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# St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 29, 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

My Dear Parishioners,

Upon entering a house during the Christmas season, we always take note of a few things, the various lights and decorations, most especially the Christmas tree and how it is decorated. Usually somewhere around the house, displayed somewhere in a prominent place, is a Nativity set. They come in various shapes, sizes, colors, cultures. But what makes up a Nativity set, what is essential for the Nativity scene?

I can remember one year at my parents' home helping my mom set up her Lenox nativity set. By accident the camel slipped out of my hands and broke into several pieces. I felt horrible and knew I was going to be in trouble, because my mom took great pride in the set. Mom tried to comfort me, saying, "Look at it this way. It could have been Mary or Joseph, or God forbid, the baby Jesus. But, come on, it's only a camel." I was able to buy a replacement for her set and all was right with the world.

In our gospel today, the Christ child went missing from the scene, and this was eventually noticed by Mary and Joseph. That scene of stability often depicted by the stable, was no more – for an essential piece, an essential person wasn't there. Mary and Joseph spent time searching for the Christ child – an action, an image common in our gospels throughout this Christmas season. Many were in search of the Christ child – the shepherds, the Magi, and now Mary and Joseph themselves. Each of them was not complete until the Christ child was present. Jesus was the glue, the centerpiece in each of their stories, in each of their journeys. Jesus was essential in completing the picture.

On this feast of the Holy Family, we are invited as individual families, and as a community, to examine what is really essential and what is non-essential in making us work, in fulfilling our mission, in keeping us going. We have to look at the Nativity Sets of our lives, how we are set up, displayed as a family, in both all of its function and dysfunction, and discern what is essential and what we might have to let go of, so that we can keep on the journey, as did Hannah in our first reading, who knew Samuel would flourish by letting him go to the Temple with Eli.

We can spend so much time and energy picking up the broken pieces that often occur in our lives, past hurts perhaps, images of what we once were as a family and miss what remains. Or we might notice that something essential is in fact missing in our lives, and we have to go after it, look for it, as did Mary and Joseph, to make us whole once again.

Being a holy family was not just a given for Mary and Joseph; it didn't just "happen" to them. They had to work at it, that is, they had to respond to God in their lives. That's what made their family really holy. From the beginning, they had to let go of any assumptions they may have had about the future of their life together and respond to God in their circumstances as life unfolded before them. That moment of looking for the Christ child was an essential, ongoing activity in their life together, in keeping Jesus, in keeping God in the center of their story, of their scene. In the midst of sometimes shattered, broken pieces, they trusted God was at work on them, in them, through them, as St. John says in our second reading, not always knowing what the end product would be.

Isn't that what Eucharist is? Isn't that what Eucharist does to us, but mold us, shape us into this sense of holiness – and not just exclusively for this feast day. The prayer of the Eucharist, over the bread and wine, takes our lives as they are and where we are, and makes of us an eternal offering, as we hear, but we must want it, we have to be open to this process of holiness, for God's desire to transform us. And this end product of holiness? Nothing more – and nothing less – than various shapes, sizes, and colors, as a Nativity set, all of which together reveal the presence of Christ among us.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## CHRISTMAS 2024

**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



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

*The entire Parish Staff would like to wish you and yours a blessed New Year. May God bless you!*



### PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31st and January 1st and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.

In observance of the Solemnity of Mary on Wednesday, January 1, Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM. The Church will be closed immediately following Mass.

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The St. Philip School community hopes everyone is having a joyous and blessed Christmas season, which we celebrate through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The students and staff have all had the opportunity to spend this Holiday season with family and loved ones, and are returning to school on January 2nd to continue their 2024-2025 school year. We will be rejuvenated and have a renewed focus on attaining our goals.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year as we ring in 2025.



## SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

### LIFE MINISTRY

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD**

**DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING**

**LIFENET** invites you to join us on the first Friday of each month to pray and fast for equal rights for babies in the womb and for an end to abortion. \*The 2022 Supreme Court decision in the Dobbs case does NOT end abortion in NJ. Sadly, NJ politicians have intensified efforts to make NJ a "sanctuary state" for abortion.

<https://equalrightsforbabiesinthewomb.com/prayerandfasting/>

## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### 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.

### COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 8, 2025 in the Molloy Center at 9:45am. All crafters are welcome! For information or donations, call Cathie Murtha (973-471-1265). Thanks to all of the faithful who have donated to our cause this past year. We have been able to warm the hearts and souls of the many we serve. God bless you!

### HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION TUITION RAFFLE

1st Place - \$6,800 Tuition for 2025/26 for SPPS  
or any Catholic Educational Institution

2nd Place - \$300 Flynn O'Hara Uniform Co.  
Gift Card

3rd Place - \$150 St. Philip Prep  
Spirit Wear Gift Card

Drawing date: Friday, March 7, 2025 at 10 p.m.  
Tickets are \$50

No substitution of the offered prize may be made,  
and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize.

\*Tuition payment will be made directly to the  
Catholic Educational Institution.

Winner need not be present at the time of drawing.

To purchase a ticket, email: [sppshsa@gmail.com](mailto:sppshsa@gmail.com)

St. Philip Prep HSA  
**Tuition RAFFLE**

**\$50 PER TICKET**  
Only 1,000 tickets sold!

**PRIZES**

- 1 \$6,800 Tuition 2025/26 for SPPS or any Catholic Educational Institution\*
- 2 \$300 Flynn O'Hara Uniform Company Gift Certificate
- 3 \$150 St. Philip Prep Spirit Wear Gift Certificate

**Drawing date:**  
Friday, March 7, 2025 at 10 p.m.

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To purchase a ticket, please email  
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Return all payments and ticket stubs to  
Rosa Ponte via Brandon Ponte (4A)

Net proceeds will be devoted to the HSA Assessment.

No substitution of the offered prize may be made and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize.

\*Tuition payment will be made directly to the Catholic Educational Institution.  
Winner need not be present.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.stphilip.org) or email Fr. Emerson at  
[efrancisco@stphilip.org](mailto:efrancisco@stphilip.org)

Date: September 22 – October 3, 2025  
**PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**  
DURING THE HOLY YEAR – Jubilee 2025

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

### 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.

**Two dates and venues are available for the meeting. You can choose any of these:**

**St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Clifton**

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

**Time & Venue:** 7:00PM at the Marian Hall

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Oak Ridge**

**Date:** January 12, 2025 (Sunday)

**Time & Venue:** 12:00PM at the Classrooms



## 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

<https://rcdop.org/jubilee-2025-rcdop>

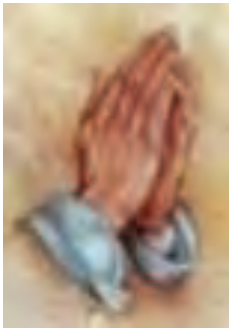
## PARISH GIVING

THE COLLECTION INFORMATION NOT  
AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.

## WE PRAY FOR...

### *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, Diane Albanesius, Dona Piasiecki,  
Robert Rup



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

8:00	All the People of the Parish
10:00	Joseph Dressel Wilfredo Asuncion, Jr Salvatore DePadua, Jr Leandro Salme
12:00	James Elbert Sal DePadua

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024

9:00AM	Members of the Fernando Family
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### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024

9:00 AM	Donald Muller
5:30 PM	George and Emelinda Masbang - 41 <sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM	All the People of the Parish
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### THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025

9:00	Ann DePasquale
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### FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

9:00	Salvatore Liguori- 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
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### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025

9:00	Mary Matteo
5:30	All the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

8:00	Jose and Teresa Villegas Willian and Juliana Ayers
10:00	Robert Parillo- 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anne and Anthony Lipari Rosemarie Kowal Michael Robinson
12:00	Helen Dressel Joseph Dressel



# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph | Luke 2:41-52

## THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

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1] *Jesus went to the temple with his parents in this town.*

- a) Jericho b) Jerusalem c) Bethlehem

2] *They were there for \_\_\_\_\_ .*

- a) Christmas b) Easter c) Passover

3] *How old was Jesus?*

- a) Two b) Twelve c) Twenty

4] *When the caravan left, where was Jesus?*

- a) With the caravan b) He rode ahead  
c) Left behind

5] *Mary and Joseph found Jesus after \_\_\_\_\_ .*

- a) 3 hours b) 3 days c) 3 weeks

6] *What did the temple teachers think about Jesus?*

- a) Angry b) Annoyed c) Amazed/astounded

7] *When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus they were \_\_\_\_\_ .*

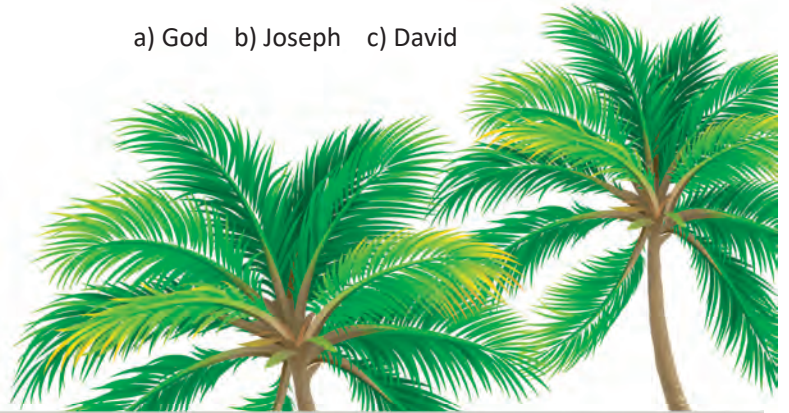
- a) Anxious b) Angry c) Astonished

8] *When Jesus said to his parents "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Who is Jesus calling his Father?*

- a) God b) Joseph c) David

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

- Luke 2: 41-52



### < BONUS >

The finding of Jesus in the Temple is the Fifth Mystery of which Rosary?

- a) Joyful  
b) Sorrowful  
c) Glorious  
d) Mystery of Light/  
Luminous



1) b 2) c 3) b 4) c 5) b 6) c 7) c 8) a Bonus) a



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