Group: February 23rd and March 9th & 23rd at 6:30 PM. The New & Recently Bereaved Group: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

& Divorced Support Group

The Saint Philip the Apostle Divorce Healing Group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Molloy Center: February 23rd, March 9th & 23rd.

Legion of Mary

The 10th annual Divine Mercy Conference will be held on March 21, 2015 from 9 AM - 5:00 PM at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, NY. Speakers this year include Msgr. Lisante, Fr. Frank Pavonne, Fr. Chris Alar, etc. A bus will be leaving from St. Philip’s Church. If interested, please call Veni Evangelista: 973-393-5120; or Elaine Vigilante: 973-472-9019.

Parish Giving
Total Sunday Collection February 16, 2014 $ 8,813.00
February 15, 2015 Sunday Collection (Snow/High Winds)
Envelopes $ 8,146.00
Cash $ 1,040.00
Online Giving Donations $ 2,147.00
Total $11,333.00
2nd Collection: Central/Eastern Europe $ 2,200.50

Priests’ Schedule
February 28/March 1, 2015

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Anastacio B. Cubero
       Julia Niejadlik
       Ramona Fisher
       Doris Armstrong
       Rosario Marro
12:00 Nikki Valle

Monday, February 23, 2015

7:00 Patrick J. Horan
9:00 Noreen Doyle; Dominick Doyle

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

7:00 James Lake
9:00 Irene Kuruc

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

7:00 Daniel Sowa
9:00 Tom Czerwiec; Anthony R. Greco

Thursday, February 26, 2015

7:00 Ken Papuzenski
9:00 Victoria Mongiardo; Toni Marie Ramondini

Friday, February 27, 2015

7:00 Luis Guzman
9:00 Mary Fiori; Pablo Donaldo

Saturday, February 28, 2015

9:00 AM Antonio B. Garcia; Gianna Rosario Schreck
5:30 PM Ottilio Pannullo-1st Anniversary
       Robert Pigut
       Deceased Members of the Columbiettes

Sunday, March 1, 2015

8:00 Rosa Cannata
       Deceased members: Silvestri & Laterza Family
10:00 Augusto Mangune
       Rita Hogan
       Louis Hartdegen
       Diane Galka
       Paul Gerber
12:00 All the People of the Parish

The recently deceased: Frank Duras, Betty Williams

Pray for