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*Lay Trustee*

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



## **Third Sunday of Lent**

**March 23, 2025**



### **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,

Each year the first two Sundays of Lent are linked with specific events in the life of Christ: the temptations he endured in the Judean desert and the Transfiguration on the mountain, as recorded in the Gospels. The third Sunday of Lent, though, is not so much centered on an event in Christ's life, but is concerned with Jesus' teaching on the patience, mercy and love of our God. The three readings assigned for this Sunday all touch on the importance of place hope in God, the All-Merciful and Giver-of-life, who is always ready to forgive transgressors.

The first lesson for Mass today recounts the memorable event of Moses before the burning bush at Horeb, the mountain of God. This profound experience of God's presence elicits such immense awe and even fear, that Moses hid his face. This confirms the notion that His majesty is so great that no human being can gaze at it and live. But God is likewise near enough to tell Moses that the time has come for the Israelites to be freed from slavery in Egypt and that Moses would be the chosen instrument for bringing it about.

God assures Moses that he will not be alone, but under His provident care and thus should proceed with confidence in God's saving help. The prophetic vocation of Moses shows clearly God's love and compassion, especially for the oppressed and downtrodden.

Continuing along the same line of thinking, Jesus uses in his preaching an image for God as a gardener and the challenge of growing plants and trees, which includes weeding out what is not productive or dead. In the case of the fig tree being described in the Gospel, the chief gardener or owner of the vineyard notices a fruitless tree and orders it to be cut down.

The vinedresser, though, pleads for another year, a further chance for the tree, in the hope that it may indeed bear fruit. The point being made by Jesus is that God is truly patient and merciful, more than willing to give innumerable chances for a change of heart, a deeper union, a fuller communion, with the living God. There comes a point, though, when in fact the human heart may be so far from God that nothing less than His all-powerful grace can redirect it. The reality of free will always has to be taken into account, of course, with the reminder that God never forces us to act against our will but lovingly invites us to share in His life.

In this Sunday's Gospel passage Jesus is teaching his disciples never to let their lives be so out of control or far from God that the turning to God becomes more and more difficult, though never impossible. Our free will is just that: not being forced to choose for God and the ways of the Gospel, but truly free, leaving us with the ability to choose for God and life or seek the way of error and separation from God. That we want to avoid at all costs. It is never too late to turn to God.

Someone has said that we Christians speak much about God but in fact very little to God. In Lent we are being called to speak to God, to be people of prayer, striving for union with our Maker, at all times and everywhere. Our annual observance of Lent, forty days of special prayer, fasting and almsgiving or doing good, is a golden opportunity to meet our God and belong more fully to the One who ultimately satisfies the longings of the human heart.

Today is the acceptable time to return to God and to produce fruit in our life, the time to experience God's loving mercy and to offer our forgiveness to those who have offended us in the past or are offending us now. This is the acceptable time to be kind-hearted and give others another chance. Christ can more freely enter our lives under such conditions, when we leave ourselves open to true life and love.

When we unite to celebrate the Eucharist in our Church, we experience the presence of God in our midst, and we thank Him for such goodness and patience with us. Salvation history is the story of God's redeeming mercy, expressed in faithful patience with all people past, present and to come. And "another year" is being offered to us to bear fruit.

The good fruit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (see Galatians 5:22-23). And the greatest fruit produced is love and forgiveness toward all. We are only able to do this by the grace of God. May God's grace come abundantly into our lives today and throughout these forty days of Lent.

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength," says the prophet Isaiah (40:31). Hope here is to be understood as closely linked to the virtue of waiting, of being patient. In Spanish, for example, the word "esperar," means both to wait and to hope. "Saber esperar," means to know how to hope and to know how to wait.

This is how God acts toward us and we are called to do likewise in our relationship to Him and one another. "By waiting and by calm you shall be saved," the prophet Isaiah also wrote (Is 30:15).

The Lord has promised to be at our side in good times and bad, in joy and in sorrow, and in this we can take great delight, for our God will never abandon us.

Peace,  
Fr. Monteleone

## ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Our students have been actively engaged in exciting lessons across all grade levels!

Intermediate students are diving into the human body systems, with our fourth graders creating life-sized diagrams to bring their learning to life. Fifth graders are exploring the fascinating world of matter, from its composition to its properties. In math, students are mastering long division and fractions.

Middle schoolers are looking ahead to their futures, writing about their dream careers while also tackling linear equations and graphing in math. In religion, most classes are attending the Stations of the Cross on Mondays, reflecting on their faith as they journey through Lent. The students are also thrilled to be using brand-new books in their studies!

After school, excitement is building as students rehearse for the upcoming school play, set to premiere in May. We can't wait to see their hard work come to life on stage!

## 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)

**Date: September 22 – October 3, 2025**

**PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**  
**DURING THE HOLY YEAR – Jubilee 2025**

### **PILGRIMAGE UPDATE:**

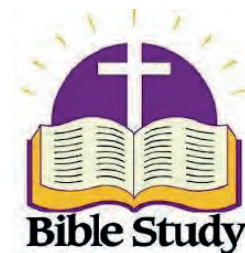
WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING PILGRIMS who want to join. At the moment, we have two buses going for the pilgrimage. If you want to join, please contact Fr. Emerson as soon as possible at [efrancisco@stphilip.org](mailto:efrancisco@stphilip.org)

## BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Fr. Monteleone for  
Bible Study this Lent!

Beginning March 10 through  
April 14, 2025

Mondays 10:00am~11:00am  
Youth Room in the Molloy  
Center



The Book of Revelation

## SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

### **Parish Lenten Mission**

**Join us as we welcome Fr. Greg Zannetti on  
Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the 9 AM Mass. Fr.**

**Greg will give a talk on**

***Our Lady and the Lenten Season***  
**After the Mass.**

**Also at 7 PM in the church for the same  
presentation.**

Confessions will still be held.

Fr. Greg Zannetti was ordained for the Diocese of Metuchen in 2021. Born in Edison and a graduate of Rutgers University. Educated at the North American College in Rome. Presently assigned to St. John Vianney in Colonia, NJ.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### **FR. ENGLISH**

Thank you for the generous donations that were received for the Fr. English Food Pantry in February. Our next collection is coming up on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. We continue to bring food to our working poor neighbors in Paterson. If everyone could at least bring one item, we would have so much more food to donate. Many of our parishioners give very generous full bags of all needed items. Some examples to donate: canned tuna, canned chicken, pasta, pasta sauce, lentils, beans, dry cereal, peanut butter, jelly, Mac and Cheese, soups, and please keep our Veterans in mind, many of whom are homeless. Aldi's has great deals on many food items. Thank you!



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
**FOOD PANTRY**

*Providing help - creating hope.*



## SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 9:45am in the Molloy Center.

You do not have to be a Columbiette to participate. Did you ever want to learn to crochet? Come and join us! We give free lessons. For information or fabric and yarn donations, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

### COLUMBIETTES

The next Columbiette meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Social time refreshments will begin at 6:30 pm followed by our regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

If you are interested in becoming a Columbiette or would like more information, please contact Pat Scarpone at 973-881-7977 or Sharon Festa at 973-742-0926. You must be 18 years old and a Catholic female.



### PRIMETIMERS

About 35 Prime Timers attended an excursion to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> for the dinner and show "Bill Haley Jr. and the Comets". Everyone had a great time. Our next monthly meeting will be on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:30pm, coffee-and at 1pm, in Marian Hall in the Molloy Center. Anyone age 50 and over is welcome. Our entertainment at the April meeting will be "The Fogettes" formerly the "Foggy Mountain Boys and the Fogettes". This group entertains seniors all through the New Jersey area with popular songs and anecdotes. Why not come out and join us for some fun and learn what's next coming up for the "Mature Set" at St. Philip's.

### ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

The Primetimers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Price is \$50. Bus leaves at 9:30 AM from St. Philip's Drive. For tickets, call Sylvia at 973-742-9286.



### BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses on the weekend of April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. The palm cross price is \$15 and can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. For pre-orders, please call Phil Jakimowicz at (973)723-6111 or email: [troop21clifton@gmail.com](mailto:troop21clifton@gmail.com).

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## Msgr. Peter J Doody Scholarship\*

## Beefsteak Dinner

Order tickets online at:  
KofC11671.org or call/email:  
Ray Lill (973)472-1756  
Dennis Fitzpatrick (973) 271-9577

Tickets Prices\*\*  
Adults - \$50  
Chicken also available but must be ordered in advance



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Seth Franco, our Guest Speaker, is the first Caucasian Harlem Globetrotter since 1942. He tours the country as a Public speaker telling his story and spreading the Christian gospel. To learn more about Seth scan or click on the QR Code below...



## Saturday April 5, 2025

## St. Philip's Auditorium 7pm

\* Provides Catholic high school scholarships to St. Philip's Prep School graduates and tuition assistance to needy St. Philip's school students.  
\*\* If paying by check for the Beefsteak tickets payable to: St. Philip the Apostle Council 11671  
\*\*\* If donating to the Scholarship Fund (for tax deduction) payable to: Msgr Peter J Doody Scholarship Fund

### ROSARY SOCIETY

**HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS!**

All are welcome to join the Rosary Society Social Tea on Sunday, May 4 in Marian Hall at 1:00. Delicious food, 50/50 and over 40 tricky tray baskets.

\$35.00 contact Elaine at 973-317-1468 by April 27<sup>th</sup>. Have fun and wear your hat!



Happy Spring!



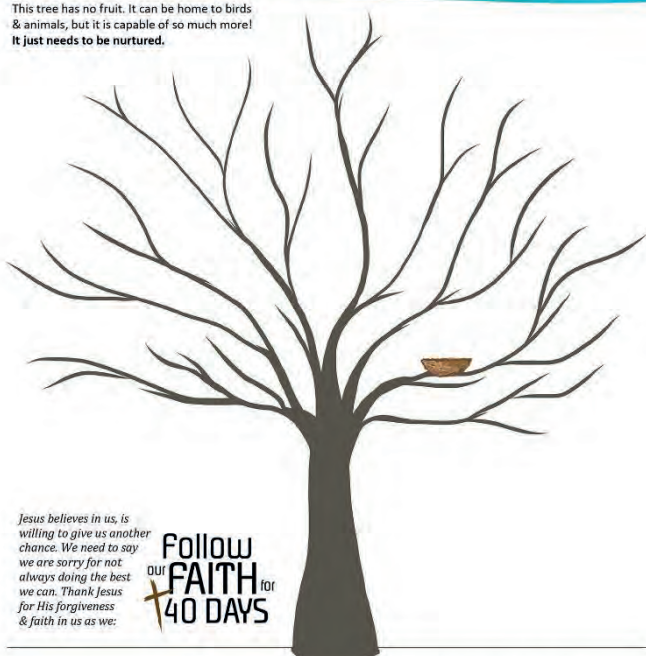
## KIDS KORNER

### < KID'S > KORNER

This tree has no fruit. It can be home to birds & animals, but it is capable of so much more! It just needs to be nurtured.

**Gospel Today**  
Third Sunday of Lent | Luke 13:1-9

The parable uses a barren fruit tree to help us understand God's patience and love for His creation. Given the proper nurturing, unfruitful people can again become pleasing to God.



Jesus believes in us, is willing to give us another chance. We need to say we are sorry for not always doing the best we can. Thank Jesus for His forgiveness & faith in us as we:

**FOLLOW OUR FAITH FOR 40 DAYS**

**NURTURE**  
To feed, nourish, train, educate, cultivate

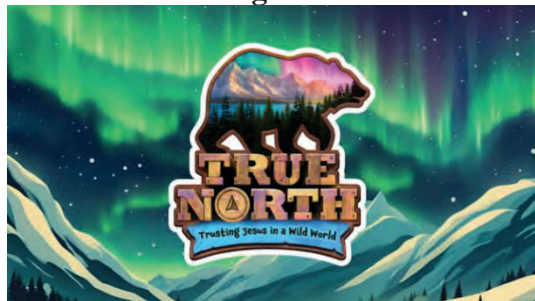
Draw fruit and leaves on the tree. Add any fruit that would be good to eat. Example... apples, oranges, peaches, pears, figs. Don't forget to add a bird to the nest!

Now the tree represents people —ready to share & give good things to others. What can people give others that trees can't give? Ex. a hug

## VACATION BIBLE FUN

Reserve the date for our Vacation Bible Fun  
Mark your calendar July 28- August 1  
8:45 AM – 12 Noon

This year's theme is  
"True North- Trusting Jesus in a Wild World"



Songs, skits, snacks, games, crafts, logo t-shirt, free music CD

Registration begins May 1 and ends July 11.

We invite children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Only \$20.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Christian Unity Roundtable

Sunday, March 16, March 23, and March 30, from 4 – 6 pm

Join us throughout March for our Christian Unity Roundtables. These roundtables are an opportunity for people of Christian faiths to come together, listen, share, and learn from one another. These informal gatherings will include a panel discussion and group sharing. All sessions will be the same format, with different panelists from different faith traditions as available. All are welcome!

March 16, 2025 from 4 pm – 6 pm – Our Lady of the Valley, Wayne

March 23, 2025 from 4 pm – 6 pm – St. Peter the Apostle, Parsippany

March 30, 2025 from 4 pm – 6 pm – Our Lady of the Lake, Sparta

For more information and to register, visit  
<https://insidethewalls.org/christian-unity-roundtable>

### Women's Health and Fertility Awareness

Monday, March 24, from 7:30 – 9 pm

Offered once monthly via Zoom

Come learn the most effective, natural, healthy, and inexpensive system integrating excellent women's health, and true family planning for couples trying to achieve pregnancy, couples having infertility concerns, or couples planning to postpone pregnancy, all within God's natural design. St. Paul Inside the Walls offers two different methods to Natural Family Planning: the Creighton Method, and the Sympto Pro Method. This month's class will focus on the Sympto Pro Method.

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

### Leading Like Jesus: Catholic Evangelization and Leadership Series

Saturday, March 29, from 9 – 12 pm – St. Paul Inside the Walls

(205 Madison Ave., Madison, New Jersey)

Join us for a special leadership workshop designed to explore Jesus as a leader. Sr. Kathleen Tuite, O.P. will lead us in a thoughtful discussion of what characteristics made Jesus an exceptional leader and how we can apply those same characteristics to ourselves. Register by March 24.

For more information and to register, visit  
<https://insidethewalls.org/cceleadershipseries>





## IN THE AREA

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF PATERSON

SAVE THE DATE: April 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Bunch of Blessings Hot and Cold Buffet 10am to 1pm 184 Park Ave., Florham Park, NJ

Catholic Charities of Paterson Tickets: \$100 per person

This fundraiser event supports families, educating children, caring for Veterans, providing emergency assistance, feeding the hungry and clothing the needy. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A RAFFLE TICKET THEY ARE \$20 EACH.

Please contact Mary Ann at 973 809 7120 if interested in attending.

### IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY

Immaculate Heart Academy is proud to present Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* on Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. The musical tells the story of a young girl, Matilda, who yearns to learn and explore her imagination. Due to a difficult home life, Matilda dives into the world of reading, which takes her to places she longs to be. Her journey is packed with fun dance numbers and music as Matilda ultimately discovers the true meaning of family and bravery. Student actors performing in the musical come from IHA, St. Joseph Regional High School, and Pascack Hills High School. Tickets are \$15 for children, students, and seniors; and \$20 for adults. Tickets go on sale on March 14 and can be purchased at [www.performingartsattheheart.com](http://www.performingartsattheheart.com). All performances will take place at IHA, 500 Van Emburgh Ave., Township of Washington, NJ 07676.

## PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 10, 2024 \$17,608.00  
 SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 16, 2025  
 WEEKLY COLLECTION \$ 10,157.00  
 ONLINE GIVING DONATION \$ 6,368.00  
 TOTAL \$ 16,525.00  
 2ND COLLECTION- HUMAN DVLPMNT \$1,967.00

## WE PRAY FOR...

### Recently Deceased...

Thomas Mullin, Louis P. Nassaney



### A Time to be Healed...

Irene Chmura, Marge and Barbara Sikora, Diane Albanesius, Robert Rup, Fran Kobernick, Rosanna Hampton, Philip Kutzenko, Tom Mullin, Angelo Torres, Paula Mutter, Nina Sova

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

8:00 Barbara P. LoProto  
 Victor Garcia  
 10:00 Stanley Makowski-15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Peter Caruso  
 Denise Wicki  
 Jerzy Sielicki  
 12:00 All the People of Parish

### MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

7:00 AM Ariston and Maria Francisco  
 9:00 AM Michael Mazzola  
 Angelita Pena

### TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

7:00 AM Nerio Peña  
 9:00 AM Thomas Spohn  
 Elena and Carmine Monzo

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

7:00 AM Elsie and Ella Rodriguez  
 - Sepcial Intentions  
 9:00 AM Jack McSweeney  
 Jose Binghay, Sr.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

7:00 AM Dionesia Batstil  
 Domenica Delatore  
 - Special Intentions  
 9:00 AM Anthony and Louise Patire

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

7:00 AM Bermond Caballero  
 Maximus Onella  
 9:00 AM Lita Pena

### SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

9:00 Anne Graziano  
 5:30 All the People of Parish

### SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

8:00 Richard Kochan  
 Lino Calello  
 10:00 Marie D'Angelo  
 Joan Hughes- 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Josephine Kimberley  
 Lygia C. Ibanez  
 12:00 Michael Robinson  
 Mary Godri

### CANDLE WEEK OF MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup>

In memory of Mary M. Farkas  
 - 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 - From your daughter, Mary K. Farkas



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**JEFFREY POMPEO**

Parishioner



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