

# St. Philip & St. James CATHOLIC CHURCH

430 SOUTH MAIN STREET • PHILLIPSBURG, NJ 08865

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT † MARCH 9, 2025

## Mission Statement

To love God and neighbor by sharing our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through prayerful celebration of His Sacraments, ministering to all in need, protecting life, and welcoming all who come to us.

## Weekend Masses

Saturday 8:00 am

## Saturday & Sunday

4:30 pm, 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am; 1:00 pm (*Spanish*) & 5:30 pm

## Weekday Masses: Monday - Friday:

6:45 am & 12:10 pm

## Confessions: Saturdays 10:00 am

& 3:15 pm

## Adoration: Monday - Friday:

7:30 am—8 pm in the Chapel

## Fr. Antony Arockiadoss *Pastor*

Nancy Ensley *Parish Sec./Bookkeeper*  
ext. 401

## Fr. John Fredy Triana Beltran

*Parochial Vicar* ext. 403

Fr. Patrick Boyle ext. 404

Dn. Enock Berluche Ext. 405

Dn. Larry Bevilacqua Ext. 405

Dn. Rob Fisher Ext. 405

Dn. Francisco Jaurides Ext. 405

Escarlen Duran Faith Formation ext. 406

Lisa Sforza Sacred Music

Sara Siano School Principal

Phone: 908-454-0112

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Website: [www.spsj.org](http://www.spsj.org)

Office Hours Mon. 9am-12:30pm

(Closed for lunch) 1pm to 5pm, Tues.—

Thurs. 9am-12:30pm (Closed for lunch)

1pm-4pm & Friday 9am—1pm

(Asistencia en español durante estas horas.)

**LENT**...  
IS A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION  
AND CONTEMPLATION

## Baptism, Marriage and OCIA

Please call the Church Office to make arrangements.

## PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sunday 3/9/25** 10am OCIA in the Conference.
- Mon. 3/10/25** 6pm Catholic Daughters Meeting in Mercy Hall & 7pm Spanish Charismatic Group Lenten Program in the PMR.
- Tues. 3/11/25** 9am-10am Legion of Mary in Conference Room, 4:30pm-5:30pm Faith Formation (CCD) Classes at SSPJ School, 7pm Cenacles of Life & St. Peregrine Novena in the Chapel.
- Wed. 3/12/25** 8am-3:30pm Utilities Assistance Program in Mercy Hall, 10:30am Legion of Mary in Conference, 7pm Columbiettes Meeting in Mercy Hall, & 7pm Spanish Mass in the Church.
- Thurs. 3/13/25** 5pm Arc Dance in Mercy Hall & 7pm Blue Army Prayer Cell in the Chapel.
- Friday 3/14/25** 3pm, 7pm & 8pm (Spanish) Stations of the Cross in Church.
- Sat. 3/15/25** 9am-1:00pm Soup Kitchen in Mercy Hall & 2pm Unborn Prayer Service in the Church.
- Sunday 3/16/25** 10am Blues Grieving Group in Mercy Hall & 1pm Legion of Mary Curia in Mercy Hall.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Family!

On Ash Wednesday we reflected on the symbolism of the ashes among others things. As the ashes and sackcloth together reminded people of repentance and reconciliation in the Old Testament, it also symbolized a desire to be free from sin. In our Christian understanding, ashes cannot take away sins as they are a sacramental and not a sacrament.

Ashes also revealed the spiritual mindset of people who thought that they were ashamed to face God because of their sins, so they had to cover their bodies with ashes and deny self by wearing sackcloth which is very uncomfortable to wear. This teaches us humility as humility is an important aspect of Lent.

Another important aspect is the awareness that our earthly life is short, and we want to be ready when God calls us. We can only take with us all the good things we have done for others. We need to be reminded of Jesus cautioning us, *“You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?” So is the man who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.* (Luke 12:21-22).

In the Gospel, Jesus faces the temptations to share His humanness with us in all things but sin. Our Pope encourages us to look at Lent as a favorable time for personal and communal renewal. In his Lenten Message this year he urged us to reflect on Saint Paul’s exhortation to the Galatians: “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (kairós), let us do good to all” (Gal 6:9-10).

### **The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Catholic Education in Phillipsburg**

Traditionally since the 1<sup>st</sup> mass being celebrated in our parish church in 1860 on December 25<sup>th</sup>, the day of the Nativity of our Lord has been so special for our community thanks to Fr. Cornelius J. O’Reilly (3<sup>rd</sup> pastor) who made that possible for our community. The 1<sup>st</sup> marriage (Joseph Drake and Mary Ochenfuss) that took place in our parish church was also on Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, 1889, thanks to Fr. Robert Emmett Burke (4<sup>th</sup> Pastor). In 1973, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> in the evening our new church was renovated and opened for Mass, thanks to Monsignor Joseph Kozak.

Our parish celebrated its 100th anniversary on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1989, thanks to Monsignor Michael Corona. Our parish also celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010, thanks to Fr. John Barbella.

In this line of thought, as graced by Monsignor Joseph Kozak to combine parish and school anniversaries together with one celebration, we are in discussion with our Bishop to find a date for our celebration. It will be close to Christmas as our tradition suggests.

### **Planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

We are forming a Leadership Committee to celebrate the anniversary. There are many possibilities such as an outdoor mass in the School grounds, a good size fundraiser to continue Catholic Education, a parish wide participation and family based entertainment etc. We are looking for volunteers to help us with ideas, means and direction. Please come and meet with me, email me or call me.

### **Upcoming Diocesan programs for parishes:**

**Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington, DC**, (Sept. 20), the **Jubilee Mass Series for Hispanic Youth and Young Adults** (last Friday of each month), the **Christian Anthropology Workshop** (Mar. 20), the **Choices Matter Conference** (Mar. 29), **Diocesan Youth Day** (Apr. 5) and the **Multicultural Fair** (May 10).

### **Jubilee Year 2025: (Jubilees in March of 2025)**

In March we have the following Jubilees: World of Volunteering (8-9), On the 28<sup>th</sup> we have a “24 Hours for the Lord” - a special day of prayer for the Jubilee and Jubilee of Missionaries of Mercy (28-30).

### **2025 Lenten Obligation:**

March 5<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday and April 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The other Fridays of March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, & 11 are days of abstinence. Fasting applies to only Catholics between ages 18 and 59. The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

### **Pastor’s Appeal:**

I am forever grateful to all of you for your generosity. The roof repair has begun in the Mercy Hall Building. As promised we have completed initial repairs to the roof. We will restart the permanent renovation in the spring. In the meantime, we will be acquiring all the restroom and flooring materials for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. I ask you to prayerfully consider helping us with the Pastor’s Appeal this year so that our planned ideas could be implemented in time for our children and for our parish.

Fr. Antony

## Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

7:00am – For the People  
 9:00 – Frances Fulse by Mr. & Mrs. Marsh  
 11:00 – Warren County Columbiettes  
 1:00pm (SP) – \*Sp. Int. Jonathan Sinchi by Louisa  
 5:30pm – Jeanette Kassis by Kane Family

### MONDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>

6:45am – Charles Young Sr. (A) by Children  
 12:10pm – Helen & Nicholas Conti by Family

### TUESDAY, MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>

6:45am – Kriby Mulholland by Verdon Family  
 12:10pm – Ann Lynn DeGerolamo by Graziosi Family

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12<sup>th</sup>

6:45am – \*Sp. Int. Ann Haratda by Pat Mattingly  
 12:10pm – Mathew Perry by Kevin  
 7pm (SP) – \*Sp. Int. Cano Family by Gladys

### THURSDAY, MARCH 13<sup>th</sup>

6:45am – Virginia Rossnagle by Patrick Rossnagle  
 12:10pm – Francis & Helen Lennon by Family

### FRIDAY, MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>

6:45am – \*Sp. Int. Robert Foose by Ann Nicolosi-Foose  
 12:10pm – Helen Sheridian by Family

### SATURDAY, MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>

8:00am – Rossini Family by Ron Rossini  
 4:30pm – Geri Farley & Pat Thompson by Camille Rapinesi

### SUNDAY, MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

7:00am – For the People  
 9:00 – Vinnie Catalli by Eileen & Family  
 11:00 – Evangeline McCaffrey by Joan McCaffrey  
 1:00pm (SP) – \*Sp. Int. Luis Quizhpe by Family  
 5:30pm – Gabriel Lantos by Friends of Lafayette

## Liturgical Ministry Schedule

March 15<sup>th</sup>

4:30pm	Acolyte	Anthony Ventura
	Lector	Ronald Rossini
	Minister	Melody Talpas
	Minister	Thomas Casey
	Server	Mark Talpas
	Server	Allan Palos Jr.

March 16<sup>th</sup>

7:00am	Acolyte	Brett Bruckman
	Lector	Lisa DeGerolamo
	Server	Oliver McKenna
	Server	Anthony Stefano

9:00am	Acolyte	Gabriel Sretenovic
	Lector	Jennifer Anselmo
	Minister	Paul Juliano
	Minister	Karen Juliano
	Server	Luke Sretenovic
	Server	Gavin Hayes

11:00am	Acolyte	Joseph Cruz
	Lector	Carol Bevilacqua
	Minister	Robert Hopkins
	Minister	Pat James
	Server	Andrew Sretenovic
	Server	Adam Sretenovic

1:00pm	Lector	Iván Lam
	Lector	Laura García
	Minister	Martha Lam
	Announcements	Juan Lalama
	Server	Miguel García
	Server	Ayeisha Jauridez
	Server	Jackie García

5:30pm	Acolyte	--
	Lector	Michael Boylan
	Server	Allyssa Palos
	Server	Alana Palos

## Stewardship

March 2, 2025

<b>Weekly Offertory:</b>	<b>\$10,545.00</b>
<b>Online Giving:</b>	<b><u>2,700.00</u></b>
	<b>\$13,245.00</b>
<b>Food for the Needy</b>	<b>\$1,430.00</b>
<b>Various Collections:</b>	<b>\$664.00</b>

### 2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>\$78,000.00</b>
<b>Total Pledged:</b>	<b>\$ 14,342.00</b>
<b>Total Received:</b>	<b>\$ 12,560.75</b>
<b>Over/under Goal:</b>	<b>(\$63,658.00)</b>
<b>Percent of Goal Pledged:</b>	<b>18.39%</b>
<b>Percent of Goal Received:</b>	<b>16.10%</b>
<b>Avg. Gift Amt.:</b>	<b>\$256.11</b>

### 2024 PASTOR'S APPEAL

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>\$150,000.00</b>
<b>Total Received:</b>	<b>\$44,801.00</b>

Let's keep the momentum going in order to meet our goal of \$150,000.00!

Thank you for your generosity.

## Around the Parish

### Faith Formation News



**Faith Formation Classes at the SSPJ School at  
137 Roseberry St, Phillipsburg NJ.  
Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – 4:30pm  
Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – 4:30pm**

**Contact Mrs. Escarlen Duran (PCL) at  
908-454-0112 x406, if you have any questions**

### **HOLY HOUR**



All are welcomed to come together for a Holy Hour on April 4, 2025 (First Friday) at 6:00 pm in the Church. Let's spend an hour with our Lord as a community.

### **Pray for the Sick**

*James Tersigni, Jamey Perrone, Lorraine Wonder, Rosa Zevallos, Manuel Venegas, The Pulecio Family, Shirley Emery, Theresa Adams, Brett Marino, The Quesada-Rocha Family, Janet Duran, Bob Hoesley, Steven Hille, Bill Coyle, Laura Rinaldi, Richard Dalrymple, Mauricio Castro, Eric Godleski, Martha Richline, Owen McCaffery, Grace Epo, Rich Dantinne, Kevin Stannard, Cecilia Malizzi, Paxton John Bowman, John Carrig & Micheal Boyle.*

### **Pray for our Military**

*Jack Pike, Michael Vega, Gianni Luzzetti, Lt. Colonel Abigail Gage, James B. Collins, Spec. Theodore Bill, Billy Erz, Andrew N. Zellers, Seth Reyes, Bryan Malizzi, Paul C. Hesch, Luis Quizhpi, Jason Erz, Staff Sargent Kevin Jiorle, Lt. Commander Dominique D'Anthony, Major Joseph Skopowski, & Airman Seth Reyes.*



Please help us keep both prayer lists up to date, contact the parish office when changes occur.  
Thank you & God Bless.


### **THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #474**

The Knights of Columbus Council #474 will have a Fish Dinner on the following dates: March 21<sup>st</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Mercy Hall from 4-7pm and the cost is \$12.

### **SPSJ NURSING HOME MINISTRY**

Every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, we hold Mass at the following nursing homes, starting at 10am: First Tuesday at Complete Care also known as Brakeley Care Center, Second Tuesday at Lopatcong nursing home, and the Third Tuesday at Phillipsburg nursing home. During this time sacraments of Confession and Anointing of the Sick are available to the Catholic residents who desire them. In addition, Holy Communion is distributed to the Catholic residents of these facilities every Sunday. If you would like to participate in the ministry and pray with our elderly residents, please contact the Legion of Mary or Deacon Enock.

### **NURSING HOME SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS**

  
**Lopatcong Nursing Home:** 3/16 Anne Coyle, 3/23 Magnolia Mateo & 3/30 Ron Rossini  
**Brakeley Nursing Home:** 3/16 Eileen Dean & Michael St. Jacques, 3/23 Deacon Francisco & 3/30 Deacon Francisco  
**Phillipsburg Care Center:** 3/30 Lisa Spanopolous

### **SOUP KITCHEN NEWS**



The dedicated volunteers of the St. Philip & St. James Soup Kitchen handed out 169 meals to individuals in our community this past weekend. Thank you to all that help feed those in need and all who donate, we truly appreciate it! We are in need of store bought cookies & pudding cups. Please drop off your donation on Saturdays from 9am to 11am in Mercy Hall.

### **UNBORN PRAYER SERVICE**

On Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm in St. Philip & St. James Church, there will be an Unborn Prayer Service. This is a special service for those who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. An opportunity to name your child is expressed compassionately and confidentially through meditative prayer. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Mass will follow at 4:30pm.

### **"THE BLUES" GROUP**

Grieving, depressed, need support? Come and join us on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Mercy Hall. We will give you the support you need to get through this difficult time.

## **MEMORIALS AND FEASTS THIS WEEK**

### **March 9 Sun - First Sunday of Lent**

#### **WHO IS A VOLUNTEER? WHAT IS VOLUNTEERING?**

(Jubilee of Volunteers - USCCB)

Here are a few thoughts about who can be included within the broad category of “volunteering.” This is not an exclusive list, but may spark your own creativity:

- Parishioners who volunteer for one or more of the ministries in a parish community (i.e., liturgical ministers, church council members, children’s catechists, musicians or choir members, food pantry support, soup kitchen, Knights of Columbus, altar servers, non-paid ministry coordinators, etc.).
- Lay Catholics who give of their time and giftedness to the civic community (i.e., docents, volunteer firefighters, community clean-up work, non-paid assisted living support, those who assist with secular poverty programs and shelters, those who coordinate community social events, etc.).
- Lay Catholics who are active on the regional, national, or global level through volunteer-based service and/or mission organizations (i.e., Catholic Volunteer Network, Catholic Charities).

#### **SPIRITUAL REFLECTION**

The heart of a volunteer exudes a generous devotion to service for others and the mission of the Gospel. In upholding the dignity of every person, volunteers are stewards of the gifts God has given them to advance the work of the Church, to alleviate human suffering, or to contribute to the transformation of the world. When confronted about true righteousness and asked, “who is my neighbor?” (Lk 10:29), Jesus shared the timeless parable of the Good Samaritan, “the one who treated (the victim) with mercy,” and concluded by simply saying, “Go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). This is the cornerstone of volunteering, to extend mercy and love to others in imitation of Christ, who “did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk 10:45). The Christian volunteer is the one who fulfills the Lord’s great commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:39) and who follows Jesus’ golden rule to “do unto others as you would have them do to you” (Lk 6:31). Volunteering allows us to respond to Christ with selflessness.

Yet in the midst of the kindness of volunteering, service-oriented commitment, and the movement to make a real difference in the world, a person can forget to tend their own soul. Perhaps it is fitting that the story of Jesus spending time with Mary and Martha immediately follows the Good Samaritan parable in the Gospel of Luke. Martha, “burdened with much serving” (Lk 10:40), asks Jesus to prod her sister Mary into service work, yet the Lord, while grateful for Martha’s generosity, expresses concern for her anxiety and worry. We, too, can fall into this habit, dedicating ourselves to volunteering for others, yet not allowing ourselves to rest and sit at the Lord’s feet like Martha’s sister Mary (see Lk 10:39,42).

During this Jubilee celebration, you are invited to pause for a moment from the great work of volunteering and find rejuvenation in Christ Jesus, who longs to give his people an experience of divine grace. Take time at various points throughout the year for prayer and reflection. Seek out or renew your engagement with a spiritual director or companion. Refresh yourself in the warmth and embrace of the Christian community, which can strengthen us for the work ahead.

#### **DEACON’S CORNER**

##### **Battle of Temptation**

Imagine for a moment that the devil has decided to turn his attention to us. He tries to test us, tempt us, and to stop us from following Jesus. We are a threat to him. We are here worshipping our Lord. The Evil one does not like that. He has decided to try to turn us away from our faith. He is going to approach us in different ways, each way an attempt to try and turn us away from God. What might those be for us?

It is better to do something in the right and moral way, and fail, than to do something in the evil or wrong way and succeed. We are called to be faithful and trust the results to God. We will always be tempted to live for ourselves, to take control of our own little corner of the world, and to focus on success rather than faithfulness.

Jesus teaches us that through prayer and scripture, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live to help our neighbors. No matter what is happening in our lives, no matter the temptations, trials and tests we might be going through, we can turn to Jesus, and he will be there for us. He will lead and guide us on the right path.

Remember: G. W. N. Y. N.

† God Bless †  
Deacon Larry

On this jubilee of Volunteers, we the parish community thank all our volunteers in blessing us with family spirit. We thank you for your service and commitment to our parish community!

### **PRAYER FOR LAY VOLUNTEERS**

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, with joy and wonder we seek to make our own your Magnificat, joining you in your hymn of thankfulness and love.

With you we give thanks to God, "whose mercy is from generation to generation", for the exalted vocation and the many forms of mission entrusted to the lay faithful.

God has called each of them by name to live his own communion of love and holiness and to be one in the great family of God's children. He has sent them forth to shine with the light of Christ and to communicate the fire of the Spirit in every part of society through their life inspired by the gospel. O Virgin of the Magnificat, fill their hearts with a gratitude and enthusiasm for this vocation and mission.

With humility and magnanimity, you were the "handmaid of the Lord"; give us your unreserved willingness for service to God and the salvation of the world. Open our hearts to the great anticipation of the Kingdom of God and of the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole of creation. Your mother's heart is ever mindful of the many dangers and evils which threaten to overpower men and women in our time.

At the same time, your heart also takes notice of the many initiatives undertaken for good, the great yearning for values, and the progress achieved in bringing forth the abundant fruits of salvation.

O Virgin full of courage, may your spiritual strength and trust in God inspire us, so that we might know how to overcome all the obstacles that we encounter in accomplishing our mission. Teach us to treat the affairs of the world with a real sense of Christian responsibility and a joyful hope of the coming of God's Kingdom, and of a "new heaven and a new earth".

You who were gathered in prayer with the Apostles in the Cenacle, awaiting the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, implore his renewed outpouring on all the faithful, men and women alike, so that they might more fully respond to their vocation and mission, as branches engrafted to the true vine, called to bear much fruit for the life of the world.

O Virgin Mother, guide and sustain us so that we might always live as true sons and daughters of the Church of your Son. Enable us to do our part in helping to establish on earth the civilization of truth and love, as God wills it, for his glory. Amen.

## **LEGION OF MARY ACIES**

Queen of Peace Curia will be having their ACIES on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 pm in the Chapel (location change). Light refreshments afterwards in Mercy Hall.

## **150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN PHILLIPSBURG**

Attention all alumni of Phillipsburg Parochial High School, SPSJ High School, Phillipsburg Catholic High School, All Saints Regional High School and SSPJ School. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be having a social event to celebrate 150 years of Catholic School Education in Phillipsburg. It will be held at the Roseberry Street School from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. Please plan to join us for light hors d'oeuvres. More information to follow closer to the event. Please share this information with your family, friends, and classmates. Any questions please email [pchsalumniassociation1@gmail.com](mailto:pchsalumniassociation1@gmail.com).

## **Diocesan News**

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN**

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) no later than March 31, 2025.

A signed Parish Verification Form is also required by the Diocese, and should be signed by your Pastor, and submitted to the school or schools your children attend.

Eligibility requirements, instructions and forms can be found at <https://diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance>. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

## **2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL** ***Pilgrims of hope: Journeying Together in Faith, Hope and Charity***

Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports a number of diocesan ministries dedicated to faith formation. Through *Discipleship Formation for Children* and our *Catholic schools, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Campus Ministry at Rutgers* and the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*, we are reaching out to children, teens, young adults and older adults new to our Catholic Church. These ministries help people of all ages grow in their knowledge and practice of the faith, experience a meaningful sense of service to the community, and come to a deeper understanding of their call to discipleship. Please prayerfully consider a gift today.

## **SILVER & GOLD & 5 YEAR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 50+ or 5<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with the church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service will again include couples celebrating 5 years of marriage. Registration is required. Please register online at:

<https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>.

If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org). Registration will close on October 10, 2025. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations for gratitude may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.

## **NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL** **DEL ESCRITORIO DEL P. ANTONY** **PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA**

¡Querida familia!

El Miércoles de Ceniza reflexionamos sobre el simbolismo de las cenizas, entre otras cosas. Así como las cenizas y el cilicio juntos recordaban a la gente el arrepentimiento y la reconciliación en el Antiguo Testamento, también simbolizaban el deseo de liberarse del pecado. En nuestra concepción cristiana, las cenizas no pueden quitar los pecados, ya que son un sacramental y no un sacramento.

Las cenizas también revelaron la mentalidad espiritual de las personas que pensaban que les daba vergüenza enfrentarse a Dios debido a sus pecados, por lo que tenían que cubrir sus cuerpos con cenizas y negarse a sí mismos vistiendo un cilicio que es muy incómodo de llevar. Esto nos enseña humildad, ya que la humildad es un aspecto importante de la Cuaresma.

Otro aspecto importante es la conciencia de que nuestra vida terrenal es corta y que queremos estar preparados cuando Dios nos llame. Sólo podemos llevar con nosotros todas las buenas gracias que hemos dado a los demás. Necesitamos recordar la advertencia de Jesús: “¡Necio! Esta misma noche vienen a pedirte tu alma; ¿para quién será ahora lo que has preparado?” Así es el hombre que acumula tesoros para sí y no es rico para con Dios (Lucas 12:21-22).

En el Evangelio, Jesús afronta las tentaciones de compartir su humanidad con nosotros en todo, menos en el pecado. Nuestro Papa nos anima a considerar la Cuaresma como un tiempo propicio para la renovación personal y comunitaria. En su Mensaje de Cuaresma de este año nos instó a reflexionar sobre la exhortación de san Pablo a los Gálatas: «No nos cansemos de hacer el bien, porque a su tiempo cosecharemos, si no nos damos por vencidos. Así que, mientras tengamos oportunidad (kairós), hagamos el bien a todos» (Gal 6,9-10).

### **El 150 aniversario de la educación católica en Phillipsburg:**

Tradicionalmente, desde la primera misa celebrada en nuestra iglesia parroquial en 1860 el 25 de diciembre, el día de la Natividad de nuestro Señor ha sido muy especial para nuestra comunidad gracias al Padre Cornelius J. O'Reilly (tercer párroco) que lo hizo posible para nuestra comunidad. El primer matrimonio (Joseph Drake y Mary Ochenfuss) que tuvo lugar en nuestra iglesia parroquial también fue el 25 de diciembre de 1889, gracias al Padre Robert Emmett Burke (cuarto párroco).

En 1973, el 24 de diciembre por la tarde, nuestra nueva iglesia fue renovada y abierta para la misa, gracias a Monseñor Joseph Kozak. Nuestra parroquia celebró su centenario el 25 de diciembre de 1989, gracias a Monseñor Michael Corona. Nuestra parroquia también celebró su 150 aniversario el 25 de diciembre de 2010, gracias al Padre John Barbella. En esta línea de pensamiento, y tal como Monseñor Joseph Kozak nos ha concedido la gracia de combinar los aniversarios de la parroquia y de la escuela en una sola celebración, estamos en conversaciones con nuestro Obispo para encontrar una fecha para nuestra celebración. Será cerca de Navidad, como sugiere nuestra tradición.

### **Planificación para el 150° aniversario:**

Se está formando un Comité de liderazgo para celebrar el aniversario. Hay muchas posibilidades, como una misa al

aire libre en el terreno de la escuela, una recaudación de fondos de gran tamaño para continuar con la educación católica, una participación de toda la parroquia y entretenimiento familiar, etc. Estamos buscando voluntarios que nos ayuden con ideas, medios y orientación. Ven a reunirse conmigo, envíame un correo electrónico o llámame.

**Próximos programas diocesanos para parroquias:**  
**Peregrinación Jubilar Diocesana al Santuario Nacional en Washington, DC**, (20 de septiembre), **la Serie de Misas Jubilar para Jóvenes y Adultos Jóvenes Hispanos** (último viernes de cada mes), **el Taller de Antropología Cristiana** (20 de marzo), **la Conferencia Choices Matter** (29 de marzo), **el Día Diocesano de la Juventud** (5 de abril) y **la Feria Multicultural** (10 de mayo).

### **Año Jubilar 2025: (Jubileos Marzo 2025)**

En marzo tenemos los siguientes Jubileos: Mundial del Voluntariado del 8-9, El día 28 tenemos las “24 Horas para el Señor” – jornada especial de oración por el Jubileo y Jubileo de los Misioneros de la Misericordia del 28-30.

### **Obligación cuaresmal de 2025:**

El 5 de marzo, Miércoles de Ceniza y el 18 de abril, Viernes Santo, son días de ayuno y abstinencia. Los demás viernes, el 7, 14, 21 y 28 de marzo, el 4 y 11 de abril, son días de abstinencia. El ayuno se aplica solo a los católicos de entre 18 y 59 años. La obligación de abstinencia se aplica a todos los católicos que hayan cumplido 14 años.

### **Apelación del Pastor:**

Estoy eternamente agradecido a todos ustedes por su generosidad. La reparación del techo ha comenzado en el edificio Mercy Hall. Como prometimos, hemos completado las reparaciones iniciales del techo.

Reiniciaremos la renovación permanente en la primavera. Mientras tanto, adquiriremos todos los materiales para los baños y el piso del tercer piso. Les pido que consideren en oración ayudarnos con la Campaña del Pastor este año para que nuestras ideas planificadas puedan implementarse a tiempo para nuestros niños y para nuestra parroquia.

P. Antony

### **APELACIÓN DEL PASTOR 2024**

Hasta ahora, la Apelación del Pastor ha recaudado \$44,801.00. ¡Mantengamos el impulso para alcanzar nuestra meta de \$150,000.00! Gracias por su generosidad.



## INFORMACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA DE FORMACIÓN EN LA FE DE ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES



Martes 11 de marzo – 4:30 pm en la escuela

Martes 18 de marzo – 4:30 pm en la escuela  
en la 137 Roseberry St.

Comuníquese con la Sra. Escarlen Duran  
(Directora de Catequesis Parroquial)

sí tiene alguna pregunta al 908-454-0112 x406.

## SEMINARIO BÍBLICO DE CUARESMA

El Padre Gustavo Rodríguez nos guiará en el conocimiento del libro de las Lamentaciones, y en una reflexión profunda sobre la confianza en Dios, en los momentos difíciles. Será el sábado 22 de marzo de 2025 de 9:30am a 3pm, el costo es de \$25 almuerzo incluido. St. John Newmann Pastoral Center 146 Metlars Ln, Piscataway, NJ. Inscripciones en [www.diometuchen.org/taller-de-biblia-introduccion](http://www.diometuchen.org/taller-de-biblia-introduccion). Para más información contáctenos en [Lescobar@diometuchen.org](mailto:Lescobar@diometuchen.org) o llame al 732-243-4573.



## CAMPAÑA ANUAL DEL OBISPO, 2025 PEREGRINOS DE ESPERANZA: Caminando Juntos en la Fe, la Esperanza y la Caridad

Su donación a la Campaña Anual del Obispo apoya una serie de ministerios diocesanos dedicados a la formación de la fe. A través de la *Formación de Discipulado para Niños* y nuestras *escuelas Católicas*, el *Ministerio de Jóvenes y Jóvenes Adultos*, el *Ministerio Universitario en Rutgers* y el *Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos*, estamos llegando a niños, adolescentes, adultos jóvenes y adultos mayores nuevos en nuestra Iglesia Católica. Estos ministerios ayudan a personas de todas las edades a crecer en su conocimiento y práctica de la fe, experimentar un sentido significativo de servicio a la comunidad y llegar a una comprensión más profunda de su llamado al discipulado. Por favor, en oración, considere hacer su aporte hoy.

## ASISTENCIA PARA LA MATRÍCULA EN LAS ESCUELAS CATÓLICAS 2025-2026 EL PROCESO DE SOLICITUD EN LÍNEA ESTÁ ABIERTO

Las familias interesadas en solicitar ayuda en la matrícula para asistir a una escuela primaria o secundaria elegible de la Diócesis de Metuchen pueden presentar su solicitud en línea ahora, a través de la Evaluación de subvenciones y ayuda de FACTS en <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>. Las solicitudes en línea deben completarse (incluida toda la documentación requerida) a más tardar el 31 de marzo de 2025. La Diócesis también exige un **Formulario de Verificación parroquial**, que debe estar firmado por su Párroco y presentarse en la escuela o escuelas a las que asisten sus hijos. Los requisitos de elegibilidad, las instrucciones y los formularios se pueden encontrar en <https://diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance>. Las solicitudes están disponibles en inglés y español. Las familias que necesiten ayuda para completar la solicitud en línea o que necesiten acceso a una computadora para presentar la solicitud deben comunicarse con su escuela.



Please join us for dinner, drinks, and the chance to renew old friendships, as alumni and friends of  
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➤ **Margie Markus, PCHS class of 1969**

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at: Mainline (formerly Flynn's on the Hill), 341 Pursel Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey

Cocktail Reception at 5:30 P.M.

Dinner at 6:15 P.M.

Please RSVP no later than March 23 2025, to:

Saints Philip and James Faith and Service Committee

137 Roseberry Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865

Email contact: [billcasey2@yahoo.com](mailto:billcasey2@yahoo.com) Phone: 610-704-7429

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Email or phone contact: (Please include contact info for everyone in your group – can be added to back of form)

**Please list any food allergies or special dietary requirements on your dinner reservations.**

We would like to accommodate your preference for seating and can reserve tables of eight, and limited tables of 9 or 10 guests. Please indicate the guests for your table on the back of this form.

If you would like to include a congratulatory message or ad for the dinner program, please indicate the type of message and include *Camera Ready Artwork* or forward a digital representation to: [billcasey2@yahoo.com](mailto:billcasey2@yahoo.com)

\_\_\_ Full Page - \$200      \_\_\_ HALF Page - \$100      \_\_\_ QUARTER Page - \$50

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## Saints Update

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### SUPPORT THE SAINTS FUND:

Interested in contributing to Saints Fund, and making a donation toward the general operating costs of Saints Philip and James School? Visit [sspjnj.org](http://sspjnj.org) and click the gold donate button located on the top right to contribute to the fund. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education!

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