

CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES

MISSION CHURCH OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER

430 South Main Street • Phillipsburg, New Jersey • 08865-3094

OFFICE 908•454•0112 + FAX 454•0125

RELIGIOUS ED 454•7620 + CEMETERY 454•0112 + SAINTS Philip & James School 859•1244

CONVENT 859•0300

Our WEB SITE: SPSJ.org

• MASS IS CELEBRATED -

DAILY - 6:45 & 8:00am & 12:10pm in

Holy Family Chapel (HFC)

SAT. EVE - 4:30pm in the Church

SUN. - 7:00, 9:00, 11:00am, 1:00pm (Spanish),
and 5:30pm in the Church.

• RECONCILIATION IS CELEBRATED -

SAT. - 9:00 to 9:30am & 3:15 to 4:15pm in the Church

• **ADORATION:** Mon. to Sat. 8:30am to 11:00pm

& Sun. 1:00pm to 11:00pm in Holy Family Chapel

• **FOR BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, NEW PARISHIONER**

REGISTRATION, & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

call the Church Office between 8am & 5pm weekdays

✠ PARISH STAFF ✠

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS, Pastor

In Residence

Fr. Vincent P. Chen

Parochial Vicar

Fr. James Kyrpczak

Weekend Vicar

Fr. Patrick Boyle, OFM

Hospital Chaplain

Fr. Robert Dhanaraj

Deacons:

Deacon John Flynn

Deacon Enock Berluche

Deacon George Frank

School Principal

Mrs. Judith Francisco

Parish Catechetical Leader

Mrs. Jo-Ann Scott

Music Director

Mr. Paul Kucinski

Cemetery Superintendent

Mr. Mark Sandt

• Thought for the Week •

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Recently I read the following story. One October morning in 2006, in China, a bus driver had been hired to take elderly passengers to a medical clinic. Yet, when he saw his passengers, he put his foot on the accelerator and sped away. The passengers were not surprised. The group, many of them missing hands or fingers, were used to the stigma of leprosy. Even though they had long been cured of infection, they remained living in an isolated leper colony in China's Sichuan province, where they had been since the 1950's. "I never want to live outside the village, because people are so afraid of us," said one of the group. "When we approach them, they run off."

Patches on the skin are an early sign of leprosy, a biblical disease which continues today to affect millions of people in poor countries. Leprosy destroys nerves controlling feeling and movement. With no feeling, sufferers can hurt or cut themselves; parts of the body become dry, which makes skin more liable to crack, allowing infection to set in.

For close to three thousand years, the disease has carried a stigma. Despite there having been a cure for more than six decades, the historical tradition of discrimination and social exclusion is still present even today. Lepers around the world are still shunned because others are afraid of catching the disease from them and find their deformities distressing.

Our Old Testament Lesson from the Book of Leviticus tells us that lepers had to cry out to warn others of their presence—"Unclean, unclean"—and dwell apart from the rest of society. After contracting leprosy, a person had to leave family, friends, livelihood and way of life. It was, in a sense, the death of all familiar bonds and intimacy. The leper in today's Gospel Lesson was not supposed to approach Jesus, let alone speak to Him. Yet he does, and he makes his desperate plea for healing, recognizing that Jesus has the power to make a leper clean. "If you want to," he says, "you can cure me"; and Jesus does indeed touch and heal him.

Both Jesus and the leper break with biblical rules and tradition by crossing social and ritual boundaries. Jesus had already broken a few boundaries—for example, by healing on the Sabbath day.

The compassion of Jesus causes Him to do extraordinary things. Perhaps the only thing more startling than an unclean person publicly and intentionally approaching a clean person is for that clean person

then deliberately to reach out and touch the unclean person. Ironically, the one who was once unclean can now enter normal society, while Jesus is forced to remain outside in deserted places, at least for the time being. According to the laws regarding leprosy in Leviticus, those who come into contact with the unclean will become unclean themselves. Just as the leper has begun his journey back into society, Jesus is alienated from it. Yet people are still attracted to Him and seek Him out.

To bring help to outcasts, Jesus Himself had to become an outcast and, according to the Gospel, "stay outside in places where nobody lived." Which of our "rules" might Jesus break if He were walking around today? Which of our practices might we need to challenge in order to get close to Jesus? Who are the outcasts in our own society? How do we relate to HIV/AIDS sufferers, or people with mental illness, or those who are homeless, for example? Are there people whom we wouldn't want to touch? Or do we ever feel like this leper? Have we ever experienced Jesus in the way he did? How has Jesus healed and restored us to wholeness?

Like the leper, we are called to be faithful witnesses to God's healing power—not just with words, but by actions too. We follow Jesus every time we reach out and cross boundaries to contact people who are ostracized and in need of healing. Jesus sees the person behind the illness or stigma and the potential for wholeness that exists. He is deeply moved by the leper and acts immediately; He stretches out His hand and touches him. Jesus decides to do a radical act and touches the leper; the kingdom of God is realized.

Let us seek out ways to reach outside of our comfortable selves to people who feel themselves to be socially excluded. In doing this, we, too, will be building the kingdom of God.

In your charity, pray for the sick and the lonely—visit them if you can. Also, please remember to pray for all who have wandered from the faith and all who have died, especially Elizabeth Reda, Lester Kostolanci, and the babies who have been killed through abortion and their parents.

May God always be pleased with us!

Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA, KCHS

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 15, 2009

● FOR YOUR INFORMATION ●

BINGO WORKERS

2/17 – K. Fulse, C. Franceschino, J. Misiag, F. Fulse, T. Glackin; **2/19** – C./R. DePillo, E. Vidal, M. Salazar, M. Frey, S. Sutton; **2/21** – E. Hickey, J. Riotto, M. Lawver, SSPJ Family

STEWARDSHIP

“Your light must shine before others so that they can see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

2008 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Continuing the Mission of Christ... Many people are feeling the impact of these trying economic times. Yet, Christian stewardship invites us to trust...to take a risk...to share what we have with others in the confidence that our heavenly Father will provide us with all that we truly need. It is in this spirit that you are invited to make a sacrificial gift to help our Church meet the many pastoral, educational and charitable needs in our communities—needs that are even greater in these challenging times. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Last weekend we welcomed into our Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism: ELERI JAYNE FERSCH, daughter of M/M Brian Fersch

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION HOLY HOUR

All are invited to come to celebrate our Sixth Anniversary of Eucharistic Adoration in our Parish on Sun., February 15 at 3:00pm, with a special Holy Hour, starting at 3:00pm in the Church with refreshments afterwards in Mercy Hall. Eucharistic Adoration will close at 4:00pm for the remainder of the day.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Parish Family of St. Philip and St. James extends a warm welcome to the following new parishioners and their families who registered during the months of December 2008 & January 2009: Mr. Thomas J. Smith; Ms. Priya Amador; Mr. Donald Young; Miss Ann R. Doty; M/M Paul Njoroge; M/M David Ramsay; M/M Paul Figalora; Roberto Arrellanes & Magdalia Herrera; Ms. Flor Gomez; M/M Elias Pascual; M/M Steven Buss

150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT REMINDERS

St. Philip and St. James is continuing a year-long celebration of its 150th Anniversary with the following events: Beginning Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 25, we will pray a Special Novena of Prayers for the Parishioners, living and deceased. A special Lenten Mission will also be held; On May 3, 2009 we will celebrate the Feast of St. Philip and St. James at all Masses, and parishioners will celebrate Family Day at the Carnival; The Orchestra of Saint Peter By The Sea will celebrate our Anniversary with an evening Concert in the Church on Sun., June 21.

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Philip and St. James will be offering a Lenten Retreat March 9-12, 2009. More information will follow.

CHOIR CONCERT CD'S

CD's of our 150th Anniversary Choir Concert are still available and can be purchased at the Church Office during regular business hours. Cost is \$10 each.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please call Pat Sharr at (610) 330-0899 or Al Redondo at (610) 253-4117.

CATHOLIC SPIRIT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Not enough time in your schedule? Do you wish you could be more involved in your Parish but just can't make the time? Let us make the trip. The Catholic Spirit—we're there when you can't be. Subscribe today: Call (732) 562-2424 or visit www.diometuchen.org.

COOKS NEEDED FOR SPSJ SOUP KITCHEN

St. Philip and St. James “Meals-On-Us” Soup Kitchen is in need of cooks to help feed the less fortunate. We serve meals on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month. If you would like to help, please contact Debbie Stefano at (908) 859-6580. Thank you!

PARISH FAMILY DIRECTORY HAS ARRIVED!

Thank you all for your patience as we awaited delivery of our 150th Anniversary Parish Family Directory. The directories have arrived! Everyone who had a portrait taken by LifeTouch or submitted a photo may pick it up in the Church Office Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm. There are still a number of complimentary portraits to be picked up in the office as well. Thank you again. Our directory turned out beautifully because of you!

“COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?”

“Every hour you spend with Jesus will be recorded in heaven and retold throughout eternity”—Mother Teresa. Eucharistic Adorers are urgently needed for Saturdays at 1pm. Phone Camille at (908) 387-0001 for these times or any other time you are able to commit to on a weekly basis. Substitutes are also needed!

CATHOLIC INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

Are you and your spouse currently experiencing the pain of infertility or the inability to maintain a pregnancy? There is support available! Come join us for a Catholic Infertility Support Group, now being offered through the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen on the third Saturday of the month at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ. The first meeting will be held on Sat., February 21, 2009 from 10:00-11:30am. For more information and to pre-register, please contact Amy Sherlock at (908) 500-1695. There is no fee.

COUPLES' DATE NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Looking for an inexpensive night out? "Couples' Date Night at the Movies" will be held on Fri., February 27, 2009 at 7:30pm at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway. Featuring the newly released movie "Fireproof" starring Kirk Cameron. Admission is \$12.00 per couple (includes Venetian Dessert Table w/ Coffee). Can't find a sitter? Bring the kids along, too! Sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen. For tickets, please call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1624.

SCRAPBOOKING FUNDRAISER

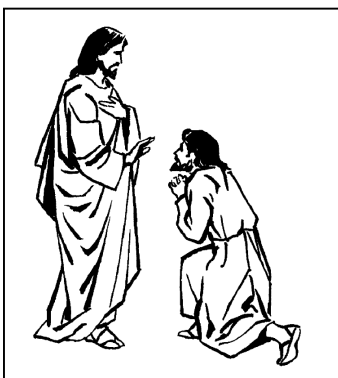
NORWESCAP's Career & Life Transitions Center for Women is having a Scrapbooking Fundraiser, "Girls Just Wanna Crop! Women Helping Women—the Glue that Holds Us Together" on Sat., March 14, 2009 from 9am-9pm at Warren County Technical School, 1500 Route 57 W, Washington, NJ. Scrapbooking enthusiasts are invited to come out for a creative and fun-filled day and to also support this vital community program. Instructional workshops will be available for the beginner scrapbooker! Cost is \$55 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more information or to register, please call (908) 835-2624.

SYMPOSIUM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On Sat., March 7, 2009 the Diocesan Offices for Catechesis and Respect for Life will offer a symposium at the Diocesan Center in Piscataway that will address the needs of people with disabilities. The keynote speaker will be NYPD Detective Stephen McDonald who acquired his disability when he was shot at point blank range in 1986 while on duty. In addition there will be 17 workshops to choose from for teachers/catechists of people with disabilities, for caretakers, parents and adults with special needs. The \$10 fee includes lunch, 3 workshops and the keynote. Bishop Bootkoski will preside at closing prayer. For information and/or registration, please call Pat Martin at (732) 562-1990, ext. 1310.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."—Mother Teresa. Remember—"Food for the Needy" Collection—First Sunday of each month.



● **MINISTRY** ●

February 14/15, 2009
SATURDAY EVENING

4:30 p.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Michael O'Sullivan
Ministers: Elaine Opdyke & Frances Ludwig; C1 – Beth Decker, C2 – Ann-Lynn DeGerolamo, C3 – Josephine DeMonti, C4 – Robert Ellwood
Lector: Kyle Ohlandt
Commentator: Mary O'Sullivan
Servers: Joseph O'Sullivan & Kieran O'Sullivan

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Kevin Hillhouse
Ministers: Larry Bevilacqua & Pat Flynn
Lector: Carol Bevilacqua
Commentator: Robert Brennan
Servers: Megan Hillhouse & Emily Hillhouse

9:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Kayla Krouse
Ministers: Reenie Miller & Earl Miller; C1 – Ellen Piperata, C2 – James Bramick, C3 – Eileen Kerrigan, C4 – Eileen Catalli
Lector: Carol Koop
Commentator: Christy Krouse
Servers: Victoria Gural & Catherine Gural

11:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Amelia Llanos
Ministers: Sara Greene & Theresa Richey; C1 – Peg Skears, C2 – Maureen Speer, C3 – Anna Marie Cervasi, C4 – Gloria Cervasi
Lector: Richard Greene
Commentator: Karen Llanos
Servers: Christiana Anselmo & Katelyn McLoughlin

5:30 p.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Eileen Duddy
Minister: Dolly Duffy
Lector & Commentator: Jack Kocsis
Servers: Justin Mourt & Emily Halm

NURSING HOME TEAMS

Lopatcong Care Center

2/15/09 – Mary Duaima & Maureen Speer

2/22/09 – Mary Brogan & Judy Leone

Brakeley Care Center

2/15/09 – Larry & Carol Bevilacqua

2/22/09 – Barbara Balas & Karen Llanos

Phillipsburg Care Center

2/15/09 & 2/22/09 –

Roger DiVittorio & James Bramick

● MASSES FOR THE WEEK ●

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:00 – Leo “Jack” Bush by Wife, Angela
 9:00 – Terese Macaluso by Albert Piperata
 11:00 – Sandra Reed by Hickey Family
 1:00pm (SP) – For the People
 5:30pm – For the People

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6:45 – Evelyn Nicnick by Rosemarie & Louis Shakal
 8:00 – Anna R. Ostili by Pete & Elaine Cortezzo
 12:10 – Catherine E. Vaughn by Herb
 7:00pm – For the People

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

6:45 – Rose V. McBryan by Paul J. Lanning
 8:00 – Bernard “Bronc” Bladies by Jill & Peter Piperata
 12:10 (WH) – Clayton Bittner by Victoria Baumgartner

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:45 – Mary Mamrak by George & Michelle Tomaino
 8:00 – Therese Macaluso by Henry & Mary Ann Bisco
 12:10 – William Fioretti (A) by Tony & Dolly Loiacono

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6:45 – Catherine Richline by Maria Bisco
 8:00 – Anthony Piperata by M/M George Dalessandro
 12:10 – Mario Baldascino by Yolanda Goretti

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6:45 – Maureen Liddy by Carmel & Terry Flanagan
 8:00 – Mary Jarrell by M/M Ernest Snover & Lola Snover
 12:10 – Anthony Patti by Mary Ann, Lou & Michael Graziosi

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00 – Rose Scalfaro by Sister, Martha Richline
 8:00 – Ann E. Bronico by Sam
 4:30pm – Anthony Pugliese by Wife, Rose & Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:00 – Roland Bullock by Peg & Lou Napoli
 9:00 – Eileen M. Perdoni by Eileen & Rich Dalrymple & Family
 11:00 – Sarah Byrne by Barbara Schindler
 1:00pm (SP) – For the People
 5:30pm – For the People

● CALENDAR ●

15 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Adopt-A-Missionary Collection

1:00-4:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony
 3:00 - CH - Special Holy Hour for Eucharistic Adoration followed by refreshments in Mercy Hall
 6:45 - MH - No Edge Night

16 - Monday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 7:00 - HFC - Novena (Day 5)
 7:00 - MH - NORWESCAP & WCCC Health Education Project
 8:00 - HOME - K. of C. Mtg.

17 - Tuesday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 9:30 - MH - Moms & Tots
 4:00 - SSPJ - PREP Grades 1-5
 6:00 - Flynn's - Serra Club Mtg.
 7:00 - PMR - Hispanic Ministry
 7:00 - MH - Bingo
 7:30 - MH - Boy Scout Troop Mtg.

18 - Wednesday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 5:30 - MH - Legion of Mary
 7:00 - PMR - Separated/Divorced Mtg.
 7:00 - PCMR - Edge Planning Mtg.
 7:00 - HFC - Charismatic Holy Hour & Reflection on Scripture Readings for Sunday

19 - Thursday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 7:00 - CH - Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 - HFC - Blue Army
 7:00 - MH - Bingo

20 - Friday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 7:00 - HFC - Cenacles of Life

21 - Saturday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 9:00 - CH - Confession
 9:00-1:00 - MH - Scouting Pinewood Derby
 3:15-4:15 - CH - Confession
 7:00 - MH - Bingo

22 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 - CH - 1st Comm. Prep Mass #3
 1:00-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony
 6:45 - MH - No Edge Night

Stewardship of Treasure

St. Philip and St. James

February 8, 2009: \$11,032.00

St. Christopher

February 8, 2009: \$215.00

MASS CELEBRANTS ON FEBRUARY 21/22, 2009:

4:30pm – Msgr. Corona
 7:00am – Fr. Chen
 9:00am – Msgr. Corona
 11:00am – Fr. Boyle
 1:00pm – Msgr. Corona
 5:30pm – Fr. Kyrpczak