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Rev. David Monteleone

Pastor
frmonteleone@stphilip.org

Rev. Emerson Francisco Parochial Vicar efrancisco@stphilip.org

Rev. Jared Brogan *In-Residence*

Dcn. Nicholas Veliky

Deacon

nveliky@stphilip.org

Dcn. Robert G. Ayers

Deacon

deaconbob@stphilip.org

Ms. Danielle Gonzalez *Principal*Principalgonzalez
@stphilipprep.com

Mrs. Denise Pannullo Faith Formation dpanullo@stphilip.org

Ms. Vicky Velasco

Confirmation Program

vvelasco@stphilip.org

Mr. Frank Hydash

Director of Music
frankhydash@rocketmail.com

Mr. Carlos Arias

Maintenance Supervisor
carias@stphilip.org

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 30, 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 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,

The story is told of a catechism class studying the Parable the Prodigal Son. After emphasizing the wrong attitude of the older son in the parable, the teacher described the great rejoicing of the household with the return of the prodigal son. "Amidst the celebration, though," the teacher said, "there was one who failed to share in the festive spirit. Now who was that?" asked the teacher. One of the pupils immediately shouted out: "The fatted calf."

If an Academy Award were given for Best Parable, it should probably go to the parable of the Prodigal Son. The story has been so popular through the ages that along with the parable of the Good Samaritan, many people, even those minimally involved in religion or little acquainted with the Bible, can recount the basic story line.

Artists have taken up the subject too, as in Rembrandt's famous painting(a copy of this hangs in the reconciliation room). Looking at the image one immediately notices the prominent standing figure, the Father of the Parable, who represents God. Interestingly enough, though, he seems to be depicted as being blind. His eyes are shut, at least to the faults of his son, and he sees the wayward son not with his eyes but with his heart, on which the kneeling son rests his head.

If you look at the two hands of the Father, his left hand seems decidedly masculine and pulls the son's right shoulder toward the Father's embrace. On the other hand, more delicate and feminine, seems to be caressing the repentant son's back. In this artistic narration of the parable, God is depicted with traits usually associated both with a loving father and mother, fitting enough as God is a loving creator and parent.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, we find three strong persons, and our Lord probably intends for us who hear the parable to see ourselves in each of the three characters. How is this so? The weakness and straying of the younger son we probably can easily relate to. The jealousy of the older son who doesn't get rewards for never straying we can identify with as well, I'm sure.

And finally, the compassionate outreach of the Father we can likely find in ourselves too. That is part of the beauty of the parable; each character is not to represent just one type of person, but all of us are a mixture of sin and repentance, jealousy and resentment, and finally, it is hoped, overflowing compassion, forgiveness and love towards others.

The point of the parable has to be: try harder to become like the forgiving Father, be less like the jealous older son, and learn the meaning of love of self as the prodigal son finally learned in the compassionate arms of his Father.

Like the prodigal son we're often away from God by our weakness. We get itchy feet and long to be anywhere but here, and off we go either really or in our minds. Like the older son we're often absent from God's love because of bitterness or anger over what others are getting and we think we aren't. As we get older maybe we more easily realize we are a mixture of both sons in the parable. At least I do.

What Jesus is inviting us to in this parable is the realization that our God is a loving parent, stretching out hands to us, always forgiving, totally compassionate, loving without limits. That should spell loud and clear to us: be ye comforted! The parable is sometimes called that of the Prodigal *Father*, since prodigal means recklessly wasteful, which the son certainly is in a negative sense, and the Father is a wholly positive sense, of throwing love without restraint, at all times and never counting the cost.

The younger son's misery—being a kosher Jewish lad consigned in his misery before repentance to a pigsty, and nothing could be uglier in the minds of Jesus' hearers—the younger son's misery finally brings him to his senses. Is this the greener grass on the other side of the fence? Hardly!

How often we think that way, only to realize there is nothing better than to be in the Father's house. It's the moral of the Wizard of Oz as well: there's no place like home. But for us, home is to mean God's kingdom and the Church.

In Lent we are to be striving for repentance, that is, walking closer with God who is ever near us, but we stray through preferring our ways to God's. Have you ever noticed that the parable of the Prodigal Son has no ending really? We don't know, for example, if the elder brother ever goes in and enjoys the feast with the rest of the household. We'd like to think so at least.

What we have is not just a story, then, but a challenge, and that's the nature of the parables. In other words, if I'm the prodigal son, will I eventually go back to my Father's house? If I'm the elder son, will I stay outside or go on in and rejoice over the repentant sinner, forgiving as I am forgiven? Can I show a similar loving forgiveness so lavishly bestowed by the father? Even when we make a mess of things, our loving God is ready to take us in. Forgiveness is the final form of love, because it defies logic and can only be described as God-like. We're all called to show it.

"Seventy times seven times," as Jesus expresses it elsewhere in the Gospel (Matthew 18).

All of this should inspire us to ponder on God's forgiveness of our sins, our need to repent and to have confidence in God's mercy. And we must forgive others. We must pray for the grace to do so. The fact that we want to forgive means we're actually nearly or already there, and the grace to actually forgive will follow, though not necessarily right away. As St Augustine put it, "Do what you can do and pray for what you cannot do."

Peace, Fr. Monteleone

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

No Greater Love

A passion play for the Lenten season
presented by the Xavier Company
Friday April 11th at 7:00 PM
Saint Philip the Apostle Church
(*Note: This performance will be presented in lieu of Friday Stations of the Cross)

Tickets are not required. A free will offering will be taken.

The Xavier Company, under the direction of Dr. Carol Ferrone and musical direction by Gerard DeMan, is a unique group of performing artists in residence at St. Francis Xavier Church in New York City. These professionally trained actors, singers and dancers perform original works focused on themes of faith and social justice. Founded in 1982, The Xavier Company is celebrating its forty first anniversary of performing arts ministry in the tristate area. The Xavier Company is renowned for performances that display both spiritual content and artistic excellence.

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Intermediate School students are learning about matter - in 5th they are solving The Case of the Mystery Metals! They have to measure mass, calculate the volume and density of various samples to identify the mystery metals that were mixed up during the robbery. Fourth grade is learning how to use balances to find the mass and graduated cylinders to calculate the volume of irregular objects.

In Religion, 4th graders are learning about the Beatitudes and are creating booklets with a modern interpretation of each Beatitude. The 5th grade has been learning more about the event of Holy Week. Grades 2-8 have been participating in weekly Stations of the Cross.

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

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 eff eff and eff stphilip.org

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.

BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Fr. Monteleone for Bible Study this Lent! Mondays 10:00am~11:00am Through April 14, 2025 Youth Room in the Molloy Center The Book of Revelation



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMETIMERS

Our next monthly meeting will be on Friday, April 4 th 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 8th. The Price is \$50.

Bus leaves at 9:30 AM from St. Philip's Drive.

For tickets, call Sylvia at 973-742-9286.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 10, 2025 in the Molloy Center. A big thank you to Rosemary and Sabina for their donations. Also a thank you to two anonymous donors who left donations in church and the Molloy Center. Please leave your name and phone number with your donation so we may call to thank you. I'd like to close with a comment from the Director of Volunteers at Hospice of New Jersey. "The red, white, and blue blanket went to a dear veteran 99 years old at the Paramus Memorial Veterans Home......When our patients receive a blanket or shawl, it is a big hug and prayer from someone who cares!" Cathie Murtha (973-471-1265)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



BOY SCOUTS

Palm Cross Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 21 will be selling palm crosses before and after masses on the weekend of April 5th & 6th. 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.

ROSARY SOCIETY

All are welcome to join our next Mass and Rosary on Monday April

7 as we celebrate the new life Spring brings! Meeting in Marian Hall at 6;30. Don't forget your Social Tea donations!

SOCIAL TEA

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 973-931-2383 by April 27th.

Have fun and wear your hat!

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



KIDS KORNER



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 5th and 6th. 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!

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 https://insidethewalls.org/nfp

PARISH DINNER DANCE



Check out the pictures from the photo booth taken during the Parish Dinner Dance.
Scan the QR codes to see the photos, or check it online using the following link:

https://pictures.paramountmemories.com/Photo-Booth-Event/St-Philip-St-Pattys-Dance

IN THE AREA

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF PATERSON

SAVE THE DATE: April 26th 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.

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY WED



Henry and Nicole

PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 17, 2024 \$18,452.00 SUNDAY COLLECTION: MARCH 23, 2025

 WEEKLY COLLECTION
 \$ 9,306.00

 ONLINE GIVING DONATION
 \$ 5,580.00

 TOTAL
 \$ 14,886.00

 2ND COLLECTION- PROJECT FAITH
 \$ 2,216.00

WE PRAY FOR..

Recently Deceased...

Frank Dara

A Time to be Healed...

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

DCT (DITT)	William 20, 2022
8:00	Richard Kochan
	Lino Calello
10:00	Marie D'Angelo
	Joan Hughes- 7 th Anniversary
	Josephine Kimberley
	Lygia C. Ibanez
12:00	Michael Robinson
	Mary Godri

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

7:00 AM	Floyd Joseph Reynante
9:00 AM	Lucrezia Angione
	Margaret Mary Calligaro

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

7:00 AM	Ray and Joyce Tkacz
9:00 AM	Mauro D'Alto- 15 th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

7:00 AM	Yeimy Rendon Rodriguez
9:00 AM	Orlando Tuazon

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

7:00 AM	Norma Virtucio
9:00 AM	Judy Pasquariello

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

7:00 AM	Joel Upod
9:00 AM	Eric M. Angeles, $Sr 1^{st}$ Anniversary

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

DITT CITEDIA	1,111 1111 3, 2023
9:00	Kenneth Sondej
	Eric Angeles, Sr 1 st Anniversary
5:30	Rosanna Hampton
	Ed and Jeanne Fairhurst
	Arnulfo Olwaldo and Garay Delgado

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025

	,
8:00	All the People of Parish
10:00	Rosina Gioia
	Cristina Apostarero
	Josephine Kimberley
	Logan Jackson Brackenbury
12:00	Hedy Skrinski
	Ronald Weiss

CANDLE WEEK OF MARCH 30

In memory of Valentine J. Iglar From The Iglar Family



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