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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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 Saturday4:30 PM

HOLY HOUR

Every Friday9:30 to 10:30 AM

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

Waiting.

I have grown accustomed to waiting, which is not to say that I gladly welcome it in any sense. When I take my mom to her doctor's appointment, visit the post office, drop off my car, or go shopping, I expect that it will take time. I am prepared; I read, play Angry Birds on my phone, or answer texts and emails.

In fact, I am intrigued when I encounter people who are genuinely shocked that they must wait. I take special interest in the one person who grumbles aloud, for the rest of us "in waiting" to hear, at the cashier/attendant/business that is so insensitive as to make anyone wait.

I have noted the different kinds of waiting, and my response to each. I am happily expectant when the delivery has an estimated arrival time between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.; I am irritated as the time slowly creeps towards 1:30 p.m. and later. I am anxious when the emergency room doctor says it will take an hour for the test results, and I clock-watch each minute. I am frustrated when traffic is slow, and I dread the passing of time prior to a meeting that involves a hard conversation. I am delighted and energized as I anticipate the long-planned trip to the theatre or an evening out with close friends. Each of these instances reveals something about me.

In those instances of waiting that involve uncertainty and challenge, I look for consolation in company. Sometimes all I need is for someone to be with me, put a hand on my shoulder, or simply tell me that s/he understands. That is why the readings appeal to me this First Sunday of Advent. God tells Jeremiah, "I will fulfill the promise I made." Paul addresses the Thessalonians, "Strengthen your hearts. . .at the coming of Our Lord Jesus." I am comforted by these directives, for I know God understands my tendency to distract myself during waiting. I am in Good (God's) hands!

The season of Advent is a time of waiting, which traditionally is defined as preparation. It's normal to begin to plan the menu, shop for gifts or write and address the annual holiday cards. These are the usual ways to prepare for Christmas. One important part is left out.

Jesus tells his disciples, "Be vigilant. . .pray that you have strength." Advent provides a wonderful opportunity to consider what is going on inside me, to reflect on the reason for my waiting: the arrival of Jesus, the arrival of Love, in my heart in ever-new

ways. Moreover, I can learn about how I wait: Am I anxious? Lonely? Tired? Am I curious? Thankful? Excited? I can open my heart to the Lord in quiet prayer and allow His presence to instruct me and fill me.

During this season, take a few minutes every day to sit quietly. Talk to the Lord about your day, especially the unresolved issues that occupy your time. Let the cares and distracting thoughts come and go; notice how you feel when you are alone with God. Offer up even those feelings. Then see if there is a movement, or a voice, from inside. It may not happen on the first day, or the second.

Take a bit of quiet every day. This is the best preparation for Christmas.

This Advent, God invites us into the waiting.

Peace,

Fr. Monteleone



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Thessalonians 5:16-18. *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

We hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving! SPPS is excited to celebrate the season of Advent. The eighth grade had a great time with Father Emerson playing Advent Jeopardy. Second grade is busy preparing for their first reconciliation in February, while fifth grade has just completed their study on the Beatitudes. Everyone has been working very hard to rehearse for the upcoming Christmas shows. SPPS wishes you all a joyful and peaceful Advent season!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been transferred to Monday, December 9th.

Mass times are as follows:

*Monday December 9th
at 7AM, 9AM and 6PM (no music)*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024

Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 6
7 PM

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 10
7 PM

Filipino Simbang Gabi

Friday, December 20
6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24
4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25
8 AM, 10 AM and 12 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass,
Tuesday, December 31
5:30 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1
9 AM

GIVING TREE 2024

As we ready to start the Advent season, and prepare for our Christmas celebrations, let us not forget our neighbors in need. Our annual **Giving Tree** is the perfect way to live out our mission to do the work of Christ to help people served by Catholic Family and Community Services (CFCS), St. Martin de Porres Village (MPV), and Mercy House (MH). "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

This year, we will be able to offer two ways to participate!

To participate in our **Online Giving Tree** and make a donation, please visit our website to read through the giving opportunities. You can also visit our church vestibule to help pick a gift tag off our **In-Person Giving Tree**, which provides a note on what can be donated. Please consider sharing your blessings this Christmas season by sharing a gift to help those in need in our local community. In the words of Pope Francis, *"To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us."*

Please return all gifts by the 12:00PM Mass on December 15, 2024.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us on

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 at 7:00PM
for a Service of Lessons & Carols,
featuring our Adult, Youth and Handbell Choirs
and seasonal readings from Scripture.
We hope you can join us for this radiant event!



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2025

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BY SR. THERESA LEE, FMA
CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON



DECEMBER 6, 2024 (FRIDAY)
7PM AT THE MARIAN HALL
ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH
797 VALLEY RD., CLIFTON, NJ 07013

*FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW AFTER THE TALK

SAVE THE DATE

Simbang Gabi

A Filipino tradition of nine-day novena Masses during Advent in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

Join the Sixth Novena Mass
of our Diocesan and parish-sponsored
Simbang Gabi

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ

Friday, December 20, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Rev. David Monteleone
Main Celebrant

Rev. Emerson Francisco
Homilist

Fellowship immediately following Mass in the Auditorium

For information, please contact:

Leah/Alan Abucay – (862) 262-1249
Gloria Baun – (862) 899-9534
Clarissa/Tany Biazon – (201) 960-8714
Zeny/Larry Bolivar – (201) 960-8714
Mathilda/Rene Bulacan – (862) 232-1640
Elena/Fred Calvis – (973) 219-1879
Sylvia/Jun Dagot – (973) 980-3198
Lynn/Ramie Flores – (201) 953-6012
Lourdes Jaucan – (201) 396-3149
Raquel Nael-Marrero – (973) 563-6924
Beth Sienicki – (862) 452-3949
Mely/Chito Vasquez – (973) 494-4091
Bernie Yap – (571) 276-0699

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

FATHER ENGLISH CENTER

Please remember our Parish Food Collection on December 7th and December 8th! The winter months are coming and many of the working poor in at Father English Food Pantry need to supplement their families with nourishment. The following items are collected: canned foods like tuna, chicken, peanut butter, cereals, rice, beans, lentils, pasta, sauce, mac and cheese, and anything that our Veterans can use many of whom are homeless. Only nonperishable foods will be collected and please put in a bag or small carton. Thanking you for your generous donations. Even the smallest item is much appreciated!



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 21 is having their Annual Wreath Sale after all masses on November 30th & December 1st and December 7th & 8th. The scouts will be selling fresh wreaths as well as grave blankets and grave pillows outside of the church. Call Phil Jakimowicz at (973)723-6111 for pre-orders or more information.

PRIMETIMERS

The next meeting will be Friday, December 6, 2024 at 1:30pm in the Marian Hall. Anyone over 50 years old are welcomed to join us.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

TRICKY TRAY

St Philip Prep Tricky Tray is coming up in March! Our HSA is asking for basket donations. We are looking for all size baskets to use for our prizes at the tricky tray. The baskets can be left in the back of the church or dropped off at our school office. If you have any questions please call our HSA President at 862-247-3899.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ST. PHILIP PREP HSA PRESENTS
BREAKFAST WITH Santa
JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL MORNING!
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH
9 AM - 12 PM
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- CRAFTS, GAMES, & PRIZES
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TICKET DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

*With an appearance from a special guest...
Santa Claus is Coming to Town!*

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ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE MULLY CENTER PARISH OFFICE
LOCATED ON MELODY HILL RD. BEHIND ST. PHILIP PREP SCHOOL, CLIFTON NJ

Child name/s: _____
Parent name/s: _____
Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____
of Adult Tickets _____ # of Children Tickets _____
Amount Included \$ _____ Check # _____

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 9:45am in the Molloy Center. We have donated over 200 hats and scarves to the Coats 4 Kids drive. A great big thank you to Judy, Tara, and Loretta for your very generous yarn donations! You warm our hearts. All crafters are welcome! For information and donations call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

DIOCESAN NEWS

Catholicism from Scratch – Mary, The Church, and Every Christian

Saturday, December 7 from 10 am – 12 pm
St. Paul Inside the Walls

(205 Madison Ave., Madison, New Jersey)

A series of self-contained sessions in basic Catholic topics and themes for those who forgot the basics, missed them the first time around or never learned them. This month's topic is "Mary, The Church, and Every Christian."

For more information, visit
<https://insidethewalls.org/catholicism-from-scratch>

Noche de Velitas

Sunday, December 8, from 6 – 8 pm
Holy Face Monastery

(1697 NJ-Route 3, Clifton, New Jersey)

Join us for this celebration in honor of the Immaculate Virgin. This evening includes a candle-lit Rosary procession with music around the property. We will also enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Registration is free!

For more information, visit
<https://insidethewalls.org/velitas>

St. Paul's Young Adult Christmas Gala

Friday, December 13, from 8 – 11 pm
St. Paul Inside the Walls

(205 Madison Ave., Madison, New Jersey)

Join the Young Adult Community for a festive night filled with holiday cheer, signature cocktails, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. This is a formal dress event for young adults ages 21-39. Pre-registration is required and no tickets will be sold at the door.

For more information, visit
<https://insidethewalls.org/christmasgala>
\$50 Early-Bird Special Before Sunday, November 24 |
\$55 Per Person Before Sunday, December 8 | \$60 Per Person Before Friday, December 13

Jubilee Opening Mass

Sunday, December 29, from 3 – 5 pm

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
(381 Grand St., Paterson, New Jersey)

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, visit the diocesan homepage.

For more information, visit <https://rcdop.org/jubilee-2025-rcdop>

KIDS KORNER



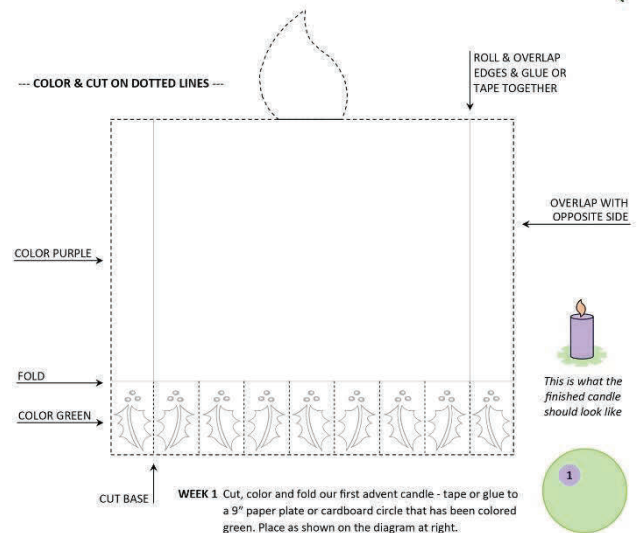
WEEK 1, evening lighting prayer

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Youngest child lights 1 purple candle.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Behold, I will
fulfill the promise



PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY 2025

Pilgrimage to Italy for Jubilee Year 2025

Fr. Emerson is organizing a pilgrimage to Italy for the Jubilee Year from

September 22-October 3, 2025.

For more details see the parish website at www.stphilip.org or email Fr. Emerson at

efrancisco@stphilip.org



Pilgrimage Update:

Application Form for Participation in the Pilgrimage is now available in the Parish Office or at the doors of the Church



Deadline of submission is
December 31, 2024
(subject to change)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank You for Your Support

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit distributes them. — 1 Corinthians 12:4

To all those who have pledged, contributed to, and continue to offer prayers for our "Having a Place at the Banquet of the Lord" capital campaign, a heartfelt thank you. Your kindness and generosity toward this project have gotten us off to a great start. This work could not be done without you!

To date we have raised \$329,094 in contributions collected and we are up to \$408,874 with all our pledges Surpassing our goal of \$300,000!



PARISH GIVING

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

Upcoming Second Collections:
December 8th- Project Faith

WE PRAY FOR...

A Time to be Healed...

Mildred Giusti, Rita Frank,
Kathleen Teresa Fitzpatrick Brown,
Lou Piatti, Caitlin Buggy, Irene Chmura,
Edward Honan, Marge and Barbara Sikora



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

- 8:00 Oliveri Family
Joann Dunn
10:00 Joan Hughes- 6th Anniversary
Ella DeBenedetto- 55th Anniversary
Domingo Louis Buenafuente
Robert Quinn
12:00 Salvatore Capriglione
Walter Tarnowski

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

- 9:00 Fanny DiSanto

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

- 9:00 Valentin Aguinaldo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

- 9:00 Jack McKenna

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

- 9:00 Guiseppe Rinaldo
Vicente A. Moises

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024

- 9:00 Bishop Frank J. Rodimer- 6th Anniversary
Antonino Campanella- 6th Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

- 9:00 Michael and Antoinette Altomare
Victorino Payawal
5:30 Garry DeVos
Sonia Bozios
Kathleen Cohen

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

- 8:00 All the People of the Parish
10:00 Malcolm Hall
Leandro Salme
Rosario Llames-4th Anniversary
Christine Hadinata
12:00 Deceased members of the Sieminski and
Farrelly Families
Deceased members of the Kerner Family

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