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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

www.stphilip.org ~ (973) 779-6200



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2023



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Evening 5:30 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Broadcast) & 12:00 PM
Monday thru Saturday..... 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 4:30 to 5:00 PM

HOLY HOUR

Every Friday 9:30 to 10:30 AM

For a Communion visit and/or
Anointing of the Sick,
please contact the Parish office.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

In recent years, transgender ideologues have mounted a cultural offensive that swept all rationality before them. First, biological science and objective reality were trashed as internal feelings came to matter more than biological facts. Then, existing procedures for dealing with transgender ideation were trashed, allowing anyone who believed themselves to be the opposite sex to simply declare their new identity---and presto-chango---that's what they are.

Next came language engineering in which the lexicon police require media, employers, colleagues, and family to use the preferred pronouns declared by transgender people under the threat of social media exclusion, loss of employment, and in some cases, losing custody of one's own children. The present administration bureaucrats promulgated regulations that required doctors to provide transgender hormones and surgeries even if they violated their moral and religious beliefs. Catholic hospitals have been sued (St. Joseph in Paterson) for refusing to perform transgender hysterectomies.

Soon, womanhood itself was canceled. Females began being called by ridiculous terms such as "people with birthing ability." Female athletes were forced to compete with transgender "woman" in such sports as track, swimming, and volleyball. Girls and women's locker rooms were open to anyone claiming to be female. A Supreme Court Justice nominee was unable to give a definition of a woman when asked.

Then, they came for the children. Activists took to social media platforms such as TikTok to push transgender ideology onto youth and silently invade the most culturally traditional households. The number of children who claim to be the opposite sex went from a bare trickle to a flash flood. In the name of preventing youth suicides, the present administration, medical associations and professional journals crafted standards of care requiring that youngsters and teenagers claiming to be transgender, or nonbinary receive only "gender affirming" support---meaning that their ideation is to be accepted unquestioningly.

Under the new regime, children claiming not to be their biological sex first receive unquestioning "social affirmation" ---they are never called by their "dead (birth) names" and are referred to only their "preferred" pronouns. Worse, children and adolescents are next given "gender-affirming" medical care, in which doctors prescribe drugs and hormones to prevent normal puberty. Gender transition surgeries have become increasingly routine with thousands of girls as young as the age of 12. If someone cannot vote or buy tobacco until they are 18, why would anyone be allowed to change their given sex before they are a legal adult?

Some people truly do suffer from gender dysphoria and that is tragic. These souls must be treated with respect and compassion. But sadly, the number of people that truly suffer from this has always been small, until the last five years or so. Common sense and science have been thrown out and only feelings count.

Now, young people who transitioned are increasingly returning to their born sex, a process known as "detransitioning." Their stories are often tragic and

compelling. For example, Chole Cole, an 18-year-old detransitioner, recounts how she was "affirmed" in her sex confusion at age 12 and had her breasts removed at 15. Now, 18, she understands she is a woman and is issuing a clarion warning, saying, "My teenage life has been the culmination of excruciating pain, regret, and most importantly injustice." Cole has decided to sue the doctors who she says allowed her to be irreversibly harmed by medical and surgical interventions.

Being a teenager is not easy. Trying to figure out who you are, at times being awkward, feeling your body is rebelling are all typical feelings as one grows up and grows older. These feelings pass and the "ugly duckling" does turn into a swan. To allow children to pick their sex is ridiculous. Feelings come and go, biology is forever.

Let us be aware of the culture war that is going on around us. Let us be prepared to speak the truth, "follow the science" and most of all be compassionate and logical. This is a topic I never thought I would ever address in a pastor's column, but I feel I cannot be silent on an issue that does not give life, but only destroys it.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE

In observance of Presidents' Day, regular daily Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM on Monday, February 20th. The church will be closed immediately after Mass and the parish office will be closed.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 22, 2023
*"Remember that you are
dust,
and to dust you shall
return"*



7 AM Mass - Fr. Nico
9 AM Mass w/ St. Philip Prep Students - Fr. Monteleone
4 PM Prayer Service - Fr. Monteleone
7 PM Prayer Service - Fr. Nico

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study sessions will begin on
Monday, February 27th at 11 AM.
in the Jubilee Wing Room of the Molloy Center
Meetings will be every Monday through March 27th.
Fr. Monteleone will lead the discussion on the
Gospel of John concentrating on the Bread of Life
Discourse.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." -Luke 18:16

We were proud to wrap up celebrations for Catholic Schools Week and see so many new faces that were interested in joining our school.

We also enjoyed celebrating our 100th day of school! Kindergarten, in a group effort, wrote 100 vocabulary words to mark the occasion. Grades 1-8 have been working hard on their NWEA tests. Second graders are excited to receive their first Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

FR. ENGLISH CENTER FOOD COLLECTION

The Father English Food Pantry is in desperate need of food donations. The pantry feeds the working poor and about 20,000 families are served monthly with more than 1,000 food bags distributed daily. Most clients work but cannot afford to feed their families. Let us help them by bringing only **NON-PERISHABLE** food items with you next week, February 25 and 26, when you come to Mass. Please consider the following donations: **canned tuna, canned chicken, rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce (plastic bottles) lentils, peanut butter, and dry cereals.**

Thank you and please leave your donations in a box or bag in the back of the church as you enter. All items will be picked up by 10 AM on the Monday after collection.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

The students of the Confirmation Program are very grateful to the parishioners of St. Philip for the continued (and overwhelming!) support of the Souper Bowl of Caring. We were able to donate **\$2027.98** to the *Community Kitchen of Eva's Village*, who serves daily meals to local community members in need, as well as residents of their shelters and halfway houses.

THANK YOU for helping us #TackleHunger... and for serving as an example to our youth of how to be "Love in Action."

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

The annual Troop 21 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held in the St Philip the Apostle School Auditorium at 797 Valley Road on **Sunday, February 26th**

from 8 AM to Noon (last seating at 11:30AM).

Adults \$15.00, seniors \$12.00 and children 12 & under \$8.00 Children under 4 eat free with paying adult.

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Please come enjoy pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice & coffee and support Troop 21! For more information please contact: troop21clifton@gmail.com



PRIME-TIMERS

A meeting of the Prime-Timers will be held on Friday, **March 3rd at 1 PM in Marian Hall.**

Personal Trainer, *Karen Rigamonti* is our special guest and will get us moving in our seats.

All are welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fish Fry Sunday

on **March 5th from 1:30 – 3:30 PM**

Pick-up & take home only

Fish or chicken (Chicken advanced sales only)

Advanced Tickets \$20- Day of Fry (limited, \$25)

Order on-line at kofc11671.org/event/fishfry

Or Contact Mike Cervine at (973) 220-3095.



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TRICKY TRAY

Friday, March 10th

St. Philip Preparatory School
Auditorium
797 Valley Road
Clifton, NJ

Doors open at 5:30 PM
Drawings begin at 7 PM

\$25 per person
(includes 2 sheets of General Bidding Tickets)

ADULTS ONLY
Must be at least 18 years old

Tickets available online at
<https://stphilip.org/tricky-tray/>
or
Contact Linda at 201-638-1200

Group seating available. Be sure to select the same party name when purchasing tickets.

Donations of new, unused items are now being accepted, as well as Sponsor Banner donations.

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
11th Annual

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 **6:30-10:30 PM**

DINNER DANCE

ALSO CELEBRATING

ST. JOSEPH AND ST. LORENZO RUIZ

<p>ST. PHILIP AUDITORIUM</p> <p>Entertainment by: The Alan Quinn Orchestra and other surprise performances!</p> <p>MUSIC • FOOD • DRINKS • DANCING</p>	<p>TICKETS ONLY \$50 PER PERSON MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER TO ATTEND...</p> <p>Corned Beef and Cabbage, Penne Vodka, Chicken Marsala, Pork Adobo, Rice, Desserts and more!</p> <p>Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Coffee/Tea</p>
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TICKETS ON SALE AFTER MASSES
OR CALL (973) 779-6200

FROM THE DIOCESE



2023 CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 4 | 8:30am - 3:30pm



Sr. Johanna Paruch, FSCM, PhD
Keynote: Catechesis with People with Disabilities



Bishop Kevin Sweeney
Bishop of Paterson

Pedagogy: Methodology in Catechesis

Different experts in catechesis, with years of experience and knowledge, will lead the various presentations based on the new vision for catechesis.

- Catechesis for people with disabilities (Catholic, psychological perspective, and best practices)
- St. John Bosco's method
- Ecclesial Method
- How to set up your classroom to offer a transformative catechesis
- Classroom Management methods
- Panel discussion on Family Catechesis, and more.

Workshops will count towards the 52 hours required for catechist certification.

St. Elizabeth University
2 Convent Road, Morristown, NJ 07960

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PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 13, 2022 \$15,956.00
 SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 12, 2023
 Weekly Collection \$11,772.00
 Online Giving Donation \$ 6,577.00
Total \$18,349.00
 SECOND COLLECTION - PROJECT FAITH \$2,233.00

Upcoming Second Collections:
February 19 - Eastern Europe
February 26 - Project Faith

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023
5:30 PM Fr. Monteleone

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023
8:00 AM Fr. Nico
10:00 AM Fr. Kevin
12:00 PM Fr. Monteleone

WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...
 Edward Kovacs, Dorothy Altonjy, Harry Hadinata

A Time to be Healed...

Susan Stierlen, Jill Festa, Sylvia Shami,
 Dominick Cappello, Todd Daigneault,
 Cheri Albanesi, James Jablonowski, Michael
 Nael, Elmer Rodriguez,
 Michael Barbetta, John Hughes, Bernadette Menzaco,
 Adelaido Cuasay, Barbara Tolway, Msgr. Herbert Tillyer,
 Lorraine DeBellis, Sebastian Centinaro, Pauline Jelken,
 Patricia Canavan Petrowski, The Sikora sisters,
 Jobo Valentin



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

8:00 Richard D'Amico
 Anita Garbarino
10:00 Giuseppe Esposito
 Ana and Manuel Santana
 - 24th and 9th Anniversaries
 Maura and Hugo Loor - Birthday Memorial
12:00 All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

9:00 Pam LaBruzza - 100th Birthday Memorial

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

9:00 Edward Kovacs

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

7:00 All the People of the Parish
9:00 Anastacio B. Cubero
 Corazon Nunag

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

9:00 Robert Streppone
 Anita Garbarino

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

9:00 Rogelio Dela Cruz

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

9:00 Vincenza LoConte
 Michael T. Renda- 1st Anniversary
5:30 All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

8:00 Anthony Fusco
 Richard Rean - 21st Anniversary
10:00 Giuseppe Esposito
 Dolores Bonkowski
 Eileen Pigut
 Gloria Attoinese
12:00 Marlene Chidiac
 Lee and Peter Bartolo



CANDLE THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19th

In Memory of Sean Hughes
 -From his loving father, John

OFFERTORY GIFTS THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19th

In Memory of Joseph Cortese
 -11th Anniversary
 - From his loving wife- Antoinette



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