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Ms. Linda Siluk Lay Trustee

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## St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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



### Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024



#### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

#### 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 DESK OF DEACON NICK

The image of Jesus at the table is a recurring and significant image in Scripture, rich with spiritual, theological, and communal meaning. Throughout the Gospels, these moments often reveal Jesus' character, His mission, and His teachings about the kingdom of God. The table becomes a setting where boundaries are broken, fellowship is extended, and profound lessons are taught. The themes of "table" and "Eucharistic banquet" in Scripture symbolize

communion, unity, and divine provision.
Scripture often connects God's covenant with His people through meals, culminating in the Eucharist as the ultimate banquet of divine grace.



In biblical times, sharing a meal was an act of intimacy and fellowship, symbolizing acceptance and trust. Jesus' willingness to dine with all people—including tax collectors, sinners, and Pharisees—challenges social norms and reveals His inclusive love. For instance, in **Luke 5:29-32**, Jesus dines at the home of Levi, a tax collector. This act scandalizes the religious leaders but demonstrates Jesus' mission: to seek and save the lost, showing that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

Jesus frequently used meals as opportunities to teach profound spiritual truths. While at a Pharisee's house, Jesus shares the Parable of the Great Banquet. Here, He contrasts the self-righteous who reject God's invitation with the outcasts who gladly accept it, emphasizing the upside-down nature of the kingdom of God. Meals provide a relaxed, relational context where Jesus imparts wisdom and challenges societal expectations.

Jesus often performed miracles in the context of meals, illustrating that the table is a space for healing and restoration. For example, in **Luke 7:36-50**, while dining at a Pharisee's house, a sinful woman anoints Jesus' feet with her tears. Her act of devotion highlights themes of forgiveness and gratitude, as Jesus affirms her faith and offers her peace. This story reinforces the transformative power of encountering Jesus.

Perhaps the most significant table moment in Scripture is the Last Supper, where Jesus shares a Passover meal with His disciples (Matthew 26:17-30). Here, He institutes the Lord's Supper, linking the bread and wine to His body and blood, symbolizing the New Covenant. This act not only foreshadows His sacrificial death but also provides a lasting ritual for

His followers to remember His love and anticipate His return. The Last Supper underscores themes of unity, sacrifice, and divine provision.

After His resurrection, Jesus continues to reveal Himself at the table. The risen Christ is recognized by two disciples on the road to Emmaus when He breaks bread with them. Similarly, Jesus prepares breakfast for His disciples by the Sea of Galilee, showing His care for their physical and spiritual needs. These post-resurrection meals emphasize Jesus' ongoing presence and provision for His followers.

Scripture often points to a future banquet, symbolizing the ultimate fulfillment of God's kingdom. In **Revelation 19:9**, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb celebrates the union of Christ and His Church. This imagery connects the earthly tables where Jesus dined to the heavenly table, portraying an eternal fellowship with God. Isaiah 25:6-9 also anticipates a banquet where death is swallowed up, and God's salvation is fully realized.

The table is a powerful symbol in Scripture, embodying themes of fellowship, inclusion, teaching, restoration, and covenant. Through His table fellowship, Jesus reveals the heart of God—a love that transcends barriers, invites all into relationship, and transforms lives. For believers today, the table remains a sacred space for remembering Christ's sacrifice, celebrating His presence, and anticipating the joy of eternal communion with Him.

#### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024**

#### 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

#### OF THE BLESSED MOTHER & CANDLES

The great season of Advent is full of rich symbolism, especially in regard to the contrast of light and darkness.

For example, Jesus is known as the "light of the world" and his birth was made known to the Magi by a bright star, as they recounted to King Herod, "For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2).

Stars then play a vital role in the symbolism of Christmas, pointing the way to Jesus Christ.

The Virgin Mary is similarly known under such titles as "Star of the Sea," and is often referred to as a "star" that leads other people to her Son, the true "light" that shines in the darkness.

In Advent and throughout the Christmas season, the Church proposes an ancient hymn known by its Latin name, *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. It was written by St. Herman the Cripple in the 11th century and is recited after the conclusion of Night Prayer.

It is a beautiful prayer, one that highlights this symbolism and points our hearts towards Bethlehem, in eager anticipation of the birth of the Savior.

Below is the Latin and English translation of this beloved hymn, which can easily be turned into a prayer throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli
Porta manes, et stella maris, sucurre cadenti,
Surgere qui curat populo: tu quae genuisti,
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem,
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven,
star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen
yet strive to rise again,

To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before, You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

Some parishioners have noted the new arrangement of candles in the sanctuary. The candles on the main altar and by the tabernacle date back to 1964 when the church was reopened after the fire. I had them refurbished for the parish. They serve as a link to our past and present. The tall wooden candlesticks will re-appear in the future. Sometimes for different liturgical seasons the candle arrangements will differ. I like the fact that we have such choices and these items only add to beauty of our church. Let us be the light the world so desperately needs. Enjoy the beauty of this Advent season.

Fr. Monteleone

#### **GIVING TREE 2024**

Thank you for helping with our annual Giving Tree!

If you have not already returned your gift, make sure to drop it off in the vestibule by the 12:00PM Mass on Sunday, December 17.

Don't forget to attach the tag to the gift! If you are making an online donation, please do so by this evening!



#### ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL



This week in Pre-k 4 we are working on so many exciting things for the holiday season! Each morning, we do our advent calendar to help us with our

number recognition and we count down the days until Jesus' Birthday. We are learning the letter J for Jesus and the story of the Candy Cane.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and remember, 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



Thank you!

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!

#### 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





#### SDIDITIIAL ODDODTHMITIES

#### **LIFE MINISTRY**



#### FR. ENGLISH CENTER

Christmas came to Fr. English Food Pantry last weekend, as so much wonderful and needed food was collected. Some even made special bags of food for our Veterans, which is always a top priority. Thank you to all as the working poor in Paterson are very grateful for your generous gifts of prayers and food. Every item donated is greatly appreciated! Merry Christmas to all!

#### .

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

#### Thank You

St. Philip parishioners are some of the most generous people on earth. Once again this year, due to your kindness, our Knights council was able to give away 235 warm winter coats to the needy children here in Clifton. Distribution day this year the weather was quite chilly and windy. Many of the kids came in in shirtsleeves and left wearing their new coat, a sure sign that the need is there. We've been able to do this for the past 5 or 6 years only because of the largesse of all of you. From the bottom of our heats THANK YOU!!!!

#### SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### **ROSARY SOCIETY**

The Rosary society cordially invites you to join us in celebrating the birth of Christ and the feast of our Lady Guadalupe at our Christmas Meeting on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM in Marian Hall.

All are welcome.

#### **COLUMBIETTES**

The next Columbiette meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. We will enjoy a shared evening of fun with our Columbiette sisters at our annual Christmas party instead of the regular meeting.

Remember to bring a pair of ladies' or men's gloves which will be donated to food pantry participants of the Fr. English Food pantry in Paterson and Food pantry of Fr. Michael's Church in Passaic.

The Columbiettes wish our priests, staff and all members of our parish family a Christmas graced with God's blessings of love, peace, joy.

#### **PRIME TIMERS**

#### **January Party Time**

If you're over 50 and want to have some fun why not join our Prime Timer Senior Social Club. We meet at 1:30pm (1pm for coffee-and), in Marian Hall on the first Friday of each month. Our next meeting will be January 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will have our post-holiday light lunch. The cost is only \$15 for sandwiches, salads, etc. If you want to come please make out your check for \$15 to St. Philip's Prime Timers and drop it off or mail it to Prime Timers at the parish Office 797 Valley Rd. Clifton, N.J. 07013. Mark the envelope Jan. Luncheon. We need to have a final count of attendees by Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we will also hear a great presentation by Jean Reanue on the history of Clifton and this area of Passaic County. A dinner-theater trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see Bill Haley and the Comets on March 7<sup>th</sup> is also in the works. Come out and join the fun.

#### 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.

#### **DIOCESAN NEWS**

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 <a href="https://rcdop.org/jubilee-2025-rcdop">https://rcdop.org/jubilee-2025-rcdop</a>

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#### **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

Date: September 22 — October 3, 2025

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

DURING THE HOLY YEAR — Jubilee 2025

#### **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)



#### PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY MEETING

There will be a Meeting for those who are still deciding, and those who are interested and/or have questions about the Pilgrimage to Italy. Come and join us for the presentation and discussion!

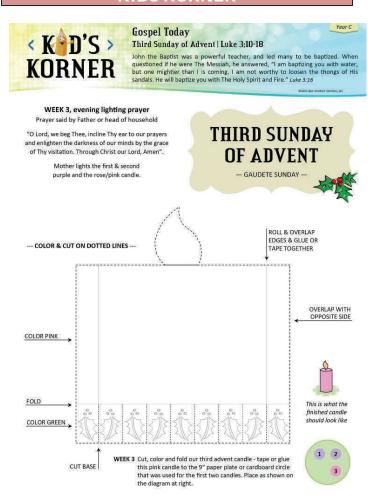
A representative from the travel agency will be flying from Italy to join us.

**Date:** January 11, 2025 (Saturday)

**Time:** 7:00PM

Place: Marian Hall

#### KIDS KORNE



#### **PARISH GIVING**

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

#### WE PRAY FOR.

#### Recently Deceased...

Logan Brackenbury

#### 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 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

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024**

9:00AM Andres Macalino Concepcion A. Jimenez

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024**

9:00 Dale Cavalero

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024**

Josephine Pagano Tony Volonnino

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

9:00 Joselito Veluz Marie Louise Caroline

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024

9:00 Robert Hammer-22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Claudia Pugliese

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024

9:00 Irene Marschalk Victoria Walker

5:30 All the People of the Parish

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024**

8:00 Ed Kovacs

10:00 Catherine "Kitty" Makowski Emanuel Calon Rodriguez Marguerite Hausz Giovanna and Antonio Caradonna

12:00 Thomas Turner- 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Roseann Weitner

#### CANDLE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER **15TH**

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