

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING
SILENT NIGHT O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING GLORY IN THE HIGHEST
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? CHRIST, THE LORD
COME LET US ADORE HIM AWAY IN A MANGER



O HOLY NIGHT A NEW BORN KING TO SEE
NOEL THE EVERLASTING LIGHT
IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR
TO COME ALL YE FAITHFUL NEWBORN KING

Saint Philip the Apostle Parish

CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is a great Christian feast, a day on which we remember the birth of Jesus who we believe is Savior and Lord. I imagine that many of you here know a great many things about the customs, the food, the music, and the history that surround this holiday. But here is something you might not know. Do you know that many of the most popular Christmas carols were not written by Christians? They were written by Jews. "White Christmas" which is the most recorded Christmas song of all time was written by Irving Berlin whose father was a Rabbi. Jews also wrote "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," "Silver Bells," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Even the song "Christmastime Is Near," from "A Charlie Brown's Christmas," was written by a Jewish author. Now it is unexpected, isn't it, that the line from the carol "Do You Hear What I Hear,"—A child, a child sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light—was written by someone who was not Christian?



The Jewish authorship of so many of our Christmas songs is a reminder that the thrust of Christmas is to open us wider. Christmas is always pushing us to be more expansive, more inclusive in our love. Usually, we see Christmas as a time to be with those closest to us, our family, and friends. Certainly, that is central to this feast. But Christmas is always asking us to reach out of the circle of relationships in which we live. You can hear this invitation in the words of the angel to the shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy for all the people." Not just *some* of the people, or *certain* people, but *all* the people. You can recognize this in the way that Luke begins his Christmas story with the reign of the Emperor Augustus and an enrolment of the whole world. By this Luke tells us that the love of Jesus is not to be restricted only to Bethlehem or Jerusalem but is to extend to Rome and to the ends of the earth. God loves all people, and all that God has made.

The Word of God invites us to respond to that love and to imitate it. Christmas calls us to extend our arms wider, to adjust our attitudes more broadly, to live our lives with more generosity. It is not simply a time to focus on our family and friends. It is certainly not a time to tighten our hearts out of indifference or fear. Christmas invites us to reach out in love and care to the poor in our cities, to the immigrants on our borders, to the protection of our environment, to those who do not share our Christian faith but still have dignity as children of God.

So, when you gather tonight or tomorrow with your family and friends, by all means be thankful and rejoice for the people who are closest to you. But do not

stop there. Take up the challenge of Christmas to widen your love. I know, of course, that it is difficult for us to spread our love more broadly. But if Jews can write Christmas carols, cannot we as followers of Jesus find room in our hearts to let more people in?

With Christmas Peace & Love,

Fr. Monteleone



PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday,
December 26th.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIPS

**Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

Saturday, December 31

Vigil Mass

5:30 PM - Fr. Monteleone

**Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

Sunday, January 1

8 AM - Fr. Monteleone

10 AM - Fr. Kevin (Broadcast)

12 PM - Fr. Jared

***The entire Parish Staff would like to wish you and
yours a very Merry Christmas. May God bless you!***



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students at Saint Philip Preparatory School would like to wish you a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas. As we approach the birthday of our Lord, we have been and continue to be busy with God's work. We began celebrating him with our school-wide Christmas show.



We also participated in a Santa sale, in which the students had an opportunity to buy a gift for the special people in their life. Students are appreciating the joy of giving. Each class is also celebrating in their own special way.



The staff and students of SPPS wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy, very blessed New Year!



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

ROSARY SOCIETY

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! **Save the date:** Saturday, January 21st, Rosarians will meet for 9:00 Mass (weather permitting).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters of Poor are committed to serving the elderly poor and meeting their needs at Saint Joseph's Home for the Elderly in Totowa New Jersey. Challenged during these past years they ask for any support that can be given which will be immensely appreciated. They will be at our Parish the weekend of January 14 - 15, 2023.

LIFE MINISTRY

IN THE WOMB OF MARY
GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
ENTERS HUMAN HISTORY



GOD COMES SILENTLY

Jesus, the King of the Universe, began as a single cell and silently grew nine months in His mother's womb.

Dear Unborn Jesus,

by Your silent presence in the womb,
You remind me that it isn't what I say or do that determines my value.
I am worthy simply because You loved me into existence.
And I carry within my soul an indelible imprint of You.
I am chosen.

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

Natural Family Planning - The Marquette Method

January 9th from 7:30 PM - 9 PM on Zoom

The Marquette Method will be presented by Amanda Khanjian. Come learn the most effective, natural, healthy, and inexpensive system integrating excellent women's health and true family planning for couples trying to achieve pregnancy, couples having infertility concerns, or couples planning to postpone pregnancy, all within God's natural design.

Register by visiting <https://insidethewalls.org/take-a-class>.

KIDS KORNER

KID'S KORNER Merry Christmas Year A

Gospel Today
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) / John 1:1-18

John describes how the Word came into the world in the form of Jesus. All those who accept Jesus become children of God by sharing in Jesus' love. No one has seen God, but through Jesus, God was revealed to us.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
THE TRUE LIGHT

Find and write the missing letters (from A to Z) not found within the lights.

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below (the same word is used twice).

He himself was not the _____ :
he came only as a witness
to the _____ .

—JOHN 1:8

COLOR PAGE

WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...
Anna Mazierski, Deacon Andrew Calandriello

A Time to be Healed...

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Sylvia Shami, Edward Kovacs,
Dominick Cappello, Todd Daigneault,
Cheri Albanesi, James Jablonowski,
Elmer Rodriguez, Michael Barbetta,
John Hughes, Bernadette Menzaco,
Janet Jelenski, Adelaido Cuasay
Peter Weber, Msgr. Herbert Tillyer,
Lorraine De Bellis



PARISH GIVING

COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT COLLECTED AT THE TIME OF PRINTING

Upcoming Second Collections:
December 25 - Project Faith



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
10:00 Louise Zanetti
Joseph Payne
John Michal
Josephine and Domenick Pagano
12:00 Jose Navarro
James Scancarella

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2022

- 9:00** Mary Shashaty
Beatriz Jumao-as

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2022

- 9:00** Louise Stolarz
Leandro Salme

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022

- 9:00** Helaine Pohle

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022

- 9:00** James Elbert
Thomas Reck

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022

- 9:00** Daniel T. Digioia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2022

- 9:00** Don Muller
Frank Sardo
5:30 Louise Stolarz
Martin Grosso
Laura and Frank Slasinski

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
10:00 Leo Tracy
George and Emelyn Masbang – Thanksgiving
for their 38th Wedding Anniversary
12:00 Giuseppe Esposito
Eleanor Boyle

Candle for the Week of December 25th
In Memory of Fred and Dorothea Anthony
-From The Anthony Family

Offertory Gifts

In Memory of Louise Stolarz
-From Georgeanna Hall and John Saadvary



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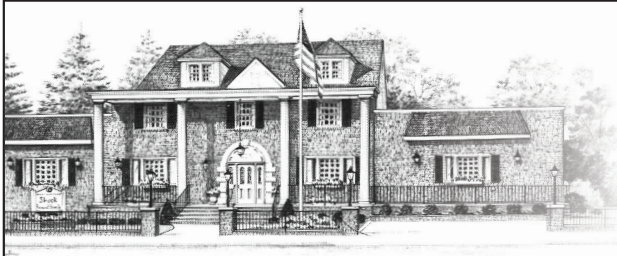
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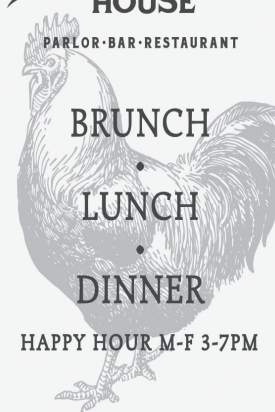
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