

# St Philip Parish & St Clare Mission

Roman Catholic Parish, Richmond, Ontario

March 9, 2025, First Weekend of Lent

Pastor: Father Bob Poole

Deacon: Dcn Louis Seward

Website: [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com)

Email: [WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com](mailto:WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com)



ST. PHILIP PARISH  
Pray - Love - Celebrate



St Clares Mission Est 1849

## 'A welcoming Catholic community seeking holiness in the Body of Christ'

**Sunday Masses:** St Philip: Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 10:30am & 12:30 (Charismatic Mass) St Clare: Sunday 9am

**Weekday Masses:** Mondays 7pm (St Philip) & Tuesdays 7pm (St Clares) **What's On Weekly—See Page 2**

**Fr Bob's Homilies:** [www.stphilips-church.com](http://www.stphilips-church.com) (right side of homepage under the 'Donate Now' button)

**Register as a Parishioner:** Fill out the form found at the church entrance and drop in collection basket.

**Donation Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Forms:** Help yourself - at the entrance of church

### Fr Bob Writes:

The First Sunday of Advent gospel always describes the temptations (or "testings") of Jesus in the desert, whether it is the year of Matthew, Mark or Luke. The desert was considered the abode of demons. Today we might consider some locations, businesses or corporations of man's making as more likely headquarters for the devil's work in the modern era, but in ancient times the harsh and unforgiving environment of deserts seemed an appropriate home for him.

Like a trainer and manager leading their boxer into the ring for a match, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus out into the desert for a face-off with the devil where he has the home advantage. The forty days are not merely a preparation for some eventual unavoidable confrontation. This journey into the desert is a direct challenge. For those of us who don't do so well when our confrontations with the devil turn out less successful than that of Jesus, let's consider what led to his success.

1. Jesus went with a healthy respect for his opponent. In Luke 12: 4-5 Jesus tells us not to fear those who can kill only the physical body, but of the one who can cast into hell: "I tell you, be afraid of that one!" This is not, of course, the fear that immobilizes a person, but that which keeps one alert and prepared...a healthy respect for the power of the opposition.
2. Jesus did not go into the desert on his own. He did not take on the devil to show off. He was led into the desert. We do not serve God's purpose by seeking confrontations with evil or putting ourselves in situations of temptation. Those are the tests in which we often overestimate our own powers of resistance and fail. Jesus went as the Spirit directed. The Spirit did not just drop him off but accompanied Jesus every step of the way.
3. Jesus had studied the word of God since early childhood. He was familiar with that word and knew how to interpret and apply that word, which is precisely what he did in each of the three temptations.
4. Jesus fasted. Going without something which the body craves is more than an act of sacrifice. Fasting asserts spiritual dominance over physical hungers and desires, enabling a person to say "no" to selfishness and self-indulgence. As an indication of a priority of values, fasting also clears the mind and heart to recognize what is truly most important when different aspects of our lives seem to be in conflict and strengthens us to choose what is best.
5. Jesus prayed for strength and discernment. Knowledge, as Jesus applied his years of scripture study, is valuable. Applying knowledge in each moment requires discernment. We must be people of prayer, always seeking to discern God's will and grace to respond as God would have us in each moment of life.

Happy Lent to all our parishioners !!!

### The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the **faith** you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of **charity** enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the  
seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and in the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus

### PARISH LENTEN MISSION MARCH 10, 11 AND 12, 7pm CHRIST STILL HEALS TODAY

St. Philip and St Clare are holding a Lenten Mission Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday March 10th -12th. The theme is 'Christ Still Heal Today.' Presented by the Servants of the Cross, it will include teaching on the healing ministry of the Church, plus activation exercises in the practice of praying with others for healing.

The mission will include worship from the sisters of the Servants of the Cross, plus teaching by Fr Kenneth Lao, of the Companions of the Cross, and Sr Anna Chan, of the Servants of the Cross. The mission will explore the different ways in which Christ still heals in and through the Church today. If you have a need to experience the healing power of the Spirit of Christ, I encourage you to attend our parish mission...and bring others who need the healing touch of God in their lives!

Monday March 10th - St Philip's, at 7-9pm (no Monday evening Mass)

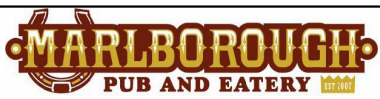
Tuesday March 11th—St Clare's, Dwyer Hill, 7-9pm (no Tuesday evening Mass)

Wednesday March 12th - St Philip's, at 7-9pm (free will offering taken up on Wednesday 12th)

**\*The mission does not include the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the last evening; watch the bulletin for an evening of Reconciliation at the end of Lent. Fr Bob**







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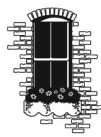
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## Parish Life—Regular Activities

### ST CLARES:

Pastoral Council—3rd Tuesday of month after 7pm Mass

Coffee Sunday—2nd Sunday of month.

CWL—every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm

### ST PHILIPS:

Adult Ed/RCIA: Dcn Louis—444-1228

Adoration o/t Blessed Sacrament: Mondays, 2-6:45pm & Thursdays, 3-6:45pm

Apostles Div Mercy: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 1pm, 63 Lennox

Bible Study: After 7pm Mass on Mondays

Coffee Sunday: Sundays weekly after 10:30am Mass, Hall

Euchre: Every 2nd Wed, 7pm in Hall: Mar 19, April 2

First Friday Mass: Next: Mar 7, 6:30pm. Adoration follows

Knights of Columbus—2nd Tues of mo-7:30 in Hall

Ladies Auxiliary: Wed March 19, 7 pm in Hall

Pastoral Council: 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of month, 8pm, Hall

Prayer Meeting—Every Thurs, 7:30pm, St Philips Hall

Rosary: St Philips, 4:10pm (before 4:30pm Saturday Mass) & 10:10 (before 10:30am Sunday Mass)

St Vincent de Paul—3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month (Rectory)

Temporal Affairs Cnc'l: 4<sup>th</sup> Tues of the month, 7pm, Hall

## Announced Masses—March

Saturday, 4:30 at St. Philip

Sunday 9:00 at St. Clares

Mar 16—In memory of Shawn Moore by Bob & Colleen Moore

Sunday, 10:30 at St. Philips

### Intentions of the Holy Father—March 2025

#### For families in crisis

**Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.**

## Catechism Corner

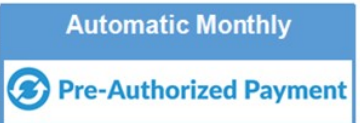
**How did Jesus pray as he was facing his death?** When face to face with death, Jesus experienced the utmost depths of human fear. Yet he found the strength even in that hour to trust his heavenly Father: "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you; remove this chalice from me; yet not what I will, but what you will [be done]" (Mk 14:36). "Times of need teach us to pray." Almost everyone experiences that in his life. How did Jesus pray when he was threatened by death? What guided him in those hours was his absolute willingness to entrust himself to the love and care of his Father. Yet Jesus recited the most unfathomable prayer of all, which he took from the Jewish prayers for the dying: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mk 15:34, citing Ps 22:1). All the despair, all the laments, all the cries of mankind in all times, and yearning for God's helping hand are contained in this word of the Crucified. With the words, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Lk 23:46), he breathed forth his spirit. In them we hear his boundless trust in his Father, whose power knows the way to conquer death. Thus Jesus' prayer in the midst of dying already anticipates the Easter victory of his Resurrection. (YOUCAT questions 475-476) **Dig Deeper:** CCC section (2600-2606) and other references [here](#).

## Please Consider Donating



Set up an E-Transfer from your bank and email to us at: WelcomeHome1819@gmail.com

Please ensure you include your full name and mailing address, and your parish 'Donation Box Number' (if you have one). You will receive a tax receipts from the parish in February next year.



Flexible and easy to set up—helps provide predictability and reliability to the parish finances. You can start or end anytime you wish. Wish to enroll? Download [form HERE](#) and email to the office with a photo of a void cheque. You will receive a tax receipts from the parish next February.



Click [HERE](#) to be sent to the CanadaHelps.org website to make your secure donation. CanadaHelps.org will send us your donation (less 4% service fee) and they will issue you an immediate tax receipt by email.



**Donate by Cash of Cheque**—donations in numbered envelopes (or in an envelope with your name & address) can be dropped in the collection plate. OR cheques can be mailed to the office.

### Why is it important to support the parishes financially?

Just like any other charity or non-profit organization, it costs money to keep St. Philip Parish and St. Clare Mission afloat. For example, the annual operating expenditure budget of St. Philip Parish is approximately \$155,000, which goes towards paying for the following items:

- Paying for the parish priest, the parish office administrator, replacement priests to say Mass and the parish bookkeeper;
- Diocesan tax on parish revenues (donations);
- Utilities (heat, hydro, water, sewer, utilities, etc.)
- Repairs and maintenance on St. Philip Church, the Parish Hall, and other buildings and grounds;
- Office expenses; and,
- Pastoral expenses.

In addition, St. Philip Parish also spends about \$10,000-\$20,000 per year on major projects and renovations to replace and/or renovate the parish buildings and other items within the parish.

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