



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

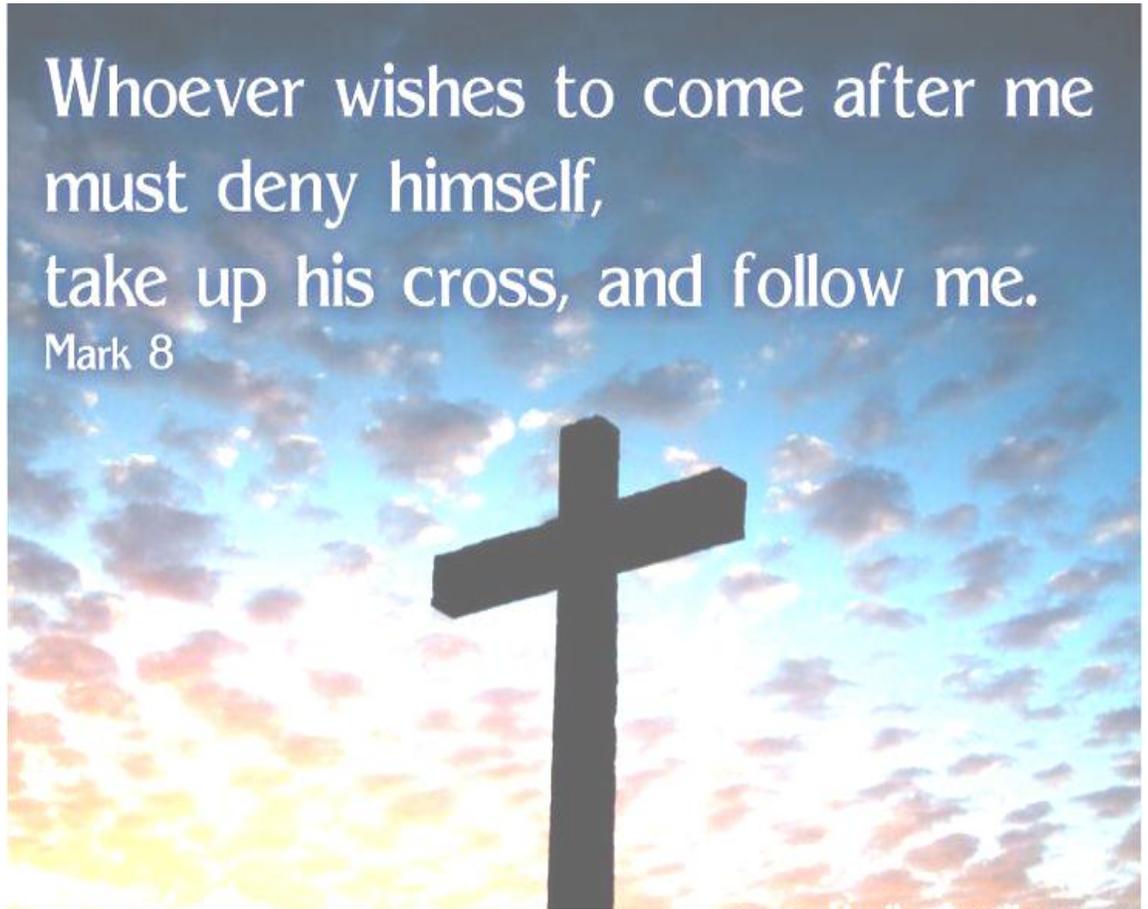
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

September 12th, 2021
Twenty Fourth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.

Mark 8



“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of
the gospel will save it” Mark 8:35

“With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be
Apostles of Hope”

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675

Website—www.sspj.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor
Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor
Deacon Ronald Blasius
Deacon John Keenan

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 631-584-3204

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko~cczujko@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~bluna@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~davento@sspj.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

TRUSTEES

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890

Weekly Collection: September 5th, 2021: \$10,922.

Faith Direct : (126Participants) 3,253.

Total Collections: \$ 14,175.

**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
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.
LT. COL. JOHN KAIREZ
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
STEVEN CAVA-USN
ERIC SEELIN- USMC
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY
STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA— 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
MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN.

As you probably know, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has declared Bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

In order to be as helpful as possible to the parties that may be affected by this bankruptcy, we will be publishing the following note regarding “proof of claim forms” for the next few months:

Information regarding the deadlines for filing proofs of claim in the Diocese’s chapter 11 case and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese’s bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

A Letter From Father Tom

Dear Friends,

In today's gospel we hear once again Jesus asking us, ***Who do you say that I am?*** Our understanding of who Jesus is for us grows as we experience his loving presence in our lives – in ordinary and extraordinary times, in times of hope and of doubt, in good times and bad times. Jesus is with us in all times, including the challenging times we are living in now. As always, we have choices to make as we seek and respond to the ever-present Jesus in our midst.

See this apple? This speaks to me of choices – the choice between wanting all for myself or wanting simply to love – to be part of God's dream for building a beautiful city.

Any of you remember the song "The Beautiful City" from Godspell?
It has some powerful lyrics:

*Out of the ruins and rubble, out of the smoke,
Out of our night of struggle, Can we see a ray of hope?
One pale thin ray reaching for the day?*

We can build a beautiful city! Yes, we can, yes, we can)



As we continue to struggle with the covid pandemic and experience local, national, and global disasters of floods, fires, tornadoes, heat, violence and more, can we see a ray of hope? I believe we can, and I believe we can be that ray of hope and build a beautiful city. Why do I believe this? I have experienced the hope of Jesus and the presence of Jesus in so many ways in our parish.

*We may not reach the ending, But we can start slowly, but truly mending
Brick by brick, heart by heart, Now, maybe now, we start learning how!*

We can build a beautiful city! Yes we can, yes, we can!

Each fall, whether we're in school or not, we find ourselves renewing and recommitting. Let's follow through on the challenge we hear in today's second reading from the letter of St. James paraphrased as **Faith without works is dead**. Living our faith means working together, respecting all peoples, sharing with one another, especially with those in need. SSPJ has always done this. We continue to do so. Pray with and for one another. Speak kindly. Share generously. Explore ways of serving, of learning, of witnessing. Continue to grow as Apostles of Hope. Together we can choose to ***Build a Beautiful City!***

Let us prayerfully and lovingly remember all those who suffered and still suffer with the tragedy of 9/11 as we mark the 20th anniversary.

And, beautiful cities include humor! Some "definitions":

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of September 12th, 2021



Eucharistic Adoration

**Monday's
1:30pm-7pm
In the Church**

Banns of Marriage

Third

**Mark Schmiemann ~ SSPJ To
Ashley Copertino ~ OLPH**

Second

**Joseph Finnegan~St.
Lawrence, Sayville
To
Victoria Horton~St.
Lawrence, Sayville**

**Ryan Spillane~St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton, Ronkonkoma
To
Nathalie Horta~ SSPJ**

Remember in our hearts and prayers

Angie Mingione	John Scomillio
Angela Amoroso	Joseph H
Anna Ormsby	Joseph
Anne Pell	Antonette Sabatino
Anna & Harold Clayton	James Macchiano
Avery Akhogba	Judy Rampola
Arthur Gureck	Joseph Mazelis
Baby Ben	Joseph Costa
Barbara Bombace	Kenneth Cook
Barbara Ruland	Kathleen N.
Mattia Rose Lubrano	Kitty Cronin
Belinda Groneman	Kim Olofson
Brendan McAlvin	Leon Donach
Brendan O'Connor	Lynn McDonnell
Belinda Vega	Mark Geld
Brianna Florio	Mark Hildreth
Carol	Mary Ann Cesarski
Carolyn Nehl	Mary Monte
Charles Figliosi	Mary Fresi
Claudia Chandler	Maryann Kevin
Deacon Ron Blasius	Maria Clark
Deirdre W.	Marie del Cielo
Dermot O'Connor	Marilyn Suli
Dolores North	Matthew Parrella
Donna Patrissi	Marie & Frank Fiecco
Dorothy Mitchell	Melissa C.
Dylan Beach	Michael Fisher
Ella	Mike Lofaro
Ellie Walsh	Monsignor Iocavacci
Esther Styles	Nancy & Paul Bertran
Flo Donohue	Pasquale Savarese
Gloria Montesano	Paul Bertrand
Grace Bertolone	Peter Donach
Ginny & John Rief	P.I.
Gladys Blake	Ricardo Buffit
Gregory Parker	Riordan Cavooris
Helen	Sara Jean Andersen
Heidi Ray	Stephen Dolce
Jackie Harvey	Tara Cesarski
Jack Donohue	Vivien Cordes
Jamie Geiman	Vicki Archdeacon
John Cronin	Veronica Broderick
John DeStefano	Wayne Hendricks
John Harney	

Saturday September 11th	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Auletta/Schor EM: Anderson/Damato/ Duffy	9:15am 5:00pm	Alan Evans Edwin Pretter & James Shellock
Sunday September 12th	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Cavooris/Koke EM: Koke/Martin/Portanova	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Cafaro/Latino EM: Orlando/Sotomayer/ Sisti	10:00am	Ralph Clifford Catalano
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: Geier/Kenton EM: Consenz/Keane/ Luna	12:00pm	Nicholas Gargiulo Emma Villa Robert C. Alio John Gamba Cristen Mich John C. Moloney
Monday September 13th	St. John Chrysostom	7:30am 9:15am	Living~Faculty & Staff of SSPJ School Joan Meissner
Tuesday September 14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	7:30am 9:15am	Living~ Helena Soshia Bob Wrenn
Wednesday September 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	7:30am 9:15am	Marie Bourguignon & Joanne Hanlon Carol Marion Cegelski Sampieri 10 Year Anniversary
Thursday September 16th	Saint Cornelius, Pope	7:30am 9:15am	Living~ Joan & James Cooper Collective Mass: Louise Contursi Cristen Mich
Friday September 17th	Saint Robert Bellarmine	7:30am 9:15am	Living~ Jeanette DeRosa Vincent Priebe
Saturday September 18th	Presider: Father Joe Lectors: Dreschler/ Thompson EM: Rapp/Dreschler/Toto	9:15am 5:00pm	Lou De Frisco Nicholas Lorusso
Sunday September 19th	Presider: Father Joe Lectors: Czujko/Willman EM: Ramos/Sehne/Sica	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lectors: Auletta/Wos EM: Orlando/Latino/ Mulhall	10:00am	Steven Carr
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector: Smith/Tobin EM: Samson/Consenz/ Luna	12:00pm	Reverend Charles Carow Albert Specht Edward J. Condolff Richard Geraci Steven Verni

**A Reflection from Sister T~ "Celebrating 58 Years in Religious Life"
September 12th, 1963~September 12th, 2021**

Dear Friends,

Happy Feast of the Nativity of Mary! Also, Happy Anniversary and Congratulations to all who celebrate this as their entrance date into our community. May your day be blessed.

September brings with it so many changes. Most vacations are over, regular schedules are beginning, school is starting, and it's time to make the LUNCHES!!!! With this in mind, I would like to share with you a little something I presented to the parents on their back-to-school night. God is so good to me (another God wink) as this piece came to my attention while I was looking for something else. Thank you, God!

The story is rather appropriate at this time of year as it comes from a pencil maker. He offers
Five important lessons just before putting the pencil into the box:

Everything you do will always leave a mark.
You can always correct the mistakes you make.
What is important is what is inside of you.

In life, you will undergo painful sharpening's, which will only make you better.
To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

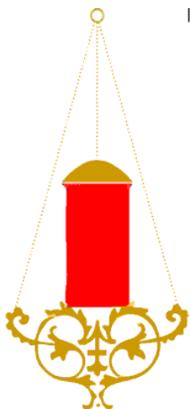
Very interesting, if you really think about it!

A pencil is created for a specific purpose, and so are we. Each of us is unique, created by God with our own special gifts and talents. No one can take that away from us. If you think about it, the hand that holds us ever so lovingly is the hand of God, and God will be there to guide us if we just allow him to do so.

Ah, but we must remember that to be at our best, there will always be sharpening times. While they are happening there may be challenges and stretching, but with a little support from others, we can do it. Last but, not least, when we can get discouraged and think we are insignificant and not worth much, like the pencil remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside of you. No one can take that away from you, unless you allow it.

There you have it, the five lessons from a pencil. Why not spend some time during this week and see how and where they fit into your life these days? There is always room for leaving a good mark, correcting mistakes, sharpening, the will to be guided, and most of all, valuing your inner spirit! Have a great week.

Till next week,
Sister Theresita



For the Week of September 12th, 2021
Our Sanctuary Lamp illuminates
The presence of God's love

Upon the Blessed Life of

Sister Theresita

On the occasion of her 58 years in
Religious Life

We are all blessed by her heart



For the Week of September 12th, 2021
Our Bread and Wine
Are Offered

In thanksgiving to

Mercep Brothers "Pete"

For their generosity.

From the grateful heart of

Sister T

For the Week of September 12th, 2021
Our Altar Candles are illuminating the light found in the
heart of,

Sister Theresita Donach

May the Holy Spirit lead your steps, and the light of Christ
Nourish your soul

With Our love and thanksgiving,

Your SSPJ Parish Family



For the Week of September 12th, 2021
The Pro Life Rose
Is Dedicated to,
"Sister T"

Thank you for dedicating your steps upon
the journey of life that God has navigated for you,
And for carrying those who could no longer journey
the path
With Love and Gratitude,
The Weary Travelers

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: SEPTEMBER 11TH & 12TH
FOR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**

This weekend, the diocese will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Catholic University is a national research university with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs in the heart of Washington, D.C. By giving to the collection, you are supporting both future Catholic leaders, religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, Faith-inspired education and the University's various research and training initiatives that support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. campus ministers are a few examples how the University is serving the Church

Please give generously. Support the collection at: futurecatholicleaders.igivecatholictogether.org.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND~ September 18th & 19th, 2021:
St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility**

Dear Friends:

Please accept my deepest thanks for your prayers and continued financial support for our senior priests residing at St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility.

When a diocesan priest is ordained, he makes a lifelong commitment to serve the needs of the faithful in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Even in retirement our priests continue to make a profound impact on the spiritual and personal lives of Catholics of all ages. They celebrate Mass in area parishes, visit the sick and homebound, and bring God's Word to those in prison. After a lifetime of sacrifice and service, no priest should face retirement without the care and support they may need with daily living.

St. Pius X provides a life-enriching experience for the men who live there, enabling our dedicated priests to live or recuperate at a facility that gives them the extra care and attention that they need. At the same time, St. Pius X allows them to serve as active, fully engaged members of the community. I encourage you to give prayerful consideration of a gift in support of our retired priests living at St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility. May I ask that you remember all our priests in your prayers as I know you and your family are remembered in ours.

Sincerely in Christ:
Most Reverend John O. Barres

**SPANISH TEACHER POSITION
AVAILABLE AT SSPJ SCHOOL
PART TIME~ 3 DAYS**

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's Degree or higher
- A practicing Roman Catholic with a commitment to the mission of Catholic education.
- Valid New York State Teacher Certification
- Student teaching experience or its equivalent.

Qualified candidates should email a Letter of Interest and Resume to:
danderson@sspjschool.net

MUSIC MINISTRY

**WELCOME BACK TO THE SSPJ ADULT
CHOIR!!!!**

We are happy to have the Adult Choir back this weekend. There is always room for more. Think about joining. Come on Thursday night at 7pm and find out all about it.

Next weekend the Chords of Faith teen choir is back. You may have noticed the sung Gloria is back. We are using the Gloria from the Mass of a Joyful Heart, which we have sung before. Also, the parts of the Mass changed to Mass of Renewal.

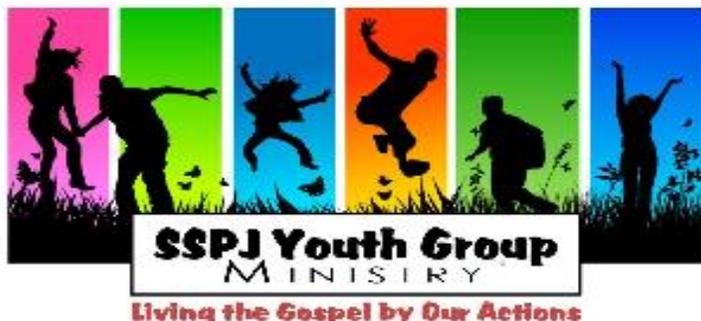
Remember to go online and print or save to your phone, the words to the songs. Listen to them and the parts of the Mass so you will feel comfortable singing.

Starting with the first Sunday of Advent we will have new books for the music and readings. One book for both. How exciting!!

To All Our Wonderful Young Adults In Grades 9-12

Your Assistance Completing this questionnaire is greatly appreciated

Visit SSPJ.org ~ Youth Tab : Download form and email to YouthGroup@sspj.org or drop at Parish Center Office



September 2021

Youth Ministry 2021 -2022 Activity Survey

We are working on developing a Youth Ministry program just for you! Since we are a bunch of adults, we'd really like to hear from you, the youth, about what you would like our Youth Ministry to be. We are looking for a wide variety of ideas to appeal to everyone.

There is no commitment to "BE HERE EVERY WEEK!" or anything like that. We want to get to know you and hear your ideas and opinions. Please take a few moments to complete this survey. We'll look at the survey results and plan events and activities bas. ed on what you have told us. Thanks for helping us get started!

Check one: Male Female

Name:		Birthday:	
Address:			
City:		State, Zip:	

Social Media (check what you use or subscribed to)

<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Twitter	<input type="checkbox"/> Snapchat
<input type="checkbox"/> Instagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Tumblr	<input type="checkbox"/> Quora
<input type="checkbox"/> YouTube	<input type="checkbox"/> Reddit	<input type="checkbox"/> WhatsApp

Community Building Activities (Check ALL those that interest you)

<input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Games	<input type="checkbox"/> Snapchat
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Badminton	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Skiing / Snowboarding
<input type="checkbox"/> Video Game Tournament	<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Skiing/Tubing
<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Retreat	<input type="checkbox"/> Dodgeball	<input type="checkbox"/> Kickball
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowling	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic/BBQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Miniature Golf / Arcade
<input type="checkbox"/> Karaoke Night	<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing / Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating
<input type="checkbox"/> Make Your Own Pizza Night	<input type="checkbox"/> Scavenger Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tacos "Your Way" Buffet
<input type="checkbox"/> Ping Pong	<input type="checkbox"/> Gigantic Jenga	<input type="checkbox"/> Musical Chairs

Service Projects (check those that interest you)

<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> Hungry	<input type="checkbox"/> Women/Children's Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Work with Mentally Disabled
<input type="checkbox"/> Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up in church
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Street-corner evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up outside church

Youth Ministry Questionnaire Continued

Discussion Topics (check ALL topics that interest you)

Making & Keeping Friends	Why Go to Church?
Dealing with Disappointments	Being A Leader
Drugs & Alcohol	Understanding Parents
Death, Loss, Grieving	Understanding Parents
Handling Stress & Worry	How to Help/Serve Others
Dating	Time Management
Healthy Relationships	How Do I Share My Faith?
Dealing with Doubt / Faith Questions	Being a LEADER
Other: _____	

What activity, or discussion would you most likely invite a friend to attend?

What evening(s) would be the BEST to attend an event at SSPJ? (Check all that apply)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Place a mark in the column that best describes your situation.		Yes	Maybe	No
1	I take time for personal Bible reading at least three times a week.			
2	I am growing in my relationship with the Lord			
3	I understand and am living the Spirit-filled Life			
4	I have come to the place in my spiritual life where if I were to die today, I know for certain I would have eternal Life.			
5	I am a part of a group that meets outside church at least once a month for sharing, prayer, or Bible study.			
6	I feel loved and accepted by my family			
7	I feel good enough about our ministry to recommend it to my friends			
8	I am using my gifts and abilities in ministry			
9	I feel loved and accepted by my family			
10	I get along OK with my parents			
11	I am growing in my ability to get along with my brothers and sisters			
12	I am praying by name for specific friends I know who need Jesus Christ.			
13	I have tried to share Jesus Christ with them			
14	I have been trying to bring my friends to youth group activities			
15	My friends know I am a Christian			

Youth Ministry SSPJ?		(Circle One)		
A	How many people do you know by name in our youth ministry?	1-5	5-10	10-15
B	How many times have you attended SSPJ Youth ministry?	1	2-10	Lost count
C	How many times have you attended Youth Ministry events outside of SSPJ?	1	2-10	Lost count

Youth Ministry Questionnaire Conclusion~

What is the last book you read?

What is the last movie you saw?

Favorite movies / TV Shows? Favorite music? Favorite books? Favorite foods/drinks?

What is one exciting thing you did this week? What was great about it?

Who are your role models?

Is there **one person in the church** you look up to? Who is it? Why?

How often can you attend a youth event?

- Weekly Two times per month Once per month Every two to three months
 Two – Three times per year.

Where and with whom do you normally attend Sunday Mass with?

About how often do you attend church services? (Circle one)

- Weekly Two times per month Once per month Every two to three months
 Two – Three times per year.

What activities do you consider part of being a good Christian / what do you do to live your faith?

How do you usually communicate with your friends? (Check all that apply):

- Face to Face Online Snapchat. Phone calls Texting I don't.

What are your favorite thing to do with friends? _____

Where do you most often spend your **free** time? _____

What are some of your talents/strengths? _____

What tasks do you find difficult? _____

At what local event do you remember having the most fun? _____

Do you need Community Service hours for school? Yes No

Would you be interested in fulfilling your hours at SSPJ? Yes No

How can we pray for you? _____

*Thank you for your help! If you have any questions, please email us at
YouthGroup@sspj.org*

We are SO CLOSE, ALMOST THERE....

2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal
The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300.

Status as of September 6th, 2021
Pledges: \$92,480. Payments Received: \$81,708.
We are at 87% of GOAL!! Thank you!
Every sacrifice is an act of love....



You can make a difference in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal

A gift of \$25 may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.

A gift of \$50 from an emergency fund may help pay the electric bill in a cold winter month for a family in need.

A gift of \$100 may help Catholic Charities' **Regina Maternity Case Management Program** help a mom and her baby receive the services she needs to be a better parent.

A gift of \$250 may help subsidize a home for an adult who is developmentally disabled.

A gift of \$1,000 may help support a Seminarian's education.

Because of you, every year we serve more than 600,000 people in our Long Island Community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve the community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit <https://www.drvc.org/donate/cma/> or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Every Gift Counts!

Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

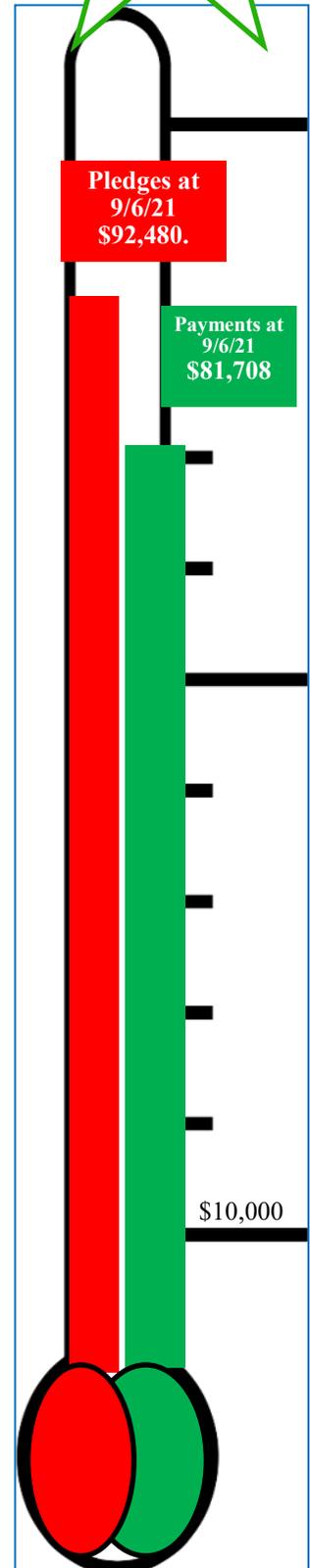
Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



Religious Education News

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR
WILL BEGIN DURING THE WEEK OF:
SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2021

All students must be registered to attend classes
Upon registration, books can be picked up at the Parish Center Office.

Any questions, please contact Religious Ed Office at 631-584-3204

Growing
Together
in Faith

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENT MEETINGS:



STUDENTS IN GRADES 1 AND 2:

Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 6:30PM in the Church

STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-6:

Wednesday, Sept. 22nd at 5:30 in the Auditorium

OR

Thursday, September 23rd at 6:30 in the Church

STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 AND 8:

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 7 pm in the church

BACK TO SCHOOL

Prayer

God of our hearts,
we ask for your wisdom and love as you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Teach us by your word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone. Send your Spirit upon all students as we begin this unusual school year in the midst of a global pandemic. Reassure all of us – students, parents, teachers, make us calm and open, and always generous in reaching out to one another. Help us to be a learner, a listener and a good friend. Enlarge our vision; lessen our fears; instill confidence. Bring us peaceful hearts, hearts that know Someone greater than ourselves sends us forth. Amen.

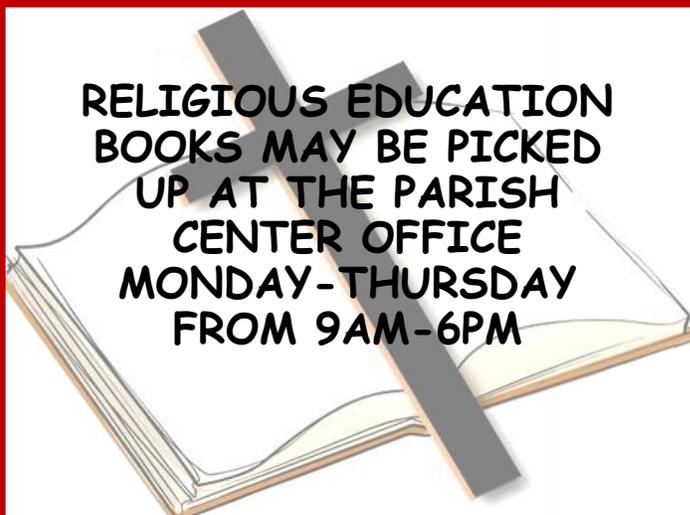
2021-2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION NEWS

REGISTRATION FOR THE UPCOMING
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR
IS COMING TO A CLOSE

FOR MORE INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT
OUR WEBSITE: SSPJ.ORG~RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION TAB

IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT
THE RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE AT
631-584-3204.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
BOOKS MAY BE PICKED
UP AT THE PARISH
CENTER OFFICE
MONDAY-THURSDAY
FROM 9AM-6PM



Parish Social Ministry



In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers

We hold in our hearts and prayers the families
of those who are home....

Jimmy Hayes
Santina Casano
Leda Brai
Helen P. Yaboni
Catherine Nook

Safely in Jesus loving arms...

Grandchildren
are a *blessing*
from above

PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

HEAVENLY FATHER, may saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of your Son, Jesus, be an everlasting model for grandparents. Your Wisdom and Word are eternal, meant for all generations. Help grandparents, we pray, as they pass on the rich traditions of the faith to their beloved family members, especially their grandchildren. We are all your children. Help us to know you better each day, ultimately leading us, with our family members, into eternal life with you.
AMEN.

Food Pantry Needs

TISSUES



Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated!



Abrahams Tent~ Open on all sides to welcome guests

The Logo for the Season of Creation, 2021 is Abraham's Tent, symbolizing "A home for all". Abraham and Sarah opened their tent as a home for three strangers, who turned out to be God's angels, and their act of radical hospitality became a source of great blessing. Abraham's tent is a symbol of our ecumenical call to safeguarding a place for all creatures in our common home, the household (oikos) of God. The tent is a sign of our interfaith and interdisciplinary call to create safe spaces for dialogue and discernment.

Smithtown Central School District
Is Offering:

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM (ABE)
"Preparing Adults for post-secondary education and the workplace"
For more information, please visit:
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us
Select: Department and click: Adult Education

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION

**AFTER ALL MASSES ON
THE WEEKEND OF:**

SEPTEMBER 25TH & 26TH



We are so proud of **Robert Trabulsi**

Robert is working on attaining his Eagle Scout Badge. As part of his project, he is organizing a non-perishable food drive for a local adult home. All donations will be collected after each Mass ONLY ON THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 25TH & 26TH.

Please do not bring in contributions for this project in advance of September 25-26. Additional information will be forthcoming in subsequent bulletins.

WAY TO GO ROBERT!

Your assistance and generosity is a wonderful expression of gratitude for all of God's abundant blessings in our Parish Family.

SMITHTOWN ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
NYA ANNEX
JOSEPH M. BARTON DISTRICT BUILDING
26 NEW YORK AVENUE
SMITHTOWN, NY 11787
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us

(Go to Departments; click Adult Education; click Adult Basic Education)

FREE CLASSES

Smithtown Central School District's Adult Basic Education Program offers **FREE** morning, afternoon, and evening classes at NYA Annex Joseph M. Barton District Building, 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787.

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- High School Equivalency (HSE)
- Citizenship
- Financial, Family, Health, and Computer Literacy (for those enrolled in ESL, ABE, and HSE classes)
- Career Counseling/Case Management (for those enrolled in ESL, ABE, and HSE classes)



ALL STUDENTS MUST REGISTER!

Please call 631.382.2181 for an appointment

Smithtown Residency is *not* required.

Please call at (631) 382-2181 for further information.

ALL WELCOME!

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Ps 54:3-6, 8
James 3:16-4:3
Mark 9:30-37

Monday September 20
Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön,
Paul Chông Ha-sang, & Co
Ezra 1:1-8
Ps 126:1b-8
Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday September 21
St. Matthew
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
Ps 19:2-5
Matthew 9:9-13

Wednesday September 22
Ezra 9:5-9
Tobit 13:2-4, 7-8
Luke 9:1-8

Thursday September 23
St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Haggai 1:1-8
Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b
Luke 9:7-9

Friday September 24
Haggai 2:1-9
Ps 43:1-4
Luke 9:18-22

Saturday September 25
Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a
Jer 31:10-13
Luke 9:43b-45

In this Sunday's readings, we face wickedness: jealousy destroying what's good, selfishness causing harm to others, and pride squashing those who get in the way.



Jesus provided the cure for this: "If anyone wishes to be first" (motivated by selfish ambition) "you must become the servant of all."

Selfish ambition is sinful because it tries to grab success away from others. James pointed out that whatever we're ambitious for, if it's

good, we can have it simply by asking God for it and working in collaboration with the Holy Spirit to achieve our goals – but not if we want it only to satisfy our personal, selfish passions.

When we desire something for the sake of how it will help others (rather than just for our own benefit), this desire is pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, and full of mercy and will produce good fruits.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. When have you suffered from the jealousies and selfish ambitions of others in the Church?
2. How did this affect your faith?
3. Did it motivate you to avoid committing the same sin?
4. Identify how jealousy and selfish ambition have been the underlying cause behind one problem you've witnessed or experienced. What does your story teach about how to deal with such scandals with a pure heart, a peaceful response, gentleness, mercy, and good fruits that turn a tragedy into a triumph?

To get at the root of any divisive problem, look for self-centered ambition. Honestly and objectively identify even the most subtle forms of it so that you can also identify God's antidote. When you see divisiveness in others, do you feel sorrow for them? If not, why not? The answer to that usually lies in our own self-centered pride.

U N D E R A B R I D G E I N A U S T I N

Recently at a workshop, a woman shared her anxiety about the death of her brother. Her older brother had died from the Covid virus before there were vaccines for it, and had died because he had dangerously exposed himself to catching the virus. However, he had exposed himself to that danger for a worthy reason. A military veteran, living alone, he used much of his salary and savings to cook meals and take them to feed homeless people living under a bridge in his hometown, Austin, Texas.

That certainly seems like a noble, Christian death, except that in his adult life he had lost any explicit faith in God and in Jesus, and self-defined as an agnostic (though with no antipathy towards religion). He simply didn't believe in God or go to church anymore. His sister who shared this story, loved him deeply, admired his feeding the homeless, but worried about his dying outside of an explicit faith and the church. Her anxiety was compounded by her other brother, a Christian fundamentalist, who is firm in the belief that dying outside of the church puts one eternally outside of salvation; in brief, you end up in hell. At a gut-level, his sister knew that this could not be true. Still she was anxious about it and wanted some assurances that her fundamentalist brother was wrong and that her anxiety about her brother's eternal salvation was a false fear.

What does one say in the face of that? A number of things might be said. First, that the God who Jesus incarnated and revealed is a God who is in every way the antithesis of fundamentalism and of this sort of false fear about salvation. Jesus assures us that God reads the heart in all its complexity, including its existential complexity. A fundamentalist reads only a written rubric, not the goodness of a heart. As well, scripture describes God as 'a jealous God'. This doesn't mean God gets jealous and angry when we are preoccupied with our own things or when we betray God through weakness and sin. Rather, it means that God, like a solicitous parent, never wants to lose us and seeks every possible means to keep us from slipping away and hurting ourselves. Moreover, in the abstract language of academic theology, *God has a universal will for salvation*, and that means for *everyone*, including agnostics and atheists.

More specifically, Jesus gives us three interpenetrating perspectives that expose the narrowness of all fundamentalist thinking regarding who goes to heaven and who goes to hell.

First, he gives us a parable of a man who has two sons and he asks them both to work in his field. The first son says that he will not do it, but in fact ends up doing it; the second son says he will do the work, but ends up not doing it. Which is the true son? The answer is obvious, but Jesus reinforces the parable with this comment: *It is not necessarily those who say 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of God on earth.*

What this parable highlights is what theologians (from John Henry Newman through Karl Rahner) have tried to teach, namely, that someone can have a notional faith that in fact rings hollow in the light of true faith. Conversely, someone can explicitly deny what we hold in our notion of faith and yet in the light of what a genuine faith demands, have real faith since this is not necessarily manifest in one's notion of faith but in the fruits of one's life.

As well, we have Jesus' shocking warning in Matthew 25 about how we ultimately will be judged for heaven or hell, namely, on whether or not we served the poor. This warning does not suggest that explicit faith and church attendance are of no consequence; they have their importance, but it is warning that there are things that are more important.

Finally, and perhaps most far-reaching in this regard, Jesus gives us the power to *bind and loose*. As parts of the Body of Christ, our love, like Jesus' love, keeps a loved one connected to the community of salvation. As Gabriel Marcel puts it, *to love someone is to say, you can never be lost*. This woman's love for her brother assures that he is not in hell.

All of this I might have said, but instead I simply referred to a wonderful quote from Charles Peguy the noted French poet and essayist. Peguy once suggested that when we die and appear before God, each of us will be asked this one question: "*Where are the others?*" ("*Ou sont les autres?*"). I assured the anxious woman she need not worry about her brother's eternal salvation, despite his dying outside of an explicit faith and the church. When he stood before God and was asked the question (*Where are the others?*) he had a very good answer: *They are under a bridge in Austin.*