Companions on the Journey
**OUR PARISH LENTEN RETREAT- HOLY WEEK**
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.

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.

**Holy Week**

**Companions from Garden to Garden**

Fr. Jared recently shared his insight that the heart of the Easter story is a journey from garden to garden with Jesus. We are companions along with Christ as he prays in the **Garden of Gethsemane**, offers his suffering passion and death for our ultimate glory and is glorified in the **Garden of Resurrection**.

During holy week we **remember** that God is our companion. The Risen Christ walks with us, holding our hand along each step, as we follow the pattern of his own life, suffering, death and with hope in the gift of eternal life. We **celebrate** our journey from God’s glory to God’s glory. We **believe** in the love of our God that strengthens us to do Christ’s work on earth. At each Eucharist we break bread and share Christ’s life as companions on the journey.

As we listened to the story of Jesus during the **Holy Week** liturgies we hear of the companions who accompanied him. We are called to reflect on the way that we can companion Christ today in our love and service to one another. Jesus said, “Whatever you do for the least of my brothers or sisters you do it for me.”

We can identify with and learn from the companions of Christ in the Paschal story. You are invited to reflect on your walk with Christ today as a companion on the journey with others.

**Reflection**

PONTIUS PILATE: Like him we are fearful of other people’s opinions and blinded by self- concern.

In what areas am I being challenged to rely on God’s courage to do the right thing?

JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS: We deny and avoid suffering, refusing to accept our crosses.

What responsibility am I being called to bear for the good of others?

JESUS FALLS: We fall willingly into sin, missing our full potential to become all that God desires for us.

How am I being invited to reach for God’s hands and walk in the light of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing?

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER: Seeing a loved one suffer is painful.

We are not helpless; we can always be a prayer companion. Who is in need of my prayer? What action can I take?

SIMON AND VERONICA HELP JESUS: Simon uses his strength and Veronica uses a tender gesture to be loving companions.

What gifts and talents can I give as I walk with others?
Mary and John Stand at the Foot of the Cross: Faithful family and friends sustain us in life.
I remember in thankful prayer those who stood and stand with me in joy and in sorrow.
Mary Magdalene in the Garden of Wonder and Glory: Our Risen Lord appeared to his loving friend Mary, calling her by name. Christ stands by us now, holding our hands and calling our names. God is a God of wonder and surprise.
How is God with me in this moment? Where do I find God’s wonder and glory? What might I do to experience God more fully as my loving companion in hope during this Holy Week?

Be a companion to Christ and One Another
Join Us for our Holy Week Liturgies

RETREAT 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.

Holy Week Prayer
• Grace before each meal with a sign of the Cross. (See Companion Prayer above.)

HOLY WEEK - EASTER SCHEDULE
• PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29: Passion of the Lord Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 NOON
• HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2
Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:30 PM
Eucharistic Adoration (Marian Hall) 9:00 PM – Midnight
• GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Blood Drive (Gym) 7:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
(Holy Communion/Veneration of the Cross) 3:00 PM
• HOLY SATURDAY, April 4
Blessing of the Easter Food: 1:00 PM
Easter Vigil 8:00 PM
• EASTER SUNDAY, April 5
Celebration of Eucharist 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM

ST. PHILIP ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE
When: Good Friday, April 3, 2015
Where: School Gym
Time: 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM
If you have any questions, please call Doreen Germain at 973-819-4610.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
The Lenten Bible Study series will end on Monday, March 30th with a session at 11 AM only!

SPRING ROYALE
Thank you to donors, supporters and participants of the Spring Royale. A good time was had by all. Initial reports indicate that it was a successful fundraiser. Check out our web-site for photos of the event.

MESSAGE FROM FR. KEVIN
Fr Kevin is most grateful for your very kind wishes and sentiments on the occasion of the most successful Spring Royale.
It is much appreciated and you will be remembered in his prayers.

YOUTH MINISTRY & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SCHOOL

YOUTH GROUP
Upcoming youth group meetings are:
• Thursday, April 2 - Mass of the Lord’s Supper
  Youth Participation in Procession and Adoration
• Thursday, April 16 & 30, 2015 – Meeting in Youth Room

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

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
WIDOW AND WIDOWERS
THE MONDAY NIGHT GROUP: April 13th & 27th at 6:30 PM.
THE NEW & RECENTLY BEREAVED GROUP: Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 PM.

SEPERATED & DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP
DIVORCE HEALING GROUP: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 7:00 PM
in the Molloy Center on April 13th & 27th.

MSGR. PETER J. DOODY SCHOLARSHIP BEEFSTEAK
The Fundraiser will be on April 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM in St. Philip’s Auditorium. The guest speaker is Jeff Pompeo, Esq. Tickets: $35.00/ea. Call Ray Lill at 973.472.1756 or Dennis Fitzpatrick at 973.271.9577.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY
The next meeting of the blanket ministry will be Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. Please note this is the only meeting in April. For questions or yarn donations, call Cathie Murtha at 973-471-1265.

PRIME TIMERS
St. Philip’s Prime Timers will not hold an April meeting since the first Friday of April is Good Friday. Although there is no price yet available for the June Luncheon, members should be prepared to pay for it at the May meeting as there will be no other opportunity before the June luncheon. Nominations for 2015-2016 officers will be made at the May meeting for June elections scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2015 at 1:00 PM in the Molloy Center.
ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP
Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Thursday, April 9, 2015. The cost is $25.00 with a casino bonus of $25.00. Bring a photo I.D. Departure time is 10:00 AM sharp. Please call Barbara Rzepecki at 973-278-1566.

ROSARY SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS
Our annual Social Tea will be held on Sunday, May 3, at 2:00 PM in Marian Hall. Come with hats and a teacup for a great afternoon! Tickets on sale now: only $25.

ST. PHILIP’S PARISH CARNIVAL - 2015
JUNE 5, JUNE 6, JUNE 7
SAVE THE DATES!!!!!!!!!

PRIESTS’ SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY: Fr. Jared
GOOD FRIDAY: Fr. Kevin

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5/6, 2015
EASTER VIGIL 8:00 PM Fr. Joe
8:00 AM Fr. Kevin 10:00 AM Fr. Jared
12:00 N Fr. Joe

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16
Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015
8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Marie D’Angelo
Mauro D’Alto- 5th Anniversary
Alfonso Montoya
Rose Mudd
Donald E. Jaeger
Alan Dong
12:00 Dominic Doyle 10th Annv.; Clare Mocek

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015
7:00 Mary Fiori
9:00 All Deceased Parishioners

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
7:00 Gloria Nicola & Deceased Family Members
9:00 Paul Tortorella

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015
7:00 Matthew Grabowski
9:00 Elizabeth Grimaldi

EASTER TRIDUUM
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 (HOLY THURSDAY)
7:30PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper
9PM-MIDNIGHT Eucharistic Adoration (Marian Hall)

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 (GOOD FRIDAY)
7:30A-1:30P BLOOD DRIVE
3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
(Holy Communion/Veneration of the Cross)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015 (HOLY SATURDAY)
1:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015 (EASTER SUNDAY)
8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Ernest & Philomena Cordasco
Joseph Bianchi, Sr.
Donald Jaeger
George Bednarz
Mary Fiori
12:00 Joseph Scafidi, John Puzio

THE RECENTLY DECEASED: Jean Collins, Paul Coman

THE SICK: Ann Marie Kwiatkowski, Derrick Medeiros, Tressa Bandel Domboski, Joan Hughes, Jackie Galvan

Pray for

The Sanctuary Candle: In memory of
Maura D’Alto
From wife, Anna

Parish Giving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Sunday Collection March 23, 2014</td>
<td>$16,445.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22, 2015 Sunday Collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>$10,607.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$1,608.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Giving Donations</td>
<td>$2,077.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,292.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2nd Collection: Project Faith $2,209.00