

A STEWARD'S KEYS: Week III



Not Feeling OK? Pray!

Prayer is the key that sets us free to be **OK**. Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasure of the Good News.

What Good News?

1. God is giving to us and gifting us whether we feel **OK** or not.
2. God is always working in us, in others and in all ways. We call this God's Providence. Prayer is the key to discovering the hidden treasure of God in all things.

A Good News Story

A grumpy father comes home from a very bad day at work and says to his wife, "What a rough day, please no bad news!" She prays, "OK God, what's the Good News?" In a moment she replies, "Here's some good news. Three of your four children didn't break an arm today."

The laughter they shared must have been remembered for a long time.

The Good News in the story was the freedom that the couple felt in communicating. The husband shared his being not **OK**; the wife truly listened to him with a compassionate heart and responded with kindness. What changed through the wife's prayer, nothing. The child still had a broken arm. But, what changed by prayer, everything. The parents were both now **OK**. They were in a better place to support each other and to care for the child.

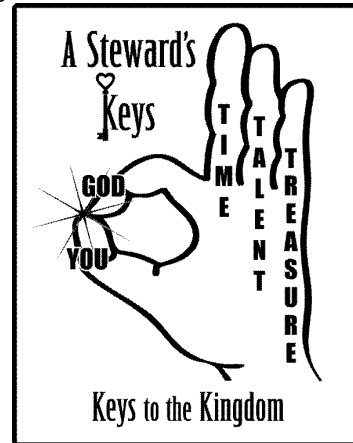
God invites us to be free in communicating through prayer when we are **OK** and when we are not.

How to Use the Prayer Key Question

OK God, what's the Good News?

1. Look. Be attentive. Be honest. Be aware.
2. Identify in what way you are not **OK**.
3. Pray: **OK** God, what's the Good News?

4. Reflect; look for God's Providence. Name what's good, gift (person, place or thing), blessing or hope in the situation.
5. Thank God for those gifts.
6. Decide how you will express gratitude to God through service for others. Act.



Christian Stewards Share the Keys to the Kingdom

The hand gesture for **OK**, pictured above, forms an **O**, a **circle of mutual giving** as the pointer finger meets the thumb.

The **burst of light** symbolizes the moment in prayer when we give our **thanks** to God. God gives all to us (Providence) and we are invited to respond in gratitude by reaching out in love and service to others.

The **three fingers** extending outward toward others represent the **key gifts** that we share:

Time, Talent and Treasure

God Gives; We Give

A **Steward** is one way that Jesus uses to describe our relationship with God (Mt25:14-30, Lk12:42-48).

An *oikonomos* or Steward is the one in whom the master places trust by sharing responsibility for the care of all people, resources and work.

The circle of mutually giving love is the key and at the heart of what it means to be a **Christian Steward**.

The USCCB in their *Pastoral Letter on Stewardship: A Disciples Response*, write:

A Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly in justice with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

Finding the true treasure of God in all things takes some know-how and some real effort. God's

active Providence is Good News worth looking for. As Christian Stewards we search for, discover and uncover Good News with the key of prayer.

During the next weeks we will explore our relationship with God by using the **Keys to the Kingdom** to unlock the treasure of God in all things.

Pray with the Key Question and follow the suggestions in the column to the left and unlock your full spiritual treasure!

OK God, what's the Good News?

2016 BISHOPS ANNUAL APPEAL: BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS

Did you know that, in addition to returning your pledge card with a check, you can make a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal on-line? Simply go to www.2016appeal.org and follow the instructions. You can either make a one-time gift or a pledge with monthly payments made automatically for your convenience. More and more parishioners are taking advantage of this option, so please consider using this method today.

Whether it is a pledge, a one-time gift, or an on-line donation, your support is most welcome and greatly needed. Please consider participating in this worthy cause!



ST. PHILIP'S PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016 1:00-4:00 PM

JOIN US FOR **FOOD, FUN, MUSIC & ACTIVITIES**
FOR ALL AGES!

OUTDOOR BIG TOP TENT & INDOOR AC SEATING

CASH KITCHEN, BEER, WINE, SODA & WATER

COMPLIMENTARY:

- COFFEE, TEA & COOKIES
- DJ & DANCING
- YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES, GAMES, RELAYS, ETC.
- FIRE TRUCK
- SPECIAL SHOW: **UNIQUE CREATURES** (3:15 PM GYM)

DONATION ACCEPTED:

- BOUNCY HOUSE SLIDE & CASTLE
- FACE PAINTING
- PUMPKIN DECORATING

THE MAIN PARKING LOT WILL CLOSE **AFTER** THE 8:00 AM MASS. SHUTTLE BUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL PARKING LOT, BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM & ENDING AT 4:00 PM.

RCIA

Open Your Heart to God

Discover the Keys to the Kingdom

- Are you interested in exploring your spiritual life?
- Do you want to discover the abundance of God's love & peace?
- Would you like to have greater motivation for service?
- Do you want to know more about the Catholic Faith?
- Did you ever think about becoming a Catholic?
- Are you a baptized Catholic and have never made your First Communion and/or Confirmation?
- Are you baptized in another faith and have a desire to become Catholic?
- Have you never been baptized in any faith but wonder?

JOURNEY WITH US!

Through the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA we explore all these questions and discover the keys to the kingdom.

We invite you to be our companion on the journey. We gather on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Russo Room. For more information about RCIA please call Donna Scancarella at (973) 779-6200. Our first session will be Monday, October 17th.

OKTOBERFEST! SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 1ST

Get ready for *Oktoberfest* on Saturday, October 1st following the 5:30 PM Mass when St. Philip's Players will hold its first fundraiser for the theater group. There will be German food, domestic and imported beer available, music and dancing! Tickets are **\$40** and are now on sale.

For tickets or reservations, please call 973-779-1439 or 973-607-1924. Please leave a message, your call will be returned. You may also email us at stphilipsplayers@aol.com

BIBLE STUDY

Fr. Kevin's Bible Study Sessions resume on Monday October 3rd beginning at 11.00 AM in the Molloy Center. Our theme this year is the Good News. This semester, we will study the Good News of the Gospel of St John. It contains a more developed theological reflection than the other three (synoptic) gospels. It

was written later and clarifies issues affecting the early church.

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

PRIME TIMERS

- St. Philip the Apostle Prime Timers next meeting: Friday, October 7th at 1:00 PM in the Molloy Center
- October program - "Flowers and Fitness" – demonstration on flower arranging by Frank Jannuzzi, flower shop owner & personal fitness trainer for seniors. Exercises which can be done at home will also be shown.
- Christmas Party: Valley Regency on December 1st at Noon Money will be collected at October & November meetings. Cost: Members - \$45; Non-members \$48. Contact Paul Doviak - 973-777-9227 for more information.
- Meetings open to any parishioner of St. Philip's and their friends age 50 and over.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Sunday, October 2nd: 72nd Annual Communion Brunch!

- Rosary 9:40 AM followed by Mass at 10:00 AM
- Brunch immediately after Mass in Marian Hall
- Tickets are \$25. Call Elaine [973-472-9019](tel:973-472-9019).

Any **Confirmation candidate** interested in volunteering at the Communion Breakfast, please call Arlene Pompeo for more information at [201-456-6348](tel:201-456-6348)

WIDOW/WIDOWERS

- *The Monday Night Group*: September 26th at 6:30 PM
- *The New & Recently Bereaved Group*: Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00 PM

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students at The PREP have been learning a lot about this new season; Fall. The early childhood wing has been reading about the beautiful changes that will be happening and some of the activities they will enjoy.

One fall favorite is apple picking! Students shared stories of their own trips to the orchards and read about it too. The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes had an apple tasting. Here they got to taste some of the different apples. They really enjoyed it!

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **Sun 9/25**: Bagels and Bibles after 10AM Mass
- **Thurs 9/29**: 7-9PM College App Night - Seniors: get together to fill out college

applications, do some research, relax and de-stress!

- **Thurs 10/20**: 7-9 PM Open Gym and Movie Night
- **Fri 11/18 - Sun 11/20**: SEARCH Retreat for 11th and 12th graders. Please contact Andrew for more information about this amazing program!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017

Information at www.stphilip.org or call 973-779-1439.

**Religious Education Calendar for September:
Sunday September 25th – Grades 1-6**

DIOCESAN NEWS

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDINGS ANNIVERSARY MASS

For couples, married in 1966 or 1991. You are warmly invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary at Mass at St. Peter the Apostle Church, Parsippany with the Church of Paterson. Bishop Serratelli will be the main celebrant on

Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. Registrations will be accepted through **Monday, October 24, 2016**. Congratulations on this joyous occasion.

PRAY FOR

THE SICK: Ann Marie Kwiatkowski, Joan Hughes, Mildred Nerone, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Margaret Schweighardt, Ryan G. Micale, Emma Wyman, Jane Hughes, Allison Llanos, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinisi, Barbara Sikora, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Joseph Buhler, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Linda Brady, Josephine Basile, Annette Cavalini, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Setters, Mary Ellen Stanton, Margaret Schneider, Alexander Bancey, Josephine Pipitone, Sam Pennella, Alice Negron, Zigrig Roman

THE DECEASED: Alejandro Lopez, Florence Curtin, Peter Wilk

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Aiden Gennaro Laidlaw, child of Michael & Antonia

PARISH GIVING

Total Sunday Collection: Sept. 20, 2015

\$15,916.00

September 18, 2016

Envelopes

\$10,475.00

Cash \$

1,797.00

Online Giving donations \$

4,660.00

Total

\$16,932.00

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: OCTOBER 1/2, 2016

5:30 PM	Fr. Julio	10:00 AM	Fr.
Kevin			
8:00 AM	Fr. Julio	12:00 Noon	Fr.
Miguel			

**PRIEST CONVOCATION MANDATORY ATTENDANCE,
THEREFORE THIS WEEK THERE WILL BE NO 7:00 AM
MASS
ON SEPTEMBER 27, 28 & 29**

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Anne T. Grady
James Fariello
Norman J. Dollbaum
Anthony "Sonny" Cassone
12:00 Al Mayewski; Osmania Levanti

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

7:00 Millie Scrosia
9:00 Special Intention: Thanksgiving for Healing

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

9:00 Special Intention: Betancort Family

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

9:00 James Fariello

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

9:00 Josephine Zito

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

7:00 Millie Scrosia

9:00 Reid Charles Krevis

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016

9:00 AM Howard McEwan – 6th Anniversary

5:30 PM Teresa Corcoran
Mary & Joseph Esposito
Anthony Maffei

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

8:00 Francis, Miriam & Kevin O'Brien; Carla Schaafsma

10:00 All Deceased Rosarians
John Buck
Tom Bell
Norman & Frances Dollbaum

12:00 All the People of the Parish

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In Memory of Antonio B. Garcia
From his Wife & Children

**BLESSING OF ANIMALS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER
1st AT THE
ST. ANTHONY SHRINE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 9
AM MASS**