

## 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.

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

Reinhold Niebuhr

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 V

#### WOW IS NOW

Rita Rudner tells this story, "I gave my father \$100 and said, 'Buy yourself something that will make your life easier.' So he went out and bought a present for my mother."

The story is humorous and also very wise. Rita asked her dad how he came up with the idea of giving a gift to his wife. The dad responded that he started to think about what he wanted but suddenly stopped. He thought, 'Wow' and thanked God

for the gift of his daughter, her love and generosity. He prayed. His wife came to mind and her goodness to him and the many ways that she aggravated him. 'Wow' he thought wisely 'Now' is the time to be a 'Wow' for my wife, (and to make my life a little easier too)!

Wisdom is a gift that is given when we stop what we are doing and recognize that 'Now' is the time for 'Wow.'

Now is Wow. Yesterday is only a memory; tomorrow is only our imagination. God grants wisdom in the present moment.

### Prayer practice

- Suggested prayer posture: grab your own hand. Hold it tightly to ground yourself in the present moment. God is closer to you than you are to yourself. Prayer helps us to grasp God's hand right 'Now.' God grants us serenity, when we see God as the 'Wow' in the 'Now.'
- We have choices and decisions and the power of freedom to make a wise difference for good in our lives and for the benefit of others.
- When seeking wisdom:  
Stop. Pray. Give thanks; God is always working. Ask:  
"Okay God, what's the good news?"  
"Where is the gift in this?"  
"How can I be a 'Wow' right 'Now?'"  
"What one action will I take to be a 'Wow' for someone 'Now?'"

Pay attention to the wisdom God is granting in your ideas, perception, and ability to discern between what cannot and what can be changed. Thank God by praying the serenity prayer.

### 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.

## CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass this year takes place on Monday of Holy Week, **March 26, 2018** at 7:00 PM at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson. *The procession starts promptly at 6:45 PM.* This year's celebration will be of special significance as it will mark the first Chrism Mass in our newly renovated Cathedral.



## 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](http://stphilip.org/jubilee) to be included in our email list. Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/stphilipclifton](http://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

### POSITION AVAILABLE:

Maternity Substitute Teacher - Kindergarten

Certification mandatory

April - June 30, 2018

Qualified candidates please email your resume to:

[principalzito@gmail.com](mailto:principalzito@gmail.com)

St. Philip students have had a lot of make-up testing due to all the snowstorms. Fourth grade science is researching a natural disaster and creating a brochure. Fifth grade is researching endangered species and creating commercials, T-shirts or brochures to raise awareness. In religion, the fifth graders wrote their own modern day parables. First grade celebrated Saint Patrick's Day on Friday by learning about Saint Patrick and why he is so important. The students got to try Irish soda bread and see Irish objects such as a shillelagh stick and a cleric cross. They had fun with Saint Patrick's Day themed Math & Reading centers too. The first graders also learned about Saint Joseph, the Italian saint, and why he is important during our celebration. The students got to experience tasting Italian cookies.

## MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### GOOD NEWS! MINISTRIES RESUMED

#### BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study continues on **Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** in the CHURCH from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. We will discuss the First Prediction of the Passion and Peter's Confession. The final meeting will be next **Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**.

#### THE FOLLOWING GROUPS MEET AT

#### THE VFW HALL - 491 VALLEY ROAD, CLIFTON

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** - 8:00 PM

ROSARY SOCIETY - **Thursdays, April 12 & May 17** at 5:30 PM

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

COLUMBIETTES - **Thursday, March 22** - 7:00 PM.

Please note:

This month we will be collecting for Lyons VA Hospital. They need men's socks, T shirts and underwear.

#### 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.

#### WHAT IS A COLUMBIETTE?

She is a Catholic woman over 18 years old who wants to serve God, give back to the community and develop new friendships. Think about joining today. For more information call Sharon [973 742-0926](tel:9737420926).

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

### 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 Aiazzone, 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 Duyne, 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

**THE DECEASED:** Hermann Koch

#### PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017	\$18,262.00
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018:	
ENVELOPES	\$11,292.00
CASH	\$ 1,425.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 4,933.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,650.00</b>

#### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: MARCH 24/25, 2018

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

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

### SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

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

### MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

- 7:00** Patsy Sinisi
- 9:00** Josef & Frantiska Krizek

### TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

- 7:00** Edward Chmura
- 9:00** Thomas Gorman – 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

- 7:00** Emily Klopotek
- 9:00** Bella & Elizabeth Keresztes

### THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

- 7:00** Claire Chidiac
- 9:00** Pierson Fredrick Linaris

### FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

- 7:00** Patrick Barrett
- 9:00** Stanley J. Makowski – 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018

- 9:00** Patricia Lucciola
- 5:30** All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018 (PALM SUNDAY)

- 8:00** Arline Alwill  
Deceased members: Ayers & Pritch Family
- 10:00** Marie D'Angelo  
Thomas Turner  
Emily Klopotek  
Marek Cihak
- 12:00** Vito & Leona Benevenga, Sr.

