

PRAYER IS THE KEY TO SERENITY



Happy Easter! We celebrate God's Risen presence among us. We discover in prayer the serenity of knowing our Risen Lord.

PRAYER

The *Serenity Prayer* was born from the anguish that the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr

experienced, as he watched the oppression of the Nazis grow in Germany during the 1930s. Accepting what he could not change and learning in prayer what was within his power to accomplish, was Niebuhr's struggle and something we understand in our own lives very well.

Prayer is the Key to **Serenity**. Serenity is not dependent upon outer circumstances but is inner stillness and a confident assurance in God's providence care – no matter what's going on around us, or even within us.

Acceptance of what cannot be changed does not mean that we like or approve of certain behaviors or situations. Acceptance means that we let go of the frustrating mental activity, emotional exhaustion and spiritual depletion that is wasted on what is beyond our power to change. We let go of playing God.

Courage means 'with heart.' With hearts desiring to live our mission to do *Christ's Work* of love and service, we seek to be agents of positive change.

Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit that resides in the deep stillness of our being. Prayer is the key to unlocking the generous bounty of wisdom. God empowers us with wisdom through new ideas, possibilities, changes of direction and the ability to let go of one agenda to accept another with a discerning heart and an open mind.

The Serenity Prayer is a rich source for spiritual growth and empowers us to change ourselves and our world with God's grace.

REFLECTION STORY - EASTER

Family and friends are gathered around the Easter table before the meal. Although wealthy, the father is notoriously cheap. Looking over the table he comments on the bounty of food and starts to berate member after member of the family for what they spent that week. Uncomfortable, the family keeps their eyes down. Finally, the father stops and says, "OK Jack, you are the youngest one, let's see if all that money I'm spending on Catholic school for you is worth it – you can say the prayer." The little boy makes the Sign of the Cross and prays, "Dear Lord, we have a problem here – it seems that my father needs to earn more money."

The story is humorous because the boy's prayer was so unexpected. It seemed to the family that their meal would continue to be a tense affair, but the boy's unexpected prayer changed everything. Even the cranky, cheap father had a good laugh.

God grant me the
Serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change;
Courage
to change the
things I can;
and **Wisdom**
to know the
difference.
Amen

God always does the unexpected. As we celebrate this Easter we discover God's most unexpected surprise! After suffering, death and despair, God gifts us with resurrection and new life! The life, death and resurrection of Jesus is our pattern for new life and the promise of God's eternal gift.

We pray the Serenity Prayer which opens us to God's unexpected grace and gift in every situation.

This Easter, expect God to help you in prayer and to accept the things you cannot change. Expect the unexpected in God's gift of courage to help you change the things you can. Expect to receive the gift of wisdom to know the difference. Prayer is the key to Serenity this Easter and always.

Prayer Practice and Activity

Reflect on the hymn below. As you read and pray each line ask yourself: How is God inviting you to see, feel and experience your life in new and unexpected ways? What one action can you take to be an unexpected source of grace, goodness or love for another person this Easter? Take action.

Grant Us, Lord, Serenity

*Refrain: Grateful prayer and thankful praise
For your wisdom all our days.*

Grant us, Lord, serenity
When your grace we cannot see.
For each moment is your plan,
Grace abounds throughout life's span.

Refrain

For the challenge of each hour,
May acceptance in us flower.
People, places, things abound;
May your will in each be found.

Refrain

Courage is the gift you give,
In your Spirit's life we live.
In our hearts and minds inspire
Words and actions - love's desire.

Refrain

Facing choices every day,
Guiding wisdom is our stay.
Draw us close in unity,
Stewards in community.

Refrain

EASTER VERSE

Sing we hymns of Easter praise;
Joyful "Alleluias" raise!
Love's redeeming gift outpoured,
True serenity restored.

Refrain

*Music: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1786 – 1872;
adapt. By William H. Monk, 1823 – 1889*

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Second grade will be attending their first field trip of the year. They will see a performance of Aesop's Fables live at Montclair State University. The 2nd graders began a fable unit back in January and learned what a fable is, how animals act like people (personification), and what a moral/lesson is in literature. Many of Aesop's Fables were read and discussed and they now will get to enjoy them in this culminating activity! Grade 2 has also been very busy preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Five Communion Masses will be held April 14th, 15th, 28th, 29th and May 6th. Saturday Communions are at 5:30 PM and Sunday will be at 12:00 PM. If you attend any of those Masses, please come and help us celebrate!

TEACHER POSITION AVAILABLE:

Maternity Substitute Teacher - Kindergarten

Certification mandatory

April - June 30, 2018

Qualified candidates please email your resume to:

principalzito@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In-classroom teaching at John Paul II Center, 775 Valley Rd.

Beginning in **Church** with the 8:00 AM Mass

- **April 15:** Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10
- **April 22:** Grades 7 & 8
- **May 6:** Grades 7, 8, 9, 10

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS MEET AT

THE VFW HALL - 491 VALLEY ROAD, CLIFTON

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - 1st and 3rd Wednesday - 8:00 PM

ROSARY SOCIETY - Thursdays, April 12 at 5:30 PM

The meeting will begin with Mass and the Rosary followed by refreshments. Please join us!

BOYS SCOUTS TROOP 21 AND CUB SCOUTS PAC 21 - Monday nights at 6:30PM

COLUMBIETTES - 4th Thursday of the month - 7:00 PM.

Thanks to the St Philip community the Flapjack Breakfast was a success! We can always count on your continued support.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The blanket ministry will meet **Thursdays, April 5 and 19, 2018** at 9:45 AM at the Hamilton House museum on Valley Rd., Clifton. All crafters are welcome! For information or donations, call Cathie at 973-471-1265.

PRIME TIMERS - Friday, April 6 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM;

Valley Regency, 1129 Valley Rd.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS - Monday, April 9th at 6:00 PM;

The Hearth Restaurant, 1116 Rt. 46 West, Clifton

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

A support group for people grieving the death of their spouse. Please contact Dr. Rachel Rengifo at 201-500-2068.

K OF C COLLECTION

St. Philip's Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations after each mass next weekend, **April 7 & 8th** to help our Citizens with Special Needs.



JUBILEE YEAR 2018

The Year of our Lord 2018 is our parish Jubilee commemorating 75 years of fulfilling our mission of *Opus Christi - which is Latin for Christ's Work*. During the decades our parish has been love in action, bringing good news through spiritual, service and social ministry.

Jesus said to our parish patron St. Philip, *"Whoever believes in me will do the works I do and even great works."* John 14:22

WEB SITE AND FACE BOOK INFORMATION

Share your e-mail with us so as not to miss any of the good news. Visit stphilip.org/jubilee to be included in our email list.

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stphilipclifton.

Fr. Matt is looking for some old photos and film in any format about St. Philip Church and/or school to compile our history. Items can be left with Barbara Salzer at the Parish Office.

Our Jubilee Prayer

Rejoicing in you, O Lord, with thankful hearts we pray as . . .

We Remember

gratefully our past companions on the Journey whose sacrifice inspires us.

We Celebrate

the good news of love in action that empowers spiritual, service and social ministry.

We Believe

in God's providence as faithful stewards who continue Christ's work using the Keys to the Kingdom. Amen

DIOCESE NEWS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH

Annunciation Parish, 45 Urban Club Rd., Wayne: Confessions from 2:00-3:00 PM; Chaplet at 3:00 PM followed immediately by Mass.

St. Catharine, 905 South Maple Ave. Glen Rock. Holy Hour beginning at 3:00 PM, personal quiet time, confession, Benediction to follow, ending with Mass.

A MUSICAL AFTERNOON WITH OUR SISTERS

Join us for a very special concert on **Sunday, April 8, 2018** at 3 PM at Saint John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson for *Our Sisters in Concert*. Several religious communities will be represented as they perform hymns and songs. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the talents and gifts of our Sisters who have dedicated their lives for the mission of the Diocese of Paterson. Free garage parking is available!

MSGR. PETER J. DOODY RETIREMENT

SAVE THE DATE!!! **Saturday, June 9, 2018** from 12:00-4:00 PM Annunciation Parish will hold a Retirement Party for their beloved Pastor, Fr. Peter J. Doody at Macaluso's in Hawthorne.

PRAY FOR

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Dominic Joseph Calvi, child of Robert and Lindsey
Benjamin Pierre Ragon, child of Sebastien and Kristen

THE SICK: Joan Hughes, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Ryan G. Micale, Jayce Mazza, Margaret Sikora, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Linda Brady, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Settlers, Alexander Bancey, Derrick Medeiros, Maria Ligato, Philip Kutzenko, Evelyn Wescott, Annette Wanamaker, Daniel Marty, Virginia Mascolo, Christine Carpenter, Robert Wagner, Mildred Nerone, Eugene & Lorraine DeBellis, Bob Rose, Jack Steffans, Barbara Ferry, Fred Van Duynes, Dave Miller, Sr. Giovanni Aiazzone, Maya Hilario, John Pepe, Ron Kuruc, George Biondi, Jack Jaeger, Bill Brady, Samantha Calderone, Katie Gerber, Theresa Buhler, Chloe LoPresti, Cathy Papuzenski, Roberta & Al Dressner, Eloise Stampoulos, Pina Basile, Joseph Pagani, Jim Weis, Loretta Latona, Rita Latona, Eileen Kirschner, Roger Greff, Maryann Greff, Peg Chambers, Joanne Marvin, Dorothea Stepka, Vivian Hart, Paul Doviak, Robert Fazio

THE DECEASED: Angela Blake, Fred Schweighardt

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017	\$20,930.00
SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018: (PALM SUNDAY)	
ENVELOPES	\$19,338.00
CASH	\$ 2,667.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 4,138.00
TOTAL	\$26,143.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: APRIL 8, 2018

5:30 PM	Fr. Julio	8:00 AM	Fr. Joe
10:00 AM	Fr. Matt	12:00 N	Fr. Kevin

EASTER SUNDAY

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018

- 8:00** Patsy Sinisi
Joan Argila
- 10:00** Donald Muller
Vincent Zaccone
Nancy Markey
Mauro D'Alto – 8th Anniversary
- 12:00** Joseph Scafidi
Hedy Schimpf – 1st Anniversary

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018

- 7:00** NO MASS AT THIS TIME
- 9:00** Jimmy & Margaret Nolan

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018

- 7:00** Aldo A. Freda
- 9:00** Francis J. O'Brien

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018

- 7:00** Miriam D. O'Brien
- 9:00** Adam Piasecki

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

- 7:00** George & Marilyn Douglas
- 9:00** William Kuhns

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2018

- 7:00** Sue Bednarz
- 9:00** C. Mildred Petaccio

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018

- 9:00** Stella Bulna
- 5:30** Joseph Hopper, Sr. – 5th Anniversary

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Dorothy & Richard Piechocki
Marek Cihak
Deborah Manente
Special Intention: Robert Fazio
- 12:00** Priscilla D. Caparaz
Leonor Calvi

The Sanctuary Candle: In loving memory of
Mauro D'Alto
From his wife Anna