

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 that the native tribes of South America make a point of marking different events in a person's life in dramatic fashion. In a time-honored tradition, their young men are initiated into the tribe in a private ceremony. They will eventually receive honorable status in their society, but not before they have endured different rituals designed to test their strength, and, perhaps, humble them a little. There are many rites of passage for different occasions. Somehow these help them become loving and caring husbands and tribesmen. These societies have no doubt learned that the only way humanity moves forward is when we have the courage to face our weakness and our fears.

Like Saint Matthew and Saint Luke, Saint Mark in today's Gospel Lesson shows Jesus going through a time of testing. Each account, in a different way, tells us that He has to endure His strengthening, His initiation, before He could preach His message of salvation. The spirit that leads Him to the wilderness is the same spirit that will tell Him He is a beloved son. His preparation to do the will of the Father will not be complete until He spends those hungry days alone with His thoughts, finding out who He is.

To the people of the day, the wilderness of the desert was a lonely place, cut off from the support of one's family. How could one survive this experience, vulnerable and exposed to danger? In fact, Jesus is facing those demons that we all must face at some time in our lives, the terrible vulnerability of aloneness, and the inevitability of death. His days alone were a foretaste of the cross to come. Of course, we know that this testing leads to freedom and through the cross, to redemption. Since we are Baptized into Christ, we too can overcome the obstacles that may confront us. We can rest safe in the knowledge that Christ has overcome even death itself.

Perhaps like Noah in our Old Testament Lesson, we cannot fully understand what real freedom looks like until we experience vulnerability. As the early Christian mystics say, we cannot understand the language of the cross, until we have faced

darkness in our own lives. To be a builder of the kingdom means being a person of compassion, and that is not learned without suffering. Life brings with it many forms of testing; for some it may be an embittering experience, leaving them cold and closed. For us as people of the promise, it can be a turning point, a cleansing experience that leads us to growth and openness. This freedom can only come about if we, like Jesus, remember that we are beloved by the Father who is with us at every stage of our journey. Like Jesus, we are accompanied by a Father who is intimately involved in our joys and our moments of weakness.

In this season of Lent, the Church asks us to spend time looking within ourselves. During the coming weeks, we are to confront our fears and temptations, so that we might be brought into a fuller relationship with Christ. The Gospel reminds us that the Father who strengthens His son in the desert is the same God who renews the promises to an unfaithful people and is bound with them forever. This is the good news that we all need to hear, and are all called to share.

What does this good news look like? Well, we know it transforms people, it makes them turn around, repent, and start again. It gives hope; it drives away fear; it promotes true peace; it is concerned for others; it is concerned with building up what is good, and destroying what is evil. When we begin to see this work of God in our lives, when we respond anew, we will find life: life in all its fullness.

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 Lillian O'Gorman, William Opdyke, Roberto Vazquez-Rodriguez, Kimberly Abbott, Albert Peroni, 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

1st Sunday of Lent • March 1, 2009

● FOR YOUR INFORMATION ●

BINGO WORKERS

3/3 – T. Reilly, C. Franceschino, M. McCabe, N. Matthias, SSPJ Family; **3/5** – C. Torrey, J./M. Forder, L. DeLaRosa; **3/7** – B. Christian, M. Anmolsingh, P. Lepore, S. Spence, C. Nixon

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship involves a willingness to give from the very core of who we are and what we have: from substance rather than abundance.

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

St. Philip and St. James Parish Mission is scheduled for March 9-12, 2009 (Monday through Thursday) beginning at 7:00pm in the Church. Attending the mission is a marvelous opportunity to find a little inspiration and peace in an ocean of troubles and busyness. Parish missions are part of our vibrant, Catholic tradition. For hundreds of years, the Church has acknowledged the wisdom of scheduling "spiritual maintenance" for her sons and daughters. All are welcome. Fr. Dan Havron of St. Francis Retreat House will be our Parish missionary. After each service, we will gather in the Parish Meeting Room for refreshments and fellowship. Please note: Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel will close at 7:00pm Mon., March 9 to Thurs., March 12 to allow everyone to attend the Parish Mission. Please see the fliers at the exits for detailed information.

PANCAKE & EGG BREAKFAST

A Pancake & Egg Breakfast will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus and St. Philip and St. James Parish on Sun., March 8, 2009 from 8:00-11:00am in Mercy Hall. The menu includes pancakes and eggs, sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Come out and enjoy the fellowship of our parishioners.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE

Prayer Vigil for Life will be held on Sat., March 7 after the 8am Mass in the Chapel with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the Rosary for Life at 9:15 & 10:15 across from the Abortuary on South Main Street.

LENTEN STUDIES

Father James will conduct a series of studies based on the Lenten Sermons of Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman. Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings of Lent from 7:00-8:00pm on the second floor of the Parish Center above Mercy Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Father James at (908) 387-6365.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Fellowship Sunday will be held in Mercy Hall after all Masses on March 1, 2009 (except 5:30pm). Refreshments will be served. Please come join us for some conversation with your fellow parishioners.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

In Oromia, Ethiopia, drought has destroyed entire regions of crops, devastating the local agriculture industry and economy. In places like Oromia, where sustainability is based entirely on agriculture, food security is alarmingly low. At a local Catholic church in the Oromia region, hundreds of children are receiving therapeutic milk and medical treatment from Catholic Relief Services (CRS). In addition to funding the important international relief work of CRS, The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports legal and resettlement services for refugees, advocacy, and disaster/emergency relief. When you donate to The Catholic Relief Services Collection, you give hope. This collection will be held next weekend, March 7/8, 2009. You have envelopes in your packet for this collection. Please be as generous as you can be.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Cemetery personnel will initiate their clean-up operation beginning March 16, 2009. Anyone wishing to obtain any decorations presently on the graves should do so by March 15. Any decorations left on the graves after this date will be discarded.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

We will be conducting a membership drive on March 8 after all Masses. Please see a representative for literature and contact card. Become a member and help us to fulfill our goals to help the Church and the needy of the community.

"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!

"BORROW-A-KID" PROGRAM

Mayor Harry Wyant of Phillipsburg, in conjunction with the Phillipsburg High School Student Council, is sponsoring a program to help Senior Citizens prepare their yards for the spring and summer seasons. If you have trouble getting your yard cleaned up and spruced up, this program will help you. The students have volunteered to help you with the cumbersome task. Groups of students will rake, weed, and do general clean-up tasks for you at no charge and make it easier for you to maintain your yard. This one-time effort will be held on Fri., April 17, 2009 from 8am to 2pm (rain date is Mon., April 20, 2009) and is open to all residents of the Phillipsburg area. Application forms are available at the Church Office and must be returned to Phillipsburg High School by March 13 at the latest. You will be contacted as to what time the students will be at your home.

MASS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

A Mass honoring healthcare professionals will be held on Sun., March 8, 2009 at St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen at 12:00 Noon. Bishop Bootkoski will celebrate the Mass and Rev. Sean Winters will be the guest homilist. The White Mass honors those in our Diocese that are involved in the healthcare profession. A light reception and educational program will be held following the Mass. Please call to pre-register and for information about CME/CEU credits—(732) 562-1990, ext. 1629.

IRISH NIGHT

The tradition continues...Irish Night VII will be held on Sat., March 14, 2009 at St. Joseph Church, Washington, NJ. Cost is \$25 per person. Menu includes Corned Beef & Cabbage/Shepherd's Pie. Doors open at 6pm; dinner at 7pm; DJ until 11pm. Reserve early—if you purchase 8 to 10 tickets, we will reserve a table in your name. Tickets available in Rectory Office (200 W. Carlton Ave.) or by calling (908) 689-0058 or Matt & Michele Reid (908-453-2207) or Bill & Sue Smith (908-689-4857). Sponsored by Couples Club.

PILGRIMAGE TO HONOR ST. PAUL

The Diocese of Metuchen is sponsoring a pilgrimage to honor St. Paul on June 19-30, 2009. The pilgrimage, entitled "Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul" will trace his last missionary journey through Greece and conclude in Rome with the Papal Mass for the Feast of St. Paul. A meeting will be held Mon., March 2, 2009 at the Diocesan Center in Piscataway. For more information, go to www.diometuchen.org or call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1310 or 1824.

BILINGUAL CONFERENCE ON ST. PAUL

The Diocese of Metuchen invites you to celebrate the Year of St. Paul. We will be holding a "Bilingual Conference on St. Paul" on Sat., March 14, 2009 at St. Magdalen de Pazzi Church in Flemington. Workshops will include an English Tract or Spanish Tract, several guest speakers and a keynote address by Fr. Bruce Niele, a Paulist priest, and former Director of Evangelization for the USCCB. Liturgical celebrants will be Bishop Paul Bootkoski and Bishop Emeritus Edward T. Hughes. To register, please call Pat Martin at (732) 562-1990, ext. 1310.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Count your blessings. Share your food. *Remember—“Food for the Needy” Collection—First Sunday of each month.*



● **MINISTRY** ●

February 28/March 1, 2009
SATURDAY EVENING

4:30 p.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Taylor-Bay Sutton
Ministers: Dorothy Kays & Frances Ludwig; C1 – Linda McGuire, C2 – Elaine Opdyke, C3 – Camilla Jebran, C4 – Barbara Shaneberger
Lector: Ronald Rossini
Commentator: Michael Boylan
Servers: Tanner Sutton & Christiana Anselmo

SUNDAY MORNING

7:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Anthony Marigliano
Ministers: Joseph Gourmiak & Judy Leone
Lector: John Bruns
Commentator: Carol Koop
Servers: Jessica Torrey & Justin Marigliano

9:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Paul Kucinski
Ministers: Emil Brisson & Patricia Brisson; C1 – Anne Coyle, C2 – Samuel Fatta, C3 – Dominick Mosco, C4 – Donna Kucinski
Lector: Cassie Apgar
Commentator: Dit Mosco
Servers: Julia DePillo & Emily Hilliard

11:00 a.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Roger Acuna
Ministers: Peg Skears & Ellen Piperata; C1 – Anna Marie Cervasi, C2 – Gloria Cervasi, C3 – Irene Argentati, C4 – Mary Brogan
Lector: Kyle Ohlandt
Commentator: Karen Llanos
Servers: Andrew Acuna & Katelyn McLoughlin

5:30 p.m. (CH)

Acolyte: Kayla Krouse
Minister: Barbara Balas
Lector & Commentator: Christy Krouse
Servers: Seamus O'Brien & Justin Mourt

NURSING HOME TEAMS

Lopatcong Care Center

3/1/09 – Margie Markus & Linda McGuire

3/8/09 – Anne Coyle & Diane Volk

Brakeley Care Center

3/1/09 – Reenie & Earl Miller

3/8/09 – Pat James & Allison Frasca

Phillipsburg Care Center

3/1/09 & 3/8/09 –

Bud Lilly & Robert Hopkins

● MASSES FOR THE WEEK ●

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

7:00 – Gregory & Vincenza Fodero & Son, Frank by Family
 9:00 – Richard Rossnagle by Pat & Sue Rossnagle
 11:00 – Sebastiana Papsodero by Carmella Piperata
 1:00pm (SP) – For the People
 5:30pm – For the People

MONDAY, MARCH 2

6:45 – Raldo Ditzel by Wife & Sons
 8:00 – Frank Rossnagle by Son, Patrick Rossnagle
 12:10 – Theresa & Pete Schiro (A)
 7:00pm – For the People

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

6:45 – George Zammatore by Anthony & Mary Celia
 8:00 – William & Petronella Skears & Family by M/M Ed Skears
 12:10 (WH) – Donald C. Nattress by Merrill Creek Conservation & Sportman's Association

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

6:45 – Helen & Nicholas Conti by Conti Family
 8:00 – Francis T. Flynn by Family
 12:10 – Andrew Glackin by Pat & Tom Barber

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

6:45 – Deceased Friends from Lincoln Street by Weda Mosellie
 8:00 – Mary Louise Rossnagle by Wendy Ann & Jaclyn Rossnagle
 12:10 – Marietta Corriere by Ron Wynkoop, Sr.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

6:45 – Mary Ganguzza by M/M Roger DiVittorio
 8:00 – Elizabeth Flaherty by Cuvo Family
 12:10 – Elsie Johnson by Mary Lilly

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

7:00 – Dora Vangeli by Sisters & Brother
 8:00 – Kevin Mulrine by Olive & Merrie Mulrine
 4:30pm – Roseann Corona (A) by Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

7:00 – Charles Young by Children
 9:00 – Jack Zwicker by Wife, Son & Family
 11:00 – Frank J. Bronico by Wife & Daughters
 1:00pm (SP) – For the People
 5:30pm – For the People

● CALENDAR ●

1 - MARCH - 1st Sunday of Lent

Food for the Needy Collection - Fellowship Sunday

9:00 - CH - Conf. Prep Mass #5
 10:15-11:15 - MH - Conf. Candidate Learning Session #5
 11:00 - CH - Baptism Mass
 1:00-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 6:45 - MH - No Edge Night

2 - Monday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 7:00 - HFC - Novena (Day 7)
 8:00 - HOME - K. of C. Mtg.

3 - 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 Mass/Mtg.
 7:00 - PMR - Hispanic Ministry
 7:00 - MH - Bingo
 7:30 - MH - Boy Scout Troop Mtg.

4 - Wednesday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 1:00 - MH - Over 50's Club Bus. Mtg./Social
 5:30 - MH - Legion of Mary
 7:00 - HFC - Charismatic Holy Hour & Reflection on Scripture Readings for Sunday

5 - Thursday

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

6 - Friday

8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 3:00 - CH - Stations of the Cross
 7:30 - CH - Stations of the Cross

7 - Saturday

8:30 - HFC - Pro-Life Adoration
 8:30 - CH - Children's Choir Rehearsal
 8:30am-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 9:00 - CH - Confession
 3:15-4:15 - CH - Confession
 7:00 - MH - Bingo

8 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

(Special 2nd Collection--Catholic Relief Services)

8:00-11:00 - MH - Pancake & Egg Breakfast
 9:00 - CH - 1st Comm. Prep Mass #4 & Girl Scout Sunday
 1:00-11:00pm - HFC - Adoration
 2:30 - CH - Baptism Ceremony
 6:45 - MH - Edge Night

Stewardship of Treasure

St. Philip and St. James

February 22, 2009: \$11,866.00

St. Christopher

February 22, 2009: \$195.00