

Second Sunday of Lent

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security, and as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

POPE FRANCIS



Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving

Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY

SUNDAY GOSPEL

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them;
his face shone like the sun
and his clothes became white as light.
And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them,
conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Lord, it is good that we are here.
If you wish, I will make three tents here,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
While he was still speaking, behold,
a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."
When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate
and were very much afraid.
But Jesus came and touched them, saying,
"Rise, and do not be afraid."
And when the disciples raised their eyes,
they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
Jesus charged them,
"Do not tell the vision to anyone
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."
— **Matthew 17:1-9**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

The apostle Peter is one of the most vivid characters in the New Testament—bold, decisive, outspoken, and often wrong. At key points of the gospel narrative, Peter is the first one to speak, the first one to act, and the first one to be corrected. At Caesarea Philippi he advises Jesus to avoid the cross, and therefore receives the rebuke, "Get behind me, Satan." At the Last Supper, he boasts that he is ready to die with Jesus, only to hear Jesus say that Peter will deny him three times at cockcrow. And in today's gospel, as Jesus is transfigured before the disciples, Peter again steps forward with a plan. He wants to set up tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, so that they can remain in the glory on the mountain. But the text tells us that while he is still speaking, his words are drowned out by the voice of God that thunders from a cloud.

Peter routinely chooses the wrong response. But his errors are recorded in the gospels **not to diminish him but to instruct us**. We are meant to learn from Peter's mistakes. What are we to learn today in this gospel of the Transfiguration? This gospel would have us understand that awe must precede action. When Jesus is transfigured, Peter is ready to take charge. He steps forward and begins to speak even as he looks around for tent material. But Peter's plan is premature. It is a half-baked idea without a foundation, and

that is why the voice of God cuts him off to proclaim, "This is my beloved son. Listen to him." Before we act, we must listen. Before we begin to execute our plan, we must take in the glory of God. The Transfiguration reminds us that God's glory and power abide deep within our lives and that God's presence is available to us if we look below the surface of our experience. The fumbblings of Peter are **meant to warn us that before we take charge, we need to embrace God's glory**.

All of us must make decisions in life and set goals for ourselves. What career do I want to follow? What kind of money do I want to make? What kind of values do I want to pass on to my children? But this gospel says that before we set out to realize our goals, we should measure them against the holiness of God that pulsates below the surface issues that often determine our choices. That holiness reveals the importance of generosity, simplicity, and service to the poor and the oppressed. When the people we love are in trouble, we all want to fix things. When our children's marriage is under stress, when a friend develops cancer, when our parents are coping with depression, we want to step in and make things better. **But this gospel tells us that before we take charge, we need to rest in the truth that God's glory already surrounds those that we love, and that God is working in their lives.** Then, only after we appreciate that truth, can we decide how many demands should we make, how much advice should we give, and how much should we simply stand with those that we love and give support. When we are hurt or disappointed by someone, it is easy to jump into action. We can be quick to retaliate and get even. But this gospel tells us that, before we jump, we need to listen to the God who speaks to us from the cloud. God's voice reminds us how blessed we are, how much we are loved, and how we are called to love our enemy.

There is no doubt that Jesus wants us to do what is right. But the example of Peter reminds us that awe must precede action and listening must inform deciding. Yes, we are to act. But we must take in God's glory before we take up God's service.

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

WELCOME HOME TO HEALING

**CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE EVERY
SATURDAY FROM 4:30 PM TO 5 PM
& EVERY MONDAY OF LENT
FROM 7 PM to 8:30 PM IN THE CHURCH
(March 6, 13, 20, and 27)**

**THERE IS A 7 AM MASS
EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT
(March 10, 17, 24, and 31)**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
IS EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT AT 7 PM
(March 10, 24, 31 and April 7)**

**Please note there is no Stations of the Cross on
Friday, March 17th due to the Parish Dinner Dance.**

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study sessions have begun.
Join us on **Mondays of Lent at 11 AM**
(March 6, 13, 20, & 27)
in the Jubilee Wing Room of the Molloy Center.
Fr. Monteleone leads the discussion on the
Gospel of John concentrating on the
Bread of Life Discourse.

2023 PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Reverend Kenneth Brighenti, the Vice-Rector of the Josephinum School of Theology in Ohio will be joining us this second week of Lent!



Father Brighenti comes to the Josephinum following nine years as pastor at Saint Magdalen de Pazzi Church in the Diocese of Metuchen. Ordained in 1988, he was engaged in parish ministry until 2009, then served as Vice Rector and Director of Apostolates at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. Father Brighenti holds a PhD in Theocentric Studies from LaSalle University and is author of many books including *Catholicism for Dummies*, *John Paul II for Dummies* and *Catholic Mass for Dummies*. He has also co-hosted many shows on EWTN, including "Web of Faith." He is a Third-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, member and chaplain of the Amerigo Vespucci Society, founding chaplain for Unico National (an Italian American service organization), and a Knight of Grace in the Constantinian Order. Father Brighenti will offer us 3 presentations on the Eucharist: Scriptural, Art of Celebrating the Mass (*Ars Celebrandi*) & Catechetical and Eucharistic Miracles.

The schedule of the Lenten Mission is as follows:

Monday, March 6

9 AM – Mass (Fr. Kenneth Brighenti)
9:30 AM – Lenten Talk (Fr. Kenneth Brighenti)
7 PM – Lenten Talk (Fr. Kenneth Brighenti)
7 PM to 8:30 PM – Confessions will be heard by Fr. Monteleone and Fr. Nico in the Church.

Tuesday, March 7

9 AM – Mass (Fr. Kenneth Brighenti)
7 PM – Lenten Talk (Fr. Kenneth Brighenti)

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Philip would like to welcome all families with young children to a **family holy HALF hour on Friday, April 21st, at 5:30 PM in Marian Hall** in the Molloy Center. A Holy Hour is where we are in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, exposed in front of us, on the altar. It is a beautiful experience that families often miss out on due to fear of their children's inability to sit still for long durations. This format is geared towards kids by shortening the time to a half hour and having music and activities that will help your children and you, as parents, understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We encourage you to come and spend time with Jesus as a family.

If you have any questions, please
speak with Fr. Nico,
or call the Parish Office at
(973) 779 6200.



No Greater Love

*A passion play for the Lenten season
presented by the Xavier Company*

Friday, March 24th at 7:00 PM
Saint Philip the Apostle Church

Please Note:

This performance will be presented in lieu of Friday
Stations of the Cross

WRITTEN BY: JANEEN STEVENS
DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY:
CAROL FERRONE
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY: GERARD DeMAN, jr.
ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY:
RHONDA DENISE REID
FEATURING: Pasqualino Beltempo (in the role of
Jesus), Nikki Casseri (as Mary),
our very own, Dorothy Dobkowski,
Benjamin Culpepper, Leo Grinberg,
Annie Lewis, Brandon Schraml, Rebekah Rawhouser
and Tony Bartoli on percussion

No Greater Love, a vibrant musical drama that celebrates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, will be performed in the sanctuary of churches throughout the tri-state area during the 2023 Lenten and Easter Seasons. Don't miss this captivating performance of ***No Greater Love*** that brings to life the timeless and sacred story of the passion of Jesus Christ.

The Xavier Company, under the direction of Dr. Carol Ferrone and musical direction by Gerard DeMan, is a unique group of performing artists in residence at St. Francis Xavier Church in New York City. These professionally trained actors, singers and dancers perform original works focused on themes of

faith and social justice. Founded in 1982, The Xavier Company is celebrating its forty first anniversary of performing arts ministry in the tri-state area. The Xavier Company is renowned for performances that display both spiritual content and artistic excellence.

Tickets are not required.
A free will offering will be taken.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meetings of the blanket ministry will be **Thursday, March 16th at 9:45 AM in the Molloy Center.** For further information, please call Cathie Murtha at (973) 471-1265.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Come join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our very own Irishman, Fr. Kevin!

Monday, March 13th with Mass and the Rosary at 6:30 in Marian Hall.

Everyone is welcome - come once, twice, or join our beautiful organization honoring our Blessed Mother, we'll be happy to see you!

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TRICKY TRAY

Friday, March 10th

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Auditorium
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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.

We will have a Silent Auction as well.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTHCARE CENTER

St. Josephs Healthcare and Rehab Center, located at 315 E. Lindsley Road, Cedar Grove, NJ is looking for volunteers to assist with bringing residents (mostly in wheelchairs) to Mass at the facility M-F at 11 AM, Sundays at 1:30 PM and also volunteers who can distribute Communion to the residents. You choose the day you would like to volunteer but Sundays are the biggest need. You only need to show proof of vaccination for both Covid and Influenza.

If interested, please contact,
Tiffany Romano
Administrator at (973) 754-4856

FR. ENGLISH FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who donated for the Fr. English Food pantry and to the Boy Scouts who helped load the cars!



KIDS KORNER

< KID'S KORNER >

Gospel Today
Second Sunday of Lent | Matthew 17:1-9

On the mountain Jesus is Transfigured and appears with Moses and Elijah, who in the old testament both remind the people to "Obey God". Jesus tells Peter, James and John to believe and obey Him and keep this vision a secret until the resurrection.

Year A

Believe... Obey God

Find and write the missing letters not listed (from A to Z).

J F D
Z P Q Y K
C M A W X B
O V H G U R

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.
_____ to him!" Matthew 17:5

The Second Sorrowful Mystery -
The Scouring at the Pillar

Think about this mystery before praying.
Jesus obeyed His Father and suffered for our sins.



This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with the Glory Be to the Father. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins.

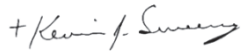
FROM THE DIOCESE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Memorial of Saint Patrick falls on Friday in the Third Week of Lent. Recognizing the faith that was brought to this community by immigrant families and missionary religious and priests, the spiritual sons and daughters of Saint Patrick, and the prominence of the Memorial in the practice of faithful Catholics of this diocese, I grant a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence on March 17, 2023, to those residing in or visiting the Diocese of Paterson. Those who partake of this dispensation are encouraged to undertake a work of charity or an act of comparable penance on some other occasion during the Third Week of Lent.

In celebrating Saint Patrick, may we be given the grace to recognize Christ on our right and left, in the heart of everyone who thinks of us, in the mouth of everyone who speaks of us, in every eye that sees us, and in every ear that hears us. Most glorious Saint Patrick, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D.
Bishop of Paterson

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 27, 2022	\$23,090.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: FEBRUARY 19, 2023	
Weekly Collection	\$12,870.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,746.00
Total	\$19,616.00
2ND COLLECTION – PROJECT FAITH	\$ 2,858.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

March 12 - Project Faith

March 19 - Campaign for Human Development

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 11
5:30 PM – Fr. Kevin

Sunday, March 12
8 AM – Fr. Nico
10 AM – Fr. Nico
12 PM – Fr. Monteleone

WE PRAY FOR...

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace...
Ralph S. Tommaro, Julia Ruccione

A Time to be Healed...

Adelaido Cuasay, Barbara Tolvay,
Msgr. Herbert Tillyer, Lorraine DeBellis,
Sebastian Centinaro, Pauline Jelken,
Patricia Canavan Petrowski,
The Sikora sisters, Jobo Valentin,
Maria Tommaro



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

8:00 All the People of the Parish

10:00 Anthony Neglia
Gloria Attoinese
Jennifer Bozian
George Tuzzolino

12:00 Giuseppe Esposito
Nikki Valle

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

9:00 Rogelio Delacruz

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

9:00 Corazon Nunag

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

9:00 Edna Prince

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

9:00 Mary and James Quinn
Joe DiDonna- 24th Anniversary

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023

7:00 Monsignor Julian B. Varettoni

9:00 Josef Nowak
Gene Toma - 2nd Anniversary

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023

9:00 Brendan Charles O'Reilly

5:30 Eugene Markey
Michelle Paparella
Angelina Biondello

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

8:00 Leandro Salme
Joyce Frei

10:00 Giuseppe Esposito
Eric Peterson
Shirley Minowicz
Nancy Bandel

12:00 All the People of the Parish

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
11th Annual

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



FRIDAY,
MARCH
17

6:30-10:30
PM

DINNER DANCE

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