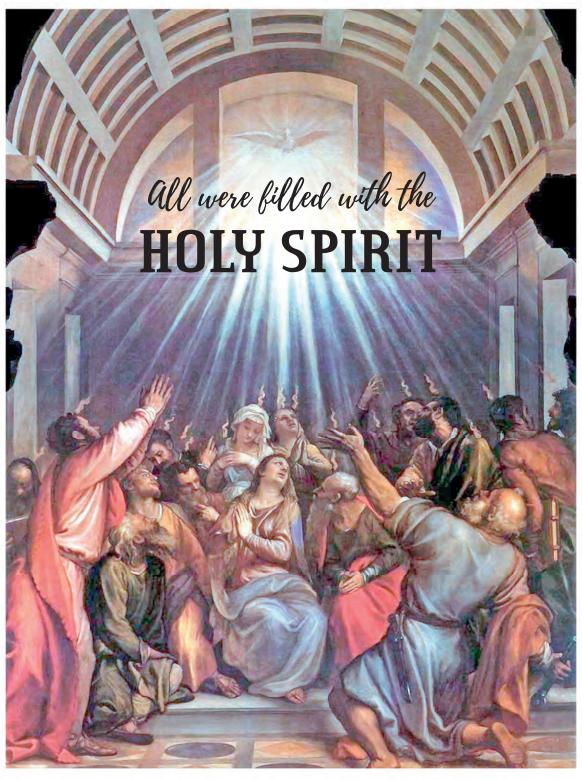
PENTECOST



Saint Philip the Apostle Parish . Clifton, New Jersey

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

I am not sure that many people here would recognize the name Edwin Booth. But if you were living in the United States during the Civil War that name would be recognized in almost every household. Edwin Booth was recognized as one of the greatest actors that had ever lived. He was the Tom Cruise of the American stage. He did not, however, have an easy life. His father drank himself to death. His first wife died after two years of marriage. His second wife went insane. But perhaps the greatest cross that Edwin Booth had to bear was one of shame. Edwin Booth's younger brother, John Wilkes Booth, was the man who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. So, despite all the fame and success that Edwin Booth had in his life, he always had to deal with the embarrassment that a member of his family killed one of the greatest figures of American history.

Then, one day later in his life, while Edwin Booth was waiting for a train in **Jersey City**, there was a disturbance on the platform. Booth saw that a tall, young man was being shoved by the crowd onto the train tracks just as a train was approaching. Booth dropped his suitcase and ran immediately and pulled the man out of the way of the approaching train, certainly saving his life. The young man recognized who Booth was at once and said simply, "Well that was a narrow escape, Mr. Booth." As the two men began to talk with one another, Booth found to his amazement that the young man whose life he had just saved was Robert Todd Lincoln, the eldest son of Abraham Lincoln.

Now how would we explain such a remarkable connection of events, that the brother of the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln was the man who saved the life of Lincoln's eldest son? Is that a coincidence? Those who do not have faith in God have no other explanation. Despite the odds being a million to one, people without faith would have to explain an event such as Edwin Booth saving the life of Robert Lincoln as a remarkable convergence of random events. Those, however, who believe in God, who believe in Christ Jesus, have a different explanation. For we believe that there is a force, a power, that is active in our world. That force is the Holy Spirit.

You see, believing in Christ is more than accepting a list of propositions that are outlined in the Creed. It is more than believing that a certain number of events once happened to Jesus thousands of years ago. Saying that we believe in Christ means that we believe that the power of God's Spirit is active and moving in our world and in our lives. We believe that the Holy Spirit moves us towards reconciliation, towards life, towards salvation. Jesus in today's Gospel breathes on the disciples, and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." That is His way of saying that He will remain with us, that God's power will remain active in our lives and in our world. The action of God's Spirit often appears as a coincidence. Yet for believers

there is no such thing as coincidence. For us what appears as coincidence is the action of God in our lives.

Think about it. Was it coincidence that Saturday night when you finally gave in to the demands of your friends and went out to a party even though you rather would have stayed at home and met that night the person you were going to marry? Was it coincidence that you were in an automobile accident, and you walked away and then realized you would have to take steps to deal with your drinking problem? Was it coincidence that you met someone you had hurt in the produce aisle at Stop N Shop and found the courage of saying, "I'm sorry," and took a step towards healing and reconciliation? Any one of us can recall events in our life that look like coincidence. How we interpret them is up to us. All I can say is that on the deepest level, Christians don't believe in coincidence because we know that the spirit of God is active, shaping, and directing our lives.

But if we accept that truth of God's active presence in our life through the Spirit, it changes us. It makes us see life differently. It makes us into different people. For people who recognize the action of God's Spirit in their life are more humble, more optimistic, more generous.

A person who knows that God is active in the world tends to be a humble person because he or she recognizes that they are not the center of the universe, that there is another power in the world working for good, building the kingdom. Although our decisions are important, we recognize that our decisions are not absolute, that God is working around us and through us. Therefore, we watch humbly for signs of His presence.

The person who sees the action of the Spirit in their life is an optimistic person. If God is active, there is always reason for hope. There is always reason to believe that things will turn out better than we had planned. There is always a reason to believe that as we get up each morning, something good will happen today. If God is active, we can be optimistic.

A person who believes in the action of God's Spirit tends to be a generous person. Because once we see that God is active, we want to cooperate, we want to take part. Therefore, we tend to give of our time, of our resources, of our talents more freely without holding back, without counting the cost because we believe that whatever is freely given will be used by God for His good purposes.

Peace, Fr. Monteleone

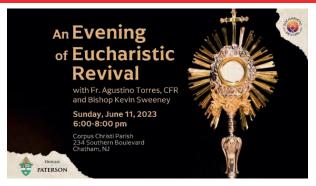
PLEASE NOTE

We welcome back this summer, newly ordained Deacon Sebastian Munoz!

In observance of Memorial Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM on Monday, May 29th. The Church will be closed immediately following Mass.

The Parish Office will be closed.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

We congratulate our 8th grade Class of 2023 for making their commitments to the high schools they will be attending this Fall.

Clifton High School
DePaul Catholic High School
Don Bosco Prep
Immaculate Heart Academy
Mary Help of Christians Academy
Marymount School of New York
Passaic County Technical Institute
Ramapo High School
Saint Peter's Prep
Seton Hall Prep

We wish them lots of success as they soon embark on their next academic adventure! But until then, we are excited to celebrate their achievements and time at St. Philip Prep with our upcoming Baccalaureate Graduation!

A great **BIG THANK YOU** to all those who came out to support our young student entrepreneurs at our TREP\$ Marketplace. The marketplace opened with an official blessing and ribbon-cutting by Fr. Monteleone. It was a beautiful sight to see our auditorium filled with eager business owners and supportive shoppers! Success meant different things to different kids. For some, it was the independence of earning their own money and for others it was the skills they learned along the way. Many of the students sold out of their products while others took future orders for customized items. The support of the community showed the children that their hard work has value and gave them a great feeling of accomplishment.

Stay tuned for future TREP\$ marketplaces!

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. Please help them by bringing only **NON-PERISHABLE** food items with you **June 10**th and 11th 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.

All donations can be brought in a boy or bag. Please leave

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

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS

The next meeting of the widow and widowers will be on Monday, June 12th at 2 PM in the Molloy Center.

PRIME TIMERS

The annual luncheon of the Prime Timers will be on Friday, June 9th at 1 PM at Bella Napoli restaurant on Broad St, Bloomfield. The cost is \$50 per person. For reservations, please contact Stasia at (973) 473-2068 or Grace at (973) 684-1955.

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, June 20th. Bus leaves from St. Philips Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$40. For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286.



COLUMBIETTES



CARNIVAL

St. Philips Carnival will be 4 days this year,

Thursday, June 22nd 6 - 10 PM Friday, June 23rd 6 -11 PM Saturday, June 24th 6:30 - 11 PM Sunday, June 25th 2 - 8 PM



We are looking for new volunteers to join all our veteran volunteers.

It's 4 days of fun, laughs, and excitement. If you would like to Volunteer, please contact Maureen at (973) 773-5161.

Soda/Water Donations

Name brand soda and bottled water for the Soda & Water Booth can be left at the school kitchen door.

AROUND TOWN...

Societa' Franese di Mutuo Soccorso

Presents their annual Festa Frainese In honor of Santa Maria Mater Domino Sunday, June 11th at Holy Face Monastery in Clifton. 12:30 PM Mass (outside) Italian and English following procession with the band.

4:30 PM Procession with statue of our own Mater Domini will conclude the religious festivity.

Music – Fun – Friendship – Family Please bring your own chair Food will be available for Purchase.

Please note that on Wednesday, May 31st there will be a candlelight procession and benediction at 7:30 PM at the holy Face Monastery.

For any questions, please contact Nick at (973) 778-9328.

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Declan Jackson

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Rev. George R. Winne, Rev. James W. Dolan

A Time to be Healed...

Sebastian Centinaro, Pauline Jelken, The Sikora sisters, Arlene Bayuex, Jobo Valentin, Maria Tommaro



PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MAY 22, 2022 \$ 14,750.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MAY 21, 2023

WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 8,713.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 6,569.00
TOTAL \$ 15,282.00
SECOND COLLECTION-PETER'S PENCE \$ 2,200.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

May 28 - Project Faith

June 4 - South and Latin American Missions and

Overseas Relief

MASS INTENTIONS

PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023

8:00 For all the People of the Parish

10:00 Julius and Evelyn Stoehr

Harry Hadinata

Manuel and Mila Amador

Camille Pirrello

12:00 John Gatti

Anita Dellar

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

9:00 Henry Spohn Eduardo Tinio

TUESDAY, May 30, 2023

9:00 Erico Cabatingan

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

9:00 Martha "Marge" Sirvidio

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

9:00 Anthony Volonnino Francis Slasinski

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

9:00 Ignacia Domingo Peter Cavalero

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023

9:00 Modesta Flores

Isla Rose Zisa- 1st Anniversary

5:30 Anne Yates

Ed Kovacs

Anna DiSalvo

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023

8:00 Mary Spychaj

Benjamin Silverio

10:00 Marie D'Angelo

Deceased members of the Kerner Family

Maria Guarniello

Jessie DiDonna

12:00 For all the People of the Parish

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