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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

797 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013

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



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 27, 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.



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

The First Reading for this Sunday's Mass is one of my absolute favorites, not least of all for the masterclass in dramatic tension the Biblical author presents in this 18th Chapter of the Book of Genesis. Abraham only encounters God in Genesis' 12th Chapter, meaning that he is still relatively new to the Deity when he begins his divine bargaining in today's reading. While he has experienced this God to be congenial and helpful, he is assuredly influenced by the demanding and often merciless gods of his neighbors as he considers whether to request God's salvation of Sodom and Gomorrah. Surely, the gods he has grown up with would not have looked kindly upon a mortal questioning their methodology and even critiquing their decision making. But even given his brief experience with the one true God, Abraham has enough info to believe that he can test his luck.

Abraham starts with a wide net, suggesting that if he can find 50 innocent people the Lord should hold back His wrath. God agrees, and Abraham continues his push, going to 45 and then 40 and then 30. Amazingly, he gets all the way to 10, with his new God agreeing along the way that He would spare the city on account of those few. For people raised on the notion of a God with a universal salvific desire, this may seem obvious, but it certainly wasn't so for the people of the ancient world, where gods using humanity for their own pleasure or entertainment was commonplace. No, this God is different, a lesson Abraham will learn again and again throughout his journeys.

This divine experience is a strange one... that there could be a God who is interested in the thoughts of men and even willing to listen to him! Jesus continues this notion in our Gospel, encouraging His Apostles to take a personal and blunt approach to prayer. Refer to God as your Father... treat Him like a friend in need of food in the middle of the night... ask and you will receive. This is truly revolutionary in the history of religion.

To be clear, it is not as if God is a changeable, easily influenced deity whose decisions are determined exclusively by requests. He knows what He is about, and His will is perfect. However, He loves to grant his children the capacity and the audacity to ask for what they want and need... not because it changes His mind, though we should be certain that in God's mysterious plan, prayer matters and has effect... but because prayer changes me! Consider how the Lord ends our Gospel, where he reminds His Apostles that a good Father gives good gifts to His children, not snakes when they ask

for fish or scorpions when they ask for eggs. Each time I am bold in prayer, I am inherently stating that I believe God is a good Father who desires to save and heal. The Lord allows Abraham to barter with Him... even when Sodom and Gomorrah won't be found to have even a handful of innocent people... because the experience solidifies for Abraham how merciful God is. So, it is with us. When I am blunt and bold with the Lord, I am expressing confidence in His mercy and goodness. He may not answer like I think that He should; after all, He is the Lord, I am a man. But his allowance of my request is a consistent reminder that He wants to give me good things and to eventually join Him in heaven.

When I am not bold with my prayer with the Lord, I lose out on a reminder of how generous He is, and I implicitly teach myself that He either can't or won't come through for me. Abraham and the Apostles show us that God's greatest desire is for my joy in this life and eternal joy in the next. While my requests may not be answered as I think they should, making them with boldness and confidence reminds me that my God is not looking to dominate me or to subjugate me, but to walk with me toward eternal life!

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

PLEASE NOTE



Throughout the Summer the Parish Office Schedule is as follows:

**Mondays thru Thursdays
8 AM to 4:30 PM**

Fridays 8 AM to 12 Noon

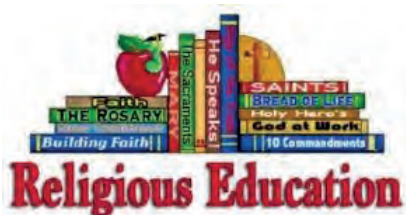
**Regular office hours will resume after
Labor Day.**

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

If you haven't already registered your child for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact the main office or visit the school website, <https://stphilipprep.com>. We welcome new families with school age children to consider joining our St Philip Prep community, home of the Archangels where students soar to new heights.

Have a safe and wonderful summer vacation.
We look forward to seeing you all in September.

FAITH FORMATION



Registration for our Religious Education and Confirmation Programs is now open! If you have a child in grades 1 through 10, we invite your family to join our program. For details, please visit our Parish website at www.stphilip.org If you have any questions, please email us at: reled@stphilip.org

If your child is being registered for Grades 1 - 8 in the Faith Formation Program, there will be two class sessions each month they are expected to attend. In addition, parents will be expected to attend a special parent session the first of these two sessions.

Please remember that each child must complete the registration in the Religious Education Program or Confirmation Program in order to be admitted into their first class session.

~



**Missing Baptism, First Communion,
or Confirmation?**

Want to be a fully initiated Catholic?

*We know life gets busy and takes us away from what
we intend.*

*Allow us to help and walk with you on the journey
of life in faith!*

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF
ADULTS at Saint Philip**
will meet beginning
September 2025.

Let us know if you'll join us:
Call the Parish office or email lvalenti@stphilip.org

Family Faith Formation Volunteers

Is the Holy Spirit stirring your heart to serve?
We are currently seeking Catechists and Classroom
Helpers for the 2025-2026
catechetical year.

If you feel called to share the faith and help form the
hearts of the next
generation, we invite you to consider this joyful
ministry. Whether you're
discerning for the first time or returning to serve, we
are here to support you
every step of the way.

We will help you:

- Explore the vocation of catechesis
 - Answer your questions
 - Reflect on how God may be calling you
- Interested or want to learn more?

Please contact us at reled@stphilip.org.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

CONSOLATION MINISTRY

Are you able to comfort during times of loss, able to
support during funeral liturgies? Perhaps consider
joining our consolation ministry.

Contact the Parish office.

FATHER ENGLISH CENTER

We are smack in the middle of summer and our
pantry shelves are nearly empty! In June we were
blessed to have an excellent turnout of donations
and would love to see this happen again. The
following items are needed: canned tuna and
chicken, beans, rice, pasta, sauce, cereals, lentils,
peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, canned
fruit and pancake mixes. All items are needed and
appreciated. Blessings to All!



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING



Please join in prayer and fasting on August 1st (First Friday) for Equal Rights for Babies in the Womb in NJ and for an end to abortion. Fasting can be from food, media, etc. as you are able. The goal is to get 500 people praying monthly for the unborn in NJ. Prayer changes things!

Add your name to the tally each month at:
EqualRightsforBabiesintheWomb.com/prayerandfasting/

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Contact the Parish office for tickets.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMETIMERS

Prime Timers News

We are scheduling 3 below listed matinee excursions for this Fall:

- 1 -Fiesta De San Gennaro La Greci's Staaten, Sept 23, 2025 (\$125)
- 2 -Oktoberfest Jersey Shore Club October 7, 2025 (\$125)
- 3 -Hunterdon Hill Playhouse Christmas Show Dec. 9, 2025 (\$125)

Up to 45 tickets are available for each event and the price will be finalized in early September as the cost will vary depending on how many people wish to attend Each event includes bus transportation to/from the event. All events include a full course meal and entertainment. Events 1 & 2 also feature an open bar for one hour.

If you are interested in any or all events call Mike Cervine (973)472-7505.

We will also need a \$50 deposit for each person for each event made out to Prime Timers with the event name in the memo section of your check and mailed to

St. Philip's Prime Timers,
797 Valley Rd.

Clifton, NJ 07013. Full payment for Fiesta De San Gennaro and for Oktoberfest is due on or before Aug. 15 th . Full Payment for Hunterdon Hills is due on or before Sept.15th.

Our first regular meeting of the year will be Friday Sept. 5 th at 1:30pm in Marion Hall.

Atlantic City Trip

Prime Timers are going to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, August 26. Bus leaves from St. Philip Drive at 9:30 AM. Price is \$50.

For tickets, please call Sylvia at (973) 742-9286.



WEDDING BANNIS

The following couple will be exchanging wedding VOWS:



Jason Brooks and Priscilla Fernandez

DIOCESAN OPPORTUNITIES

LOCAL PILGRIMAGES



Local pilgrimages THIS SUMMER

Ready to gain more **plenary indulgences** for yourself and deceased loved ones?
Ready to walk, pray, and share fellowship with **Bishop Sweeney** and other faithful?

St. Luke, Long Valley	St. James, Montague	St. Bernard, Wharton
June 29, 2025 Feast of St. Peter & Paul	July 25, 2025 Feast of St. James	August 17, 2025 Feast of St. Bernard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 p.m. Pilgrimage • 6 p.m. Mass • Light dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 a.m. Pilgrimage • 10 a.m. Mass • Refreshments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 a.m. Pilgrimage • 10:30 a.m. Mass • BBQ lunch

Each Pilgrimage Walk is about 1 - 1.5 miles.
Bring a friend (or many) and your Rosary!

<https://insidethewalls.org/jubilee-pilgrimages>

REGISTER HERE



<https://catholicinrecovery.com>

A faith-based recovery organization

CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY MEETINGS, Northern NJ

CIR (Catholics in recovery) is a growing community of Catholics that seek healing from unhealthy attachments to destructive behaviors, compulsions, addictions, and the effects of dysfunctional families.

We invite everyone to seek faith, support and recovery in these 12-step groups.

We meet in person at the following location, days, and times:

All meetings are anonymous.

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TUESDAY NIGHT 6:30-7:30PM

SATURDAYS 7:30AM - 8:30 AM

<https://catholicinrecovery.com>

Offers many Zoom meetings

CALL or TEXT with any questions:

Lisa S 908 801-7146

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: JULY 21, 2024	\$ 16,026.00
Sunday Collection: JULY 20, 2025	
Weekly Collection	\$ 9,735.00
Online Giving Donation	\$ 6,134.00
TOTAL	\$ 15,869.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

August 10- Project Faith

August 17- Missionary Cooperation Plan

WE PRAY FOR...

Recently Deceased...

Helena Cwiklinski



A Time to be Healed...

Marge Sikora, Robert Rup, Fran

Kobernick, Rosanna Hampton, Philip Kutzenko,

Angelo Torres, Nina Sova, Nicholas Magrogan,

Antonio Bussanich, Rosemarie Carlee, James

Jablonowski

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

8:00	Joyce Thomas
10:00	Amado Gamboa- Special Intentions
	Theresa Giquinto
	Sylvia Shami
	Giorgio Cozzolino
12:00	All the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

9:00 AM	Louise Stolarz
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TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025

9:00 AM	For the Unborn and their Mothers
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025

9:00 AM	All the Souls in Purgatory
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THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

9:00 AM	John Anderson
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025

9:00 AM	For the care of Creation
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

9:00 AM	Lottie Fleck
5:30 PM	All the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

8:00	Howard Glinkin
10:00	Anthony Paterno
	Graziella Cozzolino
	Maria Laya
12:00	Margaret and Antoni Potoczak
	Stephen Mokis

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Luke 11:1-13

Today's gospel introduces the Our Father, also known as the **Lord's (24d) Prayer (5d)**. We learn **further (32d) teachings (19d)** about prayer, including how to **pray (21a)** with **your (12a) heart (39a)** and mind **open (10a)**, and with **persistence (40a)**. Jesus says to **ask (37a)**, **seek (29a)** and **knock (30d)** to receive answers to prayer and forgiveness of **sin (31d)**.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray... and the door will be **opened (16d)** to you. *Luke 11:9*



Using your knowledge of this powerful prayer, complete the puzzle with the missing words, using the numbers to find the correct spaces.

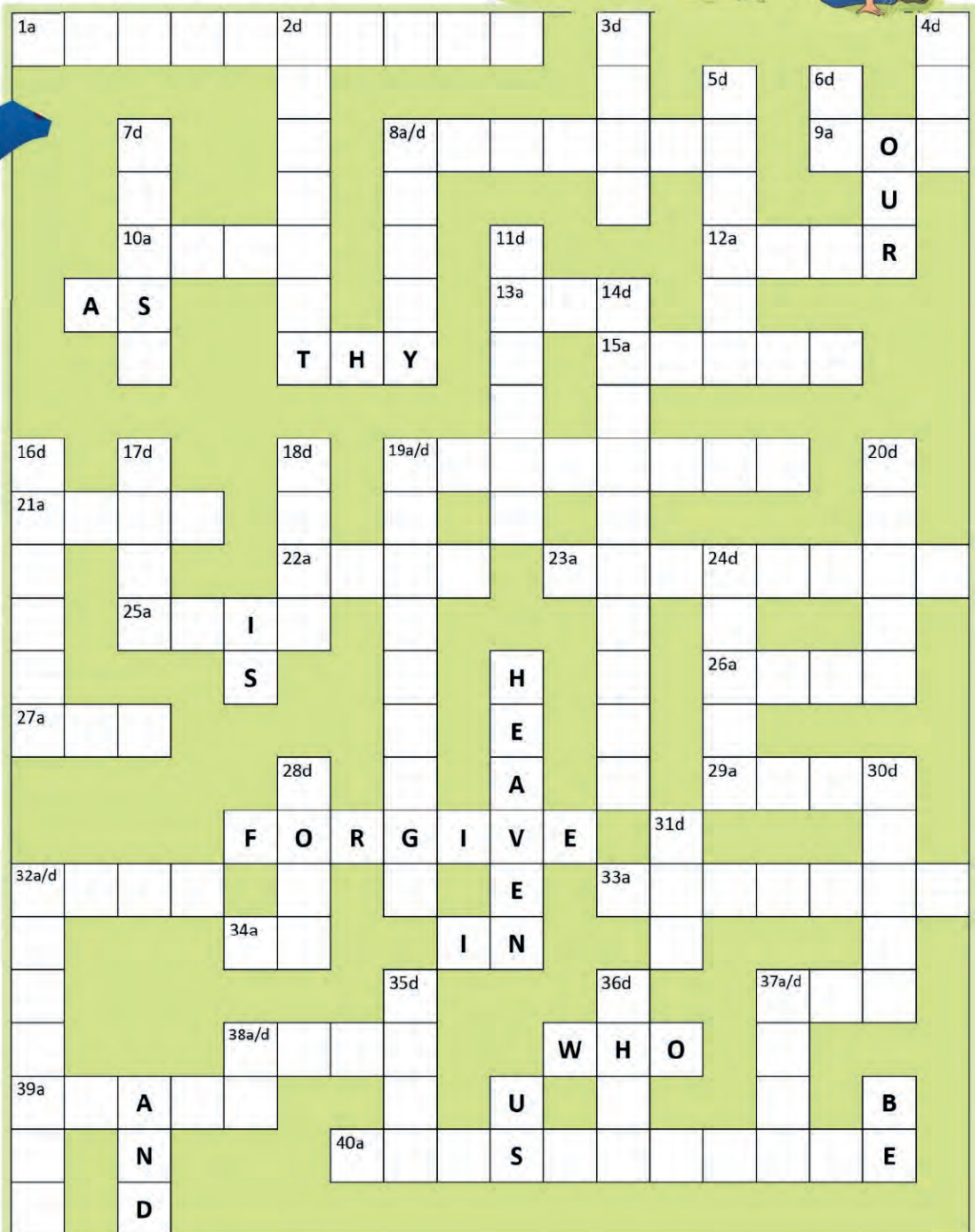
a = across / d = down

Note: Start with the bold underlined words at the top of the page. Finish with the missing words from The Lord's Prayer.

Our **11d** who **13a** in heaven **23a** be thy **17d**. Thy **33a 28d**, thy **18d** be **35d 6d 15a** as **38d** is in heaven. **3d** us **36d 27a** our **8d 20d** and forgive us our **1a** as **34a** forgive **7d** who **19a 2d** us. And **22a** us **9a 38a 14d 4d** **8a** us **32a 25a. 37d**.

26a is "door" spelled backward, do you know this word?

It means cross or crucifix.



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