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Mr. John Hughes Lay Trustee



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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013 www.stphilip.org ~ (973) 779-6200



Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 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,

On the Second Sunday of Advent the Church has us contemplate the person and mission of Saint John the Baptist, the great prophet of the coming of Christ. Considered more than a prophet, Saint John was the greatest of the voices announcing the coming of salvation in Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist boldly proclaimed: "Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path." In other words, the Saving Lord is coming, the desired of all nations, so hearts must be prepared for the coming of God as man, what we call the Incarnation.

Advent, the Church's annual liturgical season leading up to Christmas, is a special time of preparing to celebrate that day when Christ was born in Bethlehem two millennia ago. We are also preparing in this season for the return of the Lord at the end of time and at the end of our life on earth, at the moment of our death.

In the midst of all this preparing, we acknowledge too that the Lord is present already and desires to come to us every day and at every moment of our existence. The question is: are we ready and open to the Lord coming into our life each day?

Though the Lord is present, we might easily miss the fact in our daily life. Especially at this time of year we can be easily so caught up in the "Christmas rush" of preparing food or planning trips, purchasing gifts or sending Christmas cards, that God, who stands quietly knocking at the door of our hearts, can be missed entirely.

For many people today, and perhaps more and more and time goes on, God is far, far away. But the God who is presented to us by the Church and on this Sunday in the words of the prophet Baruch, is a God of tenderness and very near, who shows patience to all people, desiring that no one be lost, but that all turn to Him and live!

Listen again to the beautiful words of the prophet Baruch: "Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever." Likewise, Baruch proclaims: "God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company."

Where love is found, as well as generosity of spirit, patience and repentance, there we meet the living God, present and active by the power of the Holy Spirit moving among believers who are open to hearing and experiencing God in their midst. The presence of Christ surrounds us in the world we inhabit, even in its brokenness, and in the families or communities to which we belong, in our friendships, as well as in those who strive for a more just and equitable world. God is in our midst, promoting goodness and love, to which we are called to pursue each day.

How do we meet our God? We discover God present in our midst by living in contact with Him in prayer, by participating in the Sacraments of the Church, and in God's Word in Scripture, as well as in one another. Discovering the Lord also means manifesting God to others, by lives of love and self-sacrifice, in imitation of Christ.

As God has so loved us, so we must love one another. Jesus taught this to his first followers, and it is our call as well. This is a challenging task, but one to which we are called, and which goes on throughout our earthly existence.

It is true to say that God needs us as instruments of love in the world today. When we see so much that is negative and disheartening, we can become discouraged and want to give up trying. The call as followers of Jesus is otherwise. Living "in Christ," as Saint Paul calls it, we learn that where there is sincere and faithful love, even amid contrary tendencies, God is present. Only where love is absent where there is insistence on sin and alienation from God, is His grace hindered. But even there God cannot be defeated when love ultimately triumphs.

A very special way for our God to be present to us is in the Holy Eucharist, the Mass, where His Word is proclaimed and where the Body of Christ is made present and offered to the faithful, for the life of the world.

Jesus taught that where two or three are gathered in his name, He is there in the midst of them (see the Gospel According to Saint Matthew, chapter 18, verse 20).

That describes so well the liturgical assembly of God's people, who gather to pray as Christ's Body, celebrating the mystery of faith, the Mass, and receiving the nourishment of God's Word as well as the Body and Blood of the Lord under the form of bread and wine.

The short but sweet season of Advent is given to us in the Church that we might live our daily lives under God's watchful care and in His guiding light for our path. God became human in Jesus Christ so that we might go to God and partake of divine life. There could be no greater "exchange of gifts" than this. As one family I know has decided to do this year, there will be no exchange of material gifts, only spiritual ones.

We await a new heaven and a new earth where the justice of God might reign and endure forever. In the second reading for Mass this Sunday, Saint Paul exhorts the Church of Philippi to learn the value of things that really matter, right up to the coming of Christ. Saint Paul expresses it in terms of love for one another abounding more and more, day by day, year by year.

From this day forward may we strive to give testimony to Christ's message of justice and love in the world. How best to do so? By words and deeds of deep and lasting faith, hope and love.

We pray and sing joyously because the Lord is with us, never abandoning us, but guiding us along the way of peace and the perfect fulfillment that God desires us all to possess for eternity.

Peace, Fr. Monteleone

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

Mass times are as follows:

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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024

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

Pope Francis challenges us to answer God's call for us to be protectors "showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about."

The holidays give us the perfect opportunity to answer the call to help people in our very own community in need of help. After Mass today, please stop by the church vestibule to pick up a gift tag off our **Giving Tree** - or visit our parish website

to make a donation - to benefit a local organization during this Christmas season!

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



ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

St Philip's Preparatory has come back from Thanksgiving break and is in full swing preparing for Christmas. The early childhood wing has begun teaching students about Advent and how to get ready for the coming of Christ.

The school is also practicing for the Christmas show that will be happening later this month. As always

Jesus is the reason for the season!

The students of St. Philip Preparatory School invite you to attend any of the following Christmas Concerts on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Come to one, or come to all! We would love to see you there! Merry Christmas!

9:30 AM PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten 10:30 AM Grades 1-3 7:00 PM Grades 4-8



Still have some Christmas Shopping to do?
Avoid the crowds at the mall and come shop at our TREP\$ Christmas Market on
Saturday, December 14th from 10 AM - 12 Noon.
Our young student entrepreneurs will be selling homemade and creative items for everyone on your shopping list.

Thank you for your support!

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

FILIPINO-AMERICAN GROUP

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
ZenylLarry Bolivar – (201) 960-8714
Mathilda/Rone Bulacan – (862) 232-1640
Elena/Fred Calvis – (973) 219-1879
Sylvia/Jun Dagot – (973) 980-3198
Lynn/Ramie Flores – (201) 398-3149
Raquel Nael-Marrero – (973) 563- 6924
Beth Sienicki – (862) 452-3949
Mely(Chito Vasquez – (973) 494-4091
Bernie Yap – (571) 276-6699

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOY SCOUTS

Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 21 is having their Annual Wreath Sale after all masses 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.

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.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 9:45am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! For information and donations call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

DIOCESAN NEWS

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

DIOCESAN MINISTY APPEAL

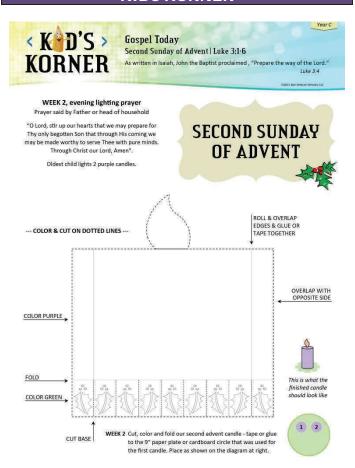
2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

"United In Faith, Hope, Love"
As the end of 2024 approaches, we invite you to consider making a year-end charitable contribution to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which serves tens of thousands of people in profound need. Your gift is a true blessing to both the contributor and the recipient. Please make the Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, through gifts of securities, credit card or online.

May God bless you for your support! Please consider a donation to the 2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Scan the QR code below or visit www.2024appeal.org to make an online gift today.



KIDS KORNER



IN THE AREA

NOVENA DI NATALE

The Novena di Natale, a Frainese Tradition, will be held on Sunday December 15, 2024 a 5:00 PM at the Holy Face Monastary, Clifton, NJ. Any questions, please contact Nick Finamore at 973-779-9328



CHRISTMAS TREES

St. Paul's Abbey, on 289 Route 206, Newton, NJ 07860 one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas Trees ready to Choose 'n' cut
Open Thursday- Sunday
From November 23- December 15,
10 AM -3:30 PM.

We also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry, and more.



GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Jaxon Ryat and Silvan Troy

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 \$330,502 in contributions collected and we are up to \$409,226 with all our pledges Surpassing our goal of \$300,000!



PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: NOVEMBER 26, 2023, \$18,139.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION: DECEMBER 1, 2024

WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 9,899.00 ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 6,982.00 \$ 16,881.00

2NDCOLLECTION- RETIRED RELIGIOUS \$ 3,125.00

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased...

Leonard Passenti, Janet Debiak, Barbara Sondej

A Time to be Healed...

Rita Frank, Kathleen Teresa Fitzpatrick Brown, Lou Piatti, Caitlin Buggy, Irene Chmura, Edward Honan, Marge and Barbara Sikora, Arlene Pompeo and Diane Albanesius



MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

7:00AM All the People of the Parish 9:00AM F. Paul Marschalk

Jerry Jaucian-11th Anniversary

6:00PM Bishop Frank Rodimer

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

9:00 Josephine Marinaro

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

9:00 Joseph Torres Cathy and Matthew McClane

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

9:00 Anna Errico- 1st Anniversary Daniel Mutter

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

9:00 Linda Buenaflor

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

9:00 Mertilina Quinonez Jack Cannon

5:30 Elena Parillo Bridi Frank Lechleiter Hedy Skrinski

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

8:00 Andres Macalino

10:00 Torquato Trasente Michael Costabile, Sr. Tony Voloninno Fr. Paul Wolkovits

12:00 All the People of the Parish

CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF **DECEMBER 8TH**

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