



The Parish of Saints Philip and James
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

December 31st, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*The child
grew and
became
strong,
filled with
wisdom;
and the
favor of
God was
upon him.*

Luke 2:40



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 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
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, December 17th, 2023:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$9,355.50

Mail Collections: \$2,480.00

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

Total Collection: \$15,209.04

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

****Collections for 12/24 & 25 unavailable at print
date****

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 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

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

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,

Many thanks for your Christmas wishes and for filling our church with songs of joy on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. May that joy continue throughout the Christmas season, and throughout our lives.

This weekend we celebrate, honor and give thanks for our “first schools” – our families – those who guide us through life as we grow in wisdom, age and grace, as did Jesus. In today's gospel we encounter Simeon and Anna, who encountered – and recognized - Jesus. Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, reflects:

A devout Jewish couple present their child to God. Who could have guessed that this was the one that people had longed for? How easily he could have been missed. He almost was -- amid the priests offering animal sacrifices, the Pharisees teaching the children, the din of the terrified animals and the money changers. If anyone drew attention in the Temple that day they would have been the distinguished priests and the wealthy, who were well-dressed and up front. How easily the child, along with his poor parents, could have been missed.

Except he wasn't missed by everyone. There were the elderly Simeon and Anna, the aged sentinels who wouldn't give up on God, because they believed God would never give up on them.

What hope-filled belief! They wouldn't give up on God because they believed God would never give up on them. Let's ask Simeon and Anna to strengthen our belief in our ever-faithful God. May we always be open to recognizing the presence of Jesus in all the people and situations of our lives.

The Spirit called. Simeon and Anna came forth. Call us too, O Spirit.

*Let us come forth in Christ, our brother, the object of our longing,
find him in all people, in all of creation, in our midst here and now.*

Teach us, above all else, how to love as you and the Father and the Son love.

Make each and every person your holy family.

(Anne

Osdieck)\

January 1st is traditionally set aside by the Pope as the World Day of Peace. Prayers for peace are so needed in this time of violence at home and abroad. As we honor Mary, the Queen of Peace, I invite each of us to renew or to take for the first time the “Vow of Non-Violence” printed in the bulletin. Taking this vow is a concrete way in which we can help make real the peace and harmony God always desires for us. Is this easy? No, it isn't. Read the vow carefully. Pray about it. And hopefully you will choose to commit (or recommit) to this vow as the new year begins.

Perhaps our New Year's resolutions might include:

*Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged,
sympathetic with the striving and tolerant with the weak and wrong.*

Sometime in your life, you will have been all of these.

May 2024 be a year of compassion, peace, health and joy!

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of December 31st, 2023

Eucharistic Adoration Monday

1:30-7pm

In the church

Adoration will not be held on and
January 1st, 2024



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
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
Mary Monte
Marty Rizzo
Margaret Remhild
Mark Wagner
Mary Ryan
Marie Feicco
Maria Clark
Maria Collaro
Marie del Cielo
Maureen Litten
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 Mattera
Tina Cafaro
Tiffany Lochan
Thomas Lifrieri
Tom Ryan
Tom Focone
Vivien & John
Cordes
Wayne Smith Sr.

Saturday December 30th Cantor: N. LoCastro	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Grimaldi/Burke EM: Rapp/Consenz/ Anderson/Damato/Urce	9:15am 5:00pm	Christmas Novena No Intentions
Sunday December 31st Cantor: . J. Lohmann	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Luna/Halluska EM: Czujko/Dervan/Diaz/ Kenney/LaSerra	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: L. Stefanowski	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Contrino/Sehne EM: Conti/D. Napolitano/ Suski/Sotomayer/Taurassi/ Luna	10:00am	Christmas Novena
Cantor: G. Cazzaniga	<u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Tom Lector: EM: Kaleita/Samson/ Rubano	12:00pm	Christmas Novena
Monday January 1st		10:am	Christmas Novena
Tuesday January 2nd		7:30am 9:15am	Christmas Novena Joseph Caltabiano
Wednesday January 3rd		7:30am 9:15am	Christmas Novena Christmas Novena
Thursday January 4th		7:30am 9:15am	<u>Thomas J. Ficht</u> <u>Collective Mass:</u> Living~Peter & Virginia Portanova
Friday January 5th		7:30am 9:15am	Joseph Winters Patrick Kelly
Saturday January 6th Cantor: McCulloh	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Schor/Student EM: Calderone/Sisti/ Anderson/Byrne/Taurassi	9:15am 5:00pm	John J. Tierney Sister Carlita Vollmer, FSP
Sunday January 7th Cantor: Meringolo	Presider: Father Lector: Czujko/Cavooris EM: Clarke/Dervan/Diaz/ Koke/LaSerra	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: Lupinacci	Presider: Father Lector: Contrino/Franco EM: Licari/Consenz/ Parish/Amen/Luna/ Sotomayer	10:00am	Joseph Bitet
Cantor: Hill	<u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Lector: Geier/Rubano EM: Conti/Rubano/ Settneri	12:00pm	Virginia Kelly James Philip Posillico Robert & William Sommerville Linda Russo Mary & Neil Garguilo

Vow of Non-Violence ~ "Give Peace A Chance" January 1, 2024

*Any who wish to again renew or take the Vow of Non Violence will be invited to do so, on
New Year's Day.
To prepare, kindly pray over the vow and discern whether you feel ready to make it for the New
Year, 2024.*

"Peace is to be worked at: it is not something that one gains without efforts" Pope Francis

***Recognizing the violence in my own heart,
yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God,
I vow for one year to practice the nonviolence of Jesus
who taught us in the Sermon on the Mount:***

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God...

You have learned how it was said,

"You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy".

But I say to you, "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

In this way you will be daughters and sons of your Creator in heaven.

Before God the Creator and the Sanctifying Spirit,

I vow to carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus

- by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life;***
- by accepting suffering rather than inflicting it;***
- by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence;***
- by persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart;***
- by living conscientiously and simply, so that I do not
deprive others of the means to live;***
- by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war
from my own heart and from the face of the earth.***

***God, I trust in your sustaining love, and believe that just as you gave me the grace and
desire to offer this vow,
so you will also bestow abundant grace to fulfill it .***



Music Ministry

Today is the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We focus on God's overflowing promises, one being the birth of his only Son, Jesus.

The New Year is fast approaching. Thinking of resolutions? How about joining the Music Ministry. If you liked what you heard through the Advent and Christmas season you just might like becoming a part of the ministry. Think about it, you never know. Our numbers are low. We NEED You!!

**The Music Ministry wishes you a Blessed and Happy New Year.
"Sing your praise to God."**



A New Year Prayer

***Lord as this new year dawns,
Welcome.
Welcome into our world and into our
lives.
Sow light in our hearts.
Let it germinate and grow and bring
forth fruit.
Birth in us something new.
Let your peace take root.
Nurture it, encourage it to flourish.
Let your love blossom with the
fragrance of patience and
compassion.
Let it strengthen forgiveness and
understanding.
Let your life emerge in us, through us,
around us,
Bringing newness to all it touches.***

Save the date!



Dine Around Dinner

SSPJ Auditorium

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Adults Only--BYOB

Tickets \$25 each

On sale in January in the school lobby after Masses
and at the Parish Center

No tickets available at the door

Sample dishes from many local restaurants!



Watch the bulletin for more news about participating
restaurants!

ONLY TODAY CAN OUR PARISH REACH OUR

goal.... for 2023; we remain \$19,540 away goal of \$102,000

OUR LAST DAY TO MEET OUR GOAL IS DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

SSPJ Parish stands as a valiant cornerstone of FAITH...it welcomes the joy filled...the hopeless...the newly baptized...the grieving...

The ill and most importantly...its families of deeply rooted faith...

*It stands by your generosity and during these turbulent financial times,
It relies upon reaching its CMA goal..*

This GOAL affords SSPJ to maintain its structures and well, to keep the lights on , welcoming all in need..

If you haven't done so already...might you complete the form below and HELP US TO HELP OTHERS?

YOU ARE NOT JUST HELPING SSPJ PARISH, YOU ARE HELPING
OUR BROTHERS,
SISTERS AND CHILDREN
SUFFERING THE LOSS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS
WHO WALK
SILENTLY BESIDE US.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. '.
Mathew 25:40



2023
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*One Family - Journeying together in
Communion, Participation and Mission*



**Thank you for your generous support of the
2023 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

Completing your 2023 pledge ensures that our Parish
will benefit by receiving our full rebate.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please prayerfully
consider making a donation to the Appeal. To give securely on line,
please go to: <https://www.drvc.org/donate/cma/>

There's still time to make a gift. Please remember that all
new pledges must be in by December 31, 2023 and paid in full
by January 31, 2024.

Remembering~ Christmas Lights of Love 2023

Called to be remembered by: Margaret and Tim Adams

Mary Castiglie Anderson
Joseph Castiglie
Margaret Castiglie

Called to be remembered by: Diane Anderson
Antoinette Genco

Called to be remembered by: Mom, Dad, Marc,
Dean, Brittany, Ted and Addison

Ryan Michael Jack Birbiglia

Called to be remembered by: Pat, Glenn, Sharon,
Susan and Carissa

Deacon Ron Blasius

Called to be remembered by: Frank and Tina Cafaro
Frankie Cafaro

Called to be remembered by: Janice Caltabiano
Joey Morda
Joseph and Benedetta Caltabiano
Martin Caltabiano

Called to be remembered by: The Corvi Family
Edward E. Corvi Sr.

Called to be remembered by the Christy Family

Fran Settoducato Gertrude Christy
Daniel A. Settoducato Thomas W Christy

Called to be remembered by: Ruth G. Diaz
Gregona Diaz Zinanda Gibe
John Gibe
Sixto Diaz Violeta Gibe
Agipito Gibe
Evelyn Eustace Manuel Gibe
Richard Walsh

Called to be remembered by: Nancy & John Dervan

Joseph and Josephine Friscia
Peter and Ellen Dervan

Called to be remembered by: Sr. Theresita Donach

Kay and Leon Donach
Donalea Donach Vanos
Deceased members of Donach Family
Deceased members of Urbanowicz Family

Called to be remembered by: Jackie Duffy

Margaret Olsen
William Olsen
Jack Duffy

Called to be remembered by: The Farrell
Family

Katie Farrell

Called to be remembered by: John and Jo Fleming

Thomas Fleming Louis Mautone
Kathleen Fleming Josephine
Mautone
Kathleen Vaughs Joel Mautone

Called to be remembered by:
The Frankenberger Family

Teresa Hynes

Called to be remembered by: The Gill Family

Evelyn Gill Shirley Davis
Albert Gill James Davis
Nicholas Gill

Called to be remembered by: Judy Hanrahan

Jim Hanrahan Chris O'Brien
Joseph P. O'Brien Tom O'Brien
Kay O'Brien

Called to be remembered by: Margaret
Hartigan

Stella Hartigan
Charles Hartigan

Called to be remembered by: Chris Hensen

Mary C. Michalek
John D. Michalek

Called to be remembered by: Barbara Luna

Vincent Luna

Called to be remembered by: The Marrs
Family

Edward Marrs

Remembering~ Christmas Lights of Love 2023

Called to be remembered by:
The Melo and Gampel Families

**Ignatius and Antonia Griffo
Joachim and Marie Melo
John and Victoria Gampel**

Called to be remembered by:
Thomas G. McCormick – Husband

Dr. Colene Young M.D.

Called to be remembered by:
The McGovern and Mass Families

**Thomas McGovern Diane and Claude
Mass
John Vierling Sr.
Sr. Virginia Maria McGovern
Mary and Louis Vierling
Sr. Mary Margaret McGovern
Helen and James McGovern
Patricia Leo Anthony Leo
Geraldine Brennan Russ Leo**

Called to be remembered by:
Christine McGrath and Victor Noce Sr.

**Thomas McGrath Sr.
Kathi McGrath
Victor Noce Jr.**

Called to be remembered by: The Pascalli Family

Gail Pascalli

Called to be remembered by: The Portanova Family

**Deceased members of the Campano and
Portanova Families
Deceased members of the Trotta and
Cerrito Family
The Jelenik babies.**

Called to be remembered by: The Saavedra Family

Lillian Milana

Called to be remembered by: Nancy Sanders

**Mary Ellen Sanders
Deacon Richard W. Sanders**

Called to be remembered by: The Schlee Family

**John Schlee
Bobby Gross
Phyllis Gross**

Called to be remembered by:
The Sehne Family

**Eva Maria and Philip Alaimo, Jr.
Jakob Sehne**

Called to be remembered by: Lynn Sisti

**Anthony J. Sisti
Deceased members of the
Vanek, Donnelly and Sisti Families**

Called to be remembered by: Wife, Mary, his
children and 11 grandchildren.

Albert Specht, Pop Pop

Called to be remembered by: Linda and Peter
Taurassi

**Michael Steven McDermott
Christopher A. Coletto**

Called to be remembered by: His Family and
Friends

John Tierney

Called to be remembered by:
Michael, Lenore and Mikey Walsh

Ellie Walsh

Called to be remembered by: Agnes Glasheen

Dorothy Coyle

Called to be remembered by: Vinny Rubano

**Maryann Kivlen
Kathy Rurak
Robert Nolan**

Called to be remembered by: Marti Drechsler

Walter Drechsler

Called to be remembered by:
Joe and Kathy Dorrian

**Jack and Ginny Kelly Aidan
Kelly
Miriam and Thomas Dorrian
Nancy Dorrian Jimmy Dorrian**

Remembering~ Christmas Lights of Love 2023

Called to be remembered by:
Patricia and Michael Fisher

Wendell W. Fisher
William T. Fisher

Called to be remembered by: David A. DeSimone and Family

Robert DeSimone Sr.

Edward DeSimone P.F.C.

Louise Crianza

Olga Daisy DeSimone

William DeSimone

Called to be remembered by: Antoinette Sicurella

Louis Sicurella

Margaret & Sal Sicurella

Maria & Anthony Muscara

Nancy Natoli

Jennie & Al Muscara

Antoinette & Peter Palazzolo

Dominic Natoli

Called to be remembered by: Karl, Karl Jr. and Tim

Carol Ann Walz

Called to be remembered by: Agnes Glasheen

Dorothy Coyle

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



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

"I wish you all a happy Christmas in prayer, in the warmth of affection, and in soberness. Let me make one recommendation: let us not confuse celebration with consumerism! We can – and as Christians we must – celebrate in simplicity, without waste, and by sharing with those who lack necessities or lack companionship."

Pope Francis

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

"In a perpetually sunny land like Mary's, a passing cloud, a tree that resists drought and offers shelter, or a hospitable tent can bring relief and protection. Shade is a gift that refreshes, and the angel describes how the Holy Spirit descends upon Mary, and that this is God's way of acting: God always acts as a gentle love that embraces, that fertilises, that protects, without doing violence, without infringing freedom. This is God's way of acting."

Pope Francis

"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

CONFIRMATION II ~ 8TH GRADE RETREAT! IT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2024
IN THE AUDITORIUM**



2 SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AND FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL.

"Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire."



**CONFIRMATION I AND II GRADES 7 & 8
FAMILY MASS**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024
AT 5:00PM**

**COMMUNION II 8TH GRADE NICENE CREED MASS
MONDAY JANUARY 22ND AT 7**

**Religious Education classes
are all back in session.
Classes will not be held
from December 17th-
December 30th.
Classes will resume the
week of Dec. 31!
Wishing all our families
A blessed Christmas!**



GREAT JOB SSPJ SCHOOL HONOR ROLL STUDENTS!



**Principal's List - Trimester I
2023-2024**



Grade 8

Jack Carey
Vincenza Franco
Isabella Gebbia
Jude Hughes
Luchryso Kenton
Juliana Merlino
Fiona O'Connor
Monica Rocco
Shane Waldmann

Grade 7

Julianna Carey
Tyler Farrell
Lucas Hoffmann
Francesca Scott

Grade 6

Antonella Franco
Chrystaluz Kenton



**Honor Roll - Trimester I
2023-2024**



Grade 8

Margaret Baker
Seamus Beam
Sarah Cullen
Sofia Herin
Benjamin Wos

Grade 7

Connor Cassidy
Matilda Dias
Jack Kollmer
Connor Morosky
Raizel Silvestre

Grade 6

Ariella Charles
Declan Morosky

NURSERY-8TH GRADE



ST. JAMES, NEW YORK



JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE!

SUNDAY • 1/28/24

11:00AM - 1:30PM

Join us for our Open House and experience our community! Meet our students, parents, and staff! Teachers will invite you into their classrooms and speak with you about academics, extracurricular activities, and faith formation, and will be present to answer any questions you may have.


ALL ARE WELCOME!

WHY STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL & ACADEMY?

- For over 100 years, SSPJ has offered academic excellence, which fosters individual growth and development according to time-tested, Catholic faith-based models of teaching and learning.
- SSPJ's primary commitment is to integrate the Gospel message with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of students, enabling them to become the leaders of tomorrow.
- SSPJ cultivates a robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church.
- SSPJ provides a safe and supportive community that recognizes the dignity of every person and promotes human flourishing in a familial atmosphere.



 sspjschool.net

 (631) 584-7896

 359 CLINTON AVENUE, ST. JAMES, NY 11780

 @SSPJAcademyandSchool

 @SSPJSchool



CONGRATULATIONS TO SSPJ SCHOOL DECEMBER APOSTLES OF HOPE!

December Apostle of Hope

Kindergarten

Finn Hansen is an Apostle of Hope. Finn is new to SSPJ school this year. Although he is new to our school, Finn has proven in many ways that he is a follower of Jesus. Finn attends Mass with his family. He helps his older sister with her reflections and teaches her prayers. Finn says his prayers loud and proud and is an excellent participant in religion lessons. Finn is kind to his friends and teachers. He is always putting others before himself. Finn works very hard and knows that he can do anything as long as he has his faith.

Grade 1

Nicholas Grimaldi IV is an Apostle of Hope. Nicholas is a kind and caring person to everyone around him. For his reflection he said he wants to help and share for his acts of love during advent. Nicholas is a great friend, excellent student and a wonderful follower of Jesus.

Grade 2

Kylah Pearson is an Apostle of Hope. Kyla works hard to demonstrate that she is a follower of Jesus everyday. She is an active participant during religion lessons and is truly excited to learn new things about her faith. She attends Mass on the weekends and hands in her weekly reflections. Every week during Mass, Kylah responds and sings proudly. Kylah is a kind soul who always tries to help others.

Grade 3

Connor Regan is an Apostle of Hope. Connor is a sweet boy who shares his faith with others in many ways. He completes his weekly reflections, is reverent during our grade-level Masses, and sings beautifully in our senior choir. Connor also uses his artistic talents to share God's creations with his classmates and teachers. During this season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, Connor reminds us what this time of year is all about.

Grade 4

James Cullen is an Apostle of Hope. James is an amazing, kind child who is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. James has trained to be an Altar server. He attends Mass with his family and submits his weekly reflections. James enjoys school, works hard and enjoys reading. He is a wonderful role model and a pleasure to have in the class.



Grade 5

Matthew Colon is an Apostle of Hope. Matthew actively participates in the weekly grade level masses and volunteers to bring up the gifts. He regularly attends Mass with his family and submits his weekly reflections. In class, Matthew is reverent during morning and afternoon prayer. He actively participates in class and loves sharing his faith. He enjoyed making Christmas ornaments for the homebound and is always willing to help others.

Grade 7

Lucas Hoffmann is an Apostle of Hope! Lucas has spent all year spreading the positive word of Jesus. Lucas is an altar server and takes the word of God seriously. He is kind hearted and is always willing to help others. Lucas is a good role model to younger students. He exemplifies how to be a follower of Jesus.

Grade 8

Shane Waldmann is an Apostle of Hope. Shane is kind and a joy to be around. In addition to his kind heart, Shane is motivated and works hard towards his academics. He is an altar server, sings in the senior choir, attends Mass with his family and completes his weekly reflections. Shane is always the first to volunteer to help when a volunteer is needed. Keep up the great work Shane!

Faculty

Ms. Hahl is an Apostle of Hope. Ms. Hahl is our music teacher & choir moderator. She teaches with a smile and her laughter can be heard throughout the hall. She has a kind spirit and is a team player. Ms. Hahl prepared our students for a lovely Christmas Concert. Through her direction and beautiful piano playing, our families and friends got into the Christmas Spirit! Ms. Hahl is a wonderful example of a follower of Jesus.

A Reflection from Sister Theresita

December 31, 2023

Happy Feast of the Holy Family. And a Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that it is 2024, do you remember where you were when it turned 2000! I do, I was in Haiti helping a priest friend. We in the US were worried about computers crashing, no electricity, shortage of food etc. So, I figured I spend time in Haiti since they are already lacking those things, No worries. If you weren't born yet you didn't miss much, all went well.

Aside from the year 2000 let's return to Advent 2023. During this season we have heard the word HASTE mentioned several times, Mary went with all HASTE, Shepherds went in all HASTE etc. Perhaps we, you and I have been going in HASTE but there might be a slight difference as the focus of our HASTE may be a frantic attempt to be and do all the things that we need to accomplish before Christmas day.

Mary went with a sense of urgency to Elizabeth. When was the last time you went in all HASTE, urgency to help your spouse, a friend, or a person in need? Sometimes I just want to say, can't someone else do it, I'm busy with many things, I'll do it later or I don't want to do it. God wants to fill us with a Holy sense of HASTE/urgency. An urgency to serve God and others. Do I have that sense of urgency to go and serve another?

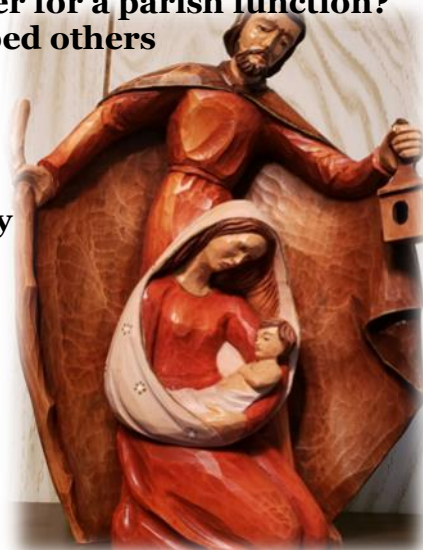
We are not asked to serve the whole world, we are asked to do our small part in our families, the church, in our local communities. When was the last time you went in HASTE to volunteer to help a family member in need? When was the last time you went with holy urgency/HASTE to volunteer for a parish function? When was the last time you joyfully went in HASTE and helped others with a local community project?

Our call as Christians is to serve God and others with holy urgency/joyful haste. I pray the you respond with Joyful HASTE to the many opportunities that present themselves in 2024.

May your New Year be BLESSED!

Till next week

Sister T



**SSPJ RCIA MINISTRY WELCOMES ALL TO ATTEND RCIA SESSIONS
SUNDAYS 9AM-10AM IN THE SSPJ ROOM**

31-Dec	Feast of the Holy Family	NO CLASS NEW YEAR'S Eve
7-Jan	Feast of Epiphany	Epiphany Process of Conversion
14-Jan	2nd Sunday	Divine Revelation
21-Jan	3rd Sunday	Morality/Ten commandments
28-Jan	4 th Sunday	Jesus

Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Needs:

**THANK YOU SO MUCH WE
ARE FULLY STOCKED!**
Thank you for your generosity



*We remember the family and
friends of,*

**Richard G. Reich
Carol Napolitano**

*Safely Home in the arms of
our Lord*



*Mary committed these
things to memory and
considered them
carefully. The
shepherds returned
home, glorifying
and praising God for
all they had heard and
seen. Everything
happened just as they
had been told.*

Luke 2:19-20

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

*Invites all to join us each
morning at 8 AM in the
Prayer Room of the church to
pray the Rosary for all life.*



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**

“The world we have known, enjoyed, and celebrated is changing rapidly beyond repair. The futures of young people are threatened by the impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with the Earth. Justice calls us to a change of attitude and actions.



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
Overeaters Anonymous 631-260-6615 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

Our Family Prayer Intention~

Please bring your intention to mass next weekend, December 24th, 2023
Or Sunday, December 31st, 2023
We as a Parish Family will be holding you in our prayers

FAMILY/STUDENT NAMES	STUDENT GRADE LEVEL/SSPJ SCHOOL

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for all the blessings we have received by your grace and love. We pray that you will continually remind us that we are never alone, and that you are always by our side.

Jesus, we offer you our hearts, our needs, our intentions, knowing that you hear us. Let your will be done.

Amen

Together as a family we offer our prayers....



Reflecting and Preparing for Next Sunday January 7th, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7

Is 60:1-6

Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13

Eph 3:2-3a,5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 8 Baptism of the Lord

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9

Is 12:2-3,4b-6

Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday, January 9

1 Sm 1:9-20

1 Sm 2:1,4-8d

Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 10

1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20

Ps 40:2,5,7-10

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, January 11

1 Sm 4:1-11

Ps 44:10-11,14-15,24-25

Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 12

1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a

Ps 89:16-19

Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 13

1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1

Ps 21:2-7

Mk 2:13-17

The Season of Christmas ends with a celebration that focuses on the adoration of magi from the East who had sought and found Christ the newborn king.

The Greek word "magi" meant oriental scientists. Also called astrologers, their worship of Jesus does not validate astrology, which assigns power over us to stars and planets; rather, it validates that Jesus was born to bring salvation to all, Gentiles as well as Jews. Their arrival at the manger demonstrates that Jesus was born for the sake of all who recognize that only God should have power over us. Jesus was born to free us from sin and all other forces that control us.

The magi also demonstrate that gift-giving is a normal part of worship. The gifts of the magi become gifts that we all give to Jesus: Gold represents our righteousness, which Christ's kingship over our lives makes possible so that we become more and more saintly each day. Incense represents our prayers going up to

God – prayers that involve giving God the gift of our trust. And myrrh is the gift of suffering for Christ: the sacrifices we make for the sake of his ongoing mission of transforming our world.

The word "epiphany" means a moment of discovery, a revelation that changes our lives. Did the magi have an epiphany about Jesus when they came into his presence? Did they realize that they were looking at the Savior of the world? Did they want this little baby to save them from their own sins?



We can safely assume that they never forgot about their trip to Bethlehem. Surely they kept their ears open for news about him as the years went by. Probably they heard about the King of the Jews who was crucified.

We know that they in fact became very saintly Christians; their relics still exist and have been venerated since very early times.

What about you and me? Will we remember Jesus in some new way this year? Will our worship of him transform us? Will the power of sin be defeated by our faith in Christ when we face temptations?

Hopefully, we have been changed this Advent and Christmas Season by a new rebirth of Jesus into our lives and – through our lives – out into the world.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What's the gold you're giving to Jesus? What is your incense? What is your myrrh?
- † Describe an epiphany you have had during this past Advent and the Season of Christmas.
- † How will you take this out to others so that they, too, experience Christ more completely?

MERRY CHRISTMAS OR SEASON'S GREETINGS?

What goes around comes around, so it would seem. Christians took a pagan feast and sacralized it as an occasion to celebrate Jesus' birthday, and now the secular world is returning the favor.

The decision to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th was not based on careful calculations vis-à-vis the actual day that Jesus was born. Rather, it had these origins. In polytheistic Rome, December 25th was a celebration of the Unconquered Sun, marking the return of longer days. It followed Saturnalia, a festival where people feasted and exchanged gifts. The church in Rome began celebrating Christmas on December 25th (somewhere between 306-337) during the reign of Constantine the first Christian emperor, possibly to weaken pagan traditions.

Christians sacralized a pagan feast and today we are seeing the reverse. More and more the celebrations of Christmas are being shorn of all religious symbols and connotations: Santa has replaced the Christ Child; *Rocking around the Christmas tree* has replaced *Come all ye faithful* and *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* has replaced *Silent Night*. Merry Christmas has become Season's Greetings. Why is this happening?

First, we are becoming ever more secularized as a society. Fewer people are drawn religiously to the Christmas story, even as they value the Christmas season as a very special time of year. They value the feast for its emphasis on love, gift-giving, color, specialness, and celebration, but prefer that the emphasis be precisely on these things without a reference to Christ.

However, within that secularization, there are a number of voices conspiring to positively strip the celebration of Christmas of its religious roots. Their fundamental critique goes this way. In essence, we are a secularized culture, not a Christian culture, and it is unfair to non-Christians to emphasize the religious (Christ) aspect of this feast. It is offensive to Jews, Moslems. Buddhists, agnostics, and non-believers. Given the pluralistic make-up of our society, saying "Merry Christmas" can be imperialistic, narrow, and not fully respectful of others.

How valid is this? It carries some legitimacy, though it is also deeply flawed. How so? First, this criticism doesn't come mainly from Jews, Muslims, and the non-Christians. It arises mostly from some excessive and less-than-fully healthy sensitivities within Christians and ex-Christians. Yes, admittedly we are a secular, pluralistic culture. However, don't Christians have a right to celebrate Christ's birthday with all the appropriate language, symbols, and rituals? No one begrudges Jewish believers the right to celebrate Hanukkah or Muslims the right to celebrate Ramadan. Why should a Christian celebration be singled out?

And a critical question might be posed here. Is this expressed concern for fairness and the feelings of others being driven primarily by a genuine concern for the feelings of others or is it also being driven (however unconsciously) by certain feelings about ourselves, namely, by an unhealthy combination of self-hatred, hyper political correctness, and a certain adolescent grandiosity? It is easy to fall victim to a self-hatred, *where we can be fair to every tradition except our own*; to a hyper political correctness, *where there are no common sense boundaries to our sensitivity*; and to something that might be termed adolescent grandiosity, *where we see only the faults in our parents and not their virtues or where we are indebted to them*.

We need to be sensitive to others and realize and accept that we cannot impose a Christian celebration on those who don't share our faith in Jesus Christ. But society must also be fair to us and allow us to celebrate Christ's birthday as a religious feast. Indeed, there shouldn't be any tension here. No one should begrudge another for saying Merry Christmas or Season's Greetings. *Silent Night* can play alongside *White Christmas*. Jesus, no doubt, is on good terms with Santa. Love, joy, gift-giving, and colorful lights do their own work on the heart and what they do there is contingent upon what's in that heart. To some hearts they will say, Merry Christmas, to other hearts they will say, Season's Greetings, and to some hearts they will say both. We should be good with that.

So, Christians, let's celebrate Christmas as Christ's birthday without apologies or apologetics. The secular world doesn't have a right to stop us from saying Merry Christmas and celebrating Christ's birthday with the creches, carols, symbols and rituals that speak of Jesus' birth. Our Christian celebrations don't preclude the secular celebrations, the Christmas lights, the special decorations, the Santa parades, the gift-giving, the season's parties, and rocking around the Christmas tree. These are legitimate and in their own way are good ways to celebrate Christmas. Hey, we stole this feast from the pagans, they have a right to reclaim parts of it. Moreover, paganism and Christianity sometimes make for a rich mix. And let us not forget that the world does measure time by Jesus' birth. We are in the year 2023 since the time-altering event. Doesn't such a monumental event merit a double celebration? *Merry Christmas* and *Season's Greetings*.