# THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

-MATTHEW 17:2-3



SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

A research company was anxious to do an extensive study of wolves in one of our national parks. Wolves, however, are rather clever, and have no desire to cooperate with scientific studies. So, with the backing of a major donor, the company placed a bounty of \$5000 on any wolf that could be safely captured for research. Two young college students, Tom, and Dave, decided this would be a way to make their fortunes. They were familiar with the park because they had camped there frequently. For two weeks they scoured the park without much success. Then one night, exhausted, they retired to their sleeping bags under the stars, and fell asleep thinking of their potential wealth. In the middle of the night, Tom woke up and realized that he and Dave were surrounded by at least 50 wild wolves with glaring eyes and bared teeth. He nudged his companion. "Dave," he said, "Wake up! We're rich!"

Rich? Maybe. Doomed? For sure. Today's parable also relates riches and death. In the parable, a rich man is busy making plans to store his wealth for the future. He decides to build bigger barns to hold what he owns. But all his industrious planning is cut short by his sudden death. The parable does not deny the need to plan for the future, but it asks us to look at wealth from the ultimate perspective. The man in the parable is called a fool, not because he is stupid, but because he does not appreciate the true purpose of his wealth. All his crops, all that he has is a gift from God. That gift, of course, is meant to be used for his benefit, but not in an unlimited way. Once his own needs are met, his excess wealth should not be hoarded away for the future but used. According to the gospel, it is to be used for the benefit of others.

This truth is not new to you. I think all of us are aware that God entrusts things to us to be used for the benefit of others. Yet many of us, like the man in the parable, go about from day to day without reflecting on what the purpose is for the gifts we have received. When God places money, or time, or ability into our hand, we are delighted. We begin planning how we can use these things for our own benefit. But how often do we think of the **responsibility** we have to use our gifts for the sake of others? Now this blindness might result in part from our culture which is always pushing us to accumulate excess wealth: more money, more friends, more possessions. Our culture persuades us that bigger is better, that growth is always desirable. How often do we ask ourselves, "Do I really need this? Shouldn't some of this be given to someone else? What part of my excess wealth or talent or time should I give to someone who needs it?"

Clearly today's parable might not be intended for everyone. There could be people here this parish who have no excess wealth, no excess time, no excess talent. But the people with no excess of gifts are few. Most of us need to listen to this parable as it reminds us that the excess gifts that we keep for ourselves are not an advantage, but a liability. The scriptures even use the image of a storehouse in heaven, a storehouse in which we can invest. We can place things in our heavenly storehouse each time we give away some of our resources here on earth. The image of the heavenly storehouse should be taken seriously, because at any time, just like in the parable, God could choose to call us home. When John D. Rockefeller died at the age of 98 at the beginning of the twentieth century, he was the wealthiest man in the world. A reporter who was assembling his obituary asked his chief aide, "Just how much did your boss leave behind?" The aide answered, "All of it."

The same is true for us. We will leave behind whatever we do not invest above. And how sad would it be, at the time of our death, if our bank account and coffers here on earth were bulging full and our storehouse in heaven was empty and bare? Remember, you never see a U-Haul follow a hearse!

Peace, Fr. Monteleone



#### FAITH FORMATION

Registration for our Religious Education and Confirmation Programs is now open! We hope you will register your child and continue with us on this faith journey. For details, please visit our parish website, www.StPhilip.org. If you have any questions, please email us at: reled@stphilip.org.



#### DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

Bishop Sweeney is pleased to announce the premier event of the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist, inviting all parishioners to attend the Eucharistic Congress on September 24 and 25 at the Cathedral in Paterson. Several events in both English and Spanish will feature prayer, community, and talks from Archbishop Rino Fishichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization at the Vatican. For a full schedule of events and to register, visit <a href="https://rcdop.org/year-of-the-eucharist">https://rcdop.org/year-of-the-eucharist</a>



#### FRIDAY. September 23<sup>rd</sup>

7:00 pm

Solemn Evening Prayer and Presentation for Priests, Religious, and Deacons

#### SATURDAY, September 24th

10:00 am

Midmorning Prayer and Presentation in English (9:30 am - Refreshments in the Rodimer Center)

#### 2:00 pm

Midafternoon Prayer and Presentation in Spanish (1:30 pm - Refreshments in the Rodimer Center)

### September 25th

3:00 pm Closing Bilingua



All events will take place at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist 381 Grand Street, Paterson, New Jersey

Parking Available in the County Lot across from the Cathedral Offices



op.org/year-of-the-euch



#### **VOCATION MASS**



Who: Young men - ages 13 and older When: August 4, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Where: St. Lawrence the Martyr Church 375 Main Street, Chester, NJ



celebration of Mass on the Feast Day of Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of priests. Mass starts at 5 p.m.



barbecue hosted by the Knights of



Join us for a friendly competition of volleyball, soccer or Frisbee



#### ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

#### WE ARE HIRING!

Saint Philip Preparatory School is searching for full time certified teachers for the following: Kindergarten, Grades 2, 3 and Computers.

For teaching positions, please apply at

https://www.applitrack.com/patersondiocese/onlineapp/

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#### SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### ST. PHILIPS PLAYERS

We are returning to the stage!

An original musical revue is set for November 2022. SPP is also adopting the St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Dinner Dance with a restart for March 2023. With that, we need volunteers on and off the stage. Specifically seeking off stage assistants, graphic & scenic designers, general volunteers. Also seeking potential performers as we look to expand. Stphilipsplayers@gmail.com or 862-686-5544.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### Gala Anniversary Celebration

Our Knights will be celebrating their 25 plus years as a council at St. Philip's also recognizing past Grand Knights Jack Houston, Rich Donkersloot, and Walter (Doc) Krawiec at La Neve's in Haledon on Friday, August 12 at 5:30 PM. ALL ARE INVITED TO THIS CELEBRATION.

Full dinner with beer and wine included \$50 per person. Tickets available on-line now at:

https://knights-of-columbus-11671.square.site/25thanniversary-and-past-grand-knights-dinner

Or call Ray Lill (973) 472-1756, Carlos Roco (973) 557-1716, or Mike Cervine (973) 220-3095

#### **Other Upcoming Events:**

August 7th Start of our campaign for Coats for Kids for this

September 29th Annual Golf Event, Passaic County Golf Course

#### A LITTLE WEEKEND HUMOR

#### **FUNNIEST CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS!**

- -Pastor is on Vacation. Massages can be given to the parish secretary.
- -Potluck Supper: prayer and medication to follow.
- -The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- -Ushers will eat latecomers.
- -Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.



FATHER EDWARD RAMA



#### KIDS KORNER



#### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Monteleone

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022

Visiting Priest 8:00 AM Fr. Nico 10:00 AM Fr. Nico 12:00 PM

#### PLEASE NOTE

There will be two (2) Masses offered on Monday, August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**7 AM** Fr. Nico

**9 AM Visiting Priest** 

Weekly Holy Hour will resume on Friday, September 9th

#### **PARISH GIVING**

SUNDAY COLLECTION: JULY 25, 2021	\$ 12,726.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: JULY 24, 2022	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$7,378.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 6,871.00
TOTAL	\$14, 249.00
SECOND COLLECTION – PROJECT FAITH	\$ 1,628.00

#### **Upcoming Second Collections:**

August 14 - Project Faith

#### WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace... Walter E. Sudol

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

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Sylvia Shami, Edward Kovacs, Dominick Cappello, Todd Daigneault, Cheri Albanesius, James Jablonowski, Elmer Rodriguez, Michele Bellisano, Michael Barbetta, John Hughes, George Wozniak



#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022**

8:00 Diane Jackson Michael and Sally Harrington

10:00 Andrew DiDomenico Anthony Volonnino Thommaso DelGatto Marion Kovacs

12:00 Genevieve "Jean" Tarnowski **Douglas Davids** 

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

**9:00** Marlene Chidiac – Special Intention

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022**

**9:00** Marie Sedlacik Cesar Bocanegra

#### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022**

**9:00** Nicholas Storms – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Ilda Frazao

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022

**9:00** Corazon Nunag – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2022

9:00 Paul LoPresti. Sr.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022

9:00 Violeta Roy

5:30 Anthony R. Lipari Debbie Werthmann

Sr. Eileen Kelly – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as member of the Society of Sisters for the Church

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022

**8:00** All the People of the Parish

10:00 Leandro Salme Mitchell Krukar Marci Franciose Jeff Taylor

12:00 James Nugent

Carolina DellaFave

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