



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

February 28th, 2021  
Second Sunday of Lent



“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him”

Mark :7

“With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be  
Apostles of Hope”

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am  
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

## STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675

Website—www.sspj.org

### PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

### CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor  
Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor  
Deacon Ronald Blasius  
Deacon John Keenan

(With Sympathy) Deacon Ken Maher

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

### COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

### DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

### DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

### SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

School Phone-631-584-7896 School Fax: 631-584-3258

### TRUSTEES

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato  
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890.  
Weekly Collection: Sunday February 14th, 2021 : \$10,027.  
Ash Wednesday 1,611.  
Faith Direct : (126 Participants) 3,253.  
Total Collections: \$14,891.  
Parish Social Ministry Donation: \$850.

Thank you for your generosity and support

**FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON:  
USING SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232**

### Sacraments

**Baptism**— Celebrated twice per month. Parents are asked to register at the Pastoral Center for Pre-Baptism Program.

**Marriage**—Couples are asked to contact the Pastoral Center before visiting the reception hall. The Marriage Preparation process is nine months before your proposed wedding date.

**Confirmation**—Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

**Reconciliation**— Available Saturdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Church or by contacting the Parish Center for an appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick**— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 8:00am mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

**R.C.I.A.**— Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (non-Catholic adults desiring to become Catholic) are asked to contact the Parish Center Office.

**Eucharistic Adoration In The Church**— Monday 1:30pm -7pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN  
CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN  
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.  
LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES  
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON  
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY  
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN  
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY  
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC  
CAPTAIN PAUL WILMS  
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY  
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-  
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF  
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF  
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC  
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC  
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN  
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL  
STEVEN CAVA-USN  
ERIC SEELIN- USMC  
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ  
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN  
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC  
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY  
KEVIN JONES-USCG  
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG  
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY  
STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA— US ARMY  
MARIO CATANIA-USMC  
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC  
KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY  
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN  
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC  
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF  
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC  
PAUL MUMOLO-USN  
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG  
KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY  
MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD  
KELLI MCLAUGHLIN—LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD  
STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY  
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

As you probably know, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has declared Bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

In order to be as helpful as possible to the parties that may be affected by this bankruptcy, we will be publishing the following note regarding “proof of claim forms” for the next few months:

Information regarding the deadlines for filing proofs of claim in the Diocese’s chapter 11 case and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese’s bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

# Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'd like to share with you a reflection by Sr. Jean Amore, CSJ, principal of Sacred Heart Academy. It was shared with me by a friend who is an SHA alumna.

Beginning at the age of two, we don't like much being told what to do! But in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, the command to love God, to love ourselves, to love one another even our enemies is different. God's command assumes the very best in us and invites us to go beyond what we think is possible. Jesus' command to love does not presume we have arrived at love once and for all. It sets us on a path of love, forgiveness, compassion, and justice. How precious is the moment when we realize we have been born with a sense of rightness, of justice, of compassion and of mercy and are summoned by God to act in this way. Lent is a time when God asks us not to shrink or cramp our capacity for expansive love.

Today, we suffer from many pandemics: COVID-19, racism, crippling political divisions, violence and life-threatening cases of "hardening of the heart." As we reflect on the Gospel readings in Lent, Jesus' anger and grieving are always in response to people who should know better, but condemn, judge, oppress and exclude. For Jesus, compassion, forgiveness and inclusion were permanent attitudes. Jesus knew that refusal to love another paralyzes the other in his/her worst moment. Lack of love anywhere diminishes love everywhere. Happy those who believe in compassion and forgiveness; theirs is a faith and legacy that change people.

***This Lent ~***

***Let us fast from coldness of heart and let others know they have a safe home in our minds and hearts.***

***Let us fast from indifference and let others know their lives matter.***

***Let us fast from gossip and harsh judgments and let others feel "lifted up" by our words and actions.***

***Let us fast from standing still when we need to walk with those dehumanized because of race, culture or social class.***

***Let us fast from discouragement and share hope and possibility with so many suffering in our world today: those who have lost a loved one, who are jobless, who are at the end of a relationship, who are bearing illnesses, who are ...***

***Lastly, let us live God's beautiful, noble and challenging summons to live an expansive love for the times in which we live. Let it include all God's integrated, interdependent creation - human and non-human.***

***We are not alone; we belong to each other.***

***May we be open to all the graces God wishes to give us this Lent.***

Concretely, a way in which you have so generously shown how we follow that sublime command and demonstrate that we are in it together has been our consistent response to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. The 2021 Appeal has begun and soon you will be receiving a letter from the Bishop asking for support. Our parish goal this year is \$105, 300. I too ask for your support. Your generosity to last year's Appeal helped many and provided a needed rebate to the parish. The rebate is our largest fundraiser. Many thanks.

And,

*Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.*

*I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.*

*I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.*

*Peace,*

*Father Tom*

*Apostles: We Who Are Sent...Hope: God's constant gift of new possibilities*

# Mass Intentions, For the week of February 28th, 2021

## Lenten Regulations 2021

Traditionally, the Lenten Season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church.

Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

### Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

### Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent):

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

## Eucharistic Adoration

### Monday's

From 1:30-7:00pm

### In the Church

The closing hour of Eucharistic Adoration, (6pm-7pm), will be live streamed on the SSPJ facebook page [www.sspj.org](http://www.sspj.org)

### Remembering in Our Prayers~

Angie Mingione  
Angela Amoroso  
Anna Ormsby  
Arthur Gureck  
Baby Ben  
Barbara Bombace  
Barbara Ruland  
Mattia Rose Lubrano  
Belinda Groneman  
Belinda Vega  
Brianna Florio  
Bob Keenan  
Carol  
Claudia Chandler  
Daniel Radice  
Deirdre W.  
Dolores North  
Donna Patrissi  
Donnie Spence  
Dorothy Mitchell  
Dylan Beach  
Ella  
Ellie Walsh  
Ginny & John Rief  
Gladys Blake  
Gregory Parker  
Helen  
Ida Wehman  
Joanna  
Jack Donohue  
John Cronin  
John DeStefano  
J.C.  
Joseph S.

Luis Anthony  
Antonette Sabatino  
James Macchiano  
Judy Rampola  
Kathleen N.  
Kitty Cronin  
Leon Donach  
Mark Hildreth  
Mary Fresi  
Maryann Kevlin  
Maria Clark  
Marie del Cielo  
Marilyn Suli  
Matthew Parrella  
Michael Fisher  
Mike Lofaro  
Monsignor Iocavacci  
Pasquale Savarese  
Peter Bertrand  
Peter Donach  
P.I.  
Ricardo Buffit  
Riordan Cavooris  
Sara Jean Andersen  
Sheila Ginty  
Stephen Dolce  
Steven Iglio  
Theresa Kassay  
Tara Cesarski  
Tom Kiernan  
Vivien Cordes  
Victoria Zubrycky  
Vicki Archdeacon  
Veronica Broderick

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 27th, 2021</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: C. Lombardi EM: D. Anderson	9:15am  5:00pm	Evelyn Parisi  Nelzi Kucich
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 28th, 2021</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: P. O'Hara EM: M. Kenney	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: V. Rubano EM: E. Sotomayer	10:00am	Patricia McNeely
	<b>Collective Mass</b> Presider: Father Joe Lector: M. Cashman EM: B. Luna	12:00pm	Tom Oneta Melvin Yee Ann & Bob Bates Ryan Michael Jack Birbiglia Living-Pasquale Savarese
<b>Monday</b>	March 1st, 2021	7:30am  9:15am	Elaine Moccia  Nelzi Kucich
<b>Tuesday</b>	March 2nd, 2021	7:30am  9:15am	Antoinette Fisher  Richard Blake
<b>Wednesday</b>	March 3rd, 2021	7:30am  9:15am	Lucia Morando  Mel Yee
<b>Thursday</b>	March 4th, 2021	7:30am  9:15am	Antoinette Perino <u>Collective Mass:</u> Ryan Oliver
<b>Friday</b>	March 5th, 2021	7:30am  9:15am	Patricia McNulty  Joseph Vuocolo
<b>Saturday</b>	March 6th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: J. Auletta EM: D. Anderson	9:15am  5:00pm	George J. Beckett  Vincent & Katherine Salvatore
<b>Sunday</b>	March 7th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: S. Cavooris EM: M. Kenney	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: T. Cafaro EM: E. Sotomayer	10:00am	Kenneth Rathjen
	<b>Collective Mass</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Dinnegan EM: B. Luna	12:00pm	Joseph Winters Marie Csorny Donald Hehir, Sr Burke Samson Anne M. Childs Virginia Kelly





*Our Bread & Wine  
For the week of  
February 28th, 2021*

*Are offered in loving memory of,*

***Richard Blake***

*“First Anniversary in Heaven”*

*Miss you –Looking forward to when we meet again,*

*Your loving wife, Gladys and Family*



*The Sanctuary Lamp  
For the week of  
February 28th, 2021*

*Is illuminating brightly in loving memory of,*

***Richard Blake***

*“On his first anniversary in heaven”*

*You are loved and missed,  
Your loving wife, Gladys and Family*



*The Pro-Life Rose  
For the week of,  
February 28th, 2021*

*Is offered*

*In loving memory of,*

***Richard Blake***

*“On his first anniversary in heaven.”*

*You are loved and missed,  
Your loving wife, Gladys and Family*

*Our Altar Candles  
For the week of,  
February 28th, 2021*

*Are burning in loving memory of,*

***Matthew Ryan Martin***

*Our Love for you is forever,*

*Love,*

*Mom, Dad and Ashley*

***HOLY WEEK MASS RESERVATIONS  
WILL BE NECESSARY:***

**PALM SUNDAY SATURDAY EVENING MASS  
MARCH 27TH:**

**5:00PM MASS**– Church and Auditorium

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2021**

**8:00AM MASS** –Church and Auditorium

**10:00AM MASS** –Church and Auditorium

**12:00NOON** –Church only

**GOOD FRIDAY : MARCH 26TH, 2021 AT 3PM**

**EASTER VIGIL MASS: APRIL 3RD AT 8:00PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:  
APRIL 4TH, 2021**

**8AM**—Church and Auditorium

**10:00am**– Church and Auditorium

**12:00noon**—Church and Auditorium

Kindly make your reservation at  
SSPJ.org

If you are unable to schedule a reservation, kindly contact  
the Parish Center office:  
631-584-5454

***JESUS YOU ARE THE KEY~***



**Lord,  
Your commandment of love is so simple  
and so challenging.  
Help me to let go of my pride,  
to be humble in my penance.  
I want only to live the way You ask me to love,  
to love the way You ask me to live.  
To learn not to judge others  
but in total humility to love all.  
I ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Lord, in unity with the Holy Spirit  
who lives in me and stands at my side  
today and always.  
Amen**

*Anastpaal*

## Jesus is the Key-

We welcome all to submit to us your thoughts about wearing the SSPJ Lenten bracelet inscribed with the words,

### **“Jesus is the key”**

*Sharing your heartfelt thoughts about how “Jesus Is The Key “ that has opened possibilities, doors, interests, knowledge or our eyes to the community around us and in our lives.....*

**You can drop off your reflection in an enveloped marked “Jesus is the Key” to the Parish center, or email us at [info@sspj.org](mailto:info@sspj.org)**

#### LENTEN REFLECTION FOR 2021

I BEGAN THIS LENT MINISTERING TO MY SELF THE ASHES FROM LAST YEAR, BECAUSE I WAS SUFFERING FROM A BOUT OF DIVERTICULITIS. INSTEAD OF WEARING ANYTHING TO DO WITH *JESUS IS THE KEY* I SEARCHED AND FOUND A PURPLE BRACELET WHICH PROCLAIMS *I SAY YES, MY LORD!*

COVID RESTRICTIONS, CO-MORBIDITIES AND OTHER ILLNESSES HAVE FORCED SOME OF US TO FIND OTHER WAYS TO REPLACE OUR WONDERFUL AND CHERISHED LENTEN TRADITIONS. AND WE ARE THANKFUL. THIS LENT IS LIKE A FORTY DAY RETREAT INTO OUR SPIRITUAL HOUSES. A LOT OF TROUBLESOME THINGS HAVE ACCUMULATED THERE OVER THE YEAR AND YEARS. WE MEDITATE ON THEM.

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS ABOUT THEM. REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE ALREADY CONFESSED THESE FAULTS AND BEEN FORGIVEN. AND YET, LIKE SOME DIRTY CLOTHES SOMEWHERE, TUCKED AWAY, THE MEMORIES OF SOME WAYWARD ACTS, POP UP. SADNESS REIGNS.

THEN OUR CATHOLIC INTELLECT KICKS IN. HEY, I HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN THOSE TRANSGRESSIONS! YOU ARE ALONE WITH YOUR THOUGHTS PRAYING, THINKING THIS MUST BE THE INFLUENCE OF THE EVIL ONE. THEN YOU BEGIN PRAYING SIMPLE PRAYERS, EASILY, REMEMBERED, *SACRED HEART OF JESUS, I PLACE MY TRUST IN YOU. OR LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS! FOREVER* AND THEN YOU SEEM TO FEEL A GENTLE BREEZE WAFTING THROUGH YOUR SPIRITUAL HOUSE, FREEING YOUR SOUL OF ALL THAT OLD DEBRIS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CARRYING AROUND ALL YEAR, PERHAPS FOR YEARS!

THE DOORS TO YOUR HOUSE HAVE BEEN OPENED BY SOMEONE WHO HAS THE KEY. THE HOUSE THAT HOLDS YOUR SOUL IS FREE AGAIN. IT IS THE PERSONAL JESUS. HE HAS HELPED YOU WIN THE BATTLE AND SHOWN YOU WHAT FORGIVENESS TRULY IS. *JESUS HOLDS THE KEY TO MY DOORS.*

*Jerry Linder-SSPJ Parish Trustee*

*My goodness, Jesus can unlock so many doors! Already I am finding unexpected opportunities to share my faith. Jesus is the key. I just have to walk through the doors that He opens.*

*I was talking to a neighbor recently, who had told me a year ago, when I said I would pray for her, that she "didn't believe in any of that." I told her " I did", so I would pray. She's a good person, always offering to help others in the community and she's always nice to people.*

*Well anyway, we were chatting curbside with another woman about our concern for a friend in rehab who wasn't doing well when somehow the subject of death came up. (Was Jesus opening a door?) I then told the two ladies about the most beautiful death I had ever experienced. (Not my own!).*

*Years ago, Mr. and Mrs. G and their daughter lived next door with elderly Grandma and Grandpa in a large, mother-daughter home. Grandma DiSanti would spend a few hours every Saturday morning praying for the dead and for the grace of a happy death. She had a stack of funeral holy cards on her lap, and prayed for each person individually. Meanwhile Grandpa DiSanti (who was always trying to tell me an off-color joke) would sit on his beach chair, in the sunshine, under the trees, with birds chirping and squirrels running around him.*

*Well one day, I told my neighbors, as the family was doing some window cleaning, someone noticed Grandpa DiSanti slipping down off his beach chair. When they ran out to see him, he had already passed on. They called Doctor M. who lived down the street. He came and pronounced Mr. DiSanti dead. Then the EMT's arrived, as well as some firemen. I watched, as they all formed a circle around Grandpa DiSanti, whose covered body lay on the driveway, and prayed, as did I. I told my friends that when I returned to my house the radio was playing a song and the words were: "Believe it or not I'm walking on air. I never thought I could feel so free! Flying away on a wing and a prayer. Who could it be? Believe it or not, it's just me!"*

*My neighbor gasped and her jaw dropped. She remained stunned for quite a few minutes, and I thought to myself....."Wow, Jesus!...another opportunity Thank you Jesus! Perhaps my story will leave her wondering.*

*Judy Contrino, Lector*



# Lenten Offerings

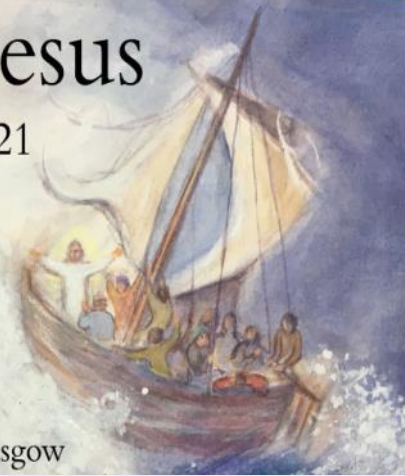
## Knowing Jesus

Lent Online Retreat 2021

An amazing Daily Lenten Journey – please review and consider.  
VISIT:  
[www.onlineprayer.net](http://www.onlineprayer.net)



Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GIVE UP  
**It's Who You Become**  
A Life-Changing Lenten Experience

Embrace a deeper, more spiritually rewarding life, and lose yourself in God this Lent.  
Visit [BestLentEver.com](http://BestLentEver.com) to take the first step toward unlocking your God-given potential.

**BEST LENT EVER**

This Lent, join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST LENT EVER - a free series of emails and video reflections that will help you to discover or rediscover God through prayer.



**Loyola on the Potomac**  
A Jesuit Retreat House  
Faulkner, Maryland

presents:

A Virtual Lenten Evening of Prayer Series:  
**Hope in the Cross**

Join us each Tuesday evenings in Lent for this hour long prayer series on ZOOM. Each evening will begin at 7:00 pm and end by 8:00 pm. There will be an opening prayer, an Invitation to Prayer, a period of personal prayer time, a time for sharing of graces and discussion and then a closing prayer.

To register, send an email to: [Reservations@lovolaretreat.org](mailto:Reservations@lovolaretreat.org) You will receive an email link to the ZOOM prayer series on Monday of each week.


Tuesday, March 2  
"A Deepening Friendship"  
Kathleen Maguire-Zeiss

Tuesday, March 9  
"The Magis of God"  
Father Thomas Gavin, SJ

Tuesday, March 16  
"The Cross as Waiting"  
Sister Pat Mensing, SSJ

Tuesday, March 23  
"The Glory of God present in the Passion of Christ"  
Father Bill Rakowicz, SJ

Tuesday, March 30  
"Letting Jesus Wash Your Feet"  
Elaine Ireland

  
**LED BY THE SPIRIT**

This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for Daily Lenten Reflections. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your life.

To Sign Up Visit: [formed.org/lent](http://formed.org/lent)

  
**Lent with St. Francis**

To subscribe visit:  
[www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org)



BBC AND JESUITS IN BRITAIN BRING YOU A SPECIAL  
LENT RETREAT

[Lent 2021 | Jesuits in Britain](http://www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021) :

VISIT: [www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021](http://www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021)

# Parish Social Ministry



*We Remember In Our Hearts the families holding precious memories in their hearts from the loss of,*

**Rosemarie Hetterich**

*Safely home in the loving arms of Jesus.*

## FOOD PANTRY HELP

**Napkins  
Gasoline Cards**



*Many thanks for your kindness and generosity*


**Protect  
God's  
Creation**



A healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change.

FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 29

# HELP SAVE LIVES



**9,699**  
Babies saved  
from abortion  
... so far

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

*Join the worldwide  
movement to protect  
mothers and babies*

From February 18 - March 29, our community will join with hundreds of other cities and towns participating in 40 Days for Life, a life-saving campaign made up of three components:



PRAYER & FASTING



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PEACEFUL VIGIL

40 Days for Life is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, involving more than 650,000 volunteers in 559 cities across 27 nations.

*Remembering Mothers, Children and all Life through prayer, fasting peaceful vigils and community outreach.*

*40 Days for Life campaigns have inspired many participants including the Respect Life Committee of SSPJ.*

*Their hearts of mercy are involved in:*

*Peaceful Prayer Vigil on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood building in Smithtown.*

*Fasting and Sacrifice*

*Eucharistic Adoration Monday's from 1:30pm-7pm. The closing hour from 6-7pm praying for respect for human life.*

*Please call 631-862-9370 for further information .*

## Music Notes: Digo "Si," Señor



Digo Sí, Señor.  
I say Yes, my God.  
Je dis oui, Seigneur.



**I SAY YES, MY GOD**

*Listen closely to the words of "I Say Yes" Lord. The song tells of how we say Yes to our Lord in different situations. I know for me my yes is to try and be a servant for the Lord and minister through my music. To be a healer of pain and not to cause pain, to forgive and strive for peace. None of which are easy tasks but a challenge and with God's help I can try to do my part. I use music as a way of expression and understanding.*

*If we all tried a little harder for peace in our world what a wonderful place it would be.*

*Music can inspire us to do our best.*

*Living in Harmony.*

*Singing our praise to God.*

*(Softer in church louder at home)*

*So, Say YES to God.*



*2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal  
The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300.*



# 2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*One Family in Mission*  
*Creating Pathways to Faith*



Please consider making a gift to the  
2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

For more information, to watch our video  
or to make a donation,  
visit [www.drvc.org/CMA](http://www.drvc.org/CMA)  
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296



# Religious Education News

## MARCH ACTS OF SERVICE

"JESUS IS THE KEY"-

*Let us know how Jesus is the key in your life...*

*Responses can be written on your act of service card and attached to the donation you are offering.*

*Our March Acts of Service will share love with a local shelter for those who do not have a home to call their own...*

*WE ARE COLLECTING CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR A LOCAL SHELTER:*

*DISH SOAP, WIPES, DETERGENT :(SMALL SIZES PLEASE)*

*ALSO COLLECTING: RAMAN NOODLES AND CEREAL*

*ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE BOX OUTSIDE THE*

*PARISH CENTER OFFICE DURING THE WEEK OF*

*MARCH 22ND, 2021 ~ Thank you for thinking of others...*

### CONFIRMATION I—7TH GRADE RITE OF ENROLLMENT MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2021  
5PM AND 7PM

Parents were emailed the session to attend.

Any questions,

Please call the religious ed office at  
631-584-3204.

RESCHEDULED:

### CONFIRMATION I—7TH GRADE RECONCILIATION:

MONDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2021 AT 5PM  
AND

TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2021 AT 7PM  
Parents were emailed the session to attend.

Any questions,

Please call the religious ed office at  
631-584-3204.

MARCH PRAYER OF THE MONTH:  
JESUS PRAYER



JESUS  
PRAYER

LORD JESUS  
CHRIST,  
SON OF GOD,  
HAVE  
MERCY ON  
ME  
A SINNER!

## ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry  
for having offended You,  
and I detest all of my sins because  
of Your just punishments,  
but most of all because  
they offend You, my God,  
Who are all good and  
deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve,  
with the help of Your grace,  
to sin no more and to avoid  
the near occasions of sin. Amen.



## A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

*Well, here we are in our first week of Lent. How are you doing? As in all things, beginnings are usually strong, but like long-distance runners, we need to keep our eye on the goal and pace ourselves. Try and keep this in mind during these weeks of Lent.*

*Here at the Parish, we are looking at the thought that Jesus is the key. In looking at last week's Sunday reading and the upcoming reading for this week, I recognize that Jesus is always with us. From the example of how to face temptation to being on a mountaintop with us, Jesus is ever present – even when we come down from that mountain!*

*If you think about it, Jesus experienced what it was like to be truly human. So, I guess for today we could say that Jesus is the key to living an abundant life with all of its ups and downs. During my lifetime I have never before experienced a time that 'exposed', if you will, humanity in its truly imperfect form. The length of this pandemic sort of reminds me of the time Jesus spent in the desert. He probably started out strong but by the end He was weary, and it was hard to fight off the temptations that were surrounding him. Are not there days that you feel like that?*

*We have had a year of unknowns and struggles, of loss and disbelief. How do we continue? We need to look to Jesus and see how He dealt with challenges. Prayer and time with His Father were one way. Do we spend enough time in prayer, or do we use our time to complain and place blame on others for things that are happening around us? Sometimes we just need to be silent and listen. Jesus has the answers for us; are we willing to listen, open our hearts and minds, and perhaps do some Attitude Adjustments?*

*We go from the desert to the mountaintop, and this time Jesus has His core group of Apostles with Him. They, like most of us, want to stay on that mountaintop. I love when this Gospel comes around, for I find myself saying 'let me build three tents' when I have experienced something good, beautiful, or exciting in my life.*

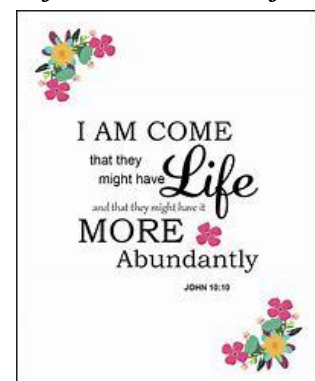
*That is the temptation; we would love to stay on that high. But life is not like that, it has its ups and downs. The great thing is that if we believe that Jesus was fully human, then He is the key to a full and abundant life. I think what happens is we start to decide what it means to have a full and abundant life. For some it may mean having everything they want and no pain or disappointment in their lives. For others it may mean success in all they do, great childhood, perfect marriage, and great retirement. All good things, but there are always peaks and valleys in all the landscape of life. True, some have higher peaks and others lower valleys, but the key is do we live it to the fullest. Jesus did.*

*If we look at Jesus being the key to an abundant life, then we need to see how He lived His human life. Our scriptures are rich with the examples of how Jesus tried to help others live abundant lives, from raising the dead to raising the dignity of women, to curing the sick to speaking out about injustices. But all of this came at a price, and Jesus was willing to pay that price.*

*Am I willing to pay the price of living an abundant life? Jesus was.*

*Till next week,*

*Sister T*



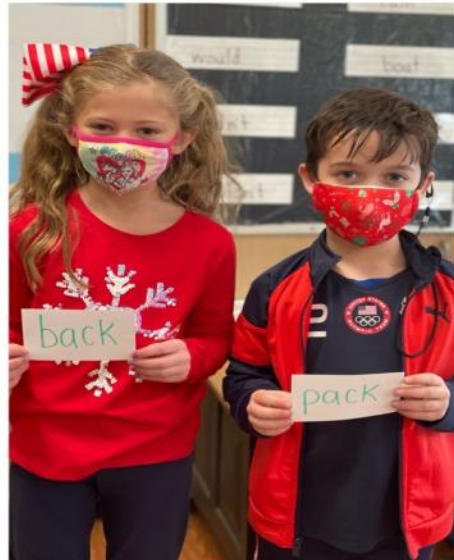
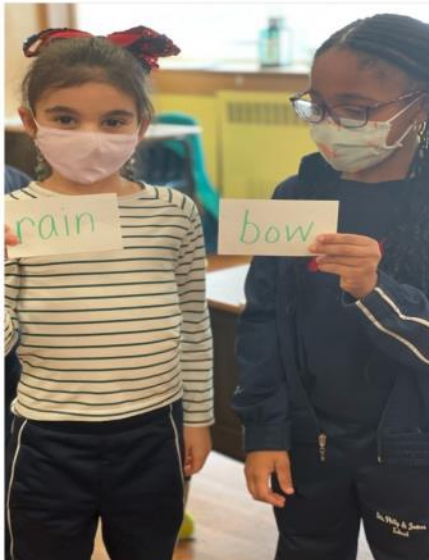
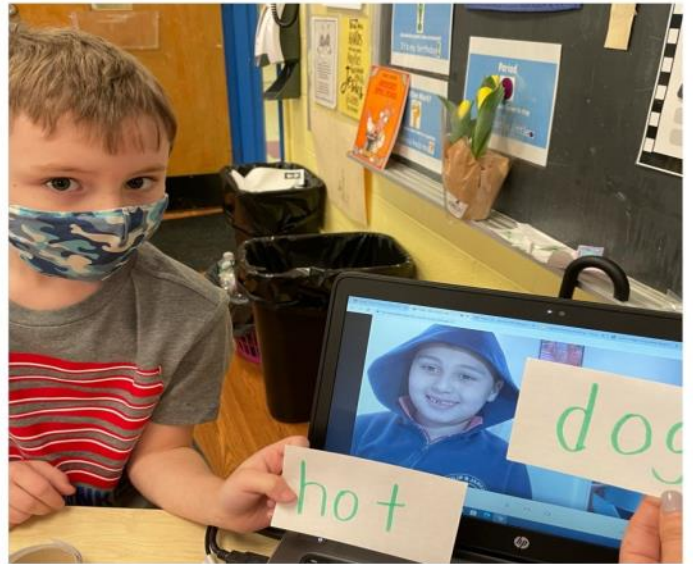
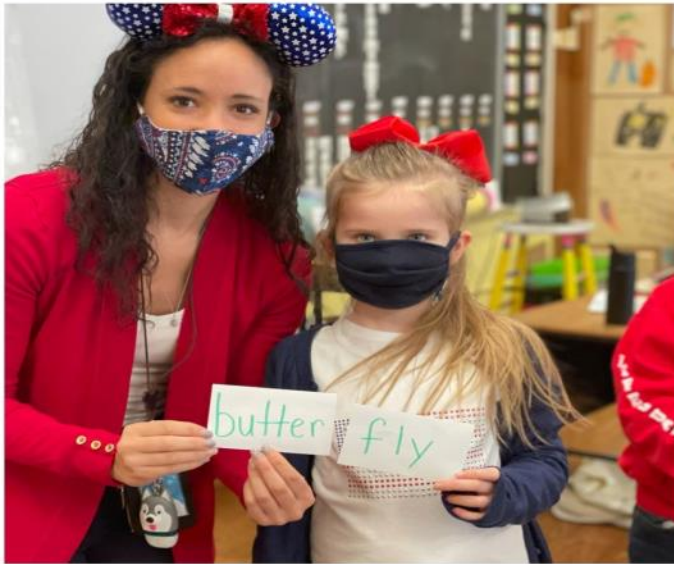
*Living your life more abundantly...*



# SSPJ School First Grade School News

## What is a compound word?

A compound word is when you take two words put them together and make a new word with a new meaning!  
First grade was able to find their missing half to make a compound word.



Congratulations to the following SSPJ School Alumni Honor Roll Status  
at Saint Dominic High School:

*Kaitlyn Greubel*  
*Natalie Greubel*

We are so very proud of you.!





# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18  
Ps 116:10,15-19  
Romans 8:31b-34  
Mark 9:2-10

### Monday March 1

Daniel 9:4b-10  
Ps 79:8,9,11,13  
Luke 6:36-38

### Tuesday March 2

Isaiah 1:10,16-20  
Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23  
Matthew 23:1-12

### Wednesday March 3

Jeremiah 18:18-20  
Ps 31:5-6,14-16  
Matthew 20:17-28

### Thursday March 4

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Luke 16:19-31

### Friday March 5

Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a  
Ps 105:16-21  
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

### Saturday March 6

Micah 7:14-15,18-20  
Ps 103:1-4,9-12  
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Think of a "mountaintop experience" you've had. What generated it? Did it change your life forever or was it just a momentary high?

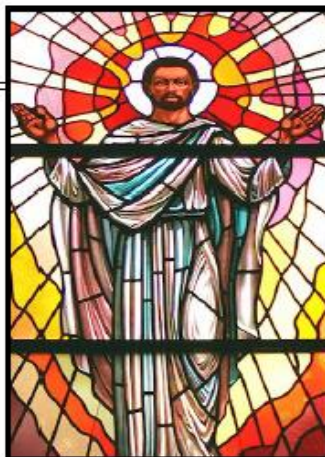
In Biblical symbolism, a mountain represents getting close to God. Did your mountaintop experience bring you closer to God?

It was at the top of Mount Tabor where Jesus revealed the glory of his Godliness to his closest friends. Called a "high mountain" in scripture, Mount Tabor is, in reality, not huge. What was huge is the event that took place there – and why.

The three disciples who witnessed Christ's transfiguration greatly benefited from seeing his glory revealed, because someday they would be commissioned to take over his earthly ministry.

The Father told them, "This is my beloved Son; *listen to him*." As we listen to Jesus, it is we who are now transfigured.

Lent is meant to be a mountaintop experience for each of us. If we follow Jesus up the mountain, his light will consume any darkness within us. The more we listen to his teachings and apply them to our daily lives and ministries, the more we become like him. And the more we become like Jesus, the more our lives are transfigured by his light, and the more our lives then transfigure the world around us.



As the first reading tells us, Abraham did not withhold his son from the Lord; God the Father did not withhold *his* Son from us.

Likewise, we must not withhold the Son from the people we encounter. Whether it's by an evangelizing word or a helping hand,

or a compassionate and attentive ear, or the generous giving of mercy and forgiveness or money or time, we are Christ's hands and feet and voice in the world today. We are his earthly body. We are the answers to people's prayers.

We have been empowered through our baptisms to shine with the glory of Christ's love. We have all been commissioned to continue his earthly ministry. May the experience of Lent take us to new heights of union with Christ and his mission!

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Identify one area of your life that you would like Jesus to transfigure. What do you need to do to repent of it? How do you need to change (with God's help) so that others see more of Jesus?
2. Share the story of a time when you let Jesus change you. How difficult was it to be transfigured? Why did you want to make the change?
3. How did it impact others?

## THE IMPERIALISM OF THE HUMAN SOUL

In his autobiography, Nikos Kazantzakis shares how in his youth he was driven by a restlessness that had him searching for something he could never quite define. However, he made peace with his lack of peace because he accepted that, given the nature of the soul, he was supposed to feel that restlessness and that a healthy soul is a driven soul. Commenting on this, he writes: "No force anywhere on earth is as imperialistic as the human soul. It occupies and is occupied in turn, but it always considers its empire too narrow. Suffocating, it desires to conquer the world in order to breathe freely."

We need to be given permission, I believe, to accept as God-given that imperialism inside our soul, even as we need always to be careful never to trivialize its power and meaning. However, that is a formula for tension. How does one make peace with the imperialism of one's soul without denigrating the divine energy that is stoking that imperialism? For me, this has been a struggle.

I grew up in the heart of the Canadian prairies, with five hundred miles of open space in every direction. Geographically, that space let one's soul stretch out, but otherwise my world seemed too small for my soul to breathe. I grew up inside a tight-knit community in an isolated rural area where the world was small enough so that everyone knew everyone else. That was wonderful because it made for a warm cocoon; but that cocoon (seemingly) separated me from the big world where, it seemed to my young mind, souls could breathe in spaces bigger than where I was breathing. Moreover, growing up with an acute religious and moral sensitivity, I felt guilty about my restlessness, as if it were something abnormal that I needed to hide.

In that state, as an eighteen-year-old, I entered religious life. Novitiates in those days were quite strict and secluded. We were eighteen of us, novices, sequestered in an old seminary building across a lake from a town and a highway. We could hear the sounds of traffic and see life on the other side of the lake, but we were not part of it. As well, most everything inside our sequestered life focused on the spiritual so that even our most earthy desires had to be associated with our hunger for God and for the bread of life. Not an easy task for anyone, especially a teenager.

Well, one day we were visited by a priest who gave my soul permission to breathe. He gathered us, the eighteen novices, into a classroom and began his conference with this question: *Are you feeling a little restless? We nodded, rather surprised by the question. He went on: Well, you should be feeling restless! You must be jumping out of your skin! All that life in you and all those fiery hormones stirring in your blood, and you're stuck here watching life happen across the lake! You must be going crazy sometimes! But ... that's good, that's what you should be feeling, it shows you're healthy. Stay with it. You can do this. It's good to feel that restlessness.*

That day the wide-open prairie spaces I had lived my whole life in and the wide-open spaces in my soul befriended each other a little. And that friendship continued to grow as I did my studies and read authors who had befriended their souls. Among others, these spoke to me: St. Augustine (*You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*); Thomas Aquinas (*The adequate object of the human intellect and will is all Being*); Iris Murdoch (*The deepest of all human pains is the pain of the inadequacy of self-expression*); Karl Rahner (*In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable, we ultimately learn that here, in this life, there is no finished symphony*); Sidney Callahan (*We are made to ultimately sleep with the whole world, is it any wonder that we long for this along the way?*); and James Hillman (*Neither religion nor psychology really honors the human soul. Religion is forever trying to save the soul and psychology is always trying to fix the soul. The soul needs neither to be saved nor fixed; it is already eternal – it just needs to be listened to.*)

Perhaps today the real struggle is not so much to accept sacred permission to befriend the wild insatiability of the soul. The greater struggle today, I suspect, is not to trivialize the soul, not to make its infinite longings something less than what they are.

During the World War II, Jesuit theologians resisting the Nazi occupation in France published an underground newspaper. The first issue opened with this now-famous line: *France, take care not to lose your soul.* Fair warning. The soul is imperialistic because it carries divine fire and so it struggles to breathe freely in the world. To feel and to honor that struggle is to be healthy.