Companions on the Journey

OUR PARISH LENTEN RETREAT - WEEK III

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 *panis*-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 of Grace 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.

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Trace the sign of the cross, saying or thinking:

FROM

FOR

GOD

GOD

GRACE

FOR

OTHERS

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

**Week III**

- Moses receives the 10 Commandments that teach us how to be good companions to God and to one another.
- The crucifixion of Christ is the sacrifice bestows God’s power and strength to share our gifts with each other.
- Jesus expresses anger that God’s message is being grossly distorted by the money changers in the Temple. The Word of God calls us to act with justice, love tenderly and to walk hand-in-hand humbly with our God.

**Reflection**

**God Knows** is the title of a lovely poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins in 1908.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day…."

God’s hand, always holding our hand, is at the heart of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus continues to bless us with companionship and guidance on the way of life. In early Christianity the followers of Jesus were known as, “Followers of the Way.” Jesus is our way, our truth and our life.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus becomes angry with the Temple changes grossly distorted by the money changers in the Temple. The Word of God calls us to act with justice, love tenderly and to walk hand-in-hand humbly with our God.

Our prayer for lent – using our hands to make a Sign of the Cross as grace before meals – has been a challenge. Forgetting to say grace has reportedly caused some frustration in many of us, however, our feelings can be directed in a new way and seen as a blessing.

Our disappointment is a sign that reveals our heart’s deep desire to be mindful and grateful for all that comes to us from God’s hand. The Lord leads us to new ways of humility as we give God praise for the times that we do remember. We rejoice in the Lord always because God is patiently and tenderly holding our hand- in our forgetting, in our remembering in our every step along the way.
The Liturgy of the Word

The Eucharist is our sacred meal in which we, “Give Thanks.” The Liturgy of the Word nourishes us through Scripture and reflection. The Word of God teaches us to see, hear and experience God and one another in new ways. We are Companions on the Journey who walk humbly with our God.

Questions

1. What do you find interesting, inspirational, troubling, and encouraging about the messages and images in the poem God Knows?
2. Where is God showing you new ways and leading you in life?
3. Who may need your assistance or encouragement in finding a way through life? How will you reach out to them?
4. How have you been doing in remembering our Lenten prayer of grace?
5. How is God with you in remembering? In forgetting?
6. What does it mean to walk humbly with God?

LENTEN HYMN VERSE 2

We have been gifted with each other, and we are called by the Word of the Lord: to act with justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God, to walk humbly with our God.

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

- 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
- Stations of the Cross: Fridays 7:00 PM; March 13: School Children

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY


HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE SLIDE PRESENTATION II

A slide presentation “The Life of Jesus from the Immaculate Conception to the Crucifixion from the Eyes of a Scientist” will be presented by Albert Lossinsky, Ph.D. on Sunday, March 15th in the Molloy Center at 2 PM. Sights & experiences from Bishop Serratelli’s April 2013 pilgrimage to Israel will be included.

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:

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)
YOUTH MINISTRY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YOUTH GROUP
Upcoming youth group meetings are:
- Thursday, March 19-7 PM in the Youth Room.
- Friday, March 20- Living Stations of the Cross

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
Grades 1 - 6: 8:00 AM Mass followed by class until 10:30 AM
March 29, April 19, May 17
Grade 7, 8 & CONFIRMATION: 8:00 AM Mass followed by class to 10:30 AM on: March 15, April 26
Confirmation: May 14, 2015 (Practice: May 13)

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COLUMBIETTES
FLAPJACK BREAKFAST: Saturday, March 14, 8-10:00 AM at Applebee’s, 375 Route 3 East, Clifton. The cost is $11. Tickets will be sold at the door.
BLANKET MINISTRY: Molloy Center, Thursday, March 19 at 9:45 AM. We make blankets for the hospitalized including children and veterans.
For Flapjack Breakfast tickets, questions or yarn donations, please call Cathy, 973-471-1265.
KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST
Sunday, March 15, 8:00 AM Mass, $10 per person. Sr. Ann Marie Paul, SCC, will speak on “The Role of Women in the Church Today”. For tickets call Jack Paparella, 201-577-1212.
PRIME TIMERS
ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP: Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Thursday, March 12. The cost is $25.00 with a bonus of $25.00. Bring a photo I.D. Please call Barbara Rzepecki, 973-276-1586.
WIDOW AND WIDOWERS
THE MONDAY NIGHT GROUP: March 9 & 23 at 6:30 PM.
The NEW & RECENTLY BEREAVED GROUP: Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM.
SEPARATED & DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP
DIVORCE HEALING GROUP: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 7:00 PM in the Molloy Center, March 9 & 23.
10th ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE
Saturday, March 21 from 9 AM - 5:00 PM at Cardinal Spellman High School, Bronx, NY. Speakers 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.

PRIESTS’ SCHEDULE
MARCH 14/15, 2015 (DEACONS PREACHING)
5:30 PM Fr. Kevin 8:00 AM Fr. Jared
10:00 AM Fr. Joe 12:00 NOON Fr. Kevin

The recently deceased:
Stella Den Uyl, Rudolph Pohle, Yolanda Howarth, Delwina Michilotti
The sick: Ann Marie Kwiatkowski

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015
8:00 Dorothy & Joseph Verones; Rose Cannata
10:00 Janice Hodorupski
          Eva Serratelli
          Edward Mickens
          Vincenzo Chiomino
          Lorraine Seely
12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015
7:00 Joseph DiDonna
9:00 All Deceased Parishioners

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015
7:00 Anna & John Tolvay, Sr.
9:00 Lillian LaGala

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015
7:00 Yolanda DePeri
9:00 All Deceased Parishioners

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015
7:00 All Deceased Parishioners
9:00 Walter Stefanacci; Toni Marie Ramondini

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015
7:00 Joseph F. Donnelly
9:00 Doris Korman

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015
9:00 AM Barbara Jansen; Theresa Gabler
5:30 PM Kevin Carroll
          George Bonanno – 57th Anniversary
          Mary Fiori

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015
8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Lambert Legath – 3rd Anniversary
          Rev. Richard Messenlehner
          Rosa Cannata
          Marie Giunta
          Yolanda “Lani” DePeri
12:00 Catherine Skalski; Rosario Marro

The Sanctuary Candle In loving memory of
      Mario & Marie Giunta
      From Joe and Marlene Holzli

PARISH GIVING

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2nd Collection:
Catholic Relief Services                         $ 3,005.00