



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

February 18th, 2024

The First Sunday

Of Lent



*This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, And believe in the gospel”  
Mark 1:15*

“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](http://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 John Keenan

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 631-584-3204

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko~[cczujko@sspj.org](mailto:cczujko@sspj.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~[bluna@sspj.org](mailto:bluna@sspj.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~[davento@sspj.org](mailto:davento@sspj.org)

### 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

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato  
Lisa Keane, Maureen Burke, Nancy Sanders, Peter Suski, Sheila Cavooris

### Collections: ~

*Thanking you for your generosity*

*Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:*

**\$16,700**

### Weekly Collection: Sunday, February 11th, 2024:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$9,952.50.

Mail Collections: \$1,816.50

Faith Direct(126Participants) WEEKLY \$3,374.04.

**Total Collection: \$15,143.04**

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT [SSPJ.ORG](http://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  
CAPT. MICHAEL T. DOLAN- JR. -D.O, US ARMY  
LT. COL. JOHN KAIREZ  
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 WILLMS  
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  
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  
1 LT MICHAEL J BANG -MILITARY INTELLIGENCE US ARMY  
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY  
LT. COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER SHANK MD  
MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN.  
MAJ. BRENDAN JOHNSTON-USAF  
CHRISTOPHER A. HIONIDIS-USAF  
EMMETT MOLONEY -USN  
HANK MOLONEY—USAF  
CARL JOSEPHSON-USAF  
DANIEL JOSEPHSON-USAF  
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON-USAF

### LIVE-STREAMING THE 8:00AM SUNDAY MASS

The Sunday mass at 8:am is available to view on our SSPJ Church Facebook page, while it is live at the 8am mass, it can be recalled at any time.

## Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

On this first Sunday of Lent, we hear Mark's very brief account of Jesus being tempted in the desert. Mark tells us Jesus was driven into the desert, was tempted, and was ministered to. How might this short gospel passage help us along our Lenten journey? Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, reflects:

*It is Lent and Jesus models for us what a child of God does: surrender to God. Can we trust that in whatever desert of temptation and thirst we find ourselves this Lent that God's Spirit will be with us, as it was with Jesus? Our deserts are many and they require us to eliminate what is external and impermanent, which will not help us in our desert time. Especially when we encounter the "wild animals" and the Tempter that drain us of life and threaten our very identity as God's children....*

*But there is another side to the desert. It has been a special place where God's people came to know God's love, forgiveness, and daily care during their 40 years in the desert. There they were born as God's children and when they sinned, reborn as God's people. In their desert wanderings they met God. When they were thirsty God gave them water from the rock. God could change a hard place to a watering one. When they were hungry God fed them manna, just one day at a time, so they and we could learn to trust God, day by day.*

On Ash Wednesday we received a Lenten bracelet reflecting our theme - *Let all be received as Christ*. Maria Sehne invited us at Masses this weekend to both receive and become the Real Presence of Jesus during these holy days and beyond. Journey through your own desert - a place of challenge but also a place of blessing. Let's each carve out some quiet time each day to be with Jesus, sharing and listening, learning to trust God Day by day.

I'm very happy to let you know that Doctor Tom Petriano will be back to lead our Lenten Mission. Give yourself a Lenten treat and set aside the evenings of March 4, 5 and 6. Tom will again utilize art in his presentations which will further develop our Eucharistic Revival. A flyer a little further in today's bulletin will give a few more details.

Another Lenten opportunity is to join one of our Parish Book Club offerings. Matthew Kelly's book, Beautiful Eucharist will be read and discussed in two parts. See the details in the bulletin on how to register.

This year's Catholic Ministries Appeal begins shortly. Unfortunately, last year we were not able to meet our Campaign Goal for the first time. This year our goal has been set at \$102,000. If you're able to join in the effort to assist both those in need on Long Island and help us here at SSPJ, your support is greatly appreciated.

And, a few more thoughts from Vince, the Sign Guy:

*Great Hide and Seek players are really hard to find.*

*I married my wife for her looks ---- but not the ones I'm getting lately!*

*When the dentist married the manicurist they fought tooth and nail.*

*My wife told me to put ketchup on the shopping list. Now I can't read it at all.*

*Swarms of flying insects threaten town! Police send SWAT team.*

Peace,

Father Tom

# Mass Intentions, For the week of February 18th, 2024

**Eucharistic Adoration  
Will not be held on  
Monday February 19th  
In observance of  
Presidents Day  
In the Church  
1:30-7:00pm**



*We Pray for those who are ill...*

Andy  
Anna Capizzio  
Anna Maria  
Alfred Fox  
Antonette Sabatino  
Angie Mingione  
Angela Amoroso  
Arthur Gureck  
Austin Rocky  
Baby Ben  
Baby Penny Grace  
Candela  
Barbara Bombace  
Brian  
Mattia Rose Lubrano  
Barbara Sammarco  
Belinda Groneman  
Benito Fernandez  
Betty DiSimone  
Bob DelCielo  
Rob Remhild  
Carol  
Carolyn Nehl  
Cathleen Henchey  
Chase Addonizio  
Christella Stewart  
David Beleck  
David McCue  
Deirdre W.  
Diane LaPorte  
Donna Patrissi  
Dorothy Mitchell  
Eleanor Bayley  
Elizabeth Martin  
Elizabeth Smith  
Eileen  
Emily Schiaratta  
Emily Souders  
Flo Donohue  
Gail Lumley  
George Fitzpatrick  
Gloria Montesano  
Ginny & John Rief  
Gregory Parker  
Helen  
Harold Scott  
Jack Donohue  
Jakob King  
Jamie Accardi  
Jean Saladino  
Jenny Bonanno  
Jerry  
Joelle Nicholas  
Joni Deleo  
John Capizzio  
John Cronin  
John DeStefano  
John Maynes  
John Mattia  
Joseph  
Joe Benaburger  
Joseph Domizzio  
Judy Rampola  
Joe Dorrian  
Joseph Costa

Joseph Domizzio  
Kaitlyn Remhild  
Kathleen Draper  
Kathleen N.  
Kerry  
Karl Walz  
Kitty Cronin  
Kristin Galetta  
Laura Kennedy  
Lauretta Prague  
Laura Bode  
Leon Donach  
Lola Santangelo  
Lori Cearney  
Marjorie Fox  
Mary Monte  
Margaret Remhild  
Mark Hildreth  
Mark Wagner  
Mary Ryan  
Marie Feicco  
Maria Clark  
Maria Collaro  
Marie del Cielo  
Maureen Litten  
Mary Pinnatta  
Mary Ann Cesarski  
Mary Beth McGovern  
Matthew Parrella  
Michael Fisher  
Mike Lofaro  
Michael  
Nick Lella  
Patricia Acker  
Patricia Trippree  
Pasquale Savarese  
Pat McCumber  
Peter Donach  
Peter Portanova  
P.I.  
Ricardo Buffit  
Rob Remhild  
Riordan Cavooris  
Rogelio Martinez  
Rose  
Ryan Duffy  
Sara Jean Andersen  
Stanley Stura  
Stephen Dolce  
Susanne Smith  
Tonia Perdue  
Tara Cesarski  
Teresa Mattered  
Tina Cafaro  
Tiffany Lochan  
Thomas Lifrieri  
Tom Ryan  
Tom Focone  
Vivien & John  
Cordes  
Wayne Smith Sr.

<b>Saturday February 17th Cantor: McCulloh</b>	<i>Presider: Father Tom Lector:Merlino/Student EM:Conti/Mantia/Sisti/ Drechsler/Urce</i>	9:15am  5:00pm	<b>Sr. Nora William SUSC  Robert Koke</b>
<b>Sunday February 18th Cantor: . Meringolo</b>	<i>Presider: Father Tom Lector:Marino/Halluska EM:Koke/Portanova/Ramos/ Sehne/P. Tully</i>	8:00am	<b>For the People of SSPJ Parish</b>
<b>Cantor: Meringolo</b>	<i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Sehne/Contrino EM:Luna/McKie/Mulhall/ Orlando/Kaleita/Licari</i>	10:00am	<b>Lawrence M. Kenney</b>
<b>Cantor: Lohmann</b>	<b><u>Collective Mass</u></b> <i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Suski/Just EM:Bleggi/Rubano/ Margaret/D. Napolitano</i>	12:00pm	<b>Ruth Davila Claudia Chandler Robert James Anderson</b>
<b>Monday February 19th</b>	<b>Presidents Day</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Martin Rizzo  Steven Patterson</b>
<b>Tuesday February 20th</b>		7:30am  9:15am	<b>Living~Jental Marie &amp;Victoria Z. Living~CMR. Robert Marsh USN</b>
<b>Wednesday February 21st</b>	<b>Saint Peter Damian</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Living~Margaret Yu  Living~Chung Petersen</b>
<b>Thursday February 22nd</b>	<b>The Chair of St Peter the Apostle</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>PFC Charles Christopher Howell <u>Collective Mass:</u> Martin Rizzo</b>
<b>Friday February 23rd</b>		7:30am  9:15am	<b>Living~Minjoo An  Living~Jounku An</b>
<b>Saturday February 24th Cantor: Feeney</b>	<i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Dreschler/Thompson EM:Calderone/Byrne/ Dreschler/Urce</i>	9:15am  5:00pm	<b>Thomas Devaney  Pat Henrich</b>
<b>Sunday February 25th Cantor: Meringolo</b>	<i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Luna/Koke EM:Rizzo/Koke/Portanova/ Sehne/Sica</i>	8:00am	<b>For the People of SSPJ Parish</b>
<b>Cantor: Lupinacci</b>	<i>Presider: Father Tom Lector:Zahorodny/Smith EM:Mantia/Licari/Parish/ Clarke/Keane/McKie</i>	10:00am	<b>James Trefx &amp; Joseph Bitet</b>
<b>Cantor: Lupinacci</b>	<b><u>Collective Mass</u></b> <i>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Kenton/Rubano EM:Margaret/Rubano/ Settinieri/Consenz</i>	12:00pm	<b>Anthony Miceli Maximo Collado Anthony &amp; Filomena Mauceri</b>

# Altar Memorial For the Week of February 18th, 2024



***Our Bread & Wine  
Is Offered in Memory of,  
Marty Rizzo  
With Loving and caring prayers,  
In HIS peace,  
Lynn Sisti***

*"Often we end up being an 'imprisoning' Church which does not let the Lord out, which keeps him as 'its own', whereas the Lord came for mission and wants us to be missionaries'. May all of us, the baptized, be ready to set out anew, each according to our state in life, to inaugurate a new missionary movement, as at the dawn of Christianity!"  
Pope Francis*

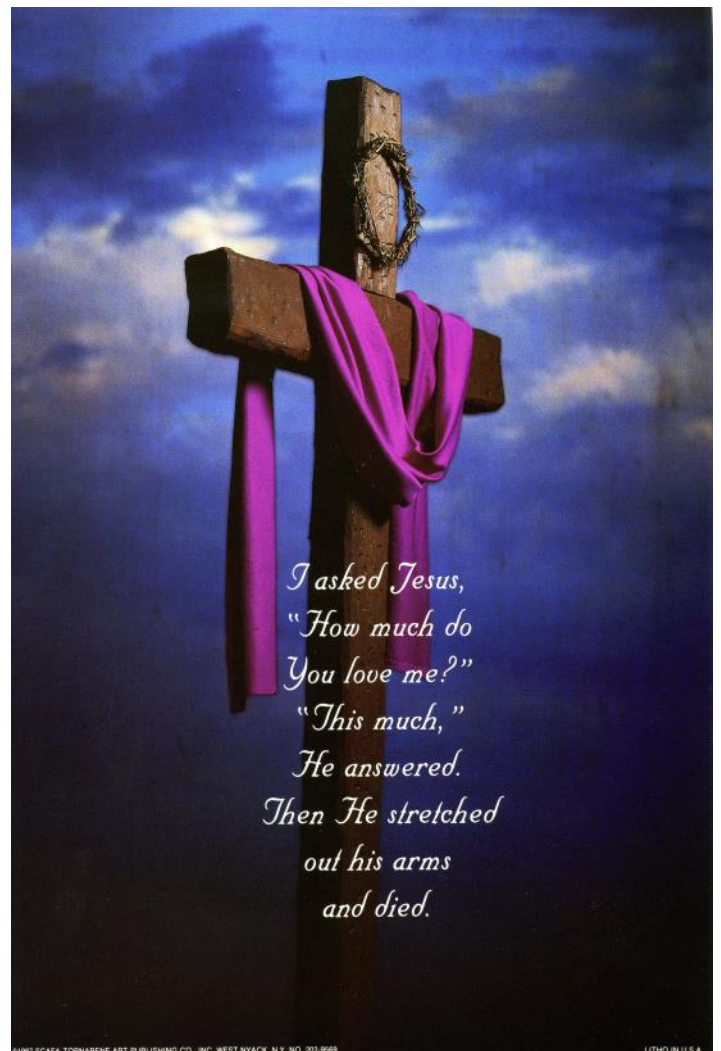


**HIS WORDS,  
YOUR JOURNEY,  
TOGETHER.**

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Here we are, The first Sunday of Lent. Time for reflection. Our presentation Song is I Say Yes by Donna Pena. We have been singing the song for a few years now so the refrain should be quite familiar. The song reminds us of our willingness to say "yes" to what God needs us to do. You can listen to the song online as well and print out the words so it will be easier to follow. We are called to be true this week and not be tempted by the devil. Give us the grace to follow your way, Lord.*

*What will you give up for Lent??  
Along with giving up something for Lent, try singing more.  
Remember "He who sings prays twice."*



*I asked Jesus,  
"How much do  
You love me?"  
"This much,"  
He answered.  
Then He stretched  
out his arms  
and died.*

## PREPARING FOR LENT...

*“Heavenly Father, grant the strength and discipline to make this Lent a time of spiritual growth. May my fasting, prayer, and almsgiving draw me closer to you.”*



## COFFEE with JESUS

Lenten Series via Zoom

Join Bishop Andrzej

10:00 am on Friday mornings during Lent:  
February 23, March 8 and March 22

Online Lenten Reflections  
on Scripture Readings,  
with the special emphasis  
on the Last Words of Jesus.

Join this great opportunity to prepare and nourish your mind,  
spirit and heart in preparation for Easter.



To register,  
please call Suzanne 516-744-6850  
or email [westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org).

Once you are registered, you will be emailed the  
ZOOM information prior to each session  
of this Lenten series.



### LENTEEN REGULATIONS

*Fast and Abstinence from meat  
are to be observed Ash Wednesday  
and Good Friday.*

*All Fridays of Lent are days of  
abstinence from meat.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD  
FRIDAY:**

*There is a limit of one full meal  
on these days for all between the  
ages of 18-59. Those exempt are  
the vulnerable, the sick, or  
mentally challenged.*

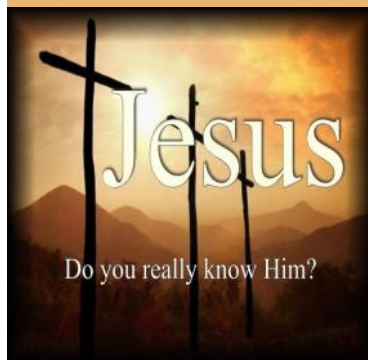
**DAYS OF ABSTINANCE:**

*All Fridays in Lent.*

*All who are 14 years of age or  
older are to abstain totally from  
meat.*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

*Every Friday in the  
Church at 7pm*



### Stations of the Cross Through the Eyes of Laudato Si

#### First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

Through our disregard for the earth, water, and air, we condemn the poor and the next generations of innocent children

to a world of suffering from environmental degradation. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis states, “The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together ... In fact, ... the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.” (LS 48)

Our society condemns the poor to polluted air from chemical factories, waste incinerators and freeways placed in their neighborhoods.

We condemn them to polluted water from the toxic chemicals disposed of in their communities. As people of faith, we are called to counter this by advocating for the poor and vulnerable who suffer from environmental pollution and unjust policies.

#### Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

Just as Jesus accepted his cross, we are called to accept the cross of repairing and renewing the earth through prayer and action. “Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone.” (LS 202)

*Laudato Si'* calls us to be open to carrying our own crosses by making difficult changes in our lives. As individuals, let us face the urgent challenges before us by accepting responsibility to develop and promote environmental justice. When we do this, we unite our sacrifices with that of Jesus on his way to Calvary. May the Holy Spirit guide us to respond to the climate crisis through prayer and action and not turn away.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL  
FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT

"I am HIS Reflection"

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2024  
FROM 10:30AM-12:30 NOON IN THE PARISH  
AUDITORIUM

JOIN US AS WE SHARE THE SEASON OF LENT TOGETHER  
WITH

PRAYER, FAITH SHARING, TEAMWORK AND  
ACTS OF LOVE IN SERVICE FOR OTHERS

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF DOLLAR STORE ITEMS SUCH AS:  
SOAP, DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, BODY LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH,  
PENS, NOTE PADS, SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER TO ASSIST OUR BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS IN NEED

PLEASE RSVP BY  
MONDAY FEBRUARY  
26TH

Jesus

FAMILY  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN  
ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE  
NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## LENTEN BOOK CLUB OFFERING



### Join the SSPJ Lenten Book Club!

The Parish Council is excited to be offering a Lenten Book Club based on the book *Beautiful Eucharist* from Dynamic Catholic. The book consists of a dozen short passages and inspiring stories from various authors who share personal encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist, provide new insights into the Mass, and inspire a deeper relationship with God. Books will be provided free of charge in the Parish Center to those who want to commit to reading and participating in the two book discussion sessions. All sessions will be held in the Philip & James Room. Session choices are:

#### Session 1:

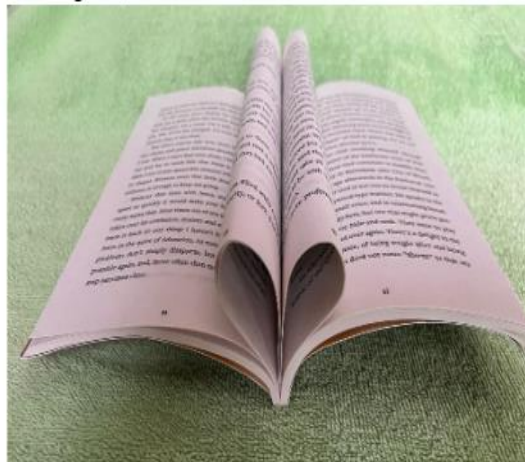
Sunday 2/25 1:00 - 2:00

Wednesday 2/28 10:00 -11:00 or 6:00 - 7:00

#### Session 2:

Sunday 3/10 1:00 - 2:00

Wednesday 3/13 10:00 -11:00 or 6:00 - 7:00





## ***INTRODUCING OUR RCIA CANDIDATES***

***PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS LENTEN SEASON***

### ***FROM KRISTINA QUADRINO***

#### **Write a little about yourself and why you came to RCIA:**

Hi everyone! I live in Setauket with my husband Brian and our dog, a mini berne-doodle, named Bonnie. I work in marketing at Northwell Health and have been an athlete my entire life — I grew up playing soccer competitively and ran the New York City Marathon, my first marathon, this past November. I started coming to SSPJ with my husband years ago and we were married here in 2022. After attending mass here consistently I quickly fell in love with the values the Roman Catholic Church embodied and wanted to fully make them part of my life.



#### **How has this process affected, touched your heart and relationship with God?**

This process has helped teach me that by showing up consistently in your faith — not just on Sundays — and by keeping God at the center of your life, your relationship with him can grow in ways you'd never imagined. As someone who used to live overwhelmed by anxiety and worry, I am in constant awe of how strengthening my relationship with God has helped me to now live with a sense of peace and comfort. RCIA has helped me to more deeply understand my Catholic values and the power of faith.

#### **Why and would you invite others to experience this RCIA process?**

I absolutely would! It has helped me develop a stronger appreciation and understanding of Roman Catholic values and traditions, and what it really means to have a relationship with God — something I think everyone could use always, but especially at this day and age.

### ***FROM NICK HOFFMAN***



**Why I came to RCIA:** I have always had a strong faith in God, however, with the birth of my children and the love of my wife, I realized that I wanted to learn more. My son, Lucas, was enrolled at the SSP J School, and I witnessed his spiritual growth firsthand. His thanks for all that is good and his praise to God is something I wanted to emulate. Through his eyes, I was seeing the grace of God. He's always expressing his gratitude and he says so often, "I'm so happy." I now see why.

#### **How has this process affected my Relationship with God?**

I find myself praying more to help others than for my own needs.

#### **Would I invite others to experience this RCIA process?**

I would invite others and have invited my best friend who is Catholic. He is going through some serious health issues. His medical treatments render him exhausted so he has not been able to attend. I've shared some of the work we are covering in class, and he is grateful. The class has enabled me to reflect on the blessings in my life. It has strengthened my relationship with God.

## ***INTRODUCING OUR RCIA CANDIDATES***

***PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS LENTEN SEASON***

### ***FROM CHRISTIE GALLINA***

#### **Why I came to RCIA:**

I currently work in the Accounting field and I am pursuing my Master's degree in Accounting. I was raised in San Diego, California and moved to New York in 2022. I came to RCIA because I wanted to learn more and become more involved in the Catholic faith.



#### **How has this process affected my Relationship with God?**

This process touched my heart because I have met so many people who all have different journeys in their life and faith, but we are all here with the purpose of strengthening our relationship with God.

#### **Would I invite others to experience this RCIA process?**

I would definitely invite others to experience RCIA. I think it's a great way to become more involved with the faith, and learn about its roots. The speakers always encourage the class to be involved and to share their thoughts, and it has been a very positive and open experience for me.

### ***FROM MARIANA AVELLAN***



**Why I came to RCIA:** I am an older sister, I attend Smithtown High School East, I have been on my school's cheer team for 3 years and I have been dancing at Chorus Line Dance Studio for 13 years. I came to RCIA because my family and I have become closer to God and more involved in the church, so we wanted me to receive all my sacraments.

**How has this process affected my Relationship with God?** I have certainly become closer to God and my relationship with Him has gotten stronger. The RCIA team has helped me learn more about my heavenly father and I look forward to every Sunday.

**Would I invite others to experience this RCIA process?** I would invite others to experience the RCIA process because of how much it really helps you know more about God. I have learned so much during class, and it is a warm welcoming environment. I've always wanted to know more about God, and I finally understand my religion more thanks to RCIA.



"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM  
BECAUSE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE."

Matthew 19:14



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES  
FOR THE WEEK OF

FEBRUARY 18TH- FEBRUARY 22ND

WILL BE ON VACATION!

WISHING OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES  
A WONDERFUL WINTER BREAK!

CLASSES WILL RESUME THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25TH

**ATTENTION SSPJ COMMUNITY!**  
**DONATE FOR OUR SCHOOL**  
**EASY AS 1, 2, 3!**

**WHAT:** "Clothing Drive" is an organization that picks up *clothing, stuffed animals and other used goods*. They will pay our school by the pound for our donations...EASY!!

*\*Please have items in bags*

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 23rd from  
9:00 am - 12:00 am  
(Drop off between these hours)

**WHERE:** Drop off location will be in the **SSPJ School** side parking lot

**HOW:** Pull up, drop off, leave, done!

**DONATION ITEMS:** **Stuffed Animals, Clothes, Bicycles, Accessories such as:** POCKETBOOKS, BELTS, BABY ACCESSORIES, BACKPACKS, HATS, SCARVES, BRIEFCASES, GLOVES, TIES, HANDBAGS  
**Household Items such as:** BLANKETS, TABLE CLOTHS, BED SHEETS, DRAPERY, CURTAINS, PILLOWS, TOWELS, QUILTS, COMFORTERS

**PLEASE DO NOT DONATE:** Hard toys, baby gear, books, pots, pans, etc...

**Please visit the website for a full listing of acceptable and non-acceptable donation items:**

[www.clothingdrive.net](http://www.clothingdrive.net)

For Questions Call or Text:  
Faye Saladino 646-573-9014



# A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AT SSPJ SCHOOL

SSPJ Family Fun  
Bingo was a big  
success!

Thank you to all  
who supported  
this event!

A great big  
**THANK YOU**  
to the  
SSPJ Youth Group  
for all their help!



SSPJ  
takes  
over the  
Rinx!

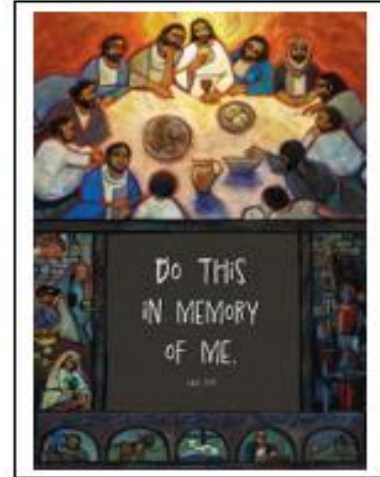
Beautiful  
night filled  
with  
fun,  
laughs  
and falls.

## PARISH LENTEN RETREAT~ A LOVE BEYOND TELLING

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH  
AT 7:00PM IN THE CHURCH

### **Lent and the Eucharist – A Love Beyond All Telling**

Looking for something to do this Lent? Consider joining us for three evenings of reflection on Jesus' words at the Last Supper, "Do this in Memory of Me." During these three evenings, March 4, 5, and 6 - at 7 pm in the church. We will explore, through prayer, ritual, and reflection, the meaning of these words that Jesus left us. The Passover meal, the bread that becomes his body, the wine that becomes his blood, the water and the basin used to wash the disciples' feet, and Jesus' death on the cross are his great gift to us and reminders of a love beyond all telling. We hope you can join us for any or all of these evenings as we seek to deepen our understanding of this great mystery of faith. ~ Tom Petriano



We encourage you to fully open yourself to receive the gift of Christ as Real Presence in the Eucharist by participating as much as you feel comfortable with during these three evenings. Each evening will be filled with music, prayer, a presentation by Tom Petriano, reflection, and gesture.

On Monday we are inviting you to reflect on what weighs you down. What heavy burden do you carry? What keeps you from receiving Christ as real presence?

Write that word or phrase (anger, envy, resentment, bitterness, etc.) on a stone and drop that stone at the foot of the cross (set up in the church lobby) turning stones into bread. We will then have the opportunity to break bread and offer hope and vision for receiving Christ as real presence and becoming Eucharist for each other.



On Tuesday we will offer Taize - Ignatian Prayer of Imagination. we ask you to bring a candle (votive in a receptacle, a Mason jar, battery operated, etc.) You will be invited to carry your light and place it around the cross during the evening. An evening of Prayer, silent meditation, reflection and song.

On Wednesday we invite you to deposit into a basket your written prayer, personal offering to bless and received others as Christ. There will be opportunity to see Christ reflected in yourself and in each other and to bless the hands that serve. Christ has no body but yours.



**We hope you join us this Lenten Retreat as we awaken and receive Christ as real presence, food for the journey.** ~ Virginia Portanova

*Please open your hearts to these beautiful ministries;*

*The Lector Ministry and the ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

*If you are feeling a calling to either, kindly write a note to Father Tom describing your desire to share your time and gifts .*

*Kindly send your letter to Father Tom by April 10th, 2024*

### Liturgical Minister Training- Spring 2024

The Diocese of Rockville Center will offer training in Spanish and English for those who wish to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. No walk-ins permitted, all participants must be registered in advance with a letter from their pastor.

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion: Part A** - This training is required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. This "BASIC" training is required for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who wish to minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to the homebound are required to attend Part B training in addition to BASIC training. One must attend Part A training prior to Part B training. A **Lector Workshop** is available for both new and experienced lectors.

### Dates and Locations for Liturgical Minister Training

#### **Training in SPANISH:**

- **Lector Workshop:** Sat., April 20 – Our Lady of Loretto / Hempstead – Divine Mercy Chapel 9:00 – 1:00 pm
- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Part A:**  
Sat., April 27 - Our Lady of Loretto/ Hempstead – Divine Mercy Chapel 9:00 – 1:00 pm

#### **Training in ENGLISH:**

- **Lector Workshop and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Part A:**  
Tuesday, April 16 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm  
Sat., April 27 – Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach - Parish Hall; 9 am – 12:00  
Tuesday, May 21 – St. Christopher/Baldwin – McGoldrick Hall; 7 pm – 10 pm  
You may register for EITHER Lector OR Extraordinary Minister training at each session.  
Doors open 30 minutes before the training start time.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Part B** – presented in conjunction with Catholic Health  
Sat., April 27\* – Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach - Parish Hall; 1 – 4 pm  
Tuesday, May 14 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm  
Tuesday, June 4 - St. Christopher/Baldwin – McGoldrick Hall; 7 pm – 10 pm

\*On April 27, we are offering Part A and Part B on the SAME day. Those who attend Part A in the morning are welcome to bring lunch or leave for lunch and return for the 1 pm Part B session. Please indicate if you are doing BOTH on your registration letter from your pastor. This will be in English only.

A letter from your pastor will be required to reserve your space at any of these trainings and must be received at least five days prior to the session you wish to attend. To request registration for any of these sessions, please contact your rectory. Do not call the host parishes with questions. For questions relating to the Spanish training, call Ingrid Oliva at 516-678-5800, ext. 560. For questions regarding the English training, call Suzanne Lynn at 516-744-6850. Thank you for your interest.

CELEBRATING SCOUT SUNDAY~ FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024  
GOD BLESS SSPJ SCOUTING TROOP~ WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO  
OUR  
PARISH FAMILY FOR  
THE GENEROSITY OF  
YOUR STEWARDSHIP.**

**OUR CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES APPEAL  
GOAL FOR 2024  
IS \$102,000**

**THE CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES APPEAL  
WILL BEGIN  
NEXT WEEKEND:  
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024**

**GOD BLESS YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILIES.**

**LET US WALK THIS  
LENTEN JOURNEY  
HOLDING OUR  
BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS WHO NEED  
BASIC LIFE  
SUSTAINING  
SUPPORT, IN OUR  
HEARTS AND IN OUR  
PRAYERS.**



**2024**

**CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES  
APPEAL**

**DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE**

*Revitalizing our Faith –  
Renewed by the Eucharist*

**Please consider making a gift to the  
2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**



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



## A REFLECTION FROM SISTER T...

Dear Friends,

How many of you are familiar with the ‘Carpenters’, singing duo’s song; **Top of the World?** Some of the words are “I’m on the top of the world lookin' down on creation and the only explanation I can find Is the love that I've found ever since you've been around Your love's put me at the top of the world ...” When you get a chance check it out, puts a smile on my face.

I mention this song because as I was listening to it, I started to think about Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. IF I have gotten my Lenten Plan ready then God has already put me on top of the world, I am beginning to deepen that relationship with Him and looking forward to that transformation that can take place within me. God’s love for me is eternal!

So with all that in mind what is Pope Francis’ first ‘BE’ Attitude?

# Be Joyful

Being joyful is one way of staying on top of the world (and your troubles). Here are a few questions to reflect on during your prayer time this first week of Lent.

- ◆ Am I willing to be a joyful witness during these weeks of Lent? How do people experience me? Am I kind, compassionate and willing to be of service to others by not preaching?
- ◆ What will I be fasting from? (complaints, anger, self-concern, negativity?) This fasting can help with our transformation. It can be harder to fast from those items rather than sweets, wine, favorite treats, TV etc.
- ◆ Will I spend this Lent walking around as if I were baptized with Lemon Juice? Love this one the best. Someone once said, “If you are Happy, please notify your face!” Can these next forty days be filled with a joyful attitude. Only you know the answer.

I pray your week is a joy filled one and that you can sing this old Carpenter’s song with your whole heart and soul. May you be with God on the top of the world!

Till next week,

Sister T



*Welcome Lenten Joy*

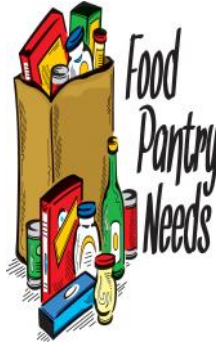


# Parish Social Ministry

## Our Food Pantry Needs:

Cherrios  
Paper Towels

*Thank you for your generosity*



*We remember the family and friends of,  
Catherine "Stella" Allegra*

*Safely Home in the arms of our Lord*

# SSPJ SENIORS

The next meeting of SSPJ Seniors will be on Monday,  
Feb. 26 from 1:30 to 3:30 in the  
Sts. Philip & James Room.



## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Invites all to consider spending some time during this Lenten season to pray for all who are being challenged caring for their families, and for those who have not been blessed with the joy of new life. Learn how you can help by calling 631-862-9370

## Helpful Phone Numbers~ YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Dept. of Social Services: 631-854-2300  
Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124  
Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827  
Alzheimer's Disease: 631-954-2323  
American Red Cross L.I.: 516-747-3500  
Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900  
Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800  
Brookhaven Youth Counseling: 631-451-8011  
Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546  
Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480  
Children's Community: 631-585-2020, 631-476-9698  
[www.childrenscommunityhs.org](http://www.childrenscommunityhs.org)  
Domestic Violence Hotline (Vibes): 631-360-3607  
Elder Abuse: 631-761-7470  
Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547  
Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542  
Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758  
Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030  
In Home Care- Home Instead: 631-724-2273  
LI Against Domestic Violence: 631-666-8833  
LI Head Start: 631-732-7100  
L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833  
Memory Care in NY: [www.memorycare.com](http://www.memorycare.com)  
Mental Health Emergency: 631-952-3333  
Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262  
Nassau/Suffolk Law: 631-232-2400  
National Aging in place-L.I. Chapter: 631-383-4341  
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-784-2433  
Office for the Aging: 631-853-8200  
Overeaters Anonymous 631-260-6615 [www.SuffolkOA.org](http://www.SuffolkOA.org)  
Rachel's Hope (Post Abortion): 888-456-4673  
Response Crisis Center: (Suicide Hotline): 631-751-7500  
The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200



## Katie's Way

Collecting new and gently used baby items and delivering them to the Life Center of Long Island. These items benefit mothers, children, and expectant mothers in need. Your donations build a community that supports mothers who choose life for their unborn children under difficult circumstances. **Suggested donation items:** Diapers, wipes, bottles. Gently used baby and toddler items such as car seats, high chairs, strollers, clothing, toys, etc. New baby and toddler items, including diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, clothing, etc. **PLEASE DROP OFF AT: 56 TILLOTSON AVENUE, ST.JAMES, NY**

## My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 1-3

The First Sunday of Lent Time ~ Sunday, February 18th, 2024

My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS: \_\_\_\_\_ SSPJ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and  
bring it to mass with you next weekend**

**Saturday, February 24th or Sunday, February 25th, 2024**

### **The Gospel Message: Mark 1:12-15**



During this season of Lent we hear about Jesus journey in the desert.

There were many obstacles that came before him, these obstacles were from an evil person who tried to trick Jesus. But Jesus knew better because he prayed to his Father.

**Dear Jesus,**

I love you and I am so grateful for all of the love you share with me.

Please help me during those times when I sometimes have a hard time making the right choices.

During this season of Lent could you please guide my footsteps and remind me

When I am worried to come back to you.

I love you.



#### **IN THE WILDERNESS**



**Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted forty days and nights. There He was tempted by the devil.**

## My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 4-6

The First Sunday of Lent Time ~ Sunday, February 18th, 2024

My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS: \_\_\_\_\_ SSPJ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and bring it to mass with you next weekend**

**Saturday, February 24th or Sunday, February 25th, 2024**

### **The Gospel Message: Mark 1:12-15**



During this season of Lent we hear about Jesus journey in the desert.

There were many obstacles that came before him, these obstacles were from an evil person who tried to trick Jesus. But Jesus knew better because he prayed to his Father.

**Dear Jesus,**

I love you and I am so grateful for all of the love you share with me.

Please help me during those times when I sometimes have a hard time making the right choices.

During this season of Lent could you please guide my footsteps and remind me

When I am worried to come back to you.

I love you.



In today's gospel, we hear that Satan tried to tempt Jesus as he traveled in the desert.

How would you describe what a temptation is?

Sometimes we are tempted when we have to choose to do the right thing or take a short cut. Can you share a time when you felt tempted?

And, how did you handle the choice you made?

## My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 7-8

The First Sunday of Lent Time ~ Sunday, February 18th, 2024

My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS: \_\_\_\_\_ SSPJ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and bring it to mass with you next weekend**

**Saturday, February 24th or Sunday, February 25th, 2024**

### **The Gospel Message: Mark 1:12-15**



During this season of Lent we hear about Jesus journey in the desert.

There were many obstacles that came before him, these obstacles were from an evil person who tried to trick Jesus. But Jesus knew better because he prayed to his Father.

**Dear Jesus,**

I love you and I am so grateful for all of the love you share with me.

Please help me during those times when I sometimes have a hard time making the right choices.

During this season of Lent could you please guide my footsteps and remind me

When I am worried to come back to you.

I love you.



Temptation is the theme of today's gospel reading. How do you define temptation?

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Sometimes we are tempted when we have to choose to do the right thing or take a short cut. Can you share a time when you felt tempted?

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And, how did you handle the choice you made?

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## Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

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

**Sunday, February 25**  
Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18  
Ps 116:10,15-19  
Rom 8:31b-34  
Mk 9:2-10

**Monday, February 26**  
Dn 9:4b-10  
Ps 79:8,9,11,13  
Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday, February 27**  
Is 1:10,16-20  
Ps 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23  
Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday, February 28**  
Jer 18:18-20  
Ps 31:5-6,14-16  
Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday, February 29**  
Jer 17:5-10  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Lk 16:19-31

**Friday, March 1**  
Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a  
Ps 105:16-21  
Mt 21:33-43,45-46

**Saturday, March 2**  
Mi 7:14-15,18-20  
Ps 103:1-4,9-12  
Lk 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:

- † 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?
- † 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? How did it impact others?

## P R A Y I N G   T H E   P S A L M S

*God behaves in the psalms in ways that God is not allowed to behave in theology.*

That quip comes from Sebastian Moore and should be highlighted at a time when fewer people want to use the psalms in prayer because they feel offended by what they sometimes find there. More and more, we see people resisting the psalms as a way to pray (or desire to sanitize them) because the psalms speak of murder, revenge, anger, violence, war-making, and patriarchy.

Some ask, how can I pray with words that are full of hatred, anger, violence, speak of the glories of war, and of crushing one's enemies in the name of God? For others, the objection is to a patriarchal coloring in the psalms – where the divine is masculine and the masculine is too-much deified. For yet others, the offense is aesthetic. Their objection: "They're bad poetry!"

Perhaps the psalms aren't great poetry and undeniably do smack of violence, war, hatred of one's enemies, and the desire for vengeance, all in the name of God. Admittedly, they're also patriarchal in character. But does that make them a bad language for prayer? Let me suggest something to the contrary.

One of the classical definitions of prayer says "prayer is lifting mind and heart to God." Simple, clear, accurate. I suggest that the actual problem is that we seldom actually do this when we pray. Rather than lifting up to God what is actually on our minds and in our hearts, we tend to treat God as someone from whom we need to hide the real truth of our thoughts and feelings. Instead of pouring out mind and heart, we tell God what we think God wants to hear – not murderous thoughts, desire for vengeance, or our disappointment with God.

But expressing those feelings is the whole point. What makes the psalms particularly apt for prayer is that they do not hide the truth from God but express the whole gamut of our actual feelings. They give an honest voice to what's actually going on in our minds and hearts.

Sometimes we feel good and our spontaneous impulse is to speak words of praise and gratitude, and the psalms give us that voice. They speak of God's goodness in everything – love, friends, faith, health, food, wine, enjoyment. But we don't always feel that way. Our lives also have their cold, lonely seasons when disappointment and bitterness simmer or rage under the surface. The psalms give us honest voice where we can open up all those simmering feelings to God. Also, there are times when we are filled with the sense of our own inadequacy, with the fact that we cannot measure up to the trust and love that's given us. Again, the psalms give us voice for this, asking God to be merciful and to soften our hearts, wash us clean, and give us a new start.

As well, there are times when we feel bitterly disappointed with God and need some way to express this. The psalms give us voice for this ("Why are you so silent?" "Why are you so far from me?") even as they make us aware that God is not afraid of our anger and bitterness; but, like a loving parent, only wants us to come and talk about it. The psalms are a privileged vehicle for prayer because they lift the full range of our thoughts and feelings to God.

However, there are a number of reasons why we struggle with that. First, because our age tends to eschew metaphor and taken literally, some of the images in the psalms are offensive. Second, we tend to be in denial about our actual feelings. It's hard to admit that we feel some of the things we sometimes feel – grandiosity, sexual obsessions, jealousies, bitterness, paranoia, murderous thoughts, disappointment with God, doubts in our faith. Too often our prayer belies our actual thoughts and feelings. It tells God what we think God wants to hear. The psalms are more honest.

To pray with full honesty is a challenge. Kathleen Norris puts it this way: If you pray regularly "there is no way you can do it right. You are not always going to sit up straight, let alone think holy thoughts. You're not going to wear your best clothes but whatever isn't in the dirty clothes basket. You come to the Bible's great 'book of praise' through all the moods and conditions of life, and while you feel like hell, you sing anyway. To your surprise, you find that the psalms do not deny your true feelings but allow you to reflect them, right in front of God and everyone." Feel-good aphorisms that express how we think we ought to feel are no substitute for the earthy realism of the psalms which express how sometimes we actually do feel. Anyone who would lift mind and heart to God without ever mentioning feelings of bitterness, jealousy, vengeance, hatred, and war, should write slogans for greeting cards and not be anyone's spiritual advisor.