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St. Philip the Apostle Parish

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The Baptism of the Lord January 11, 2026



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

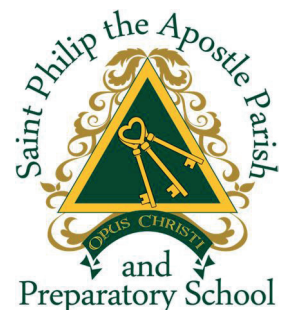
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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.



My Dear Parishioners,

The word "Trinity" does not appear even once in the New Testament. Of course, that doesn't mean that the New Testament doesn't teach us a lot about the Trinity. Today's Gospel Reading is a case in point.

In St. Matthew the Evangelist's description of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus, all three Persons of the Trinity reveal Themselves. God the Father reveals Himself only by speech. We know that He's the Father because He identifies Himself in terms of His relationship with His Son, declaring, "***This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.***"

God the Holy Spirit also reveals Himself in terms of His relationship with God the Son. After Jesus' baptism, "***the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.***" We might wonder what St. Matthew means by describing the Holy Spirit's descent as being "***like a dove***". The first quality suggested by this metaphor is gentleness, a quality that through the Holy Spirit's descent is related to Jesus.

In today's Gospel Reading, St. John the Baptist alludes to the fact that Jesus does not need to be baptized. In fact, Jesus no more needed to be baptized than He needed to descend from Heaven to earth. He did both for the same reason: "***for us men and for our salvation***", as we profess in the Creed.

The whole of today's feast reveals to us the gifts that the Christian receives through the Sacrament of Baptism. Simply put, all of these gifts are shares in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Yet some of them could be described as negative, others, positive. That is to say, the gifts that God gives in Baptism both destroy and build [see CCC 1262].

The former are more simple and, in a sense, less important. When a human sinner is baptized, all sin within that person is destroyed: both the Original Sin that is inherited, and any actual sins committed by that individual.

But that washing away of moral and spiritual dirt is only a preparation. God has something even greater in store for the baptized Christian: in fact, a new creation [see CCC 1265].

The relationships that we see the Father and the Holy Spirit sharing with the Son in today's Gospel Reading are also shared with the Christian through baptism. God the Father adopts the Christian as His own child "***in Christ***". Likewise, the Holy Spirit bestows His fruits and gifts upon the baptized "***in Christ***".

More specifically, the *Catechism* notes three key ways, among others, in which God builds up the Christian through Baptism. The first is "sanctifying grace, the grace of justification", which enables the Christian "to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues" [CCC 1266].

The second is membership in the Mystical Body of Christ: the Church. As one member of Christ's Body, the Christian shares in Jesus' priestly, prophetic and kingly missions. The *Catechism* specifically notes that "Baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers" [CCC 1268], expanding upon St. Peter's exhortation: "***like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ***" [1 Pt 2:5].

Unfortunately, this "common priesthood", sometimes called the "baptismal priesthood", is one of the most misunderstood gifts in the Church today. Some promote clericalism by encouraging laypersons to act as clerics, instead of giving due honor to the "spiritual sacrifices" proper to the baptismal priesthood: self-sacrifice in the family's home, in the business' boardroom, on the factory's floor, and in the public square.

The third key gift of Baptism is that the Holy Spirit through Baptism marks the Christian with the "seal of the Lord" [CCC 1274]. This seal marks the Christian as irrevocably being destined for God in Heaven. Of course, this mark is a mark of the Christian's destiny, not of her salvation. The Gospel does not teach that the Christian who is once saved is always saved, or who is once baptized is always saved. Salvation depends upon perseverance "***in Christ***": both living and dying "***in Christ***". The *Catechism* attests that no "sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation" [CCC 1272].

The Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River reveals to man the loving relationships that God the Son shared with the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity. At His Baptism, Jesus did not receive but revealed. He revealed who He is in relation to the other divine Persons of the Trinity. In this, He revealed the inheritance that's destined for each baptized Christian who lives and dies "***in Christ***".

Peace,
Fr. Monteleone

ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL

St. Philip Preparatory School would like to wish all our school and parish communities a very blessed and happy New Year.

It is hard to believe that a new year has started, and we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country this year.

Catholic Schools are an important part of the future of this amazing country, and we look forward to sharing with you the many activities we have planned to celebrate.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

LIFE MINISTRY

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SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

The next meeting will be January 21, 2026 at 10am in the Molloy Center. All crafters are welcome! We have recently donated numerous shawls and blankets to Project Linus, St. Catherine Health Care Center and Complete Care at St. Vincent's.

We wish everyone a blessed and healthy 2026! For donations or additional information, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers next regular Meeting will be on Friday February 6 th at 1:30pm (coffee/and 1pm) in Marian Hall. The following trips are planned for 2026:

April 1, La Greci's Staaten – DOO-WOP to Disco Party \$125 -\$135pp

May 27, Delaware River Cruise -Filled

June 18, Hunterdon Hills – Johnny Cash Review \$125 -\$135pp

Dec. 2, Hunterdon Hills – 50 th Anniversary Christmas Show \$125 -\$135pp

Final price per person will be determined by no. of people attending.

All trips require a minimum of 35 people.

Balance of payment for Delaware cruise must be made by January 23, 2026

Deadline for April 1st trip to LaGreci's is January 23, 2026.

Prime Timers is open to anyone age 50 and over. Meetings are held the first Friday of every month Sept. through June in Marian Hall at 1:30pm, coffee/and at 1pm. Dues are \$15 per person per year due prior to Jan.1.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MARCH FOR LIFE MARCHA POR LA VIDA

2026

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JANUARY 23, 2026

SCHEDULE

6:45 am - Bus Departs from St. Paul Inside the Walls (205 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ)

12:10 pm - Mass

1:00 pm - March for Life

3:15 pm - Bus Departs from Washington, D.C (Dinner stop included)

9:00 pm - Bus arrives at St. Paul Inside the Walls

COST - \$65

To register for a bus, please contact Alyssa Renovales at arenovales@patersondiocese.org

Please pack a brown bag lunch for the trip

HORARIO

6:45 am - Bus sale de St. Paul Inside the Walls (205 Madison Ave, Madison, NJ)

12:10 pm - Misa

1:00 pm - Marcha por la Vida

3:15 pm - Bus sale de Washington, D.C (Parada para cenar está incluida)

9:00 pm - Bus llega a St. Paul Inside the Walls

COSTO - \$65

Para la registracion del bus, por favor comuníquese Alyssa Renovales en arenovales@patersondiocese.org

Por favor traiga su propio almuerzo para el viaje


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Luna Noelle and Aura Blue

CAR RAFFLE

**Our school car raffle has been extended!
Drawing will be held on Jan 31st!**

Starting this week we are having a car raffle sales contest for all of our school families.

We will be picking 3 families to win 3 great prizes! The 3 school families who sell the most tickets by Jan 28 receive the following:

1st Prize: \$1,000 credit toward tuition for 2026/27 school year at SPP or any Catholic HS in the area.

2nd and 3rd prize: Free Partial buyout HSA fees for 2026/27 school year up

RAFFLE!



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VATICAN NEWS

Pope Leo XIV closed the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica last Tuesday, January 6th, the traditional date of the Solemnity of the Epiphany. This marks the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. The Vatican is already preparing for a special Jubilee Year in 2033, an Extraordinary Jubilee of the Redemption to mark the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

Aleteia.org

**THE
HOLY DOORS ARE CLOSED
THE JUBILEE YEAR IS OVER**





















**THE NEXT
JUBILEE:
2033**





2000TH ANNIVERSARY
OF JESUS'S DEATH
AND RESURRECTION









“WHY, FATHER?” by Fr. Emerson






Q: *Father, why does Jesus—who is completely sinless —insist on being baptized ? And why does the Church end the Christmas season  with this moment instead of staying at the manger?  *

A: This feast brings us straight to the heart of our faith . Jesus does **not** enter the waters because He needs cleansing—He is without sin. Instead, He steps into the Jordan to **sanctify the waters**   and to reveal His true identity to the world .

This moment is a masterpiece of **Catholic apologetics**. As Jesus rises from the water, the **heavens open** , the **Holy Spirit descends like a dove** , and the **Father’s voice** resounds: “*This is my beloved Son.*” In one powerful scene, the **Holy Trinity** is revealed—Father , Son , and Holy Spirit . Christianity is not a vague spirituality, but a faith rooted in real events and divine revelation  .

So why does Christmas end here? Because Christmas is not just about a birth —it is about **manifestation**. The Child of Bethlehem is now publicly revealed as the Son of God and Savior of the world . The manger leads to mission  .

Jesus also teaches us humility. Though sinless, He chooses to stand with sinners . He enters our brokenness to redeem it, showing us that God saves not from a distance, but from within our lives  . Finally, this feast points directly to **our own baptism** . What happened to Jesus happens to us in a real way: we become God’s beloved sons and daughters  , filled with grace, and sent on mission. Baptism is not a symbol—it is a new birth into divine life  .

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord closes Christmas by reminding us why Christ came—not to remain in the manger , but to step into the waters of our humanity  and lead us home to the Father as His beloved children   .

PARISH GIVING

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| SUNDAY COLLECTION: JAN 5, 2025 | \$20,380.00 |
| SUNDAY COLLECTION: JANUARY 4, 2026 | |
| WEEKLY COLLECTION | \$ 13,811.00 |
| ONLINE GIVING DONATION | \$ 8,877.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 22,688.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| CHRISTMAS 2024 | \$ 84,404.00 |
| CHRISTMAS 2025 (YTD) | \$ 85,919.00 |

WE PRAY FOR...

For the Recently Deceased...

Gina Giunta, Fred Baram, Viola Greco

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, Terry Kolenc, Wilson Torres, Arlene Pompeo, Tom Wilkinson, Lee Welch, Maya Hilario

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

| | |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 | Barbara Salemme Deceased members of the Conocer Family |
| 10:00 | Delia Russo John Mannarino David Young Josefina M. Laya |
| 12:00 | All the People of the Parish |

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Fred Baram Erlinda Vistro |
|---------|------------------------------|

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Pedro Ravelo-8th Anniversary |
|---------|------------------------------|

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

| | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Margarita F. Lagumbay |
|---------|-----------------------|

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| 9:00 AM | Josefina Ramos |
|---------|----------------|

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| 9:00 AM | Amelia Rosales |
|---------|----------------|

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Fred Anthony- 14 th Anniversary |
| 5:30 PM | All the People of the Parish |

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 | Deceased members of the Angeles family |
| 10:00 | Mary DiGaetano Leonso Raymond Richards Stephen Smith Mario Silvestri |
| 12:00 | Steven Salerno Rosario Impoco Angela Coffaro |

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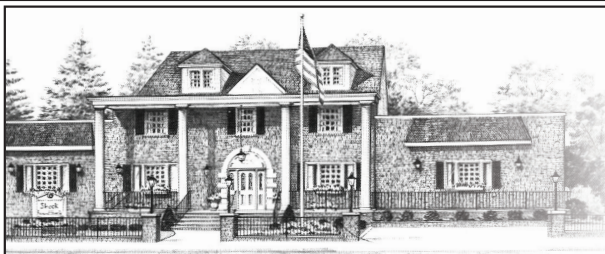
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