

# SECOND SUNDAY *of Advent*



*Saint Philip the Apostle Parish*  
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

"It's not over until the fat lady sings." As unlikely as it may seem, this saying directly relates to the season of Advent, and to a spiritual attitude in which we should try to live each day of our lives. The saying is often attributed incorrectly to Yogi Berra, the manager of the New York Yankees. He probably receives credit because another of his sayings is close to it: "It's not over until it's over." Both sayings point to a truth: you are not going to know who wins the ball game until the last out is made.

The saying about the fat lady does not originate in baseball. The full saying reveals its origin: "the opera is not over until the fat lady sings". It reflects the common practice in classical opera that no matter what kind of twists or turns there are in the plot, the last scene is reserved to the soprano—usually a hefty woman of some presence who closes the opera with a dramatic aria. Therefore, what the saying tells us is that no matter how the story seems to be going, wait! There is still time. The opera is not over until the fat lady sings.



Now what does this have to do with Advent? Quite a bit. **Advent is about waiting.** This is what the readings today tell us. We are waiting for the Kingdom of God—a kingdom which Isaiah describes in today's first reading as a kingdom on God's holy mountain—a kingdom which is announced by a messiah which John the Baptist proclaims in the desert in the wilderness.

**Advent is about waiting, and so is life.** Jesus has revealed to us a God who saves us, a God who will not abandon us, a God that has promised us life. But the promises of God **are not accomplished** in a day. Thus, the stance for every believer each day of life, is to wait: to wait for God to act, to wait for God to fulfill God's promises.

Therefore, it is such a mistake, such a tragedy, when we conclude that things are finished, when we decide that we have come to the end of the line, when we decide that there is nothing more to wait for. Because if we conclude that things are ended before God has finished, then we rob ourselves of hope, and we rob ourselves of life.

Now when can we choose such false conclusions? It usually happens in the midst of heartache or disappointment. When we learn that a son or daughter is addicted to drugs, when we are told we cannot conceive a child, when we find that we have to face divorce or the rejection of someone we love, when we have to mourn someone that we have lost in death, when we lose our job, when the diagnosis comes to us that it is cancer—in these moments of crisis, we are tempted to call the game, to throw in the towel, to conclude that things are over.

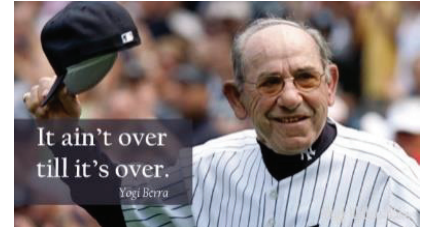
But the Christian is called not to give up but to wait, because **only God** can say when the story is finished.

This attitude of waiting is really the fundamental stance of the believer. It applies not only to the crises of our lives, but also the everyday disappointments. When someone forgets our birthday, when our back begins to ache, when our children cannot come home for Christmas, it is easy to conclude that we should just write it off life as a loss

and give in to sadness. But the gospel then calls us instead to **wait**, to see what God will do next. Because as long as there is another scene, anything can happen. As long as God still has room to act, there is hope.

So, the next time you have to face a major crisis, or a small disappointment, don't throw in the towel. Don't give up. Wait! Watch what will happen next. We believe that God is still at work, so give Him time to act. Don't presume to conclude that your life is a tragedy. God has promised you a happy ending. It is not over until the fat lady sings, and God is the only one who can tell her when to take the stage. Until that final curtain falls, any good thing can still happen.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone



## PLEASE NOTE

Our Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception which is a Holy Day of Obligation is as follows:

**Vigil Mass on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**  
**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 AM and 9 AM**

## ANTICIPATING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 5  
7 PM

### Advent Talk by Fr. Nico

Saturday, December 10  
9:30 AM

### Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 11  
3 PM

### Christmas Eve Masses

Saturday, December 24  
4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM

### Christmas Day Masses

Sunday, December 25  
8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast) and 12 PM

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31  
Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, January 1  
8 AM, 10 AM (Broadcast) and 12 PM

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study with Father Kevin continues every  
**Monday at 11 AM** in the Youth Room of Molloy Center.  
Please bring your Bible.

### THE ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

This liturgical work composed by Renaissance composer, Palestrina, is an extremely melodic and fluid choral work composed in the late 1500s with a libretto written nearly 500 years before that. Because of its content, the work is often performed during Advent and Epiphany, when the Catholic church ponders and meditates on the mysteries of Blessed Mary and her virgin birth.

#### Latin Lyrics

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli  
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,  
Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti,  
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem  
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore  
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.*

#### English Translation

*Sweet Mother of the Redeemer, that passage to heaven,  
gate of the morning, and star of the sea:  
Assist the fallen, lift up, you who cure, the people:  
you who bore to the wonderment of nature,  
your holy Creator. Virgin before and after, who received  
from Gabriel that joyful greeting,  
have mercy on us sinners.*

The choir or cantor chants this after Communion. Let us unite our hearts with the Blessed Mother as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord.

### ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Eighth grade Language Arts students are preparing their public service announcements for their media literacy unit. Stay tuned for how to get a glimpse. Eight graders are also studying the nervous system and getting ready to do sheep's eye dissection within the week.

The excitement of the season is already palpable in school. The fifth-grade students are learning about Jesus' lineage by creating Jesse Trees, while the Middle School Visual Arts students are painting cubist portraits of the Nativity. Practices for the Christmas Show have begun, and the halls are beginning to fill with Christmas music. Students are also preparing their shopping list for next week's Santa Sale.

### SIMBANG GABI 2022

The Filipino Catholics of our parish invite everyone to join the annual *Simbang Gabi* Mass in preparation for Christmas on  
**Thursday, December 15, 2022,  
at 6:30 PM.** The Mass celebrant will be Fr. Nico.



Fellowship and reception will immediately follow Mass in the Auditorium.

## GIVING TREE

Our **Giving Tree** is ready!  
Please visit the church vestibule to select a gift tag or visit our parish website to help people served by Catholic Family and Community Services (CFCS), St. Martin de Porres Village (MPV), St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly (SJ), and Mercy House (MH). Please consider sharing your blessings this Christmas season by sharing a gift to help those in need in our local community. In the words of Pope Francis, "To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us."



Please return all gifts by the Noon Mass  
on December 18, 2022.

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ancient Order of Hibernians  
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**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM to 10 PM**

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Scott Sim at [Sws4664@aol.com](mailto:Sws4664@aol.com)

### ROSARY SOCIETY

All are welcome to attend the next Rosary Society gathering on **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of Our Lady Of Guadalupe.** Please join us for Mass and Rosary in **Marian Hall at 6:30 PM.** Kindly remember to bring any food pantry and gift card donations as our charity to the poor among us during this season of giving.



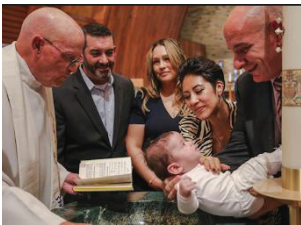
## BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 21 is having their Annual Wreath Sale after all Masses on the weekend of Dec. 3 & 4. They will be selling fresh wreaths as well as grave blankets and grave pillows. Please stop by and support Boy Scout Troop 21! Call Phil Jakimowicz at (973) 723-6111 for pre-orders or more information.

## COLUMBIETTES

To commemorate the Columbiette's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here at St. Philip's Church and to express our sincerest gratitude to our wonderful parish family, a picture has been placed in our Children's Chapel (Cry Room). This print, a replica of a painting entitled, "Jesus With Children Around the World" by Del Parson, symbolizes the Columbiettes deep love for Jesus, while also representing our stance on Pro-life.

## GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Jaxxon Ford*



*Mila Nicole*



*Gabriella Rose*

## WE PRAY FOR...

*May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...*  
Owen O'Rourke, Maria Sciancalepore

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

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Sylvia Shami, Edward Kovacs, Dominick Cappello, Todd Daigneault, Cheri Albanesius, James Jablonowski, Elmer Rodriguez, Michael Barbetta, John Hughes, Bernadette Menzaco, Janet Jelenski, Adelaido Cuasay

## PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022

5:30 PM Fr. Monteleone

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

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

## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 28, 2021	\$13,975.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 27, 2022	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 9,093.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 5,732.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,825.00</b>
SECOND COLLECTION - PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,248.00

### Upcoming Second Collections:

**December 4 - Retired Religious Fund**

**December 11 - Project Faith**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

- 8:00** John Charles Chowanec  
Melissa Kelly  
**10:00** For the Babies in the Womb and their Families  
**12:00** Salvatore Capriglione  
Thomas R. Chidiac – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022

- 9:00** Enrique R. Angeles  
Thomas R. Chidiac – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022

- 9:00** Bishop Frank J. Rodimer – 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Antonino Campanella – 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

- 9:00** Jack McSweeney  
**7:00** *Vigil Mass* - Guy Scafidi  
Fili Family

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

#### (Immaculate Conception)

- 7:00** All the People of the Parish  
**9:00** John Gallagher  
Marlene Chidiac

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022

- 9:00** Jerry Jaucian  
S. Paul Marschalk

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022

- 9:00** Daniel R. Grabowski  
**5:30** Louise Stolarz  
Edward J. Winkle  
Marlene Chidiac

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish  
**10:00** Garry DeVos  
Louise Zanetti – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Lois Margaret Crotty Cooke  
Louise Stolarz  
**12:00** Catherine L. McClare  
Christine Hadinata

### Candle for the Week of December 4<sup>th</sup>

In Memory of Henry McNamara

### Offertory Gifts for the week of December 4<sup>th</sup>

In memory of Thomas R. Chidiac

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