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# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024



### 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 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,

“On the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest” (Mark 9:34).

How do you imagine that argument went? Today's gospel (Mark 9:30-37) doesn't tell us what the disciples said but it's not difficult to imagine. We need only recall the times we've argued about and striven to be the greatest.

- Maybe Simon or Andrew started it by claiming that one of them is the greatest because they were the first disciples called (Mark 1:16-17) and seniority matters.
- Maybe Peter argued that it should be him because he's the only who correctly answered Jesus, “You are the Messiah” (Mark 8:29). Being right and having the answers should count for something, right? And maybe the others countered, “No way is it you, Peter. Jesus rebuked you and called you Satan. That's not so great.” (Mark 8:33)
- Maybe Peter, John, and James said it was one of them because they got to go up the Mount of Transfiguration and the others didn't (Mark 9:2). Besides that, those left behind ones couldn't even cast out a demon from a young boy (Mark 9:18). Shouldn't the greatest be successful?
- Maybe Peter touted himself as the greatest because he walked on water (Matthew 14:28-30). I imagine the others rolling their eyes and saying, “Yeah, and you sunk like the rock that you are.” (Matthew 14:30) After all, the greatest is only as good as his or her last accomplishment.
- And I'll bet it was an eleven to one vote against Judas. They all knew he was a thief (John 12:6). Morals are important to greatness. (At least we say they are.) It's lucky for Peter and Judas that when the argument took place they had not yet denied or betrayed. That's not what the greatest disciple would do.
- Maybe John argued that he was the greatest because he was the beloved disciple who laid his head on Jesus' breast (John 13:23-25). The greatest are always well placed and connected in high places.
- And what about those other disciples who are not quoted in the gospels and have no

gospel named after them? It couldn't be them. Surely, the greatest disciple would at least be published.

I can easily imagine each disciple making a case for his own greatness and a case against the greatness of others. Do you know why that's so easy for me to imagine? Because it's often the conversation I have in my head with myself. Maybe you do too.

It seems we are always establishing pecking orders of greatness. Look at the pecking orders in our world and country today. They are all around us. We live with and participate in them even if we did not create them. Maybe we should look to bring out our best qualities, not just wanting to be the best.

“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” That's how Jesus understands greatness. Last place? Really? I don't think I've ever argued about or striven to be in last place. Have you? Last place is the last place I want to be, and I suspect that's true for you too.

What if greatness in Jesus' mind is not about how much we have or what we have accomplished, but about what we've offered and done for others? What if greatness is not about the position or place, we occupy, but about the space and place we offer others?

What if we stopped arguing about and striving to be the greatest, and we sought to discover or recover and bring out the best in ourselves and each other? What would that look like in your life today?

If you were to be the best person someone has ever met, what would you want them to say about you? What qualities or characteristics would you want them to describe? Pick a couple things or ways you would want to be. How are we going to become that? What parts of our life need strengthening to become that and what parts need changing to become that?

What would it take today to offer another the very best of ourselves?

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## PLEASE NOTE

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE LANES FOR MASSES. EMERGENCY VEHICLES NEED TO BE ABLE TO PASS. PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN OUR MAIN PARKING LOT, THE LITTLE LOT BEHIND THE GYM, THE LOWER LOT ON ST. PHILIP'S DRIVE AS WELL AS THE DIOCESAN LOT.**



Also,  
On Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> the second set of pews will be returning, and work will be done through Friday. Daily Mass will occur at 9 AM however, we will cancel Holy Hour for this Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## FAITH FORMATION

Classes will begin October 6<sup>th</sup> with the 8 AM Mass.

### Family Faith Formation Volunteers

Catechists make our Family Faith Formation Program possible. Faith Formation volunteers have a love for children and God.

They are committed to living and sharing their Catholic faith with others.

Would you like to share your gifts with the children of our parish in faith formation?

We are in need of both Catechists and substitutes. If you are feeling called to give your time and share our faith with the children of our parish, but want to know more about what is involved please contact us.

Please know that you do not walk this journey alone. We provide catechists with train materials, and a community of support.

Please speak with the Coordinator of Family Faith Formation, Mrs. Denise Pannullo at 973 779-1439 or email [reled@stphilip.org](mailto:reled@stphilip.org).

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The students, faculty and staff of SPPS have successfully entered their Fall 2024 school year as we quickly approach the end of September. Our school has accomplished another successful Back to School Night. We welcome all of our new students and their families to our community.

Our students have been working on their first NWEA standardized testing and will continue to work on them next week.

We pray for a productive, safe and successful school year.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### LIFE MINISTRY



Join thousands of pro-life people of good will for the **1st NJ State March for Life** at the Capitol Building in Trenton.

9:30 am Mass for Life

at Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

11:00 am Speakers/Rally

12:00 March

**We appreciate your participation in pre-registering as soon as possible at**

**<https://insidethewalls.org/njmarchforlife>**

and also selecting the bus location (one location will be the Chancery Office in Clifton). Later they will be in touch with you for round trip bus payment (\$35) and to share bus times.



## HANDBELL CHOIR

### Ring Them Bells!

Interested in participating in a music ministry but not a singer? **Handbell** rehearsals are held regularly in church on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 6:45pm. The **Handbell Choir** rings at Lessons and Carols, and seasonal masses on Christmas Eve and Palm Sunday. Any prior musical experience is appreciated, but not required. We encourage returning and new members to please join us for our organizational meeting and first rehearsal on Monday, October 7th at 6pm.

All music ministries are open to persons high school age and up. For those preparing for Confirmation, participation in one of our music ministries is a great way to fulfill service hours! Regular attendance at rehearsals is expected.



## FR. ENGLISH CENTER COLLECTION

Our next Food Collection date for our parish is October 5th and 6th. This ministry supports the working poor at the Father English Center in Paterson. Please consider donating the following items when you come to Mass that weekend: Non perishable items include canned soups, pasta, sauce, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter and jelly, Mac and cheese, cereals, dried lentils and beans. Also asking for ready to eat healthy food items to give to our Veterans many of whom are homeless and live under bridges.

All food items need to be in bag or carton. If anyone is interested in volunteering at the pantry, please contact Mary Ann at (973) 809-7120. Thank you for your continuous and generous support!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knight of Columbus Thank You  
St. Philip's Council 11671 wants to thank all the parishioners of St. Philip's who donated blood on Sunday September 15. A total of 22 people volunteered as donors and 17 units of blood were collected; 5 donors were deferred for various reasons. Unfortunately, Vitalant was short staffed and so there were often longer than usual wait times resulting in 5 potential donors leaving. Vitalant has promised to correct this for our next drive on Good Friday April 18, 2025. Thank you again for giving the gift of life.

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### ROSARY SOCIETY

#### COMMUNION BRUNCH

St. Philip's Rosary Society welcomes all to attend our Annual Communion Brunch on October 6<sup>th</sup> following the Rosary at 9:40 AM and Mass at 10 AM.  
We look forward to meeting Fr. Sean Magaldi.



Fr. Magaldi is currently the Director of Vocations at Rockville Centre, NY.  
For Tickets, kindly contact Elaine at 973-931-2383

### COLUMBIETTES

#### COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The blanket ministry will meet Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 9:45am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! Thank you to Jackie and members of the St Philip community who have made generous donations to our ministry. Recently we have made donations of blankets and shawls to St Catherine Healthcare Center in Caldwell. For questions or further information, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

### PRIMETIMERS

The Primetimers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Price is \$50. Bus leaves at 9:30 AM from St. Philip's Drive.  
For tickets, call Sylvia at 973-742-9286.



## FOR SENIORS

### 2025 Medicare Educational Forum

Once again, this fall, Mike Cervine one of the volunteer SHIP counselors in Passaic County and a Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) volunteer will be hosting a series of classes to better educate individuals of their choices in the Medicare program. The program has been updated to reflect many of the changes incorporated in Medicare for 2025. This program is ideally suited for those who will soon be receiving Medicare, those already on Medicare, Medicare beneficiary caregivers and anyone interested in Medicare for any reason. The seminar is open to everyone you need not be a resident of Clifton, or Passaic County however, attendance at each session is limited.

**Dates are October 1, 8 and 15**  
**at 2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.**  
**Repeated at 7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m.**

Location: 900 Clifton Avenue, Barn C5  
 Senior Center.

Each session is different and builds on the  
 receding session

The agenda for the upcoming series is as follows:

Session 1 – What is Medicare and the basics of  
 Parts ‘A’ and ‘B’

Session 2 – Medigap plans and the basics of Part  
 ‘D’

Session 3 – Medicare Advantage Plans and fraud  
 and abuse prevention

This seminar is FREE however, pre-registration is  
 requested to ensure

sufficient materials are available for all attendees.

You may choose to attend 1, 2 or all 3 sessions  
 however, materials will be distributed  
 during the first sessions both in the afternoon and in  
 the evening with left over materials  
 only available at the other sessions. It is suggested  
 that attendees bring a note pad and  
 pencil or pen.

To register please contact the Clifton Senior Center  
 at 973-470-2234.



## FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

### MOUNT ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY



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## KIDS KORNER



Whoever receives one child such as this in My name, receives Me.

~ Mark 9:37

Below are words showing behaviors towards God's children...

Color the **GOOD ACT BLOCKS** yellow (the ones who put others first).

Color the **SELFISH ACT BLOCKS** blue (the ones who put themselves first).

Not sharing	Sharing a snack	Being a bully
Doing somebody's chores	Teaching your talents to others	Thank you God for my talents
Bragging about yourself	Praying for those in need	Saying mean things
Not inviting everyone to play	Inviting friends to play	Thinking you are better than others

We have learned, as followers of Jesus, we must carry out

Hint: See  
 yellow colored  
 blocks above.

Our talents come from God -  
 be thankful and humble, but  
 not boastful to others.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

Pope Francis encourages all Catholics to celebrate and participate in the Jubilee of Hope throughout the year of 2025. Each parish/institution of the Diocese of Paterson will be represented at the opening Mass at the Cathedral on Dec. 29, 2024 with Bishop Kevin Sweeney. A pilgrimage to Rome and a local pilgrimage will be made available for all parishioners. For details about the opening Mass, the pilgrimages, and to learn about the many Jubilee events that will be happening in our diocese, please visit the diocesan homepage.



### GOLD and SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1999 or 1974? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

**Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 3:00pm.**

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. **The deadline to register is October 16, 2024.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed.

*Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*



## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 10, 2023	\$18,733.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 15, 2024	
WEEKLY COLLECTION	\$ 11,386.00
ONLINE GIVING DONATION	\$ 7,145.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,531.00

Upcoming Second Collections:  
October 6- Beacon  
October 13- Project Faith

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *The Recently Deceased...*

John Viera, Vincent Macri

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

Sr. Pauline Piechocki, Tom Mullin, Peyton Yagins,  
Daniel Kozell, Nicole Hale, Mildred Giusti



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

8:00 Mass for Life  
10:00 Generoso Spatola  
Louis D'Angelo  
Ronald Messen  
Evelyn Domingo  
12:00 All the People of the Parish

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 2024

9:00 Jim and Kitty Murtha  
Amparo Ponce

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

9:00 Bill Pascrell

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

9:00 Hughes Family Anniversary  
Mark Meola

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

9:00 Luigia DiDomizio

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

9:00 Luigia DiDomizio

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

9:00 Ariston and Maria Francisco  
Nerio Peña  
5:30 All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

8:00 Vincenzo Tullo  
Lino Calello  
10:00 Michael Costabile, Sr  
Eileen P. Leniart  
Frank Lechleiter  
Margaret Chambers  
12:00 Al Mayewski  
Marilyn Loftus

### CANDLE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22nd

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