

FOURTH SUNDAY *of Advent*



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Mary had plenty to do. In fact, when you consider the recent events that had just occurred in her life, to say that she had to address several loose ends would be a major understatement. She had just been told by an angel that she was going to have a baby, and with that announcement a whole new set of responsibilities had been placed on her plate. She would have to find a way of telling Joseph the news, and she certainly worried about his response. She had to face the issues of her physical health as a pregnant mother. She had to plan for the coming of the child, where he would sleep, what he would wear, and how he would impact the normal functioning of the home. Like every new mother, Mary was filled with new questions, new responsibilities and new fears.

This is what makes today's gospel so remarkable. Because with all the issues Mary had to address, the last thing she needed was a journey to some Judean town in the hill country. But that is exactly what Mary decided to do. She chose to go out and visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary could have found all kinds of excuses from making this trip: "I should not travel if I am pregnant. This is not the best weather for a journey in the mountains. Elizabeth has her own family to support her and certainly she would understand if I stayed at home." Many good excuses, but Mary chose to follow none of them. For Mary the primary thing was the people in her life. If her cousin was bearing new life, it was appropriate that the two should be together to celebrate that gift from God.

This story of the visitation not only gives us information about Mary and Elizabeth, but it also gives us an example of how we are to live. This story reminds us of the importance of taking time to recognize and appreciate the people in our lives. We need this lesson this weekend more than ever. For this coming weekend we celebrate Christmas. Now I presume that most of you are ready or close to ready. Most of the gifts have been bought and perhaps wrapped. The menus are set. The schedules have been verified with those who will participate. Cards have been written. Phone calls have been made. Everything is in its place, and all that is required now is to execute the plan. This gospel reminds us that as we carry out the plans for our Christmas celebrations, we should not forget the people. With all the attention we give to the gifts, and the food and the traditions, it is easy to leave the people behind. We can become so preoccupied with the details of hospitality that we forget to recognize and to spend time with the people who we love. What a waste that would be. What a terrible distortion of the feast that we celebrate. Because all the things we do, all the traditions we follow are for the sake of the people we love.

With all that she had to do, with all that was on her mind, Mary found time to be with her cousin Elizabeth. Mary knew that nothing was more important than her and her cousin coming together to celebrate the new life that was growing within them. Let's follow Mary's example. Even if it means that you will not be able to do everything you want, do not let your responsibilities detract from the time and the appreciation of the people who will be with you this weekend.

Take time to listen to them, to speak to them, to laugh with them and perhaps to cry with them. People come first and without people there can be no true celebration of Christmas.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



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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ADVENT SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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.

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT PHILIP'S 2021

Christmas Eve Masses

Friday, December 24

4 PM – Fr. Nico (Youth Choir)

7 PM – Fr. Kevin (Handbell Choir)

10 PM – Fr. Monteleone (Adult Choir)

Christmas Day Masses

Saturday, December 25

8 AM – Fr. Kevin

10 AM (Broadcast) – Fr. Monteleone

12 PM – Fr. Nico

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 26

10 AM (Broadcast) – Fr. Kevin

12 PM – Fr. Nico

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Eve)

Friday, December 31

Vigil Mass at 5 PM – Fr. Nico

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Saturday, January 1, 2022

11 AM – Fr. Monteleone

ADVENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

GIVING TREE

Thank you for helping with our annual **Giving Tree**! If you have not already returned your gift, make sure to drop it off in the vestibule by the 12:00 PM Mass on Sunday, December 19. Don't forget to attach the tag to the gift! If you are making an online donation, please do so by this evening!



IN OTHER NEWS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Blood Drive Sunday, December 19th

Our Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive from 7 AM to 1 PM in the Gym on Sunday, December 19th.



Blood supplies are always low during the holiday season. Come to the gym before or after any Mass. Bring an ID and wear your mask as covid protocols are still observed. During this season of giving what better way than giving the gift of life.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Calendar Raffle

The Home and School Association (HSA) will be selling the calendar raffles after all the masses this weekend. Tickets are \$10 each for 90 chances to win! A chance to win money makes a great Stocking Stuffer!

LEGION OF MARY

St. Philip's branch of the Legion of Mary is accepting new members. The Legion was founded in 1921 in Dublin by Frank Duff. It now has millions of members. At St. Philip's, our group meets weekly on Mondays to say the Rosary, pray, report on acts of kindness for the past week and plan acts of kindness for the coming week. If you are interested, please call Veni Evangelista at 973-393-5120 or Barbara Jean Sikora at 201-638-9440

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

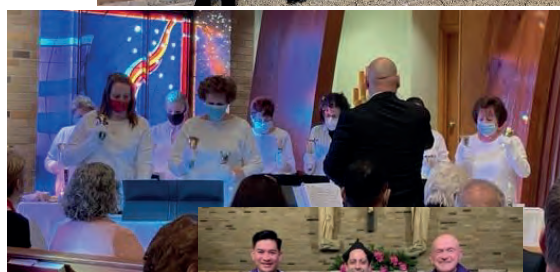
All of the St. Philip Prep students are working on Advent activities in preparation for Christmas and the coming of Jesus. The Primary grades made advent wreaths and the middle school students wrote their advent preparation plans on candles that are hanging in the halls. All students that have made the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be going to confession this week to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The students attended the feast Mass for the Immaculate Conception last week and many students worked on activities on the topic.

We will be recording our Christmas Show this week with each grade singing one Christmas song. They will be sent out as gifts to the parents before we leave for Christmas Break. Mr. Novak: our computer teacher will be working on the recordings and compiling them into one show. The fine art-digital arts students made opening slides for each grade, which Mr. Novak will add to the recordings.

LESSONS & CAROLS



You made our Advent 2021 more special. Thank you for the talents you offer as a gift to our Parish!



Thank you Mr. Frank Hydash!

Bravo!



Fr. Nico, Fr. Monteleone, and Msgr. Kevin at the Lessons and Carols

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Layla Elena

WEDDING BANNES

The following couples will be exchanging wedding vows:



I. Patrick Ferrara and Gina LoBue
I. Giuseppe Roveccio and Sara Bruno

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 25, 2021

8:00 AM Fr. Kevin
10:00 AM Fr. Monteleone
12:00 PM Fr. Nico

DECEMBER 26, 2021

10:00 AM Fr. Kevin
12:00 PM Fr. Nico

WE PRAY FOR...

THE DECEASED: Dorothy DeMarco, Mary Barbato,
Julia Howanice

THE SICK: Luca Ataide, Jennifer Rascher, Mary Grace Henrich,
Debbie Werthmann, Susan Stierlen, John Riccardi

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 13, 2020	\$ 15,816.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 12, 2021	
Weekly Collection	\$ 11,168.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,709.00
Total	\$ 18,877.00
Second Collection- Project Faith	\$ 2,107.00

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Catherine "Killy" Makowski
Josephine Pagano
Lena Rean
Frank and Laura Slasinski
12:00 Elena Parillo Bridi
Enrique Hizon

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

9:00 Leonides Rodriguez Dacuyucy

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021

9:00 Irene Marchalk- 10th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021

9:00 Thomas Turner- 4th Anniversary
John Robert Greco

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021

9:00 Edward Wozney
Nicholas Quintavella- 10th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

4:00 John Sonn
Robert Drozdowski
7:00 Charles Marvin
John N. Russo
10:00 Joseph Scafidi
Emily and Andrew Sokera

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Domenick Pagano
Josephine Pagano
Elaine Cipolla
Encarnacion Condcer
12:00 John Michal
Joseph Dewland

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

10:00 Mary Shashaty

John Michal
Steven Amato
Giovanna Caradonna
12:00 Patricia Hassert- 1st Anniversary
All the People of the Parish

CANDLE THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19th

In Memory of Patricia Hassert
-With love from, Nick, Barbara, and Family



OFFERTORY GIFTS THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19th

In Memory of Josephine Pagano



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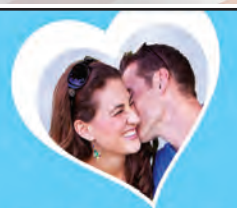
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