

The Parish of Saints Philip and James 1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780 631-584-5454

July 17th, 2022 The Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

"Blessed are
they who have
kept the word
with a
generous heart
and yield a
harvest
through
perseverance"
Luke 8:15



"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

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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~bluna@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~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 Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

Collections: ~Thanking you for your generosity Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890

Weekly Collection: Sunday, July 10th, 2022:

Collections from Weekend masses:

\$ 8,604.

Faith Direct: (125Participants)

3,203. \$11.807.

Total Collections:

Collection for Communications:

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT

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— Monday1:30pm -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

CAPTAIN THE LY USN 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-USI 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

IAFF SG1. ANTHONY SCIAME 11A- US ARWITMARIO 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 MUMOLOLISM

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

MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN.

LIVE-STREAMING THE 8:00AM SUNDAY MASS

We have begun live-streaming of the 8am Sunday mass which is available to view on our the SSPJ Church Facebook page, while it is live at the 8am mass, it can be recalled at any time.

A Letter From Father Tom

Dear Friends,

Today's familiar gospel passage about Martha and Mary often produces quick reactions in people. Many of us are quick to take sides. "I want to be Mary." "I feel for Martha." Too quick a reaction may limit the possibilities of the message(s). Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, offers these thoughts, drawing protagonists from today's first reading, Abraham, and Sarah, into the reflection:

A word about words: another English translation of this text says Martha "welcomes" Jesus into her home. Initially Jesus and Martha are the focus of the story. In fact, Mary doesn't speak in this passage. Martha follows the Mideastern custom of extending hospitality to the traveler. We see a similar incident in the first reading as Abraham and Sarah offer welcome to the three strangers. Notice in the Genesis reading how Abraham "hastened" to tell Sarah to act "quickly" and how he "ran" to pick out a choice steer for a servant, who "quickly" prepared it. There's lots of rush and fuss in the first reading for the sake of hospitality and Abraham is not chastised for rushing about: he was doing what was expected for a traveler. Martha is also following the custom of her ancestors in faith, who were told to welcome the stranger in their midst. Both stories have a common element of welcoming the Holy One who comes as friend, or stranger. Abraham and Sarah's hospitality is blessed, for God is fulfilling the promise to them that their descendants would become a great nation (Gen. 12:1-4).

By placing the Genesis and Luke accounts together the designers of the lectionary are offering the stories as parallels. We are being invited to look more deeply into these quaint sounding domestic stories. Abraham and Sarah will have the promised flesh and blood descendants – but their true descendants will be children in the spirit who trust in the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of the covenant, who will be with the people in their faith journey. So too with Mary and Martha, we are their descendants, we who also try to have open hearts and listening ears to the "guests" we welcome into our lives. Such guests are not always the usual people we find on guest lists, those of equal social and economic ranking to our own. Rather, we who hear week after week these selections from Luke's gospel, are like Mary sitting beside the "Lord at his feet," listening to his teaching so as to learn how to "welcome" the Lord into our lives.

Martha's roles of welcome and service are important works of the church as we welcome the Lord in the stranger and person in need. There were many gifts among women in the early church, some like Mary's were quiet disciples attentive to the words of Christ; others were very active. In their own ways, both Martha and Mary welcome Christ, each has apparently heard his teachings and shown love to God and service to neighbor.

So let's not "choose" between Mary and Mary. Both are faithful disciples – as we are called to be.

And,

If you can't think of a word, simply say, "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

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

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it. A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I got up and searched with him.

Peace.

Father Tom

Mass Intentions, For the week of July 17th, 2022

Our Bread & Wine Are Offered For My Dear Son, Joey Morda "Happy Birthday in heaven" All my love, Mom

Remember in our hearts and prayers

Andy Alfred Fox Antonette Sabatino Angie Mingione Angela Amoroso Anna & Harold Clayton Arthur Gureck Austin Rocky Baby Ben Baby Penny Grace Candela Barbara Bombace Barbara Ruland Mattia Rose Lubrano Barbara Sammarco Belinda Groneman Bill Connors Brendan McAlvin Camille Staats Carol Carolyn Nehl Catherine & Jimmy Charles Figliosi Charlie Stangarone Claudia Chandler David Beleck Deacon Ron Blasius Deirdre W. Donna Patrissi Dorothy Holdorf Dorothy Mitchell Elizabeth Elizabeth Martin Ellie Walsh Emily Schiaratta Esther Styles Flo Donohue Gerald Maas Gloria Montesano Grace Bertolone Ginny & John Rief Gladys Blake Gregory Parker Helen Heidi Ray Ida Jean D'angelis Jack Donohue Jakob King Jamie Geiman Jamie Accardi Jennifer Clark Jenny Bonanno Jessica Venditto John Cronin John DeStefano John Scomillio Joseph B

Joseph H Judy Rampola Gerry F. Joe Dorrian Joseph Costa Kenneth Cook Kathleen Draper Kathleen N. Kerry Kitty Cronin Lee Krauer Lexi Dorman Leon Donach Lola Santangelo Lori Cearney Lynn McDonnell Mark Geld Margaret Remhild Mark Wagner Mary Ann Česarski Mary Monte Mary Fresi Maria Clark Maria Collaro Marie del Ciello Marilyn Suli Matthew Parrella Melissa C. Michael Fisher Michael Viviano Michele Williams Mike Lofaro Nancy & Paul Bertran Nancy Cuccinotta Patricia Tripptree Pasquale Savarese Pat LeDoux Peter Donach P.I. Ricardo Buffit Riordan Cavooris Robert Koop Ronnie Paciella Sara Jean Andersen Stanley Stura Sofia McCormick Stephen Dolce Susanne Smith Tara Cesarski Tina Cafaro Vivien Cordes Veronica Broderick Wayne Hendricks William Capurso

William Martin

11110110, 1 0	The week of Jan	9 - 7 - 7 - 7	,
Saturday July 16th	Presider: Father Ciya Lector: Dreschler/Smith EM:Mantia/Rapp/Byrne/ Damato/Duffy	9:15am 5:00pm	Lynn Gish Steven Giacoppo
Sunday July 17th	Presider: Father Ciya Lector: EM:Czujko/Kanuika/Sehne/ Sica/Tully	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lector:Geier/Latino EM: Keane/McKie/Orlando/ Sotomayer/Lombardi	10:00am	Hedwig Bucher
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector:O'Hara/Just EM:Consenz Parish Margaret	12:00рт	James Hanrahan Anthony & Bernadette Patell Antoinette Rotolo Christopher Meehan Francis Mooney Joey Morda
Monday July 18th	St. Camillus de Lellis Eucharistic Adoration Monday, July 11th, 2022 1:30-7:00pm In the Church	7:30am 9:15am	James Serno Living~Beatrice Meusburger
Tuesday July 19th		7:30am 9:15am	Mary C. Winicki Mary K. Sposato-Palamara
Wednesday July 20th	St. Apolinaris,	7:30am 9:15am	Vera & Vincent Mulvehill Jean Smith
Thursday July 21st	St. Lawrence of Brindisi	7:30am 9:15am	<u>Kenneth Rathjen</u> <u>Collective Mass</u>
Friday July 22nd	St. Mary Magdelene	7:30am 9:15am	Living~Juan Madariaga Robert Combs
Saturday July 23rd St. Bridget	Presider: Father Tom Lector:Thompson/Grimaldi EM: Rapp/Lombardi/Damato/ Drechsler/Duffy	9:15am 5:00pm	Robert W. Greene Jr. Vincent Donato
Sunday July 24th	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Halluska/Cavooris EM:Czujko/Kanuika/Kenney/ Portanova/Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
	Presider: Father Ciya Lector:Dobres/Koke EM:Keane/Amen/Latino/ Luna/Reichert	10:00am	Carol Walz and Living~Karl Walz
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Ciya Lector: Kenton/Suski EM: Napolitano Parish Samson	12:00рт	Robert (Red) Keenan James (Red) Dowling William McGrath Kenneth Rathjen Thomas Collins Laki Kotronis

SSPJ VACATION BIBLE CAMP!



CLW Proudly Presents SSPJ BIBLE CAMP 2022

We are thrilled to announce that following a two-year hiatus, SSPJ Bible Camp will return on

August 8th- August 12th

For children grades PreK-2

In the Bethany Center (Old Church)

Cost: \$50

This year's program will be full of amazing activities and focused on a "Passport to Peace" theme. A topic today that is so important for children to learn to not only be peacemakers but to also make peace a way of life.

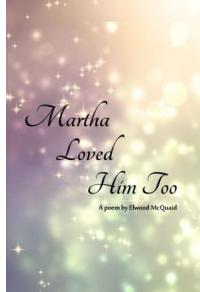
Camp starts at **9:30AM** and begins with a morning prayer— Each day the children will start with one of the following activities (everyday will be different).

- Crafts
 Each child will receive a "Passport" that will be stamped daily to show their activities.
- Skits (sing-along/dance)
- Bible Story/Summer Read
- Puppet Show
- Outdoor play activities
- And More
- Camp concludes at 12:00PM with a closing prayer.
 *Snack is also included (pretzels and bottled water).



If you are interested in registering your child, please provide the following information by <u>July 27th</u> as spots are limited and we also want to ensure that we have the required volunteers needed. Thank you for your cooperation and we hope to see you this summer!

Child's Name:	Grade in September	2022
Child's Name:	Grade in September	2022
Parent Name:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Parent Name:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:



We've been too hard on Martha Because of that rebuff. I think somehow we feel She didn't love her Lord enough.

No, quite to the contrary,
Martha's love was such
That in her eagerness to serve,
She tried to do too much.

For there's a time for serving, And there's a time for rest. Everything in season; Choosing what is best.

That hour had its "good part" In sitting at His feet, Taking in the blessed Word Which is our bread and meat.

Things must stay in balance, So let us pray from youth: "God, give me Martha's diligence And Mary's love for truth."

Music Ministry

Our weekend focus welcoming....in our own way. We all have different sets of gifts that make the world a better or more welcoming place for each of us.

Our Gathering hymn is "All are Welcome". We are all welcome in God's house.

This is one of my favorite songs. If you read the words, it welcomes us to God's house all in different ways. We are building God's house.

Perfect Gathering hymn, it says it all!!

SUMMER GOSPEL REFLECTION~

Mary listened so intently to every word Jesus shared with her. Her Sister Martha loved Jesus, but was always busy taking care of the house, cooking and trying to be a good servant to everyone around her.

Todays gospel reminds us that Jesus loves us all, but he also reminds us that we must always start the day with a prayer of thanks and offering of our hearts to follow his will with a heart full of love...

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for this beautiful day, for the birds that sing and the flowers that dance to the gentle summer breezes.

Please keep my heart close to you this day so that I may hear your gentle voice as I travel along my way.

I love you Jesus!

Amen



At the Feet of Jesus

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 10:38-42



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В	Α	0	Р	R	Ε	Т	В	F	R	U	Т	J	U	K
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FEET	NEEDED	WOMAN	NEEDED	MARY
CHOSEN	MARTHA	SISTER	JESUS	UPSET
THING	HELP	BETTER	WORRIED	WORK

Celebrate SSPJ School SAVE THE DATES

9/25/22 Mass & BBQ



11/25/22 Comedy Night

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education

5/3/23

Gala

https://www.facebook.com/SSPJ-Alumni-Friends-101521398508292



Today we are at 94% OF GOAL!! THANK YOU! OUR PLEDGES ARE ONLY \$6,030 AWAY FROM OUR GOAL!!! **Every little sacrifice touches so many lives....**

MIGHT WE BE ABLE TO OFFER JUST A SMALL PIECE OF OUR TREASURE TO LIFT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?



"ONLY BY LOVING, SERVING OTHERS, CAN PEOPLE COME TO KNOW GOD."

Pope Francis







Your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps our Parish Outreach and Catholic Charities Programs serve people in our community by providing food, clothing, shelter, counseling, and care. And most importantly, it lets those we serve know that God loves them and is with them during the difficult times in their lives.

in the Lives of Others. Parish:	Pledge	\$
	DESCRIPTION AND DESCRIPTION	
Name:	Down Paymen	t \$
Address:		
City, State, Zip:	Balance	\$
Phone:		
Phone:		
EMAIL:		

AS OF: 7/12/22 **GOAL!** \$102,000 \$95,970. \$79,525

A Reflection from Sister T

Dear Friends,

Summer is a great time for walks on the beach. Early morning or late evening strolls are also popular. The time of the year can bring out the walker in us. The only way we can enjoy the beauty of the walk and experience God's beauty is by being aware and taking one step forward at a time. This brought me



to a meditation found in Joyce Rupp's book **Prayers** of **Boundless Compassion**.

The meditation centers around this quote from 1 John 2:3-11: "Whoever claims to abide in Jesus ought to walk just as He walked". The meditation asked each of us to stand, and after each of the statement to take one step forward. I share with you some of her statements, asking that you do as she suggests, and then perhaps add some of your intentions which come to mind and may lay on your heart.

I step forward in my life with the desire to be a compassionate presence.

(Reflect, take a step forward)

I step beyond what stops me from bringing loving-kindness to those whose lives are in need of it.

(Reflect, take a step forward)

I step into our hurting world with the realization of my profound connection with each suffering part of it.

(Reflect, take a step forward)

I step readily into daily tasks and responsibilities, trusting that whatever is done with kindliness and consideration can be of significant value.

(Reflect, take a step forward)

I step past my hesitations and inadequacies, trusting I have within me what I need to be a compassionate presence.

(Reflect, take a step forward)

What are some of the steps forward that you are willing to take? Each of us has our own path that has not been walked by another. Deliberate reflection, honesty, and taking a step forward will help us to walk like Jesus and walk toward Him on the path God created for us.

I pray that this week you are able to take many walks and pray each step forward. The Spirit is with you!

Till next week, Sister Theresita



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

FOR: 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

HAS BEGUN!

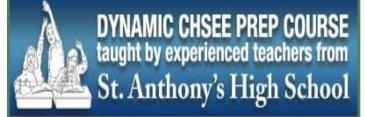
REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE WEBSITE: SSPJ.ORG

SELECT: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ALL FAMILIES MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE PARISH IN ORDER TO REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

ANY QUESTIONS, KINDLY CONTACT THE RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE AT 631-584-3204





CALL DACTEST PREP for an application

631-663-3303

FOR NEW SAT COURSES SEE OUR WEBSITE! SPACE IS LIMITE CALL TODAY!

TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION VISIT US AT: www.dactestprep.com

DAC TEST PREP, P.O. Box 134, Kings Park, NY 11754

Everyone is Called to be an Apostle of Hope

If you are interested or have any questions please contact the following Ministry Leaders:

Usher Ministry~ srtheresita@sspj.org Lector Ministry ~ rbyrne@sspj.org Eucharistic Minister~ frjoe@sspj.org Cantor ~ sspjmusicministry@gmail.com **Religious Education** religioused@sspj.org **Children's Liturgy** srtheresita@sspj.org Youth Ministry ~ davento@sspj.org Out-Reach to the Homebound ~ lsisti@sspj.org Gardening Ministry ~ vportanova@sspj.org

Office volunteer~ vportanova@sspj.org

SAVE THE DATE!

SSPJ SECOND ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 9TH

4 - 8 PM.

SSPJ TOWNE SQUARE

(AUDITORIUM)



Live Band, Dancing, entertainment, games for the kids...and of course Food glorious

Follow our bulletins for Sponsor Opportunities to help defray the cost!

Donations of German Beers, Beverages!

Volunteer opportunities to help set up, serve and so much more....

LET THE FUN BEGIN! lass den Spaß beginnen

Parish Social Ministry



We Remember...

Donald Bostwick

Safely home in the arms of Jesus...

Our Food Pantry Needs:

Dinty Moore Stew

Thank you for your generosity and support

Our Lady's Rosary Makers

Members of Our Lady's Rosary Makers at Sts. Philip & James Parish have been very busy. They create and send Rosaries to the missions throughout the year. Since their inception, more than 75,000 have been shipped all over the world and throughout the United States.

Their mission ensures that our Blessed Mother Mary continues to be revered around the globe. To continue this work they need additional members.

All are welcome to join in this special endeavor. If interested please call Parish Social Ministry and leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted.

Buy used items when feasible, and if possible, repair rather than replace broken items. In most cases this will save money and also preserve resources and reduce overall consumption.



Opportunities for Apostles of Hope

- ~<u>Telephone Ministry~</u> Checking in and spreading cheer through a simple call of love and compassion
- ~ Occasional Transportation ~ to Church, Stores, and Medical appointments
- <u>~Eucharistic Ministers</u>~Sharing Holy Communion with those who are homebound.

Please contact Parish Social Ministry at 584-5454.

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

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 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

Rachel's Hope (Post Abortion): 888-456-4673

Response Crisis Center: (Suicide Hotline): 631-751-7500 The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200



Natural Family Planning Week begins on July 23 and ends on July 31.

Married couples are encouraged to explore this program which offers:

- Shared responsibility between partners
 - Increased communication between partners
 - No harmful side effects
- Increased understanding of the cycle of fertility, and of each cycle's unique characteristics

GOOD News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138:1-3,6-8 Colossians 2:12-14 Luke 11:1-13

Monday July 25 St. James

2 Corinthians 4:7-15 Ps 126:1bc-6 Matthew 20:20-28

Tuesday July 26 Sts. Joachim and Anne Jeremiah 14:17-22

Ps 79:8,9,11,13 Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday July 27

Jeremiah 15:10,16-21 Ps 59:2-4,10-11,17,18 Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday July 28

Jeremiah 18:1-6 Ps 146:1b-6ab Matthew 13:47-53

Friday July 29 Sts. Martha, Mary, Lazarus

Jeremiah 26:1-9 Ps 69:5,8-10,14 John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42

Saturday July 30

Jeremiah 26:11-16,24 Ps 69:15-16,30-31,33-34 Matthew 14:1-12 In Luke 11:1-13, Jesus teaches us how to pray with faith. The "bread" that runs as a theme in this scripture is the life of holiness. The "Bread of Life" is Jesus. The gift of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, is a holy life.

Notice also that the visitor in the parable is a friend of God, not a stranger, who wants to share the bread with another friend. This represents a baptized Christian who wants to share the friendship of God ("three loaves" – the Trinity) with others, but he or she is inadequate for the task.

When we knock on the door to God's heart seeking help for our inadequacies, the Father gives us his fully adequate Holy Spirit. And that's not all we get! Whenever we pray, this Holy Spirit connects us to the Father and to Jesus. Therefore, every prayer increases our holiness, brings us closer to God and empowers us to be more like Jesus. But holiness does not come quickly nor easily. We must

be persistent in our prayer lives. We must continually rely on God's Spirit in order to resist temptations and grow in faith.

No matter what we ask God to share with us, including the material things that we need or desire, God wants to use it to nourish our souls. This is what we ask for when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Be persistent. Receiving God's bread takes time (we're slow learners).

It's the devil who says we can have everything we ask for as fast as

we want it. New Age and occult practices are fast-food spiritualities that are riddled with the dangerously unhealthy fat of false beliefs. They lack the growth in holiness that we can only receive from the Holy Spirit. Many people turn to the occult because they don't have the desire to do the hard work of holiness.

The supernatural adequacies of the Holy Spirit are ours for the asking, because we already received the Holy Spirit during baptism. However, to live in God's supernatural power, we have to pray persistently, identify our sins and repent, and humbly open ourselves to the holiness of the Holy Spirit.

Reflect & Discuss:

- How much do you rely on the Holy Spirit's help in your daily life?
- How often do you humble yourself before the Lord in prayer and ask for an increase of holiness?
- Describe your prayer life. How does it help you become holier in your daily activities?
- 4. How has the Holy Spirit purified you?

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Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

COPING WITH OUR OWN SOULS

We have many photographs of Therese of Lisieux. Her sister Celine loved using a camera and took many photos of Therese, but there's an interesting thing to note in those photos. The British Carmelite Ruth Burrows once did a study of those photos and commented that in all of them, Therese is always somehow alone, by herself, even when in a group photo.

Here's the anomaly. Therese was a warm, friendly person with good social skills, who was loved by many. Yet in almost all the photographs of her, even when she is pictured together with family members whom she loved deeply, there is always a certain loneliness, an aloneness, that's evident. However, the loneliness she exhibits there is not the aloneness of someone at odds with family and community, but a certain distance of soul, something that might be termed moral loneliness. What is this? Can our souls be lonely even while we are bathed in friendship, love, and family?

Yes, that's true for all of us, was true for Therese of Lisieux, and was true for Jesus.

Looking at the Gospel narratives that describe Jesus' passion and death, we see that what they emphasize in not Jesus' physical suffering. While those sufferings must have been horrific, the gospels never dwell on them. What they highlight is Jesus' emotional suffering, his aloneness, his loneliness of soul as he endured his suffering and death. They point out how, in his needlest hour, while alone, abandoned, betrayed, misunderstood, humiliated, and in effect *unanimity-minus-one*, he was suffering more in soul than in body.

Luke's Gospel tells us that his agony took place in a garden. This too is revealing. Jesus had agonies elsewhere, in the temple, in the desert, and in his hometown, but his most searing one took place in a garden. Why a garden? As we know, in archetypal literature, gardens are not for growing vegetables, but for delight. The archetypal garden is the mythical place of delight, where lovers meet, where friends drink wine together, and where Adam and Eve were naked, innocent, and didn't know it. The Jesus who sweats blood in the garden of Gethsemane is not Jesus the *Teacher*, Jesus the *Magus*, Jesus the *Healer*, or Jesus the *Miracle-worker*. In the garden, he is Jesus the *Lover*, the one who delights in love and who suffers in love – and it's to this garden of suffering, intimacy, and delight to which he calls us.

The gospels emphasize that what Jesus suffered most deeply in his crucifixion was not the pain of being scourged and having nails driven through his hands, but a deep loneliness of soul that dwarfs even the most intense physical pain. Jesus wasn't a physical athlete, but a moral one, doing battle in the arena with soul.

What's moral loneliness?

I first encountered this term in the writings of Robert Coles, who used it to describe Simone Weil. What it suggests is that inside each of us there's a deep place, a virginal center, where all that's tender, sacred, cherished, and precious is held and guarded. It's there that we are most genuinely ourselves, most genuinely sincere, most genuinely innocent. It's where we unconsciously remember that once, long before consciousness, we were caressed by hands far gentler than our own. It's where we still sense the primordial kiss of God.

In this place, more than any other, we fear harshness, disrespect, being shamed, ridiculed, violated, lied to. In this place we are deeply vulnerable and so we are scrupulously careful as to whom we admit into this space, even as our deepest longing is precisely for someone to share that place with us. More than we yearn for someone to sleep with sexually, we yearn for someone to sleep with there, morally, a soulmate. Our deepest yearning is for moral consummation.

But this isn't easy to find. Rare is the perfect moral partner, even inside of a good marriage or friendship. And so we perennially face a double temptation: Resolve the tension by settling for certain compensations, tonics, that help us make it through the night or, perhaps worse, because the pain is too much to live with, giving ourselves over to bitterness, anger, and cynicism, thus denigrating the great dream. Either way, we sell ourselves short and settle for second best.

What's to be learned from Jesus' struggle with moral loneliness? This: he refused both the road of compensatory tonics and that of soul-hardening cynicism. He stayed the course and carried the tension to term.

Our own moral loneliness can be tyrannical. However, that's not a license or invitation to begin jettisoning commitments, responsibilities, morals, and whatever else it takes to try to find that elusive soulmate for whom we yearn so deeply. What Jesus (and persons like Therese of Lisieux and Simone Weil) model is how to carry that tension ideally, how to carry our solitude at a high level, and how to resist, no matter the pain, calling second-best by any other name than second-best.