

FIRST SUNDAY *of Advent*



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Waiting.

I have grown accustomed to waiting, which is not to say that I gladly welcome it in any sense. When I take my mom to her doctor's appointment, visit the post office, drop off my car, or go shopping, I expect that it will take time. I am prepared; I read, play Angry Birds on my phone, or answer texts and emails. In fact, I am intrigued when I encounter people who are genuinely shocked that they must wait. I take special interest in the one person who grumbles aloud, for the rest of us "in waiting" to hear, at the cashier/attendant/business that is so insensitive as to make anyone wait.

I have noted the different kinds of waiting, and my response to each. I am happily expectant when the delivery has an estimated arrival time between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.; I am irritated as the time slowly creeps towards 1:30 p.m. and later. I am anxious when the emergency room doctor says it will take an hour for the test results, and I clock-watch each minute. I am frustrated when traffic is slow, and I dread the passing of time prior to a meeting that involves a hard conversation. I am delighted and energized as I anticipate the long-planned trip to the theatre or an evening out with close friends. Each of these instances reveals something about me.

In those instances of waiting that involve uncertainty and challenge, I look for consolation in company. Sometimes all I need is for someone to be with me, put a hand on my shoulder, or simply tell me that s/he understands. That is why the readings appeal to me this First Sunday of Advent.



God tells Jeremiah, "I will fulfill the promise I made." Paul addresses the Thessalonians, "Strengthen your hearts at the coming of Our Lord Jesus." I am comforted by these directives, for I know God understands my tendency to distract myself during waiting. I am in good (God's) hands!

The season of Advent is a time of waiting, which traditionally is defined as preparation. It's normal to begin to plan the menu, shop for gifts or write and address the annual holiday cards. These are the usual ways to prepare for Christmas. One important part is left out.

Jesus tells his disciples, "Be vigilant...pray that you have strength." Advent provides a wonderful opportunity to consider what is going on inside me, to reflect on the reason for my waiting: the arrival of Jesus, the arrival of Love, in my heart in ever-new

ways. Moreover, I can learn about how I wait: Am I anxious? Lonely? Tired? Am I curious? Thankful? Excited? I can open my heart to the Lord in quiet prayer and allow His presence to instruct me and fill me.

During this season, take a few minutes every day to sit quietly. Talk to the Lord about your day, especially the unresolved issues that occupy your time. Let the cares and distracting thoughts come and go; notice how you feel when you are alone with God. Offer up even those feelings. Then see if there is a movement, or a voice, from inside. It may not happen the first day, or the second.

Take a bit of quiet every day. This is the best preparation for Christmas.

This Advent, God invites us into the waiting.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



PARISH NEWS

FOOD DONATION DRIVE

Feeding the Hungry this Season of Gratitude and Giving

Our parish has a long history of giving service through ministry, especially in feeding those in need. We will not be collecting food but instead taking free-will donations converted into food gift certificate cards.

How Can We Give?

A free-will donation envelope is available in the vestibule in the back of the church. The **Food Donation Envelope** can be returned on Thanksgiving Day at the 9 AM Mass or the following weekend, **November 27/28**, and then put in the collection basket. You may write your parish giving envelope number on the Food Donation Envelope to add your gift to your yearly contribution statement. Your contribution will be converted into food certificate gift cards. An added benefit is that for every \$100 donated, five dollars is given to us in return by the food store for our charitable works, and therefore a gift of \$100 becomes an actual gift of \$105.

GIVING TREE

As we ready to start the Advent season, and prepare for our Christmas celebrations, let us not forget our neighbors in need. Our annual **Giving Tree** is a good way to live out our mission to do the work of Christ. "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)." This year, we have two ways to participate! First, we can participate in our **Online Giving Tree**. Please visit our website to read through the giving opportunities and donate online. Second, we can participate in our **In-Person Giving Tree** by visiting our church vestibule to pick a gift tag off the tree which provides a note on what can be donated.



Please return all gifts (and make online donations) by the 12:00 PM Mass on December 19, 2021.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us on **Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM** for a *Service of Lessons and Carols*. Hear readings and beautiful music provided by our **Adult** and **Youth Choirs** and **Handbells**. Come meditate on the spirit of Christmas with us!



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of the Poor express their gratitude and appreciation to our generous parishioners for their donations totaling \$4,263. The Sisters and their residents are grateful for the friendship and support from St. Philip's Parish Community.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Sessions will resume on Monday, November 29th in the Jubilee Wing Room at 11AM.

SIMBANG GABI 2021

The Filipino Catholics of our parish invite everyone to join the annual **Simbang Gabi** Novena Mass in preparation for Christmas on Thursday, December 23, 2021, at 6 PM in church to be celebrated by his excellency, Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney. Fellowship and reception will immediately follow Mass in the Auditorium.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Covid has presented many challenges and has changed many aspects of our lives, but the students and faculty have decided that the annual SP Prep Christmas show must go on—just a little differently this year! The entire school has been busy preparing for our Christmas show. On any given day you can hear various Christmas songs or catch a glimpse of students learning the choreography to their dances in their classrooms. Although it will be different, there is one thing to be sure of - it will be an amazing show this year!

Intermediate School has been buzzing with activity. Math students have begun working on the final fundamental math operation, division, this month. In Religion, students are learning about the various components of the Mass as well as all of the different objects used during the Mass. In science the students just finished learning about cells and are beginning their study of plants. We will be conducting chromatography labs so students can discover the hidden pigments that are contained in leaves and are revealed to use each fall. The 4th Grade Science classes made leaf rubbings as they learned about the parts of a leaf. We will also be conducting yeast labs to learn about how these fungi help us in the kitchen. Grade 5 Religion classes are writing Friendly Letters to God, expressing gratitude for Jesus and explaining how our faith has helped us through difficult times in our lives.

Middle school students are currently working on coding in their computer classes. The eighth graders just completed a long-term project requiring them to conceptualize a vacation-themed resort and bring their idea to life utilizing various Google programs.

We hope you all had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving spent with friends and family!

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

PRIME TIMERS

Our December meeting will be our Christmas Party, which will be held on Wednesday, December 15 at 1 PM in Marian Hall. The cost is \$35 per person and will be catered by Francesco's Restaurant. Payment for the Christmas Party will be made to Stasia Komorowski, who can be reached at (973) 473-2068

COLUMBIETTES

Columbiettes Blanket Ministry

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center. We welcome all crafters. If you have any questions or yarn and fabric donations, please call Cathie Murtha (973) 471-1265

BOY SCOUTS

Scout Christmas Wreath and Grave Pillow Sale

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be having their Annual Wreath Sale this weekend & next weekend.

They will be selling fresh wreaths as well as grave pillows/grave blankets.

Payment can be made by cash, check, Paypal, or Venmo.

Please stop by and support the Boy Scouts.

For more information call Phil Jakimowicz at (973) 773-5053



PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 4, 2021

5:30 PM Fr. Nico

DECEMBER 5, 2021

8:00 AM Fr. Jared

10:00 AM Fr. Monteleone

12:00 PM Fr. Kevin

WE PRAY FOR...

THE DECEASED: John Chlada, Richard Scucci

THE SICK: Luca Ataide, Jennifer Rascher, Mary Grace Henrich, Debbie Werthmann



PARISH SCHEDULE

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening 5:30 PM

Sunday....8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Broadcast) and 12:00 PM

Mondays thru Saturdays.....9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 4:30 to 5:00 PM

Please call the Parish Office
if you would like a priest to visit you
or a family member at home or in the hospital.

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MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

8:00 Deceased members of the McNamara Family
Enrique R. Angeles

10:00 Ralph Saam- 20th Anniversary
Rocco Paolazzi
Violet Carisi

Special Intentions - 60th Wedding Anniversary
George and MaryGrace Heyrich
12:00 Stefano and Josephine Casele
Shafik and Kwakah Maximos

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

9:00 Deceased members of the Wilson and Duffy
Families
Malcolm D. Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021

9:00 Joan Hughes
Dominador Conocer

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

9:00 Wilson Duffy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021

9:00 Salvatore Capriglione
Fanny DiSanto

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021

9:00 Rita Santos

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

9:00 Michael Majersky

5:30 Alphonse and Jennie Seiffert Family
Jack McSweeney
Marilyn Kryzwicki

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Rosario Llamas
Joseph Dewland
Jack McSweeney
Frances Dodd

12:00 Ella DeBenedetto
Christine Hadlinata- 1st Anniversary
Shafik and Kwakah Maximos

OFFERTORY GIFTS THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28TH

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