

PRAYER IS THE KEY TO SERENITY

SERENITY



During the season of Lent, we discover Prayer as the Key to Serenity through homilies, bulletin and website articles, song and personal prayer time. The *Serenity Prayer* is the focus of our Lenten Theme.

PRAYER

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

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The *Serenity Prayer* was born from the anguish that 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

St. Scholastica and St. Benedict were twins. Both were superiors of large religious communities and could only visit each other once a year. On one visit, as evening fell, Scholastica begged her brother to stay overnight so that they could continue their meaningful conversation. Benedict refused, insisting that he not deviate from his predetermined schedule. Scholastica smiled and prayed. Suddenly a tremendous storm deluged the convent, forcing Benedict to spend the night. Into the early morning hours they talked about God and their lives. Joyful and thankful for the time they spent together, Benedict left in the morning never to see his sister again because she died three days later.

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

In light of the *Serenity Prayer* reflect on the story. Notice what can and cannot be changed. Notice serenity, courage, wisdom, prayer and God's ultimate providence. How does this story and the Serenity Prayer factor into your life? Pray the serenity prayer line by line and see, with God's help, how the prayer and God's wisdom can help you in your day.

HYMN PRAYER

You are invited to sing or say the lyrics to the hymn below as a form of prayerful reflection, sung to the tune of "*For the Beauty of the Earth.*"

Grant Us, Lord, Serenity

Grant us, Lord, serenity
When your grace we cannot see.
For each moment is your plan,
Grace abounds throughout life's span.
Grateful prayer and thankful praise
For your wisdom all our days.

For the challenge of each hour,
May acceptance in us flower.
People, places, things abound;
May your will in each be found.
Grateful prayer and thankful praise
For your wisdom all our days.

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

Facing choices every day,
Guiding wisdom is our stay.
Draw us close in unity,
Stewards in community.
*Grateful prayer and thankful praise
For your wisdom all our days.*

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

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What word or phrase catches your attention or speaks to you? Share with God in prayer the thoughts and feelings that surface from your reflection. What action can you take to offer a moment of serenity for another person?

LENTEN PRACTICES

- Participating in weekly or even daily celebration of the **Eucharist** is the most perfect prayer and Lenten observance
- Engage in the variety of opportunities for community and private prayer and reflection.
- **Women's Retreat:** February 24th at 9 AM
Annunciation Parish, Wayne
- **Bible Study:** -Mondays at 11:30 AM in Church
Beginning February 19th
- **Meditation Hour:** Thursday, March 8th at 7 PM
- **WELCOME HOME:** Sacrament of **Reconciliation;**
Mondays 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Saturdays 11:00 AM to 12 Noon
- **Stations of the Cross:** Fridays 7:00 PM in Church
- **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.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

BELOVED

Please join us for a Women's Morning Lenten Retreat

Beloved. Be Love!

Saturday, February 24th

9:00 AM to 12 Noon

With Continental Breakfast

Location due to the after fire restoration process:

Annunciation Parish

45 Urban Club Road in Wayne

Registration fee is \$10 per person.

To register contact Donna Scancarella: 201-321-4376 or
dscancarella@stphilip.org.



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

75th Jubilee Dinner Dance Celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD | 7-11 PM

VALLEY REGENCY | 1129 VALLEY ROAD, CLIFTON

HONORING

ST. PATRICK & ST. JOSEPH

May these glorious Saints assist us in our restoration process!

- Entertainment by The Peter McKiernan Band
- Menu includes traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage, Assorted Salads, Penne Vodka, Chicken Cacciatore and Italian Desserts
- Beer, wine, soft drinks and coffee/tea also included
- Must be 21 years old to attend this event

Tickets \$50

ON SALE AFTER MASS 2/17 & 2/18
OR CALL DONNA @ 973-779-6200

CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE
TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

GOOD NEWS! MINISTRIES RESUMED

BIBLE STUDY

The next Bible Study 6 week series begins on **Monday, February 19** at **11:30 AM** in the **CHURCH** and ends on **Monday, March 26**. We will study the Gospel of St. Mark. It is the shortest of the four gospels and is likely the first to have been written.

It gives us more details of Jesus's ministry than the others in a vivid style. Jesus is the Son of God who came to save humanity by sharing and giving his life for us. The gospel will help us all spiritually during the Season of Lent.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Philip Knights of Columbus meet at the VFW on Valley Road, Clifton on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** of the month at 8:00 PM.

COLUMBIETTES

The Columbiettes are meeting at the VFW on Valley Road in Clifton on the **4th Thursday of the month**.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Rosary meetings will take place at the VFW on Valley Road on the following dates: **Thursdays March 15, April 12 & May 17** at 5:30 PM.

PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers will meet at the Valley Regency, 1129 Valley Rd. on **March 2 & April 6** from 12:30 – 2:30 PM.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

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

BOYS SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scout Pack 21 and Boy Scout Troop 21 are now meeting at the VFW Hall Post #7165, 491 Valley Road, Clifton on Monday nights at 6:30PM.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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

- February 25th: Grades 1,2,3,4,5 & 6
- March 18th: Grades 2, 7, 8, 9 & 10
- Regular schedule to follow

PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Joan Hughes, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Ryan G. Micale, Jayce Mazza, Margaret Sikora, Sister Beverly Aiazzino, Linda Brady, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Setters, 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 Aiazzino, 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, Dot Cervine, Roger Greff, Maryann Greff, Nicki Minson, Peg Chambers

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Mikaela Luz Cuellar, child of Felix and Melany

THE DECEASED:

Esther Doerr, Saverio Caradonna,
Irene Peternith, John Passler

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017	\$14,826.00
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018:	
ENVELOPES	\$11,071.00
CASH	\$ 1,375.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 4,663.00
TOTAL	\$17,109.00
SECOND COLLECTION: PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,898.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 24/25, 2018

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018

8:00	John Tolvay, Jr. – 18 th Anniversary
10:00	Patsy Sinisi Julia Carofine Debra Lynn Ruiz
12:00	All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

7:00	NO MASS AT THIS TIME
9:00	Anita DeLuca

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

7:00	Jeanne M. Myers
9:00	Vincent Maccaro

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

7:00	Anita DeLuca
9:00	Richard Brophy – 22 nd Anniversary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

7:00	Teresa Pyrtko
9:00	Patricia Bolwell

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

7:00	Carmine Scittorale
9:00	Ana Cabezas

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

9:00	Anna Marie Grenda
5:30	James Lake Frank Doran

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Mary Alfieri Angeles Cabigao
12:00	Joanne M. Koval Nikki Valle- 14 th Anniversary