



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

Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2018



Patience

"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

Sunday ~ Closed

Monday: 9am-8pm

Parish Center office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-8pm

Thursday: 9am-5pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 10am-2pm

Parish Center Phone ~ 631-584-5454

Parish Center Fax~ 631-862-9675

Web ~ www.sspj.org

Pastoral Team

Father Tom Haggerty
Father Patrick Osei-Poku
Deacon Ronald Blasius
Deacon John Keenan
Deacon Ken Maher
Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN
Margaret Adams
Virginia Portanova
John Cordes
Lynn Sisti
Charlotte Czujko
Barbara Luna
Dominick Avento
Catherine Darrow
Frank Brancaccio

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Pastoral Associate
Music Director
Business Manager
Director of Facilities
Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry
Religious Education Coordinator Grades 1-2
Religious Education Coordinator Grades 3-6
Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-8
Religious Education Administrator
Youth Minister

Pastoral Council

Claire DiCarlo, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Kelsey Greco, Cynthia Lombardi,
Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Connor Donnelly, Paul Damato, Maureen Burke
Michael Sharkey

Trustees

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

SSPJ School—Principal Diane M. Anderson

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

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 12:00mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

RCIA— 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— Thursday 2-4pm Friday 8-9pm

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

In his publication "First Impressions", Fr. Jude Siciliano quotes Fr. Robert Waznak who gives some good directions for Apostles of Hope:

In an Advent homily, Robert Waznak, SS, tells us something he saw that sparked his Advent hope. He was driving by an elementary school and saw a teacher with her class of students. They weren't putting up Christmas lights, or a Santa display. Instead, they were digging holes in the newly-frozen ground to plant a tiny bulbs for the coming of Spring. "She was teaching them something about expecting promises to be fulfilled".

This is what prophets like Baruch do – preach hope. Baruch was speaking to a decimated people who saw nothing good to hope for in their future. Still, he dug holes in the hard-packed earth of his people's despair by his preaching. The Babylonians were about to destroy the southern kingdom of Judah and Jerusalem and then take the leading citizens into exile. The defeated people in exile would need Baruch's dazzling promises, "For God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory with God's mercy and justice for company."

Unexpectedly last Thursday we were notified by the Ursuline Sisters in Blue Point that they were having an estate sale as they prepare to move from their motherhouse. The sale took place the following day! We were able to purchase the altar and ambo used by the sisters in their retreat center. These will be used downstairs in the auditorium, thus enhancing the sacredness of our gatherings there. You will also notice that the cross in the auditorium has been replaced with one that is more proportional to the size of the room, also adding to the prayerful environment.

We were also able to acquire from the sisters a number of crucifixes which will be placed in the Bethany Center classrooms. If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of these acquisitions, perhaps as a memorial donation, please contact the rectory.

On the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, Wednesday, December 12th, we are very happy to host the school Christmas concert at 7pm in the church. All of us are welcome to attend.

On Monday evening, December 17th, at 7pm in the church we will again celebrate our Communal Reconciliation Service. Come, celebrate this wonderful sacrament as we *ready the way of the Lord!*

Many thanks to all who are supporting our Pick A Star program as we attempt to share the blessings we have received with others who may be less fortunate. This is a beautiful way to honor the presence of Emmanuel - God-with-us.

As we get closer to Christmas day many more people will gather to celebrate with us. I ask you to please be attentive and welcoming to all. Our warm smiles and hearty voices can encourage those around us to enter more fully into the liturgy, allowing God's love to be born anew in each of us.

And,

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

Peace,

Father Tom

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

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

Through the stewardship of our parishioners, we have been able to provide the following services to our members and larger communities:

September 01, 2017-August 31, 2018

<u>Sacraments</u>		<u>Outreach</u>		<u>Funerals</u>
<u>Baptism</u>	81 Children	Total Children Assisted	196	92 Families were assisted by the Parish Ministry of Consolation
<u>First Communion</u>	112 Children	Total Adults Assisted	462	
	2 Adults	Total Seniors Assisted	283	
<u>Confirmation</u>	201 Children			
	2 Adult	15 Families were assisted at Easter		
<u>Matrimony</u>	23 Couples	21 Families were assisted at Thanksgiving		
		25 Families and 6 Organizations were assisted at Christmas		

In Our Family of Faith Formation

989 Religious Education students were served by 88 Catechists.

181 children attended SS. Philip & James School – 113 from within our parish, 56 from neighboring parishes, and 12 children who are not of the Catholic faith

SS Philip & James is served by 130 Eucharistic Ministers and 35 of them serve homebound parishioners as well as senior residents of St. James Health Care, Mills Pond Nursing Home, and Smithtown Health Center.

Our Parish is also blessed with 41 lectors, 17 student lectors, 27 ushers, and 94 altar servers (85 children and 9 adult)

The Stewardship and so much more was provided by:
4,000 Registered Families

God Bless you and God Bless SS. Philip & James

Our Parish, Our Faith, Our Family



When we respond generously to God's call we create a beautiful community in which the vision, light and life of Christ is alive and on fire in our parish and within each one of us.

Building a parish reaches far beyond the refurbishing of a building, installing a new HVAC system or beautifying our parking lot.

This has been a terrible scandal ridden year for the Catholic Church and yet we pledge ourselves to the hard and necessary work of reformation. The universal church has made that pledge and we have acted on that pledge here at SSPJ.

Numbers have dwindled throughout the Catholic world in both attendance and financial support. The hard truth is that we cannot do it without your increased support. The church faces the same budgetary issues as you do. The ever-rising cost of heating and electricity puts a tremendous strain on our budget. The unfortunate escalation of violence in our country necessitates the need for new and updated security measures within our campus. Changes in FCC requirements occasion a minimal \$50,000 upgrade to our sound systems. To maintain our budget and allow for the increase in the new minimum wage there was a need to reduce the office hours.

We are happy to report that with the assistance of many volunteers and a strong hold on a very tight budget the parish was able to finish our fiscal year in the black with a small margin of \$18,000.

Our school last year experienced a decrease in enrollment which led to a deficit of \$43,000. With a strong new school administration, we have seen that reversed and are confident in the continued growth of our school. A nursery school program has been initiated and we have seen an increase in enrollment in all grade levels.

The Diocese mandates that 15% of our yearly revenue be used to support a parish or regional school. The school administration, faculty and parents are very aware of the tremendous support the parish offers them and in addition to their tuition they are mandated by the diocese to raise \$100,000 through fundraising to off-set the operational cost of the school.

While sincerely thanking you for your support of the parish we respectfully ask that if possible you might consider increasing your support by 3-5 dollars per week. We need your help and support to continue to build up the gospel vision given to us by Jesus, our Lord.



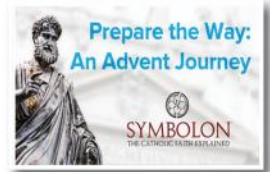
Prepare the Way

An Advent Journey for Our Parish

Week One: The Story of Salvation

God, who is infinitely perfect and happy in himself, freely created us to share in his own goodness and love. However, we disobeyed him and refused to give ourselves in love. This sin broke our relationship with God, our relationships with one another, brought death into the world, and wounded our human nature, leaving us with the inclination to sin. How can we get ourselves out of this dire predicament?

This week, login to formed.org, go to the "Study" section and watch *Prepare the Way*, Session 4.



FORMED®

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING

DR. SCOTT HAHN



Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today, reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.



Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe is the true story of how the Blessed Mother chose a hero for a key role in a beautiful miracle that would unite diverse peoples and change the course of history. In the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the miracle of the tilma of Juan Diego may still be seen, just as it was seen by the bishop in 1531.

Prayer for the Second Week of Advent

O God of comfort,
on this Second Sunday of Advent,
through the example of Isaiah the prophet,
you remind us of your loving presence in our lives
as we light our second Advent candle.

As did those during the time
when Jesus walked the earth,
we live in fearful times of great uncertainty.
We find ourselves longing for
your promise of old
when "Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;

the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley."

As we continue our Advent journey to
Christmas,

Open our hearts to your comfort,
to knowing your merciful love for us.
Let your love take root in our hearts
to grow strong against any fear and doubt.
Make us bold in being able to share that
love
with others, especially those who need it
most.

Form us to be your missionary disciples.

We ask this through Jesus,
who experienced your comfort and peace
in troubling times.

Amen.

Maryknoll Missions

Second Collection This Weekend: For Religious Retirement Fund

During the weekend of December 8th and 9th, the Diocese of Rockville Centre will participate in the National Religious Retirement Annual Collection for senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Our parishioners have always been most generous to the retired religious collection that we conducted for many years; our hope is that they will continue to support this worthy collection on behalf of the religious men and women who have devoted their lives to serving us.

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little or no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

Hospitality Sunday This Weekend, December 8th & 9th

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

***A wonderful opportunity for a light
breakfast and fellowship***

Offered after the 8am and 10am masses

Please treat yourself and bring a friend !

Stained Glass Club Sale

**Next Weekend December 15th & 16th
After All the Masses**

**Please stop by and support them by
purchasing
some unique pieces of art!**



Faith Formation Religious Studies Program Beginning in January, 2019 At Sts. Philip & James Parish

The Religious Studies program offers formation and certification— including Basic and Advanced Certificates for Catholic Lay Adults who serve in catechetical ministry. The program includes professional and pastoral formation opportunities. It is also open to all those interested in enriching their knowledge of the faith.

The Basic Studies courses include:

Old Testament ~ January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 2019

Participants will be introduced to the basic principles in the Old Testament

New Testament ~ March 5, 12, 21, 28 and April 4, 2019

Participants are introduced to the basic principles in the New Testament

Christology ~ April 30, May 7, 14, 21 and 28

An introduction to the Principles of Christology

Church ~ August 27, September 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2019

Liturgy & Sacraments ~ October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 27

Morality

Spirituality and Morality

Future dates will be announced in upcoming bulletin publications and on the Diocesan website: www.drvc-faith.org

If interested please contact the Parish Center at 631-584-5454

**2018 Christmas Tree
Lighting**

Lights of Love Memorials are due no later than: Thursday, December 13th



"Shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life" Phil 2:15

Christmas Memorials ~ Lights of Love

*This year we offer a new opportunity to remember in your hearts
"the lights of your loved ones" during this holiday season.*

*Our Christmas tree located on the front lawn of the rectory is lit with the memory of
our loved ones*

*Those who wish to remember their loved ones with this special tribute, are asked to
complete the form below and return it to the Parish center office by*

December 14th to be printed in our Christmas bulletin

*There is a **\$5.00** donation per each name being memorialized
All "Lights of Love" names will be published in our
Christmas bulletin*

"Let their lights shine not only in our hearts, but, in our Parish"

Lights of Love Memorial

Let the Light
of: _____

Illuminate the SSPJ Christmas Tree this Christmas season and in my heart.

Remembered by: _____

Contact#: _____

Amount Paid: Number of Names _____ x \$5.00 per name = Total Enclosed
\$ _____

*Please place this form in an envelope with payment and return to Parish center office by: Thursday
December to be published in the Christmas bulletin*

Parish Social Ministry

Our Parish Pick A Star Tradition Continues

All Pick A Star Gifts must be present by the weekend of December 15th & 16th
To enable timely delivery for Christmas

Our Pick A Star Tree is located at the front of the church near the statue of St. Joseph

Please choose the star (s) indicating items you would like to purchase for someone in need.

Kindly place your gift in a unwrapped box or gift bag

Place the original gift star tag securely to the gift.

The color of the ornament indicates it's destination.

Please place unwrapped gift cards in the basket near the
Pick-A-Star tree at week-end masses only.

Or drop off at the Parish Center.

Our gifts will be delivered on Monday, December 17th to the following:

Hope House, Pax Christi, St. Christopher Otilie Family Services, The Learning Center,
Children's Liturgy, Echo Arms, and Sr. Michelle Bremer, CSFN.

As always, thank you and God Bless you for your generosity.

Save the Date!!!

Next Busy Parents Retreat

Is on December 12th, 2018 at
10:00am in the Bethany Center with Sister T



RCIA, where is Leo?

Sister T: I wonder where Leo is? Oh, I forgot he is away on business. Well that is good I need to get things ready for next week and beautiful Rite of Acceptance of our Catechumens and Candidates that will take place at the 10 AM Mass. It will be a delight to have our parish community welcome them. I hope Leo is back in time to be with us. Till next week, blessings all.



*The Parish of
Saints Philip and James*

*One Carow Place
Saint James N.Y. 11780*

*Music Ministry
presents*

*A Christmas Concert
December 16, 2018*

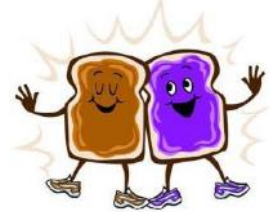
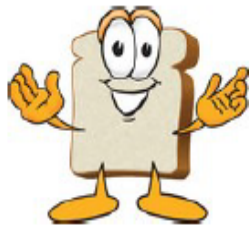
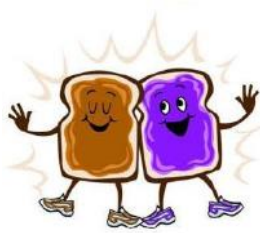
6:30pm

in the Church

Free Admission

*This is our Christmas gift to you, so
plan on joining us for a special evening of
spiritual, seasonal favorites, and
our annual sing-along.*

*Please make time to join us for an evening
Of music.*



PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY GANG SUNDAYS

"When did we see you hungry and feed you?"

What is this? A service opportunity aimed at feeding the hungry on Long Island by making sandwiches for distribution to local social service agencies.

When? Sunday- December 16, 2018

Time? 11:15 to 12:30 (Check in at 11:00, after 10:00 am Mass)

Where? Auditorium

Who? Any person or family with a desire to make a difference in the community.

****Volunteers are asked to bring four loaves of WHOLE WHEAT bread, one jar of jelly and two jars of smooth peanut butter.** In addition, any youth volunteers are to be picked up in front of SSPJ School on Clinton Ave. at 12:15-12:30

******WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF BOXES TO TRANSPORT OUR SANDWICHES.WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMPUTER PAPER BOXES WITH LIDS TO BE DROPPED OFF IN THE AUDITORIUM THE MORNING OF THE PBJ SESSION. THANK YOU!!**

If you are interested in our next Peanut Butter Sunday, please complete the registration form which can be obtained at the Pastoral Center. Kindly register before Wednesday Dec. 12, 2018

Bookkeeper

The Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, Office of Parish Support, is seeking Bookkeepers to provide bookkeeping and accounting services to a select group of parishes and schools. Full time and part-time positions; 21 to 25 hours per week, are available. Regular travel to assigned parishes and schools required.

Position Requirements - Associate degree, preferably in the discipline of accounting or bookkeeping preferred, Knowledge of Microsoft Office software products, Good verbal and written communications skills, Quickbooks experience a plus.

Please email your cover letter and resume, in word format as an email attachment, to employment@drvc.org. Please note "Parish Support – Bookkeeper" in the subject line. Or mail/fax to Human Resources Department: Diocese of Rockville Centre, P O Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 - Fax: 516-678-9566.

Silver Chords Christmas Concert
Sunday December 9, 2018
At 2pm
Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church
16 Browns Road, Bellport

Banns of Marriage

First

Andrew Ward ~ St. James Parish
To
Casey Pollack

Second

Matthew Vohlidka
To
Melissa Christy ~ SSPJ



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 1, 2, & 3
(To be completed Only if your child was unable to attend
Children's Liturgy of the Word for the weekend of December 8th & 9th
at either the 10am Sunday mass or 5:00pm Saturday evening mass)
PLEASE BRING TO MASS ON DECEMBER 15TH & 16TH



My Name Is: _____

I Am In Grade: _____

My Catechist "Teacher's" Name Is: _____

This weeks Gospel:

John the Baptist preaches
repentance to help prepare
the way of the Lord

~ Luke 3:1-6

Second Sunday
of Advent

Prayer

Dear Jesus, you
entered our
world on Christ-
mas as the
Prince of Peace.
This Advent, as
we strive to be-
come the-best-
version-of-
ourselves, fill us
with a deep and
abiding peace.
Help us share
that peace with
everyone we
encounter, es-
pecially those
who need it
most.

Amen.



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JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4

What fills your heart with joy?



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION:

GRADES: 4, 5 & 6



My Name IS: _____

I AM IN GRADE: _____

MY TEACHERS NAME IS: _____

Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 9th, 2018
John the Baptist preaches repentance to help prepare the way of the Lord ~ Luke 3:1-6

Please return your reflection to mass on the week-end of **December 15th & 16th.**



Second Sunday of Advent Prayer

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most.

Amen.

J B J W W F I U R G D B I H K
J O E L U R C O Z U C Z Y N F
B T R P Z V A V P Z E P M T U
A Z C D P W P F O R E P E N T
P S J R A R E R Z I Q E I V A
T G N Y O N E E E I C B H A P
I A G B K O V P O A A E S L V
S I W Y V I K H A L C G D L B
M K X V G E Q E O R E H R E T
D R Q R S I N S D S E S I Y T
N E O Q S T R A I G H T R N A
K F S U E M L Y S A X Q O X G
B X O E G C A L L I N G O G F
N M O I R H Z Q O E M L R N R
O K E C H T M M S M O O T H W

VOICE	ROUGH	FORGIVE	PREACHING	STRAIGHT
JORDAN	VALLEY	DESERT	REPENT	SINS
PREPARE	CROOKED	SMOOTH	BAPTISM	CALLING

This Second Sunday of Advent, I will try to make good choices

By: _____



Saints Philip and James RC Church
1 Carow Place, St. James, New York 11780
(631) 584-5454



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTIONS
Confirmation I & II (Grades 7 & 8)

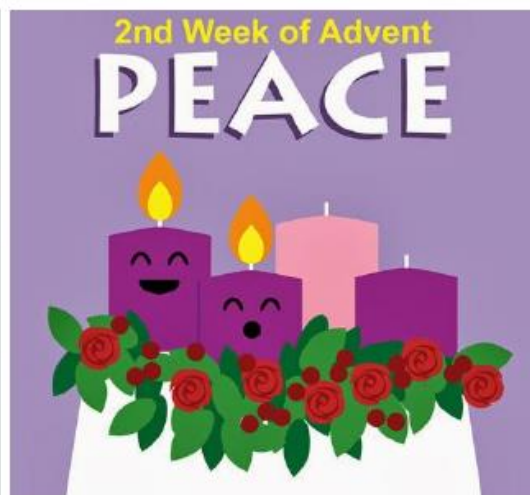
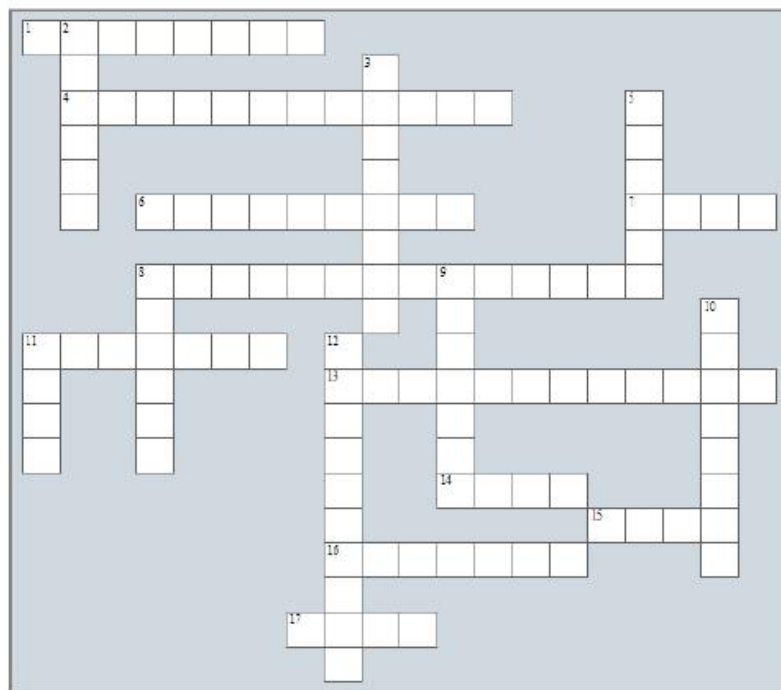
Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Teacher/Catechist: _____

The SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT, December 8th / 9th, 2018

PLACE COMPLETED PAPER IN THE "APOSTLE OF HOPE BASKET" AT MASS NEXT WEEKEND (Dec 15/16)

Advent Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Famous saint, who is associated with Christmas, whose feast is celebrated during Advent
4. Popular evergreen family devotion used during Advent (2 words)
6. Church holiday right after Advent
7. "Our _____ of Guadalupe," Catholic feast falling during Advent
8. Jesus' cousin who prepared the way for Jesus (3 words)
11. Title of Jesus, meaning "anointed one," and the name of an oratorio by Handel
13. Church season immediately before Advent (2 words)
14. Title of Jesus meaning "master"
15. Pinkish color used during the third Sunday of Advent
16. "Christ _____": Church holiday celebrated the Sunday before Advent (2 words)
17. Number of Sundays during the Advent season

Down

2. One of the major Old Testament prophets
3. Month when Advent usually begins
5. Liturgical color of the Advent season
8. Foster-father of Jesus
9. What the word "Advent" means _____
10. Advent Hymn: "O come, O come _____"
11. Mother of Jesus
12. "The Immaculate _____": Marian holiday that falls during the Advent season

Religious Education Ministry : For Week of December 9th, 2018

ATTENTION TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY REFLECTIONS IN THE DECEMBER 16TH
OR DECEMBER 23RD BULLETINS



WISHING ALL OF YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

REFLECTIONS WILL RESUME ON DECEMBER 30TH, 2018

COMMUNION I & II
ADVENT CELEBRATION

MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2018

AT 7PM IN THE CHURCH



GRADES 3 & 4
CATECHIST MEETING

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13
AT EITHER 10AM OR 7PM

IN BETHANY CENTER ROOM 2

CONFIRMATION I & II

CATECHIST MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

AT 7PM IN THE BETHANY CENTER MAIN MEETING ROOM



*Prayer of the Month
For
December, 2018*

THE GLORY BE PRAYER

*In the name of the
Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,*

Amen

*Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.*

*As it was in the
beginning, is now,
And ever shall be,
World without end,
Amen*



Raffle tickets \$10 each or 6 for \$50

Drawing to be held on
Sunday, December 16th, 2018

Winner need not be
present at drawing



2018 SSPJ Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Make a difference
this holiday season.

You can purchase quality
Christmas trees, decorated and/or
undecorated wreaths, kissing
balls, grave blankets and more, all
while helping to raise money for
our school. Proceeds from your
purchase will go directly to benefit
Saints Philip & James School. This

is an important fundraiser for our school, so do not miss out on this
opportunity.

The sale begins Saturday, December 1st, with the Annual SSPJ Christmas
Tree Lighting and a special blessing to our trees from Father Tom. We will
continue the sale throughout all of December and up to the 23rd! Come
and choose your tree from our large selection located in the parking lot
near 25A. We will be open:

Sunday 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Monday through Thursday 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Friday 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

SSPJ YOUTH MINISTRY~RETREAT REFLECTION 2018



SSPJ Retreat 2018 Reflection

This year's retreat theme was "Reach the Peak". No one simply stumbles upon a mountain and decides to climb it. Instead, something in their life leads them to choose to do something treacherous like climbing a mountain.

Much like that of a mountain climber, my retreat story needs a bit of background. I grew up attending St. Patrick's Church in Smithtown. I had always had a personal connection to God but no one else around me had faith. I saw the family-like bond of the SSPJ Youth Group and knew that I belonged in a community that was open and happy to share their love of God. This is what led me to attend retreat.

Retreat not only allowed me to share my faith, but truly led it to flourish. Both the adult and youth leaders establish an accepting atmosphere for everyone to express personal struggles and how they use their faith to get through them. In our smaller group discussions people who come to retreat as strangers leave knowing each others deepest hardships.

The climb would not be possible if we weren't all ready to give each other a little support. One of my favorite aspects of retreat was the kindness key, a key on a chain that was passed around when the wearer saw someone doing a nice act. I received the key from Frank and gave it to a girl who held the door for me on a cold night. Throughout the entire weekend it was amazing to see all the kind acts everyone was doing.

Coming to retreat as an outsider, I was worried that I would feel as such. This, however, was simply not the case. I participated in games, talked in front of everyone, and felt apart of a new family. I certainly reached the peak as I have never felt so in touch with God. The SSPJ retreat gave me a group of people to share my faith with and I will never forget it.

Ariana Saccone

Sts. Philip and James School

Apostles of Hope

Nursery

Andrew Donegan is an Apostle of Hope. He is a sweet student who loves to share and smile. Andrew plays so nicely with his fellow classmates and he is a caring friend.

Michael Cullen Is an Apostle of Hope. He is a kind student who is very helpful. Michael is always the first one to help his classmates clean up and plays so nicely with his friends.

Pre-Kindergarten

Madeleine Tu is an Apostle of Hope. She is always following in Jesus' footsteps and is an active participant in prayer time during the school day. Madeleine has a kind heart and her classmates are lucky to have her as a friend.

Tyler Ruggieri is an Apostle of Hope. He is always including others and is a good friend and a great follower of Jesus! Tyler works hard and always remembers to be kind to his peers.

Kindergarten

William Likourezos is an Apostle of Hope. He is a kind friend who shows compassion towards his classmates and teacher. William is a hard worker in the classroom and he is encouraging to his friends throughout the school day.

First Grade

Declan Morosky is an Apostle of Hope. He loves participating in class and spending time with his friends. Declan, also enjoys praising his classmates and their work which is an example of following the footsteps that Jesus has taught us.

Second Grade

Julianna Carey is an Apostle of Hope. She is always willing to help a friend. Julianna works hard each day and shares her ideas.

Andy McCulloh is an Apostle of Hope. He always does his best work in class each day. Andy is a good friend to all.

Third Grade

Benjamin Wos is an Apostle of Hope. He is a respectful and kind boy. Ben is a friend to all his classmates and a positive role model. He attends Mass on a regular basis and completes the weekly reflections.

Ella Monaco is an Apostle of Hope and an amazing girl. She is well liked by her class and also a role model to her peers. Ella works very hard in class to complete all her assignments and always has a positive attitude about school.



Fourth Grade

Ryan Tobin is an Apostle of Hope. He displays genuine acts of kindness and compassion towards his classmates. Ryan is helpful, cooperative and he works hard to complete his weekly Mass reflections.

Tessa Bennett is an Apostle of Hope. She is friendly, caring and respectful to her classmates and teachers. Tessa attends Mass with her family and she frequently completes her weekly reflections.

Fifth Grade

Emma Beam is an Apostle of Hope. She has recently completed altar server training and she submits her mass reflections weekly. Emma is a model student inside and outside of the classroom. She is always first to volunteer to assist students in nursery and pre-k and loves being a part of this school.

Sixth Grade

Victoria Caputo is an Apostle of Hope. She is a kind and helpful 6th grader who treats everyone with respect. Victoria is the first to volunteer to lend a helping hand and exemplifies an Apostle of Hope.

Seventh Grade

Dayana Mayaorga is an Apostle of Hope. She is a new SSPJ student and a welcome addition to the 7th grade class. Dayana is a newly installed altar server and a member of the stained glass club. She also assists in the morning with Nursery arrival.

Aidan Cazalet is an Apostle of Hope. He is a new SSPJ student and a welcome addition to the 7th grade class. Aidan is a newly installed altar server and a member of the stained glass club. He also assists in the morning with Nursery arrival.

Mrs. Collins is an Apostle of Hope. She is a wealth of resource when it come to the Academy. Mrs. Collins is always willing to share ideas and help her colleagues in any way possible.

Eighth Grade

Jack Auleta is an Apostle of Hope. He not only excels in the classroom, he is an active member of the church community. Jack is an altar server and most recently joined the lector ministry.

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of December 9th, 2018

Sunday, December 9th, 2018:

7:30am	Guild Christmas Raffle Sale	School Lobby
8:30am	RCIA	Cantina
9:00am	KOC Hospitality Sunday	Auditorium
10:00am	Children's Liturgy	Auditorium
12:00pm	Guild Christmas Tree Sale	Monte Building
6:00pm	Adult Choir Christmas Party	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

Monday, December 10th, 2018

1:00pm	Senior Group Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Boy Scout Meeting	Auditorium
7:00pm	REO 1st & 2nd Grade Advent Celebration	Church

Tuesday, December 11th, 2018:

1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Room Main Church
4:30pm	Children's Choir	Choir Loft & Church
7:00pm	St. Monica Prayer Group	Cantina
7:30pm	Chords of Faith	Church & Choir Loft
7:30pm	Respect Life Meeting	Cantina
8:00pm	Boy Scout Leadership Meeting	Monte Building

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018:

7:00pm	Youth Ministry	Bethany Center
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Thursday, December 13th, 2018:

10:00am	REO 3th & 4th grade Catechist Mtg	Bethany Ctr Rm1
2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	REO 3th & 4th Grade Catechist Mtg	Bethany Ctr. Rm1
7:00pm	REO 7th & 8th Grade Catechist Mtg	Bethany Ctr. Rm 2
7:00pm	Christmas Concert Rehearsal	Church
7:00pm	Ushers Meeting	Philip & James Rm

Friday, December 14th, 2018:

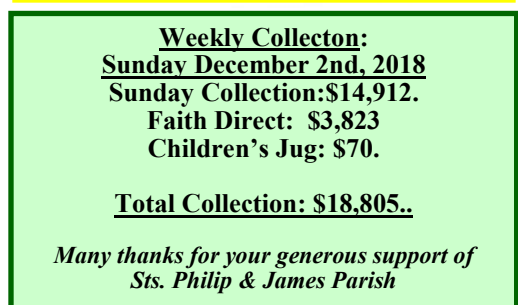
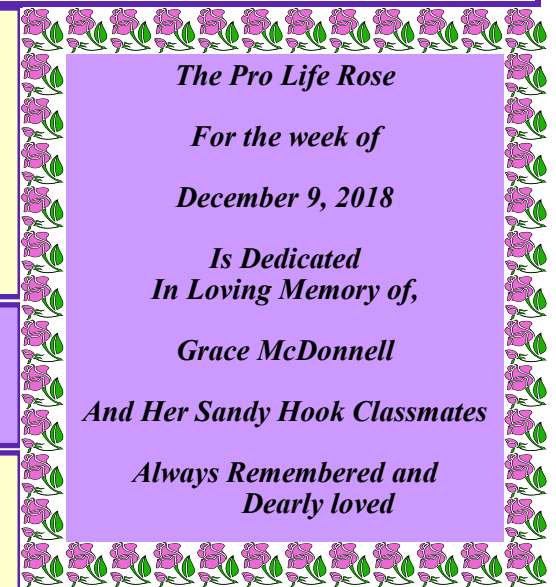
3:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshp
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Wash Kit Gang	School Classroom
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, December 15th, 2018

5:00pm	Children's Liturgy	Auditorium
5:00pm	Stained Glass Sale	Lobby
7:00pm	KOC Christmas Party	

Sunday, December 16th, 2018:

8:00am	Stained Glass Sale	School Lobby
8:30am	RCIA	Cantina
10:00am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Auditorium
11:00am	Peanut Butter & Jelly	Auditorium
6:30pm	Parish Christmas Concert	Church
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room



Mass Intentions, For the week of December 9th, 2018

Saturday, December 8th, 2018

5:00pm Theresa & Michael Zirpoli

Sunday, December 9th, 2018

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am Paul DeWeerd

12:00Noon Collective Mass:

Marie Loughlin
Margaret Dellegar
Robert Fillare
James Ginty
Vincent Danese
Udienza Ciancarelli

Monday, December 10th, 2018

7:30am Mary Reid

9:15am Louis Scelfo

Tuesday, December 11th, 2018

7:30am Ezio DiNucci

9:15am Eva Maria Alaimo

We Ask You to Remember Our Brothers & Sisters In your Prayers

Adelaide Tschinkel
Anna Capizzio
Angela Amoroso
Angelo Peluso
Angela Boccio McComb
AnnMarie M.
Baby Mattia Lubrano
Betty Schmidt
Brett Dowling
Brennan Steinorth
Bryan Van Colt
Camden Bailey
Carmela Massaro
Carole Hennessy
Catherine Burseind
Charlie Keenan
Christel DeBlasio
Christina Meringolo
Christopher Paul
Daisy Abruzzo
David Shankles
Dawn Kopel
Dolores Weisenreider
Dominic Pace
Dylan Lauro
Eileen Zink
Elinor Glasser
Eugene Krug
Florence Donahue
Frank Orlik
Frank DeFranco
Gerard Duffy
Ginny McAuley
Greg
Helen McDowell
Hillary Boehme
James Gietzen
James P. Klouda
Jane Prato
Jane Wigutow
Jeanine EspositoTansey
Jim Kelly
Joseph
Joseph Perconti
Joe Alberigo
John Capizzio
Jean McCue
John Harney
John Hernandez

Julianne
Joan Ward
Kathleen N.
Kathleen Corcoran
Kitty Cronin
Krista Farley
Kylie Quigley
Joseph
Laura Andrucki & family
Linda Sue
Livia Parrella
Louis Giordano
Mark Montesano
Marie DelCiello,
Marie Fabry
Mary McDonough
Michael LaVecchia
Michael Vasiento
Nancy Fornabia
Nicole Theresa
Nicole Devlin
Pam Brandon
Pasquale Santoro
Patricia Casey
Pat Corey
Patricia Fontana
Patricia Monetti
Patricia Thompson
Paulette Agoglia
Regina Powers
Richard Cembrale
Roe Hetterich
Russell Caiola
Robert & Madeline Gaude
Robin Graham Denis
Rosemary Morgan
Sean Winters
Suzanne McCue
Terence Hobbes
Teresa Orlik
Thomas McKay
Thomasine Morrison
Tim Kelly
Tim Cavoris
Terry Pace
Vivien Cordes
Vickie Archdeacon Gibb

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018:~Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30am Carol Walz & Karl Walz (Living)

9:15am Philip Spina

Thursday, December 13th, 2018~St. Lucy

7:30am Dr. Colene Young

9:15am Collective Mass:
Toni Donals

Friday, December 14th, 2018

7:30am Olivia DiNucci

9:15am Thomas Ferrara

Saturday, December 15th, 2018

9:15am Ettore Orlando

5:00pm Louise Tyminski

Sunday, December 16th, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am Margaret Castiglie

12:00Noon Collective Mass:

Paul Winski

Peg Gorla

Madeline Ida Gadue

Anthony Luckiewicz

Rudolph Bonitch



We Pray for those Who Serve

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 WILLMS
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC
CORPORAL DANIEL P. STEELE-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
GREGORY DEVANEY- USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY
SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA- US ARMY
MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, LT.COL.-USAF
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC
PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG
KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY

Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR December 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, December 15, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, December 16, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, December 16, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, December 16, 2018 12:00 MASS
Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty
	Deacon John	Deacon Ron	Deacon Ron

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE-FOR December 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, December 15, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018
5:00 PM	8:00 AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
B. Carey	G. Beisel	P. Schfilliti	B. Chandler
K. Consenz	L. Beisel	J. Scott	P. Roman
J. Giacalone	C. Czujko	L. Sisti	D. LaVecchia
R. Byrne	R. Doda, Sr.	M. Spina	M. Lebrun
M. Fox	M. Dunn	J. Sweeney	J. Linder
A. Keenan	R. Fabian	J. Tafta	M. Napoli
H. Keenan	C. Haff	M. Tangel	T. Pace
G. Priebe	W. Haff	M. Tully	A. Santo
P. Agoglia	J. Harvey	G. Patalano	C. Zito
D. Coppola	M. Kenney	L. Patalano	G. Zito

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE-FOR December 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, December 15, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
T. Miller	J. Auletta	S. Cheeseman	S. Santos
J. Leber	L. Auletta	N. Fazzini	P. Mazzola
R. Laro	B. Keese	A. Kaiser	M. Bennett
	K. Keese		

LECTOR SCHEDULE-FOR December 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, December 15, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018	Sunday, December 16, 2018
5:00PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
L. Halluska	L. Willman	C. Burke	E. Wittish
8th Grade Student	A. Mantia	C. Philips	M. Cashman

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

December 16th - Third Sunday of Advent - Cycle C

Scripture Readings ONLINE

The website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the text of the Scripture Readings. Go to: www.usccb.org . Click on the date.

Reflections on Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

We believe that God created the world. We believe that Jesus redeemed us by his dying and rising. We believe that the Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost. We also may regard all of these divine actions as finished once and for all. How then do we see God's ongoing presence in the world? This weekend's Scripture makes God's presence an occasion for gratitude and joy.

Zephaniah preached in the southern kingdom of Judah between 640 and 630 B.C. The country was suffering moral decay. The prophet condemned the people but also offered hope. The presence of Yahweh will banish fear. The presence of the Lord will provoke a call to the renewal of mutual love.

The responsorial psalm comes from the twelfth chapter of Isaiah. The author expounds a theology of divine presence. Fear and panic must yield to trust. He speaks of the well, a typical place for remembering Yahweh's deliverance (see Judges 5:11). The people will experience God's saving presence there.

Luke presents two dimensions of the John the Baptist's preaching: ethical and messianic. On the ethical side, John addresses the crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers. His message is one of concern for others. Under the messianic dimension, Luke offers a theology of presence -- Jesus is bearer of the Spirit.

Creation, Incarnation, and Pentecost are ongoing realities for the modern believer. The Christian who overcomes despair assists God in a new Creation. The Christian who reaches out to the lowly continues the Incarnation. The Christian who restores life to the despondent shares in the eternal Pentecost.

— John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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For reflection...

What kind of people went to hear John the Baptist and repented? Would you show up to hear someone like John today? Why? What would you want to see and hear?

John basically told people to be generous and just, to repent, and to wait for the Messiah. What did following this advice cost John's followers? What does it cost us today?

The first reading tells us twice not to fear, that the Lord is in our midst. Have you ever remembered the presence of God in the middle of a crisis? What effect did it have on the crisis?

This is "Gaudete Sunday" - Rejoicing Sunday". What gives you cause to rejoice?



A DIFFERENT KIND OF BUCKET-LIST

What's still unfinished in your life?

Well, there's always a lot that's unfinished in everyone's life. Nothing is ever really finished. Our lives, it seems, are simply interrupted by our dying. Most of us don't complete our lives, we just run out of time. So, consciously or unconsciously, we make a bucket-list of things we still want to see, do, and finish before we die.

What do we still want to do? A number of things probably immediately come to the fore: We want to see our children grow up. We want to see our daughter's wedding. We want to see our grandchildren. We want to finish this last work of art, of writing, of building. We want to see our 80th birthday. We want to reconcile with our family.

Beyond these, more important things, we generally have another list of things we were too busy, preoccupied, or economically disadvantaged to do earlier in life: We want to walk the Camino, travel to the Holy Land, see the historical sites of Europe, backpack through parts of Asia, travel the country with our grandkids, enjoy our retirement.

But in fantasizing about what's unfinished in our lives there's the danger of missing out on the richness of what's actually going on in our lives and our real task in the moment. The better question is: How do I want to live now so as to be ready to die when it's my time?

In a wonderful little book on contemplation, *Biography of Silence*, Spanish author, Pablo d'Ors, stares his mortality in the face and decides that this is what he wants to do in face of the inalienable fact that he's one day to die. Here's his bucket list: "I have decided to stand up and open my eyes. I have decided to eat and drink in moderation, to sleep as necessary, to write only what contributes toward improving those who read me, to abstain from greed, and never compare myself to others. I have also decided to water my plants and care for an animal. I will visit the sick, I will converse with the lonely, and I will not let much time go by before playing with a child. In the same manner I have decided to recite my prayers every day, to bow several times before the things I consider sacred, to celebrate the Eucharist, to listen to the Word, to break bread and share the wine, to give peace, to sing in unison. And to go for walks, which I find essential. And to light the fire, which is also essential. And to shop without hurry, to greet my neighbors even when I do not like seeing their faces, to subscribe to a newspaper, to regularly call my friends and siblings on the phone. And to take excursions, swim in the sea at least once a year, and to read only good books, or reread those that I have liked. ... I will live for those things according to an ethics of attention and care. And this is how I will arrive at a happy old age, when I will contemplate, humble and proud at the same time, the small but grand orchard that I have cultivated. Life as cult, culture, and cultivation."

Life as a cult, culture, and cultivation: I'm a two-time cancer survivor. When first diagnosed with cancer seven years ago, the prognosis was good. I had a scare, but time still stretched out endlessly before me. But when the cancer returned four years ago, the doctors were less optimistic and told me, in unequivocal terms, that my time was probably short, no more endless days. That prognosis clarified my thoughts and feelings as nothing ever before. Stunned, I went home, sat down in prayer, and then wrote this mini-creed for myself, with a different kind of bucket-list:

I am going to strive to be as productive as long as I can.

I am going to make every day and every activity as precious and enjoyable as possible.

I am going to strive to be as gracious, warm, and charitable as possible.

I am going to strive to be as healthy as long as I can.

I am going to strive to accept others' love in a deeper way than I have up to now.

I am going to strive to live a more-fully "reconciled" life. No room for past hurts anymore.

I am going to strive to keep my sense of humor intact.

I am going to strive to be as courageous and brave as I can.