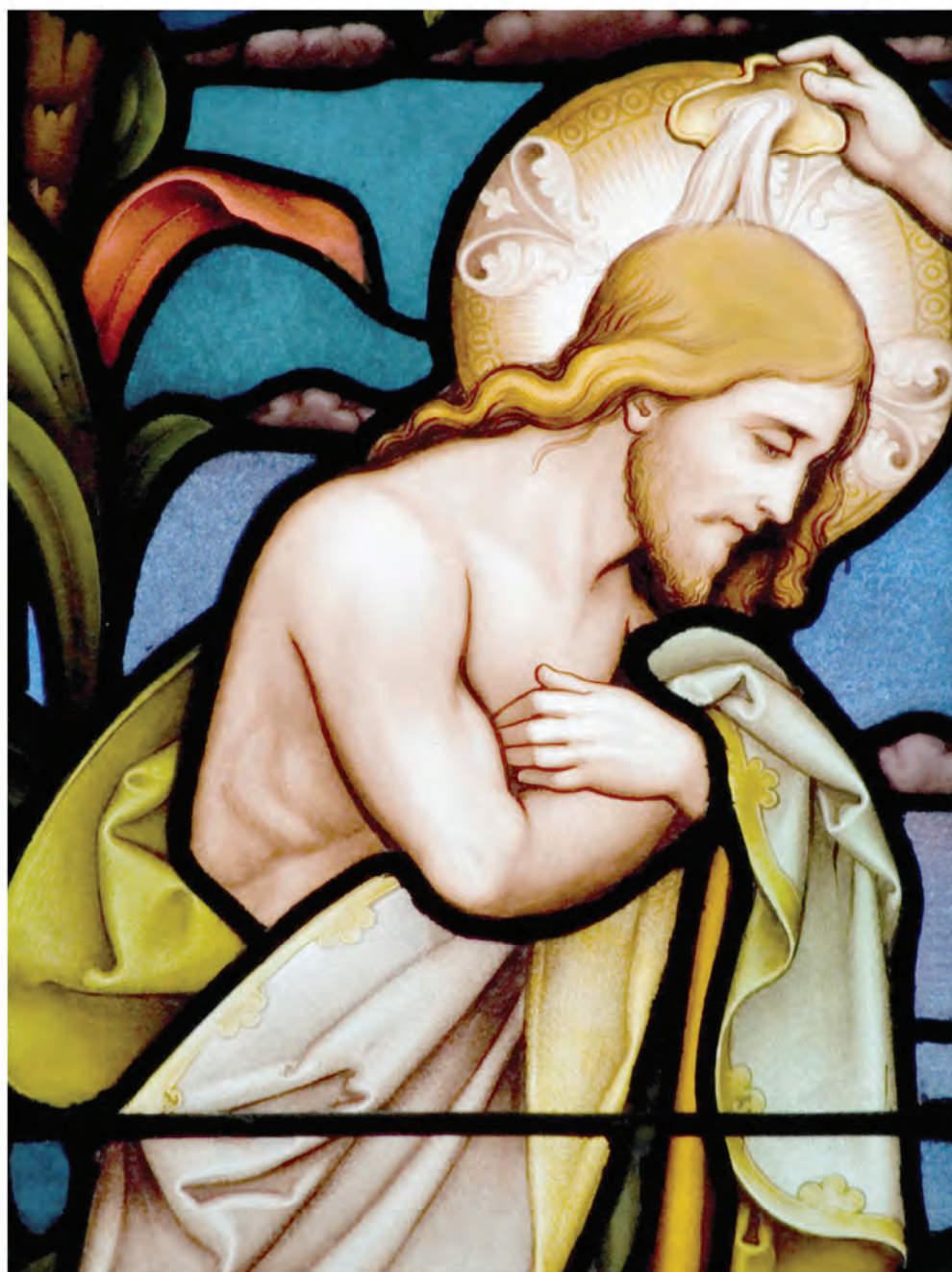


**AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN:  
“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”**

MATTHEW 1:11



**SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH**  
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Many times, people seek me out for grief counseling and to work through a traumatic experience. While I am not a trained counselor, I can listen and give some practical advice. Two books I highly recommend for understanding and processing pain are: *A Path Through Suffering* and *The Path of Loneliness*, both by the late author and speaker Elisabeth Elliot.

Elliot, a well-educated linguist, was the wife of Jim Elliot, who was martyred in the 1950's along with four other missionaries by the tribe of natives they were trying to minister to in the jungles of South America. The many works Elliot wrote on suffering emerged not only from this tragedy, but also through other losses, such as the death of her second husband from cancer.

When going through suffering, it's easy to dismiss the help and advice of others with the thought that they have no idea what they're talking about. But with Elliot, the case is different. She went through loss, through suffering, through pain, and through loneliness. And instead of frantically seeking to push hurt aside and fill the painful void in our lives with other things, she counsels us to look up and to find "a refuge for our loneliness" in God. "To stop our frantic getting, spending, and searching," she says in *"The Path of Loneliness,"* "and simply to look at the things God has made is to move one step away from despair. For God cares."

If anyone had cause for bitterness over the loss and pain she endured, it was Elliot. Yet she tells us that "it is possible both to accept and endure loneliness (and by extension, all forms of suffering)." How do we do so? Elliot gives us the answer.

"In circumstances for which there is no final answer in the world, we have two choices: accept them as God's wise and loving choice for our blessing (this is called faith), or resent them as proof of His indifference, His carelessness, even His non-existence (this is unbelief).

Elliot obviously chose the first option, explaining she accepts her suffering as a gift from

God and then gives it back to Him as an offering in return. That's a foreign concept in our society today, not only because we are encouraged to play the victim---even when receiving the smallest of hurts & offenses---but because many Americans relegate God to a corner of their lives, or not at all.

But what if we tried Elliot's approach to suffering? Instead of continually bemoaning our troubles---both public and personal---what if we accept them as a gift from God---a gift that, although painful at the time, could turn into beautiful character or other benefits further down the road? Doing so gives us a completely different lens to view the world through, and in a world that is increasingly broken and strewn with victims who only wallow in their suffering, a few individuals who choose to do the opposite will make a world of difference.

We should strive to be people of hope and of faith. St. Paul tells us to "Rejoice in Hope." What beautiful words to live by in 2022!

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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## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Everybody from St. Philip Prep wishes you a  
 Happy and Healthy New Year!

Want to become part of the Prep Family?  
 Applications for the 2022-2023 school year begins on  
 January 31<sup>st</sup> for new families. Re-Registration for all  
 current St. Philip families begins January 18, 2022.

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The January meeting of the Widow and Widowers Group  
 originally scheduled for Monday, January 10th has been  
**postponed**. Our next meeting will be February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM  
 in the Molloy Center.

### PRIME TIMERS

The next meeting of the Prime Timers will be Friday,  
 February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

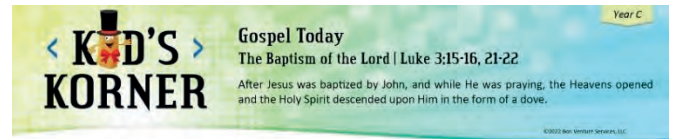
#### Blood Drive

Thank you to all parishioners who participated in our  
 Blood Drive on Dec. 19th. Thanks to your generosity! 28  
 units of blood were made available to save lives.

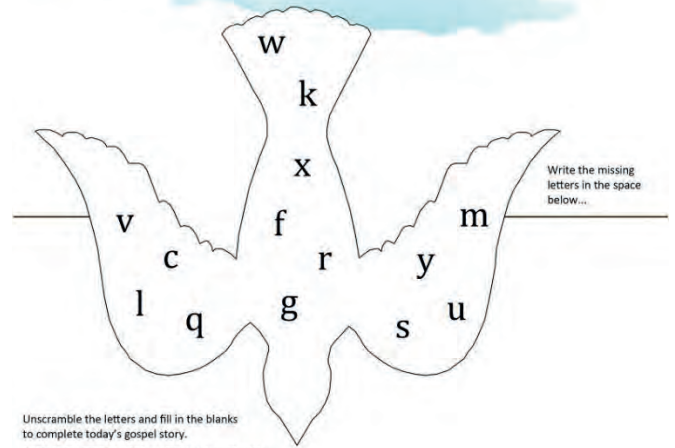
### Free Throw Contest

Attention St. Philip's students. The K of C annual  
 Basketball Free Throw contest will be held in the Gym on  
 January 29th. This is open to all boys and girls ages 9 -14.  
 Registration forms will be made available shortly in the  
 school office.

## KIDS KORNER



*And a voice came from Heaven,  
 "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*  
 Luke 3:22



\_\_\_\_\_ many  
 people, including Jesus.



## SIMBANG GABI 2021



*Bishop Sweeney celebrated the Simbang Gabi Mass on  
 December 23, 2021 with the Filipino faithful of the  
 diocese.*

## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 27, 2020	\$ 23,302.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 26, 2021	
Weekly Collection	\$ 8,524.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,078.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,602.00</b>
Second Collection- Project Faith	\$ 3,130.00

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS  
CHRISTMAS!**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2020	\$ 75,287.00
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2021	\$ 71,220.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 3, 2020	\$ 21,333.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 2, 2021	
Weekly Collection	\$ 10,049.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 7,387.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,436.00</b>

### Upcoming Second Collections:

#### January 9<sup>th</sup>- Project Faith

Our second collection is for Project Faith. This is to provide resources for diocesan ministry, religious education, parish family life and social services.

#### January 16<sup>th</sup>- Beacon

This collection helps to offset the paper to the Parish.

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...*

Manual Moran, Joseph Payne, Rev. Patrick O'Reilly

### *A Time to be Healed...*

Luca Ataide, Jennifer Rascher, , Susan Stierlen,  
Mary Grace Heyrich, Debbie Werthmann, John Riccardi



## PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Monteleone

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

8:00 AM Fr. Jared

10:00 AM Fr. Kevin

12:00 PM Fr. Nico

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

**8:00** Luciano and Teofila Rosales

**10:00** Anne and Anthony R. LiPari- Anniversary  
Settimio Bastone

Holly Grace Cannon- 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

John Matteo- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**12:00** Robert Parillo

Marian Malysa

### MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022

**9:00** Josefina Ramos

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

**9:00** Jesus Lintag

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

**9:00** James Scancarella

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

**9:00** Fred Anthony- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022

**9:00** Deceased members of the McNamara  
Family

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022

**9:00** Gerardo Gonzales

**5:30** Pedro Ravelo- 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ronald Daniels

Domenic DeBenedetto

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022

**8:00** Helen Lacko & Amelia Rosales  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

**10:00** Rafael Navarro

Charles Elbert

James Scancarella

Maura Loor- 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**12:00** All the People of the Parish



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