

PRAYER IS THE KEY TO 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.

SERENITY



PRAYER

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 - Week IV

A young architect student tells the Grand Hotel concierge that he wishes to visit the impressive hotel pool and spa designed by a prominent female architect. The concierge says, "1850." "What!" exclaims the student, "1850, I only want to see the pool and spa for the design, I have no desire to use them. I will not pay \$18.50 for a look!" With great gentleness the concierge says, "Relax, I've got good news, one eight five zero is the combination for the entrance door."

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

GoodNewsThemes.com Reinhold Niebuhr

The student jumped to a quick conclusion and reacted without really understanding the situation. Sound familiar? The student assumed that he would be forced to pay an entrance fee and that he would have to accept this fact as something that he could not change. He became angry and resentful because he felt powerless. The truth was that the student had the power to change the situation by making different choices. If the young man had decided to stop and think and ask questions for clarification, he could have remained calm within himself and kindly toward the concierge.

We pray for the courage to change the things we can change. The first 'courage' that is needed is a heart willing to change – our hearts. Being open to change, in mind and heart, is something to pray about. When we find ourselves reacting and not responding, it demonstrates that our minds and hearts are closed to God's possibilities and the plethora of choices we have in every situation. Options and alternative plans are discoverable through prayer.

Serenity is granted when we take prayerful time to consider situations so that we do not react without understanding but are empowered to respond with wisdom. Asking for God's wisdom in prayer, pausing, asking questions, taking the time to think or to seek further information or advice from others are all courageous acts and paths to change.

The second 'courage' needed is a heart willing to take action and accomplish what is needed to enact change. When we draw a heart it has two halves – the word courage semantically means 'with heart' – the two halves of the heart of courage are the courage to be open to change and the courage to act for change.

Prayer Practice

This weekend you will be given a prayer card (see following images). Courageously use the prayer on the one side to be open to what God might be inviting you to change. Courageously use the reverse side to name what is within your power, with God's help, to change and take that action.

"With the power of God at work in our lives, we can do immeasurably more than we could ever hope for or imagine."
(Ephesians 3:20)

God grant me the
Courage
to change the things I can.

Into your hands, I place my heart,
my will and my trust.

Amen

Dona nobis pacem, Grant us Peace

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God grant me the Courage to change the things
I can...

The action I will take is...

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.
- **Bible Study:** -Mondays at 11:30 AM in Church
- **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 we refrain from eating meat and have one full meal and two lesser meals. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.



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

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students have put all their challenging work and lessons learned to use this past week as grades 2-8 took the Iowa Assessments and CoGats.

The 2nd graders have been enjoying the book **Flat Stanley** in their reading class and have even mailed out their own Flat Stanley to family members. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful places Flat Stanley will go!

The 1st graders are studying the life cycle of the frog and are taking their science studies to the next level with observing a tadpole transforming into a frog. They have named her Sealeena and they are excited to see her every day to observe and journal any changes.

In computer class, the students learned about the presidents using history.com and the older students worked on president power points and brochures.

The Middle School teachers and students are so appreciative to the Mary Help of Christians community for being so wonderful and helpful. They have been welcoming, kind, and generous and continue to be an example of showing God's love and work.

We cannot thank you all enough for your continued support and prayers throughout this time. We feel your love and it continues to motivate and strengthen us especially under the leadership of Mrs. Zito and Fr. Joe. Fr. Kevin, Fr. Julio and Fr. Matt continue to be a wonderful spiritual presence in the lives of our students and it has helped the children immensely throughout the transition. We are blessed to have them all in our lives.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

GOOD NEWS! MINISTRIES RESUMED

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study takes place on **Mondays** 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.

The gospel will help us all spiritually during the Season of Lent. Over 50 people attended our first Bible Study meeting!!!

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, March 15, April 12 & May 17 at 5:30 PM

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

COLUMBIETTES - 4th Thursday of the month at 7 PM

COLUMBIETTES PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Columbiettes are hosting a flapjack breakfast on **Saturday, March 24, 2018** from 8–10 AM, Applebee's, 375 Route 3 East, Clifton. Meal includes: pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, and a beverage. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$7 for children 10 and under. Proceeds from this event will support our various ministries and outreach contributions. Tickets will be sold at the door! Contact Cathie for information 973-471-1265.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY – Thursday, March 15th at 9:45 AM; Hamilton House, 971 Valley Rd., Clifton

For fabric or yarn donations, call Cathie at 973-471-1265. All crafters are welcome!

WIDOW/WIDOWERS - Monday, March 12th at 6:00 PM;

The Hearth Restaurant, 1116 Rt. 46 West, Clifton

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

Valley Regency, 1129 Valley Rd.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In-classroom teaching at John Paul II Center, 775 Valley Rd.
Beginning in **Church** with the 8:00 AM Mass

- **March 18th**: Grades 2, 7, 8, 9 & 10
- **March 25th**: Grades 1,2,3,4,5 & 6

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

The Little Sisters from St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa will be visiting our parish this weekend. They provide loving care to the elderly poor throughout the world and have served the aged in New Jersey since 1879.

IRISH CHOIR

The Roscommon Solstice Choir consisting of 60 voices will sing at the 12:15 PM Mass at St. Peter the Apostle, Parsippany on **Sunday, March 18, 2018**. The choir has performed in venues both in Ireland and Great Britain and has been featured on Irish television. Msgr. Kevin Flanagan will be the principal celebrant of the Mass.

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 Kutzenco, Evelyn Wescott, Annette Wanamaker, Daniel Marty, VirginiaMascolo, Christine Carpenter, Robert Wagner, Mildred Nerone, Eugene & Lorraine DeBellis, Bob Rose, Jack Steffans, Barbara Ferry, Fred Van Duyne, 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, Roger Greff, Maryann Greff, Peg Chambers

THE DECEASED: Stephen Howe, Emily Ann Klopotek

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017	\$21,085.00
SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018:	
ENVELOPES	\$13,402.00
CASH	\$ 1,581.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 4,752.00
TOTAL	\$19,735.00
SECOND COLLECTION: PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,679.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 17/18, 2018

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-2

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
- 10:00** Walter Stefanacci–6th Anniversary
Julia Carofine
Joseph DiDonna
- 12:00** Marion Biondi-Martin

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018

- 7:00** Angela Stuehler
- 9:00** Josephine Medes

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

- 7:00** Dec'd members of Alphonse & Jennie Seiffert Family
- 9:00** Catherine L. McClane-1st Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

- 7:00** Nancy Markey
- 9:00** James Slader

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

- 7:00** Diane Harlop
- 9:00** Sarah Campion

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

- 7:00** Frank & Frances Genzano
- 9:00** Frances Kramer

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018

- 9:00** George Kelly
- 5:30** Peter Kenny-1st Anniversary
Joseph Armetta
Mary M. Farkas–8th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

- 8:00** SaverioCaradonna
Lucy Ann Terrone
- 10:00** Pietro & Felicia Mannarino
Christopher Cardillo
Patsy Sinisi
- 12:00** All the People of the Parish