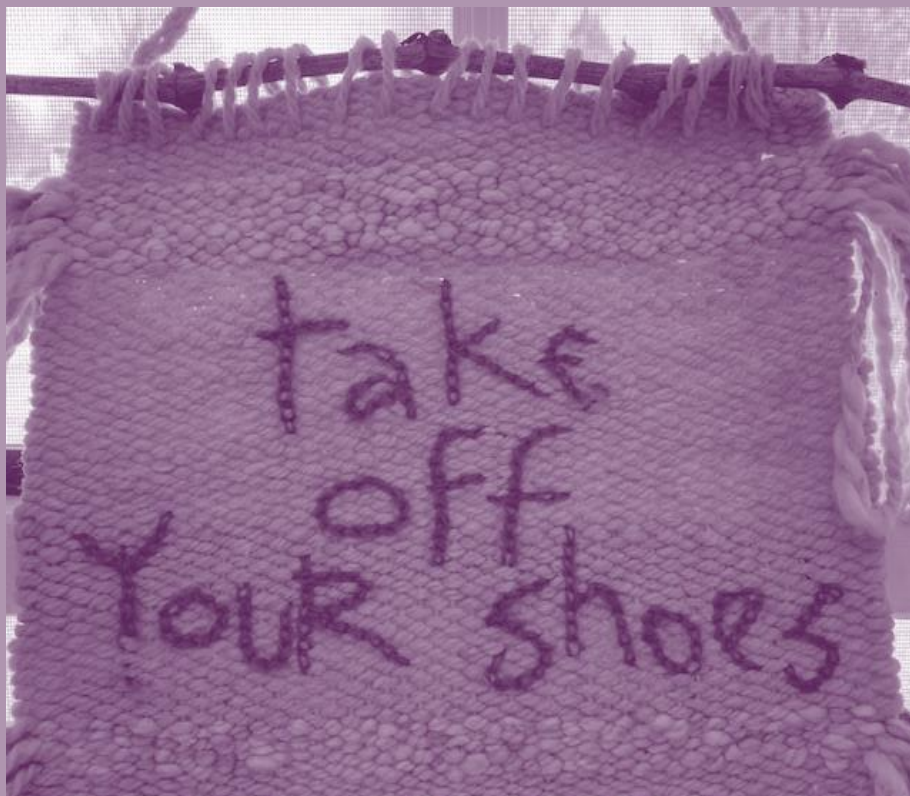


The Parish of Saints Philip and James
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780
631-584-5454

March 19th, 2023

The Fourth Sunday Of Lent



"I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind"

John 9:39

*"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
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 March 5th, 2023:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$10,529.

Collections from mail: 3,776.

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

Total Collections: \$17,679.04

COLLECTION FIGURES FOR 3/12/23 WERE UNAVAILABLE
AT BULLETIN SUBMISSION DATE

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT
ICON:

USING SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN

CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN

CAPT. MICHAEL T. DOLAN- JR. -D.O, US ARMY

LT. COL. JOHN KAIRENS

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

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,

There's a lot going on in today's gospel. Many people may be seen - Jesus, the man born blind, his parents, the Pharisees, onlookers. But who "sees?" Fr. John Foley, SJ, reflects:

The man born blind sees well. The Pharisees are the ones who refuse to see. If they were physically blind this would be understandable. But the truth is hidden by their own need to control others, their love of being in charge. What if they had looked the man through eyes unclouded by sin? They could have beheld a miracle, with wonder and awe.

Much later in time, St. Ignatius called this way of seeing "the simple eye." It is what we are trying to move toward during Lent.

Let us admit that we cannot see. Then pray to have our eyes opened. To have the simple eye is see with the eyes of faith. It is to let the Holy Spirit have a peaceful home within us and to help us clean house. Jesus gives the man this deeper sight. He says "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The blind man says yes. He is simply no longer blind.

The same question faces each of us as we get ready for Holy Week. "Do you believe in the Son of Man" (the name Jesus used for himself)? Can you live in the light of the Lord (2nd reading)? Can you let the Lord be your Shepherd (Responsorial Psalm)? You can if you let go of your own prejudices and opinions, hard as that may be.

Let's ask Jesus to give us the simple eye.

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph. His feast day is actually March 19th, but since that fell on a Sunday the feast day moved to Monday. Joseph isn't mentioned often in Scripture, but he was a key figure in the life of Jesus and Mary. He was a man of faith and of action. Joseph listened well and let God guide. May we do the same!

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph, you were a person who combined practicality, compassion and dreams.

Help us to follow your example.

Help us to be faithful and honest in our work and our play,
proudly and humbly sharing our skills and talents.

Help us to treat one another with care and respect, reaching out and building each other up.
Help us to pay attention to our hopes and dreams, discerning together God's pathway for us.

St. Joseph, worker, planner, lover, dreamer, work, plan, love and dream with us.

As we journey together, draw us closer to Jesus, whom you cared for with such faithfulness. Amen.

And finally,

The fattest night at King Atrhur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

And from one of our long time parishioners:

This is the story about four people, named everybody, somebody, anybody and nobody. There was an important job to be done so everybody was sure somebody would do it. Anybody could've done it, but nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought anybody could do it, but nobody realized everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that everybody blame somebody with nobody did what anybody could've done.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of March 19th, 2023

The Altar Candles
Are Illuminating the
Loving memory of,
Lenore Rozzi Law



Love,

Karen Smith



If you wish to have the SSPJ Parish family pray for someone who is feeling down, kindly contact the Parish Center office at 631-584-5454...

Remember in our hearts and prayers

Andy
Alfred Fox
Antonette Sabatino
Angie Mingione
Angela Amoroso
Arthur Gureck
Austin Rocky
Baby Ben
Baby Penny Grace
Candela
Barbara Bombace
Mattia Rose Lubrano
Barbara Sammarco
Belinda Groneman
Carol
Carolyn Nehl
Catherine Smith
Catherine Levine
Cathleen Henchey
Claudia Chandler
Chase Addonisio
David Beleck
David McCue
Deirdre W.
Donna Patrissi
Dorothy Mitchell
Eleanor Bayley
Elizabeth Martin
Elizabeth Smith
Eileen
Emily Schiaratta
Emily Quagliatta
Flo Donohue
Gail Lumley
George Fitzpatrick
Gloria Montesano
Ginny & John Rief
Gregory Parker
Helen
Jack Donohue
Jackie & Christine Duffy
Jakob King
Jamie Accardi
Jean Saladino
Jenny Bonanno
Jerry
Joelle Nicholas
Joni Deleo
John Cronin
John DeStefano
John Maynes
Joseph
Joe Benenberger
Joseph Domizzio
Judy Rampola

Joe Dorrian
Joseph Costa
Joseph Domizzio
Kathleen Draper
Kathleen N.
Kerry
Kitty Cronin
Laura Bode
Leon Donach
Lola Santangelo
Lori Cearney
Margaret Remhild
Mark Wagner
Mary Ryan
Maria Clark
Maria Collaro
Marie del Ciello
Maureen Litten
Mary Ann Cesarski
Mary Beth McGovern
Matthew Parrella
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Michael
Patricia Acker
Patricia Tripptree
Pasquale Savarese
Pat McCumber
Peter Donach
Peter Portanova
P.I.
Ricardo Buffit
Richard Lombardi,
Sr.
Riordan Cavooris
Rogelio Martinez
Ronnie Paciella
Ryan Duffy
Sara Jean Andersen
Stanley Stura
Stephen Dolce
Susanne Smith
Tonia Perdue
Tara Cesarski
Teresa Mattera
Tina Cafaro
Tiffany Lochan
Tom Devaney
Tom Ficht
Tom Ryan
Vivien Cordes
Wayne Smith Sr.
William Capurso

Saturday March 18th Cantor: K. Murtha	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Grimaldi/Student EM: Mantia/Calderone/ Byrne/Duffy/Urce	9:15am 5:00pm	Stephanie Theresa Kane Brian Horton
Sunday March 19th Cantor: B. Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Luna/Smith EM: Diaz/Czujko/M. Tully/ Sica/Martin	8am	For the People of SSPJ
Cantor: L. Lupanacci	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Zahorodny/E. Burke EM: Clarke/Keane/McKie/ Orlando/Sisti/Sotomayer	10:00am	Lawrence M. Kenney
Cantor: J. Lohmann	<u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Tom Lector: Kenton/Wos EM: Rubano/Margaret/ Settineri	12:00pm	Pat Acker Joseph Morda
Monday March 20th	Adoration 1:30pm-7:00pm	7:30am 9:15am	Maria Perez Anna Jane Clayton
Tuesday March 21st		7:30am 9:15am	Benedetta Caltabiano
Wednesday March 22nd		7:30am 9:15am	France Sexton & Vera & Vincent Mulvehill John & Beatrice Harney
Thursday March 23rd		7:30am 9:15am	<u>Collective Mass</u> Elizabeth McSweeney
Friday March 24th		7:30am 9:15am	Alice Moran Agnes Dunn
Saturday March 25th Cantor: M. McCulloh	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Schor/Student EM: Rizzo/Rapp/Damato/ Drechsler/Duffy	9:15am 5:00pm	Christine Ann Banfield Ann Nolan
Sunday March 26th Cantor: L. Lupinaci	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Mantia/Koke EM: Czujko/LaSerra/M. Dunn/Kenney/P. Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: B. Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Burke/Auletta EM: Clarke/Keane/Amen/ Latino/Luna	10:00am	James Knowles
Cantor: J. Hill	<u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Joe Lector: O'Hara/Latino EM: Napolitano/Stack/ Samson	12:00pm	Donna Elmeselmini Gene Ingenito

BAPTISM REMEMBRANCE FORM

The construction of our new baptismal font hopes to be completed soon, as a Parish, we together are invited to complete this remembrance form and place it into the basket at the new font area.

All remembrances will be included in the final phase of construction and will remain a piece of our SSPJ parish history.

I was baptized at~ _____

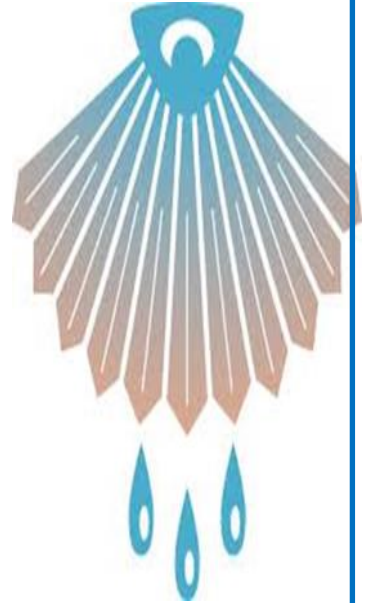
On, _____

I was given the name~ _____

Which was significant because~ _____

My Godparents are~ _____

Having received the sacrament of baptism, I feel~ _____



**Hospitality Breakfast
Offered by the Knights of
Columbus
This Sunday
March 19th, 2023**

After all the masses

**Please stop by and join in
fellowship and meet a new
friend.**

God's Blessings Upon

Mason Robert Dobbins-Ilg

**And his parents Jessica and
Benjamin**

On his very special baptism day

**Your SSPJ Parish Family
Welcome you and are so happy
for your joyous blessing!**



**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:
MARCH 18TH & 19TH, 2023**

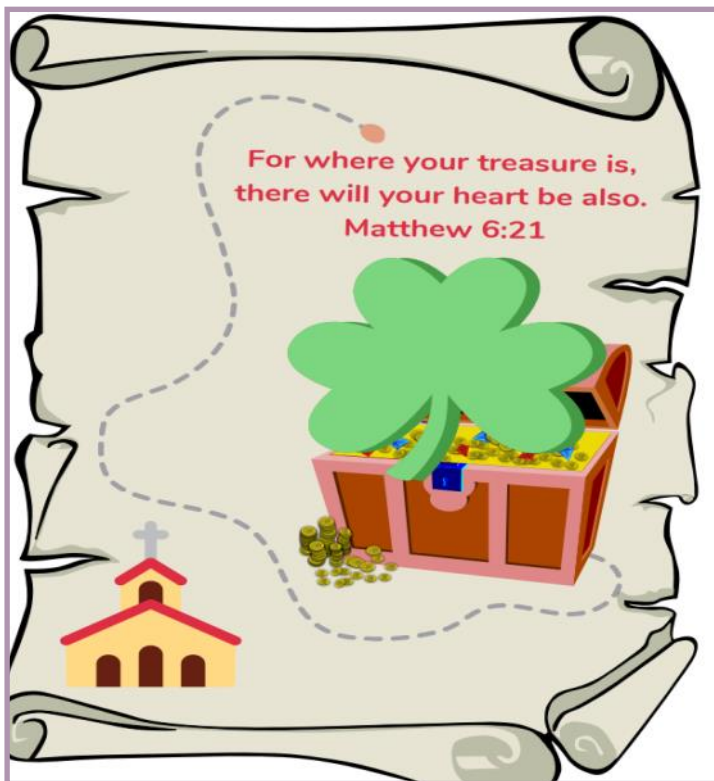
FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.
YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY NEEDED AND APPRECIATED

**THE 2024 MASS INTENTION BOOK
WILL BE OPEN
ON MARCH 20TH
AT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE.**



**Join Childrens Liturgy, Saturday at the 5pm mass
And Sunday at the 10am mass**



HELP IS NEEDED:

Baptism Music is in DESPERATE NEED of accompanists and singers. Adults and young adults are welcome. If you play piano, guitar or sing. WE NEED YOU!!!! Baptisms are twice a month on Sundays at 2pm. The more people there are, the less your commitment.

Think of "taking off your shoes" and stepping out of your comfort zone to help. THE NEED IS GREAT!

The parish wants to thank and recognize Susan Ricci (flute) and Jim Scully (guitar) for "taking off their shoes" and being Apostles of Hope in Baptism Music. They play almost all if not all the baptisms. They and the music ministry can use your help.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Baptism Music Ministry and "take off your shoes" and become an Apostle of Hope.

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

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

WHEN: Saturday, March 25th 9:00 am - 11:00 am
(Drop off between these hours)

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

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

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

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

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

www.clothingdrive.net

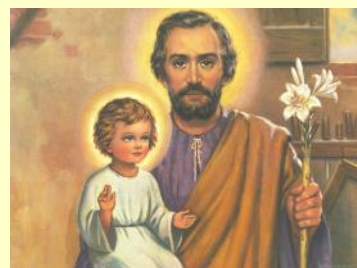
For Questions Call or Text:

Jaime Carey: 631-356-5691 or Jennine Cullen: 631-871-9973

MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy St. Joseph's Day
In his honor we will sing,
"Holy Patron Thee
Saluting" as our
communion hymn.
The hymn tells the story of
St. Joseph, husband to
Mary and foster father to
Jesus.

Jesus comes to heal the
blind.
Give us eyes to see others
truly and know them as
God does.





The Icon of St. Joseph

March is the Month of St. Joseph, and his feast day is March 19th. After the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, Joseph took off his shoes and dared to stay with Mary, even though she was with child.

Joseph became Jesus' protector, teacher, and role model. He very quietly and humbly took on the role of father for Jesus on Earth. St. Joseph still serves as a good role model for fathers today.

We will have the Icon of St. Joseph from the Suffolk County Knights of Columbus at all mass the weekend of March 18 and 19. If you have time after mass, please stop by the icon of St. Joseph and say a prayer.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Oh Good St. Joseph, watch over the parish of Saints Philip and James.

Through you intercession, may God's fullest blessing be upon our clergy and parishioners.

As you provided for Mary and Jesus when He had "no place to rest his head," so too, bless us with a Church and a stable home.

Grant us a generous spirit and patience to endure joyfully whatever challenges or crosses Our Lord may ask us to carry. St. Joseph, faithful guardian of Christ, pray for us.

SSPJ LENT~2023 LENTEN PRAYER

Loving God, this Lent you ask us to take off our shoes.

**You want us to feel more deeply your love,
to embrace more fully the holy ground of our lives.**

Sometimes we don't notice the holiness around us –

in our families, our communities, our world, and in ourselves.

Like Moses – it often takes a burning bush to grab our attention.

This Lent, help us to be open to sharing honestly our hopes, our concerns, our desires to be more compassionate, more forgiving, more loving.

Open our eyes that we may see more clearly the needs of others.

Unbind us and raise up new life within us.

As we journey through Lent, deepen our Baptismal commitment.

Christ, our Light, illumines the way.

**May the Spirit guide us to respond in love, step by step,
through the days of Lent to the glorious celebration of Easter.**

Amen

THE JOURNEY~ STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All are welcome each Friday in lent to join us as we reflect, pray and follow the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

His pilgrimage to the cross...



7PM in the Church

FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH

FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH

FRIDAY AFTER EASTER, APRIL 14TH

LENTEN PARISH COUNCIL MISSION:

Held in the Auditorium

SUNDAY MARCH 19TH AFTER THE 12NOON MASS

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH AFTER THE 10AM MASS

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND AFTER THE 8AM MASS

IS ALSO HELD EVERY MONDAY AFTER THE 9:15AM MASS IN

THE BETHANY CENTER

LENTEN REGULATIONS

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

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY:

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

DAYS OF ABSTINANCE:

All Fridays in Lent.

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

NEW LECTOR AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING

*If you are feeling called to these wonderful ministries, kindly submit a letter of your intent to
Father Tom
by April 10th, 2023
If you should have any questions, kindly contact the Parish Center Office*

Liturgical Minister Training – Spring 2023

The Diocese of Rockville Center will offer training for those who wish to serve as
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors.

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

Lector Workshop is available for both new and experienced lectors.

Dates and Locations for Liturgical Minister Training

Tuesday, April 25 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Part A AND Lectors

Saturday, June 3 – St. Paul the Apostle / Brookville – Lower Level; 9 am – noon.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Part A AND Lectors*

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Part B

Presented in conjunction with Catholic Health:

Tuesday, May 16 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday, June 3 - St. Paul the Apostle / Brookville – Lower Level; 1:00 – 4:00 pm.*

*We are offering Part A and Part B on the SAME day. Those who attend Part A in the morning are welcome to bring lunch or leave for lunch and return for the 1pm Part B session. Only those pre-registered for part B will be allowed to stay for this second session.

A letter from your pastor will be required to reserve your space at any of these trainings and must be received at least five days prior to the session you wish to attend. To request registration for any of these sessions, please contact your rectory. Thank you for your interest!

Our Lenten Journey~ The Significance and blessings of "Taking off Our Shoes"~ Reflections

Bill Haff explains how he untied his shoes...

About 4 years ago I personally went through the RCIA program after attending Mass for 20 years I finally heard Gods knock at my door. I was asked shortly thereafter to join the RCIA team. It has and continues to be a wonderful experience. Being an RCIA team member has allowed me to continuously learn more about my Catholic faith and the rituals we celebrate in Mass. I have also built relationships with other members of the RCIA team, our parish members, and our new candidates. Having a strong faith has helped me with anxiety over things that in the end, really don't matter that much. It has also given me a greater appreciation for the people in my life and the blessings that have been bestowed upon me.

Although I have a greater understanding of what it means to be a Catholic, I also know I have a long way to go, practice makes perfect!

Knock knock!!

Janet O'Hanlon has removed her shoes of doubt and speaks of her involvement with RCIA

I have been a team member with the RCIA process for over 25 years, joining soon after I was confirmed in the Catholic faith. In addition to sharing my faith with the candidates for Baptism and Confirmation each year, I am also blessed to witness their faith conversion during the RCIA process.

My knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith grows every year that I am part of the RCIA team. Each team member and each candidate bring their own unique story to the RCIA process creating a unique and supportive spiritual and faith sharing community. I always receive way more than I give to the RCIA process and I feel blessed to be a member of the RCIA team and working with Sister T.



The Elect~
Yong Ja Chong
Dessmond Bodon
Stacey Kellerman

THE THREE SCRUTINIES

On March 19th we will witness the second scrutiny, and on March 25th the third scrutiny. We, the parishioners will witness our RCIA Elect taking off their shoes and participating in the Three Scrutinies. The purpose of the Scrutinies is "to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful" in the hearts of the Elect and "to strengthen all that is upright, strong and good."

The true meaning of the word 'Scrutinize' is to simply "see clearly or inspect closely."

The Three Scrutinies align themselves to the three Gospels for the coming weeks – Jesus encountering the Samaritan Woman at the well; Jesus healing the man born blind; Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

As we experience the Elect going through this process, We as Baptized Catholics would do well to 'take off our shoes' and ask ourselves "what is defective in my heart and soul that needs strengthening?" Resolve to ask for God's grace, go to reconciliation and work prayerfully on those areas of your spiritual life. Pray with us during these rites so that you may enter with your hearts ready for the joys of Easter. And please continue to pray for those involved in the RCIA process, thank you. Sister Theresita

Continuing Conversion~

Edward Sample II,
Robert Albinski
Lindsey Albinski,
Luis Alberto Garcia
Villalobos,
Javier Garcia Villalba



"Let the little children come to me" Religious Education Ministry
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS THAT RECEIVED
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



Congratulations to Second Grade
SSPJ Religious Ed Student,

Matthew Lindsey who was the
Prince of the St. Patrick's Day
Parade in town on
Saturday, March 11th, 2023

We are so proud of you!



A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

I have a real treat for you today. This week, Monday through Wednesday, Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD (Divine Word Missionary), is doing a Parish retreat here at Sts. Philip and James Parish on Long Island. It has been a wonderful retreat, and a reunion of sorts – I know Fr. Adam from prior vocations work. I thought I would share a few words from his sessions.

He started out with asking the people to spell **LENT**, and so they did. Then he asked if they knew what each letter meant. Needless to say, we didn't know! Let me share with you the meaning that Fr. Adam described:

Let's **End Negative Thinking**.

Wow! Now I have another thought to add to a course I teach on becoming part of a **Complaint Free World**. I find it so interesting how Lent can be a time to concentrate on being a more positive person. It definitely fits in with some of what Pope Francis has said about **Abstaining** during lent. Having done a little work in this area, I know that if the mouth does not speak what the mind is thinking, eventually the mind retools and starts to produce positive thoughts that the mouth is happy to proclaim.

Father also share that lent is time for **AAA**, and not the roadside assistance group. It is time for our **Annual Attitude Adjustment**.

It is during the time of Lent and of Advent that we get a chance to perhaps slow down and have some prayer and reflection time, checking in to see where we are on our journey with God.

What needs to change? What needs to improve? What do we need to let go? Aren't we all so very blessed to have all this help along our life's journey? These are just two little reminders to help us make this one of our best Lents! Use them wisely.

So where do we go from here?

Well, we are in the middle of the third week of Lent; how have your resolutions been going? Is there a need for your **Annual Attitude Adjustment** to take hold, or could you be in need of a good long thought on **Let's End Negative Thinking**?

We each know ourselves better than anyone else, and we know what needs to be done so that we may continue on our journey. Take that silent time to reflect on where it is you want to be going and who you want to travel with. Perhaps discipline might seem the hardest thing to accomplish, but I know that together, we can do it!

Offer yourself words of encouragement and plan to finish Lent strong as you ready to celebrate the holiest of our Church weeks.

We can do it!

Till next week,
Sister Theresita



*Feeding Hearts by Lifting Hearts
Ministry~*

*Welcomes Families To
Join in*

*Preparing Wash Kit Packages of
LOVE*

*All Invited to participate in this
session of HOPE and FAITH
NEXT WEEKEND
Sunday, March 26th, 2023*

From 11am-12:15pm

IN THE BETHANY CENTER

*This is an opportunity for
families to come together to
Prepare wash kits for our
brothers and sisters that walk a
journey of despair...*

*Kits will be shared with local
shelters.*

*If interested, kindly contact the
parish center office at
631-584-5454 to reserve your
spot.*

*Let us know the Family Name
and the number attending.*

*ALSO, WE ARE IN NEED OF :
QUART SIZE ZIP LOCK BAGS*

*Kindly, offer a box when you
come to the session or
Donate to the Parish Center
Office.*

*Thank you for your generosity
and compassion...
Together we remove our shoes
and walk with hope...*

THIS THURSDAY AT SSPJ!!!!

MARCH 23RD

10AM-2PM

Free health screenings

Mobile Outreach Bus



The Community Outreach team is pleased to offer free health screenings in your community by a Catholic Health registered nurse.



Services for adults (18 and older):

- Brief cardiac history
- Blood pressure screening
- BMI screening
- Simple blood test for cholesterol and glucose
- Health education
- Referrals as needed
- Resources for those without insurance

THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD, 2023

FROM 10AM-2PM

**AT STS. PHILIP & JAMES
PARISH
ONE CARROW PLACE
SAINT JAMES, NY 11780**

*The SSPJ Family journeying together~
2023 Catholic Ministries Appeal
Side by Side we approach our goal: \$102,000 ~
Thankyou for your continued support*



TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2023

"Give me a drink. These words are not only a request from Jesus to the Samaritan woman, but a cry – silent at times – that meets us every day and asks us to slake someone else's thirst, to take care of someone else's thirst. How many say 'give me a drink' to us – in our family, at work, in other places we find ourselves. They thirst for closeness, for attention, for a listening ear. People say it who thirst for the Word of God and need to find an oasis in the Church where they can drink. *Give me a drink* is a cry heard in our society, where the frenetic pace, the rush to consume, and especially indifference, that culture of indifference, generate aridity and interior emptiness. And – let us not forget this – 'give me a drink' is the cry of many brothers and sisters who lack the water to live, while our common home continues to be polluted and defaced."

Let us continue to stay close, with prayer and concrete support, to the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.

You can help in the relief efforts by making a donation to the fund" **Send help to Turkey and Syria after the devastating earthquake!"**

Pope Francis



"With Him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them!"

-Pope Francis

Catholic Charities Outreach Programs journey with all who come through their doors.

Maria Ryan is the Director of the Parish Social Ministry (PSM) at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Centerport, where she oversees 15 vibrant ministries. She introduced us to Sarah and her daughter, Belle.

"Shortly after we moved into the area, our daughter Belle was diagnosed with cancer. Out of sheer desperation I called our church to ask if Father could anoint her and that's when I met Maria Ryan. Maria has taken us under her wing in more ways than we could ever imagine. It's been over a year and she checks in with us just about every day. The church has helped us spiritually, emotionally, and financially. My husband had to quit work to help us with care for Belle. The parish has helped us to stay afloat by helping with medical bills and travel expenses incurred traveling into the city for Belle's treatment." shared Sarah



Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Name: _____ Parish: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: Home _____ Cell: _____

Signature: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/> or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Thank You!

Great Happenings at SSPJ School!

*Magic filled the air as our beautiful SSPJ daughters celebrated with their special person at the Hilton Garden Inn, Stony Brook!
Dinner, Dancing, Raffles, Laughs & Smiles
A great time was had by all!*

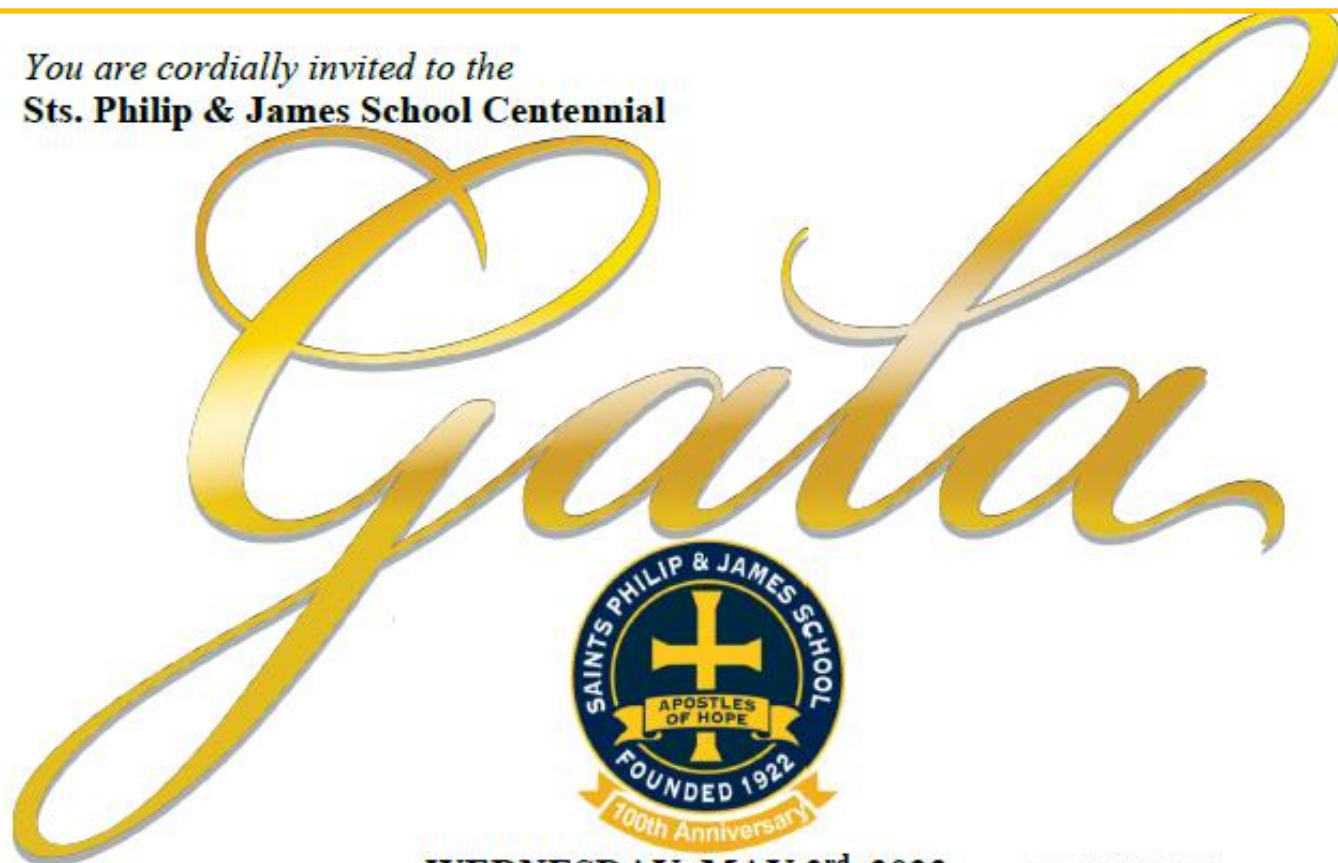


Congratulations to these Grade 4 students for winning the read a thon! They can't wait to use their gift cards!!

Grade 8 students completed a Living Environment regents lab modeling various finches in the Galapagos Islands. They used different "beaks" to pick up seeds and try to survive on many islands.



You are cordially invited to the
Sts. Philip & James School Centennial



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3rd, 2023
6:30PM in the evening

AS WE CELEBRATE
SSPJ 100 Year Centennial

WATERMILL CATERERS
711 Smithtown Bypass, Smithtown



Scan me

MASS AT STS. PHILIP & JAMES AT 5:00PM
COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT 6:30PM
FOLLOWED BY DINNER & DANCING FROM 7:30PM TO 10:30PM

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

MR. & MRS. _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ **@ \$125 PER PERSON**

PLEASE SEAT WITH OR NEAR _____

Please return this portion to Sts. Philip & James School
359 Clinton Avenue, St. James, NY 11780 - by Friday, April 21, 2023
Checks may be made payable to Sts. Philip & James School
...Or purchase online by scanning the QR code.



Sts. Philip and James School is Celebrating Its Centennial Anniversary - 100 Years of Catholic Education

If you have benefitted as a student or a parent from the Community and Education that Sts. Philip and James or another Catholic School provided, please consider sponsoring our school so we can continue its tradition of excellence and Catholic Formation.



Gold Sponsor \$3,000 Printed on Gold Paper	Silver Sponsor \$2,000 Printed on Silver Paper	Bronze Sponsor \$1,000	Journal Ad Only
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4 Tickets to the Gala Event on May 3, 2023- Inside Back Cover or First Page of the Commemorative Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 Tickets to the Gala Event on May 3, 2023- Full Page in The Commemorative Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 Ticket to the Gala Event on May 3, 2023- Full Page in the Commemorative Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Full Page - \$500- Half Page - \$250- Quarter Page - \$125- Business Card - \$75- Name Only - \$50- Alumni Name/Year - \$50

Please provide a camera-ready ad along with your sponsorship.

All submissions must be received by March 13, 2023.

Camera-ready artwork, copy, or message can be emailed to:
jenninecullen@me.com

Thank you!

Parish Social Ministry



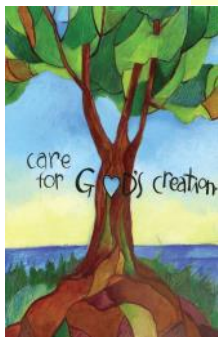
Our Food Pantry Needs:
FULLY STOCKED AT THIS
TIME
THANK YOU !



We remember the family and friends of,

Margaret Durso
Patricia Donnantuono
Richard Wehman

Safely Home in the arms of our Lord



Feast of St. Joseph –
We see in him the workers, victims of this crisis, left unemployed and needing to migrate due to climate catastrophes. Today's Gospel reminds us to abandon the mindset of people 'destined' to suffer and instead help anyone live. This is Laetare Sunday, Rejoice!



RESPECT LIFE: 40 DAYS FOR LIFE
The moms and the babies need you! Won't you please join your fellow parishioners and PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS @ 80 Maple Ave. Smithtown to let these families in distress know that you are there to offer them material and spiritual help. Come join us any day Mon thru Sat. especially on Friday!! ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 631-862-9370



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

SSPJ OFFICE OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM FORMING

The Consolation Ministry is gathering the names of anyone grieving the loss of a loved one and may be interested in our second Bereavement Program. It will be held for six weeks beginning Tuesday, April 18th at 1 PM in the Bethany Center. To register, please call the parish office at 631-584-5454

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

My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 1-3

For the: Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Sunday, March 19th, 2023

My Name Is: _____ My Grade IS: _____ SSPJ SCHOOL

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

Saturday, March 25th or Sunday, March 26th, 2023



The Gospel Message: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind because they don't have faith or trust in Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

There are many
times that I fail to
see that you are
before me.

Most days I think
of myself and fail
to think of your
presence in every-
one that you send
to my life to love
me, care for me,
and teach me.

Help my lack of
seeing you
(spiritual
blindness)

And encourage me
to see you and act
as you would to all
I
meet.

Amen



Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 4-6

The Fourth Sunday of Lent~ Sunday, March 19th, 2023

My Full Name: _____ My Grade IS: _____ SSPJ SCHOOL

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

Saturday, March 25th or Sunday, March 26th, 2023



The Gospel Message: John 9: 1-41

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind because they don't have faith or trust in Jesus .

Dear Jesus,

There are many times that I fail to see that you are before me.

Most days I think of myself and fail to think of your presence in everyone that you send to my life to love me, care for me, and teach me.

Help my lack of seeing you
(spiritual blindness)

And encourage me to see you and act as you would to all I meet.

Amen



Today's Gospel tells the story of a man, blind from birth, that was healed of his sight by Jesus. Describe how you think this blind man's life had been, unable to see.

Were some people who learned of the healing of the man's blindness angry? Who were they and why were they angry with Jesus?

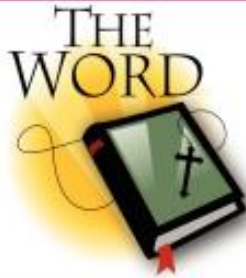
What gift has Jesus blessed you with that makes you see his love and forgiveness in your life?

Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 7-8

The Fourth Sunday of Lent~ Sunday, March 19th, 2023

Name: _____ Grade: _____ SSPJ SCHOOL

Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and bring it to March 25th or Sunday March 26th, 2023



The Gospel Message: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind because they don't have faith or trust in Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

There are many times
that I fail to see that
you are before me.

Most days I think of
myself and fail to
think of your pres-
ence in everyone that
you send to my life to
love me, care for me,
and teach me.

Help my lack of see-
ing you

(spiritual
blindness)

And encourage me to
see you and act as
you would to all I
meet.

Amen



In today's Gospel, Jesus restored sight to a man that was blind his entire life. It is hard to imagine such a miraculous event. Put yourself in the crowd that day, that saw this healing: What are you thinking?

Provide some examples of the times that we become "blind" to the presence of God and Jesus in our lives: _____

THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE THOUGHTS OF YOUR HEART-REMEMBER TO ALWAYS

RELY ON JESUS DON'T BLOCK YOUR HEARTS TO HIS AVAILABILITY AND LOVE

Reflecting and Preparing for Next Sunday, March 26th, 2023
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday March 26

Ezra 37:12-14

Ps 130:1-8

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Monday March 27

Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,

33-62 or 13:41c-62

Ps 23:1-6

John 8:1-11

Tuesday March 28

Numbers 21:4-9

Ps 102:2-3,16-21

John 8:21-30

Wednesday March 29

Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95

Daniel 3:52-56

John 8:31-42

Thursday March 30

Genesis 17:3-9

Ps 105:4-9

John 8:51-59

Friday March 31

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Ps 18:2-7

John 10:31-42

Saturday April 1

Ezra 37:21-28

Jeremiah 31:10-13

John 11:45-56

Lent is not about suffering and sacrifice. It's a corridor to new life. Good Friday is not about pain and death. It's the door that Jesus opens to invite us into that new life.

Yes, suffering is part of the Lenten journey (which can be experienced at any time of the year). Yes, Lent includes the sacrifices of fasting and abstinence, almsgiving and extra time in church. But these are just vehicles for the trip.

God uses our sufferings (if we let him) to help us grow in compassion, persistence, and ministry. Our sacrifices teach us discipline (which is discipleship) so that we can purify our will and grow stronger in holiness. But the trip is not the destination.

Lent is all about reaching the resurrection: renewing our faith, entering a new life free of old sins, reconciling damaged relationships, and living in the

Spirit of God more than we ever did before.

Which day is more important to your faith: Good Friday or Easter? That horrid day on Calvary was necessary for Easter, but we are living in the resurrection! Catholics are an Easter people. This means that nothing bad can ever happen to us that will not be transformed into blessings if Jesus is the Lord of our lives.

He proved himself to be the Resurrection and the Life by displaying his power over life and death. Now he wants to prove it again – to you and to all those who are watching.



Reflect & Discuss:

- † We can personalize the first reading by understanding that God will open our graves (whatever is dead inside of us) and will place his Spirit of Life within us. How does the Holy Spirit help us discover healing and hope amidst daily sufferings?
- † In the scripture from Romans, we are reminded again of the Holy Spirit within us. Since the Spirit is alive in you, what affect does this have on your Lenten journey? What is being purified, strengthened, and renewed?
- † In the Gospel, Jesus proves his power over death just before he enters Jerusalem and heads toward Calvary. How does this prove to you that your own sufferings and sacrifices will not lead to permanent disaster?

Lenten Activity:

What needs to be resurrected in your life? What will you do this week to accept the death of what has ended so that you can prepare for the new life that Jesus is preparing for you?

LOSING A LOVED ONE TO SUICIDE

New York Times columnist David Brooks recently wrote an article about a lifelong friend who died by suicide. In describing his friend and his descent into a suicidal illness, Brooks sheds some needed light on how we still have a long way to go in our understanding of suicide. (*New York Times*, February 9, 2023)

His friend, Peter, seemed a most unlikely candidate to die by suicide. He had a wonderful marriage, two loving sons, a warm circle of friends, and a fulfilling career as a doctor within which he took a lot of satisfaction in helping others. He was also physically healthy, active and athletic. Yet, at point, he began sink into a crushing depression before which all the love in the world stood helpless. Eventually, he took his own life.

What Brooks highlights in documenting his friend's journey should be required reading for everyone. What does he highlight?

First, that in most cases, suicide is an illness. People don't choose to sink into this kind of depression any more than people choose to have cancer, diabetes, or a heart condition. They are hit with an illness, and they cannot will themselves out of it any more than someone with a major physical illness can cure himself or herself through simple willpower and attitude. You don't just will your way out of a suicidal depression. Moreover, suicidal depression is not something that any of us, as outsiders, really understand.

Second, the depression is horrible, the ultimate nightmare. Note how William Styron describes his own depression in his memoir, *Darkness Visible*, "I experienced a curious inner convulsion that I can only describe as despair beyond despair. It came out of the cold night; I did not think such anguish possible." Then, the suffering is compounded by the fact that part of the anatomy of the disease (most times) is that the person undergoing it finds it impossible to articulate what the pain exactly consists of. Hence, they are alone inside it, unanimity-minus-one, and with that aloneness comes the overpowering feeling that one is doing a favor to family and friends by removing oneself through suicide.

Moreover, in the face of suicidal depression, medicine and psychiatry can be helpful but they are limited in effectively treating this kind of depression.

What should we do when we are dealing with someone who is undergoing this kind of paralyzing depression? In trying to answer that, it can be helpful to start with the *via negativa* – what shouldn't we do?

Brooks shares some of his sincere, but ultimately misguided, efforts to reach his friend. For example, he reminded Peter of all the wonderful blessings he enjoyed and how blessed his life was. Later he realized that "this might make sufferers feel even worse about themselves for not being able to enjoy all the things that are palpably enjoyable." As well, we should not ask the person if he is thinking of hurting himself. The person is already hurting so badly that everything inside of him wants only to stop the pain, and suicide is perceived as the only means of doing that.

What should we do? Brooks is clear: "The experts say if you know someone who is depressed, it's OK to ask explicitly about suicide. The experts emphasize that you're not going to be putting the thought into the person's head. Very often, it's already on her or his mind. And if it is, the person should be getting professional help." Experts also agree that we should take the risk and ask the person openly if he or she is thinking of suicide. If the person isn't thinking about suicide, he or she will forgive you for asking; but if he or she is thinking of suicide and you are too timid to ask, your timidity might stand in the way of saving that person's life.

Brooks points out that despite all the work that has been done in medicine and psychology in recent years, suicide rates today are 30 percent higher than they were even twenty years ago and one in five American adults experiences mental illness.

My own life has been much affected by suicide, the suicide of relatives, friends, neighbors, colleagues, classmates, former students, and trusted mentors. In my experience, in every one of these deaths, the person who died was a good, honest, gentle, sensitive, and over-sensitive soul who, at a point in his or her life, was too bruised, too full of pain, and too overpowered by illness to continue to live. Each of these deaths also left behind a tragic sadness that was massively compounded by our lack of understanding of what really caused this person's death.

In his assessment of his friend's suicide, Brooks says that in the end "the beast was bigger than Pete; it was bigger than us." It still is. Simply put, we are still a long way from understanding mental health and its fragility.