



February 11th, 2024
The Sixth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

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

631-584-5454



*Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him
and said to him,
"I do will it. Be made clean."
Mark 1:41*

*"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, February 4th, 2024:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$10,636.

Mail Collections: \$ 2,324.

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

Total Collection: \$16,334.04

**CHURCH IN NEED COLLECTION SENT TO DIOCESE
OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE**

**FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON: USING
SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY238**

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 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
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
CARL JOSEPHSON-USAF
DANIEL JOSEPHSON-USAF
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON-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,

In today's readings we hear of the treatment of those suffering from leprosy. They were seen as outcasts, as untouchable. Yet in the gospel, a man with leprosy approaches Jesus and speaks with him, revealing his faith that if Jesus wishes, the man can be healed. And how does Jesus respond? He not only answers that he does desire to heal the man, but he also reaches out and touches him. Fr. John Foley, SJ, reflects,

Direct, honest, so revealing of God. The whole life of Jesus consists of a desire to give to people who are in trouble and who believe, even if they have only a small faith by which to receive, as well as large wounds.

In an extraordinary move, Jesus stretches out his hand and touches the man. As noted, the ancients thought that Leprosy was communicable, and at the very least disgusting. But Jesus touched him with care and said, "Be made clean." Our spiritual life consists of being "made clean," no matter how disgusting our failings may be. We must receive Jesus' touch, especially his touch upon our souls.

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. The schedule for our Ash Wednesday services is in today's bulletin. As you will see, there are a number of opportunities offered during this annual season of renewal and hope. Here's a little preview:

- On the weekend of February 17th and 18th, Maria Sehne will break open for us our Lenten Theme.
- Our Lenten Mission will be held March 4th-6th. Dr. Thomas Petriano returns and will again use art to pick up on the themes he presented us with in the fall as we continue our Eucharistic Revival. I will meet with him this week and be able to provide you with more information.
- We will have a Lenten Book Club invitation soon. The Pastoral Council meets this week and will decide how we will continue developing our theme of Eucharistic Revival.

But first!!! This Tuesday we celebrate Mardi Gras! Here's another opportunity to rejoice in and with each other. Children can share the fun provided by Camps R Us and all of us can ready ourselves to make the Lenten journey.

Many thanks to the Pastoral Council for hosting our sold-out Dine Around! Kudos to Debbie Carrasiti who chaired the event, to the many, many whose help made it happen to the scouts and SSPJ eighth graders who served so well, and to our many local eateries whose generosity filled us not only with delectable delights but even more with their loving hearts. Please be sure to thank them when you next feast at their table!

This Sunday at the 10am mass, we celebrate Scout Sunday, a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and thank our scouts who in their scout oath, promise to do their best to do their duty to God. Scouting explains that this way:

"Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day, and respecting and defending the rights of others to live their own beliefs."

And finally, some thoughts from "Vince, the Sign Guy":

*My wife and I can't count calories and we have the figures to prove it!
James Bond sports gray hair in his next film - "No Time to Dye".
Larva was a great band before the Beatles emerged.
I wanted to get my pants hemmed quickly so I called Taylor Swift.
I got booted from the Coffee Club because I wore a tea shirt.*

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of February 11th, 2024

Eucharistic Adoration Monday In the Church 1:30-7:00pm



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
Benito Fernandez
Bety DiSimone
Bob DelCiello
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
Marjorie Fox
Mary Monte
Margaret Remhild
Mark Hildreth
Mark Wagner
Mary Ryan
Marie Feicco
Maria Clark
Maria Collaro
Marie del Ciello
Maureen Litten
Mary Pinnatta
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 Liferieri
Tom Ryan
Tom Facone
Vivien & John
Cordes
Wayne Smith Sr.

Saturday February 10th Cantor: LoCastro	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Tomasino/Student EM: Licari/Sisti/Anderson/ Damato/Drechsler	9:15am 5:00pm	George Dunn Philip Giarraputo, Sr
Sunday February 11th Cantor: . Lupinacci	Presider: Father Joe Lector: White/Czujko EM: Calderone/Rapp/Czujko/ Sehne/M. Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: Hill	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Lombardi/Regan EM: Conti/Suski/Parish/ Orlando/Sotomayer/ Mulhall	10:00am	Living~Deacon Michael Hoonhout
Cantor: Stefanowski	Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector: Latino/Geier EM: Consenz/Samson/ Stack/Settineri	12:00pm	Kathleen Stanton Rose & Christine Patalano
Monday February 12th		7:30am 9:15am	Joan & John Purcell Living~Peter & Virginia Portanova
Tuesday February 13th		7:30am 9:15am	Living~Staff Sgt. Alexander Parella USMC Barbara Povinelli
Wednesday February 14th	Ash Wednesday	7:30am 9:15am 7:00pm	Charles P. Vanek Anthony Hurtado
Thursday February 15th		7:30am 9:15am	Judith Rooney Collective Mass: Gregory Mattia
Friday February 16th		7:30am 9:15am	Living~Christopher Michael Thomas Living~Sgt. Connor Scott USMC
Saturday February 17th Cantor: McCulloh	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Merlino/Student EM: Conti/Mantia/Sisti/ Drechsler/Urce	9:15am 5:00pm	Sr. Nora William SUSC Robert Koke
Sunday February 18th Cantor: Meringolo	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Marino/Halluska EM: Koke/Portanova/Ramos/ Sehne/P. Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Sehne/Contrino EM: Luna/McKie/Mulhall/ Orlando/Kaleita/Licari	10:00am	Lawrence M. Kenney
Cantor: Lohmann	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: Suski/Just EM: Bleggi/Rubano/ Margaret/D. Napolitano	12:00pm	Ruth Davila Claudia Chandler Robert James Anderson

PREPARING FOR LENT...

“Heavenly Father, grant the strength and discipline to make this Lent a time of spiritual growth. May my fasting, prayer, and almsgiving draw me closer to you.”



**ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY
14TH, 2024**

**ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED
AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:**

7:30AM MASS

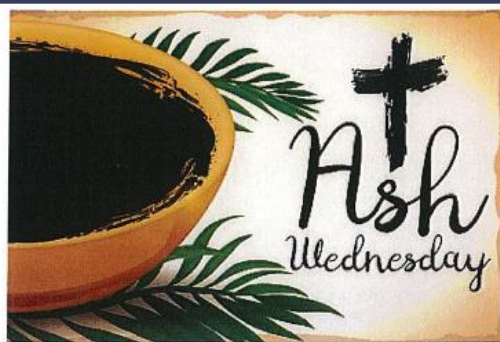
9:15AM MASS

12:00 WORD SERVICE

3:00PM WORD SERVICE

5:00PM WORD SERVICE

7:00PM MASS



**CAN YOU BE AN APOSTLE OF HOPE ON ASH WEDNESDAY?
February 14, 2024**

We are in need of parishioners to assist with the distribution of ashes at the following Masses and services on February 14th.

7:30 am Mass

9:15am Mass

12:00 Noon Word Service

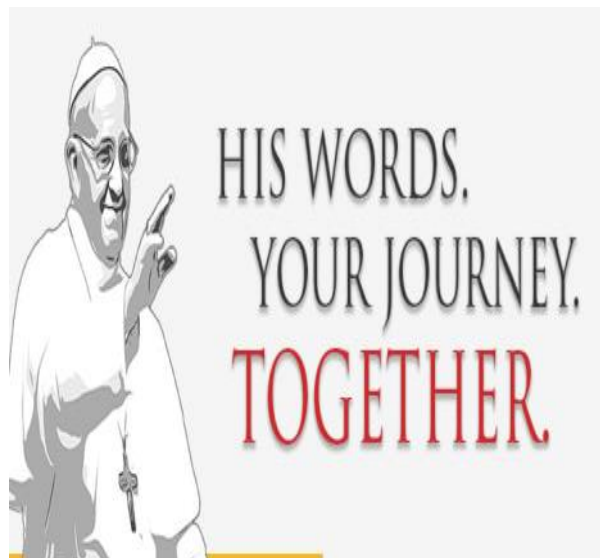
3:00 pm Word Service

5:00 pm Word Service

7:00 pm Mass

We also are in need of parishioners to help with the distribution of our Lenten Bracelets at each of the above Masses and Services.

If you can help with the distribution of ashes, or our Lenten bracelets, we ask you to attend one of the very brief training and sign-up sessions which will be given after each of the weekend Masses on February 10th and 11th



"In the king's command to his servants we find two words that express the heart of the mission: the verbs "to go out" and "to invite". As for the first, we need to remember that the servants had previously been sent to deliver the king's invitation to the guests (cf. vv. 3-4). Mission, we see, is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him. Tireless! God, great in love and rich in mercy, constantly sets out to encounter all men and women, and to call them to the happiness of his kingdom, even in the face of their indifference or refusal."

Pope Francis

- “Even the darkest moments of the liturgy are filled with joy, and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten fast, is a day of happiness, a Christian feast.” —*Thomas Merton*

Lord Jesus, the days draw near to our trip...the trip of a lifetime...a trip to the desert...

I travel lightly, knowing that when I walk beside you, I have everything that I need...

When I hunger~ you will feed me

When I am thirsty~ you will hydrate me

When I am weak~ you will carry me

Please invite my friends, my family, my Parish community, my brothers and sisters to embark on this solitary journey with you...

A trip not for packing and collecting...No, a trip for unloading, and becoming a stronger version of this child your love created...

Lent, 2024~ An offering to seek Christ, an opportunity to meet Christ, an invitation to receive Christ...

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 4TH-MARCH 6TH, 2024

OFFERED IN TWO SESSIONS
AM AND PM

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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:

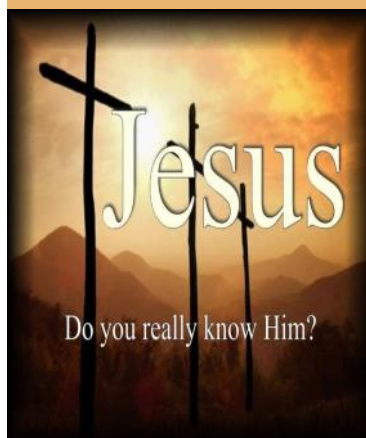
There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18-59. Those exempt are the vulnerable, the sick, or mentally challenged.

DAYS OF ABSTINANCE:

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Every Friday in the Church at 7pm
Beginning February 16th, 2024**



A Poem for Lent ~ Joyce Rupp

The cosmos dreams in me
while I wait in stillness,
ready to lean a little further
into the heart of the Holy.

I, a little blip of life,
a wisp of unassuming love,
a quickly passing breeze,
come once more into Lent.

No need to sign me
with the black bleeding ash
of palms, fried and baked.
I know my humus place.

This Lent I will sail
on the graced wings of desire,
yearning to go deeper
to the place where
I am one in the One.

Oh, may I go there soon,
in the same breath
that takes me to the stars
when the cosmos dreams in me.

LENTEN BOOK CLUB OFFERING

All are invited and encouraged and to attend and participate in a "Lenten Book Club" offered and hosted by the Parish Council.

This opportunity introduces us to :

Beautiful Eucharist, written by Mathew Kelly

An invitation toward a personal encounter with Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist.

This book provides short stories from various authors who share personal encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Session I:

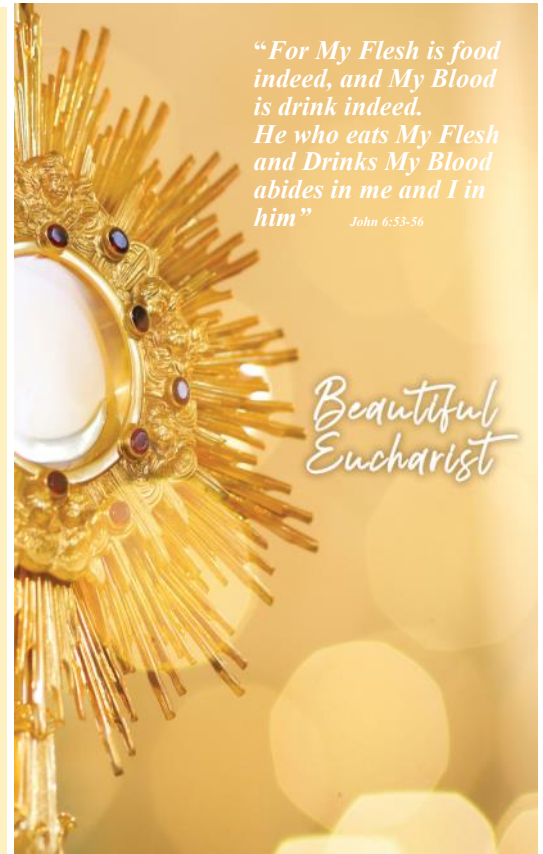
Sunday, February 25th	1:00-2:00 in the auditorium
Wednesday, February 28th	10am-11am in the Parish Center 6:00pm-7:00 pm in the auditorium

Session II:

Sunday, March 10th	1:00-2:00pm in the auditorium
Wednesday, March 13th	10am-11:00am in the Parish Center 6:00pm-7:00pm in the auditorium

Books will be provided free of charge in the prayer room.

Please consider joining in this Lenten experience with Christ



"For My Flesh is food indeed, and My Blood is drink indeed. He who eats My Flesh and Drinks My Blood abides in me and I in him" John 6:53-56

Beautiful Eucharist

**"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 Students~ 8th grade
Prayer Recitation Night
February 12th, 2024*

Families have received an email identifying the specific appointment time for the student.

Wow Lent is almost here.
Ash Wednesday is this week.

We go from ordinary green to Lent purple. Music changes as well. No Gloria, sung or spoken. The sung Penitential Rite replaces the Gloria and no Alleluia's are sung. These will return at Easter. The parts of the Mass change as well to the Mass of Resurrection in the book # 869, 872, 873, 874.

We will also be gathering in silence. No gathering hymn and our Presentation song is "I Say Yes". It's back!! This will be sung throughout Lent. So, sing the Gloria and Alleluia strong this weekend as it will be the last time before Easter. Next week our mood and focus change.

Happy Valentine's Day

ATTENTION SSPJ COMMUNITY! **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 23rd from
9:00 am - 12:00 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:
Faye Saladino 646-573-9014



Getting Ready for Lent

Lent begins Wednesday, February 14, 2024. So...

It's Mardi Gras!



*ALL are invited to gather for a celebration ~
as we pray, burning last year's palm into ashes ~
which will be used on Ash Wednesday.
Then we party with entertainment, games,
and of course food! —*

Tuesday, February 13
6 – 8 pm.



SSPJ TOWN SQUARE (Auditorium)

Adults: \$15. Children: \$10 (under 12)



(Children under 5 are free.)

PLEASE RSVP to the Rectory 584-5454 by Wednesday, Feb 7

So we may plan accordingly - Payment may be dropped off at the office

Can YOU HELP – come and join us as we gather as a Parish Community to celebrate.

For additional information or to reserve you may vportanova@sspj.org



Congratulations to SSPJ Second Graders on their First Reconciliation!



Congratulations and God Bless SSPJ Eighth Graders on receiving their school pin!



Eighth grade students were honored for being leaders, role models and examples of faith and academic excellence for the SSPJ School community.

Students received a school pin which signifies the upcoming transition into high school, marking a milestone in their education.

The pin also serves as a reminder of all their past experiences and achievements here at Sts. Philip and James School.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL
FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT

"I am HIS Reflection"

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2024
FROM 10:30AM-12:30 NOON IN THE PARISH
AUDITORIUM

JOIN US AS WE SHARE THE SEASON OF LENT TOGETHER
WITH
PRAYER, FAITH SHARING, TEAMWORK AND
ACTS OF LOVE IN SERVICE FOR OTHERS

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF DOLLAR STORE ITEMS SUCH AS;
SOAP, DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, BODY LOTION, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH,
PENS, NOTE PADS, SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER TO ASSIST OUR BROTHERS AND
SISTERS IN NEED

PLEASE RSVP BY
MONDAY
FEBRUARY 26TH

Jesus

FAMILY NAME: _____

CHILDREN ATTENDING: _____ GRADE: _____

_____ GRADE: _____

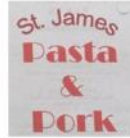
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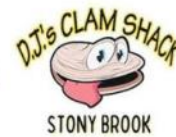
_____ GRADE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



Our Dine Around was a wonderful event, thanks to the generosity of these local businesses. Please visit them to thank them for helping to make the Dine Around a huge success!



**AND A MOST WONDERFUL TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!
SSPJ DINE AROUND MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2024**





June 2023— July 2024

Our Year of the Eucharistic Revival

The Gift of Eucharist

Jesus gives us himself in the eucharist to nourish us.

When we accept and believe this gift, it transforms our life into a gift to God and to all we meet.

Pope Francis speaks often about what Jesus does for us in the Eucharist. Each time we come to communion, our God is present to us, and the bread and wine we offer are transformed by the Holy Spirit into His Body and Blood, just as we too are transformed more fully into His body. The Eucharist nourishes us and strengthens us to do God's work in the world. His gift to us becomes our gift to God—this gift we can never fully understand or repay.

Ponder: How often do I think of what Christ does for us in the Eucharist?

Pray: God of mystery and wonder, help me to be aware of the great gift you give us in the Eucharist.

(Window from St.
John the Evangelist
Church, Center
Moriches)



A REFLECTION FROM SISTER T...

Dear Friends,

Anticipation... Somehow, I don't think that the anticipation for Lent equals that of ketchup slowly pouring out of the bottle. As I mentioned in last week's reflection, we are getting ready for Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Starting next week, I will unpack the "BE" Attitudes of Pope Frances - Be Joyful, Be Missionary, Be Merciful, Be Bridge Builders, Be Bold and Creative, Be My Witness and Be Patient and Persevere.

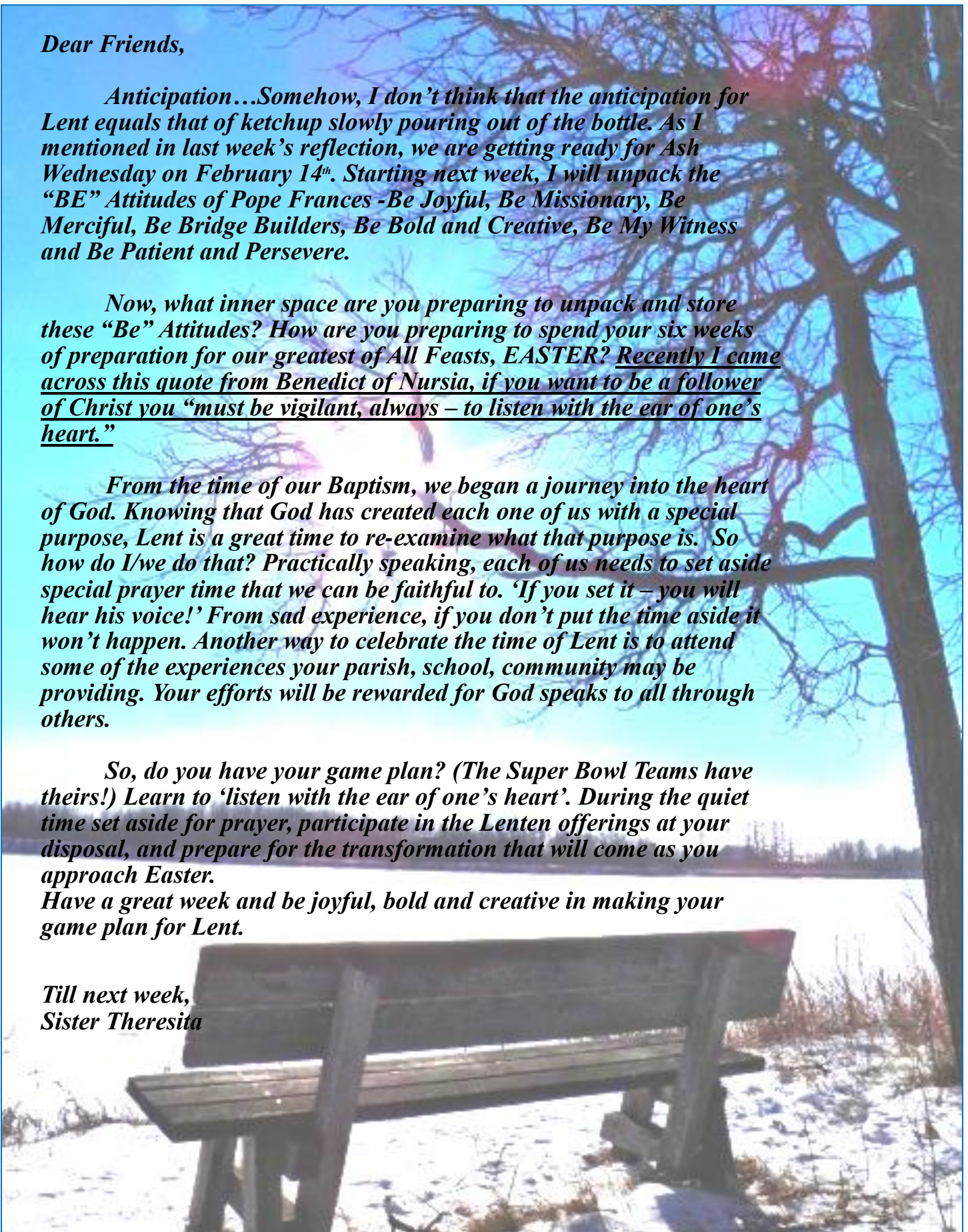
Now, what inner space are you preparing to unpack and store these "Be" Attitudes? How are you preparing to spend your six weeks of preparation for our greatest of All Feasts, EASTER? Recently I came across this quote from Benedict of Nursia, if you want to be a follower of Christ you "must be vigilant, always – to listen with the ear of one's heart."

From the time of our Baptism, we began a journey into the heart of God. Knowing that God has created each one of us with a special purpose, Lent is a great time to re-examine what that purpose is. So how do I/we do that? Practically speaking, each of us needs to set aside special prayer time that we can be faithful to. 'If you set it – you will hear his voice!' From sad experience, if you don't put the time aside it won't happen. Another way to celebrate the time of Lent is to attend some of the experiences your parish, school, community may be providing. Your efforts will be rewarded for God speaks to all through others.

So, do you have your game plan? (The Super Bowl Teams have theirs!) Learn to 'listen with the ear of one's heart'. During the quiet time set aside for prayer, participate in the Lenten offerings at your disposal, and prepare for the transformation that will come as you approach Easter.

Have a great week and be joyful, bold and creative in making your game plan for Lent.

*Till next week,
Sister Theresita*



GOD BLESS ALL SSPJ STUDENTS MEET THE SSPJ SCHOOL APOSTLES OF HOPE FOR JANUARY 2024

January Apostles of Hope 2024

Nursery

Harley Murphy is an Apostle of Hope. Harley walks into school with a sweet smile and ready to learn. She loves to participate in all Nursery activities and is always willing to help her friends throughout the day. Harley loves to attend Mass with her buddy and her family on the weekends. She is always setting a positive example for all her classmates.

Pre-Kindergarten

Thomas Gropp-Condon is an Apostle of Hope. Thomas enjoys listening and responding to stories from the Pre-K Stories of God's Love series and the Beginner's Bible. He loves to talk with his classmates about spreading positivity and kindness the way Jesus wants us to. He leads by example by welcoming his friends with a smile and a good morning and he says his prayers with grace and pride. Thomas works hard and does his best everyday in class.

Kindergarten

Jayden Cortazar is an Apostle of Hope. In school, Jayden is an active participant in religion. He always confidently answers questions, and isn't afraid to ask questions himself. Jayden says his prayers loud and proud. Jayden always offers a helping hand to his classmates and especially his teacher. He always puts others before himself. Jayden attends Mass with his family and he loves children's liturgy. Jayden loves to pray at home and will often remind his family to pray! He always prays for his little sister Izzy and puts his faith in God that she will be healed.

Myles Santiago is an Apostle of Hope. Myles is a kind and caring person to everyone around him. He attends mass every Sunday and always hands in his reflections. Myles is a great friend, excellent student and a wonderful follower of Jesus.

Grade 2

Gerard Apoe is an Apostle of Hope. Gerard always does his best to respond during our grade level Masses. He is an active participant during religion lessons and attends Mass on the weekends with his family. Gerard works hard to show he is a follower of Jesus by being respectful during Mass, helping his friends find the correct page in the missalette and by praying.

Grade 3

Michael Cullen is an Apostle of Hope. Michael is reverent during prayers. He attends Mass on the weekends with his family and completes his weekly reflections. He recently did a great job as a greeter at our grade-level Mass. Michael looks out for his friends just as Jesus would.

Grade 4

Luciano Saladino is an Apostle of Hope. Luciano enjoys school and learning. He is always ready to lend a helping hand. He attends Mass regularly with his family. Luciano recites his prayers beautifully and he takes being an Altar Server very seriously.



Grade 5

Donovan DiIorio is an Apostle of Hope. Donovan actively participates in the weekly grade level Masses. He sings and responds each week. Donovan is reverent during morning and afternoon prayers. He regularly attends Mass with his family and submits his weekly reflections. Donovan works hard and always puts forth his best effort. He actively participates and shares his faith experience with the class. Donovan is kind to others and he is committed to his faith journey.

Grade 6

Nicole Wille is an Apostle of Hope. Nicole is incredibly kind to all of her classmates. She gives her best effort in every class, especially religion. Nicole is a role model for her Nursery Buddies and is an altar server at class and weekend Masses. Thank you Nicole for being an example of how to follow Jesus.

Grade 7

Francesca Scott is an Apostle of Hope. Francesca is truly exceptional. Not only does she consistently deliver outstanding work, but she also actively engages in class, demonstrating an unwavering enthusiasm for learning. Her participation enriches the learning environment for everyone. Moreover, her deep-rooted faith in God is a guiding light, reflecting in her compassion, resilience, and integrity. It's evident that her faith is not just a belief, but a source of strength that radiates through her actions and interactions. Her commitment to both academic excellence and spiritual growth is truly inspiring.

Grade 8

Sarah Cullen is an Apostle of Hope. Sarah follows Jesus' teachings through her numerous acts of kindness. She attends Mass regularly with her family, and frequently volunteers to altar serve. In addition, Sarah recently joined the Lector ministry. As for her studies, Sarah is a hard worker who is motivated to do well. Keep up the great work Sarah!

Faculty

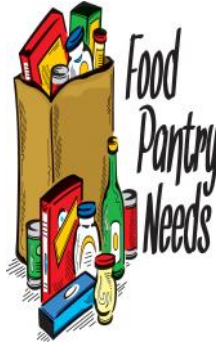
Mr. Petraglia is an Apostle of Hope. Mr. Petraglia is a ray of sunshine at school. He brings light and love to all those he encounters each day. He is a caring, enthusiastic, faith filled teacher to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. He enjoys seeing the younger students, never missing an opportunity to joke or speak with them. Many days, Mr. Petraglia sees the students off at dismissal with exuberance. He has volunteered his time to the boys basketball team practices and games. He is a wonderful example of what it is like to be a follower of Jesus every day.

Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Needs:

Chicken Noodle Soups
Instant brown rice cups
Cherrios

Thank you for your generosity



We remember the family and friends of,

*Grace Riccio
Carl J. Gerfo*

Safely Home in the arms of our Lord

SSPJ SENIORS

The next meeting of SSPJ Seniors will be on Monday, Feb. 26 from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Sts. Philip & James Room.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The Respect Life Committee encourages all to pray for an end to conflict throughout the world.

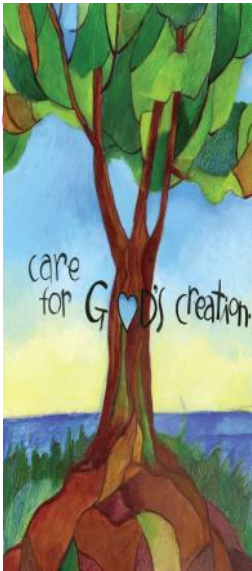


SSPJ LAUDATO SI CIRCLE MINISTRY



LAUDATO SI CIRCLE

Some members of the SSPJ Laudato Si Circle met with NY Senator Mario Mattera to exchange ideas about the present climate crisis and the protection of God's Creation.



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

My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 1-3

For the: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday, February 11th, 2024

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, February 17th or Sunday, February 18th, 2024

The Gospel Message: Mark 1:40-45



In today's Gospel reading we learn how Jesus cures a person with leprosy. Jesus asked the Leper not to tell anyone about this healing. Instead the Leper reports his cure to everyone.

Dear Jesus,

*I am so grateful
Jesus, for the gifts
of healing that you
so willingly provide.*

*I know that "your
will be done" and
that all good things
come from following
your will.*

*Please help me to
try very hard to do
the right thing.*

*And the right thing
is always to
LOVE.*



JESUS HEALS THE BROKEN HEARTED



My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 4-6

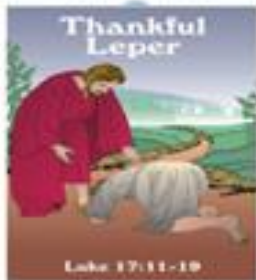
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*And the right thing
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JESUS HEALS THE BROKEN HEARTED

Jesus Heals a Leper

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Mark 1:40-41

Based on Mark 1:40-45



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

PEOPLE
CLEAN
TALK

LEPROSY
TOUCHED
MAN

NEWS
HAND
BEGGED

CURED
PRIEST
TOWN

KNEES
MAKE
WILLING

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And the right thing is always to LOVE.

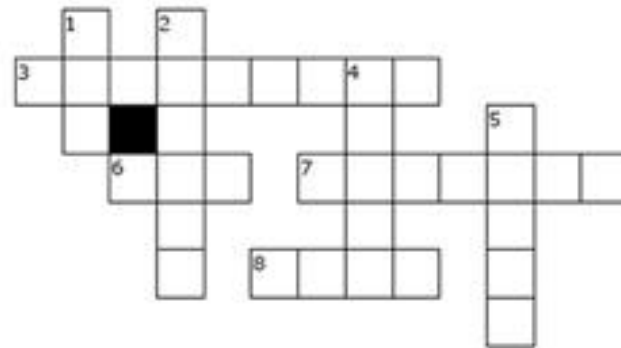


JESUS HEALS THE BROKEN HEARTED

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Puzzle is based on Mark 1:40-45



ACROSS

3. To offer an animal or other material possession to God
6. To plead for something; or to ask again and again
7. A skin disease
8. The part of the body at the end of the arm that includes the fingers

DOWN

1. An adult male
2. A person who has been trained to perform religious duties in some churches
4. To be free from dirt or impurities
5. To come in contact with something, especially with the hands

CLEAN
TOUCH

MAN
BEG

LEPROSY
SACRIFICE

HAND
PRIEST

*Reflecting and Preparing for Next Sunday February 18th, 2024
The First Sunday of Lent*

Good News
INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 18

Gn 9:8-15
Ps 25:4-9
1 Pt 3:18-22
Mk 1:12-15

Monday, February 19

Lv 19:1-2,11-18
Ps 19:8-10,15
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 20

Is 55:10-11
Ps 34:4-7,16-19
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 21

Jon 3:1-10
Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 22

Chair of Peter, Apostle
1 Pt 5:1-4
Ps 23:1-3a,4-6
Mt 16:13-19

Friday, February 23

Ez 18:21-28
Ps 130:1-8
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 24

Dt 26:16-19
Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8
Mt 5:43-48

Today's Gospel reading shows us the first thing that Jesus did after his baptismal anointing in the Jordan River: He wrestled with temptation.

His baptism had marked the moment of his complete surrender to the Father's will. As he arose from the water, he began a new life of ministry.

The Father responded by telling him that he was very pleased, and the Holy Spirit filled his humanness. Jesus as God already had the Holy Spirit (he and the Spirit were the same God), but Jesus the fully human Son now came fully alive in the Spirit. We can imagine how this experience in the Jordan River gave him the feeling of an elated spiritual high. And the next thing that happens is an attack of the devil.

The same pattern repeats itself in our lives. As soon as we experience new growth in our faith, or a new calling to do the Father's will, we run smack

into a situation that tests the strength and sincerity of our faith. However, if this didn't happen, how would we find out that we've spiritually matured? How would we know that we are ready to make a significant difference for the kingdom of God?

Sometimes without consciously thinking it, we decide that if we're going to be tested and we might lose, wouldn't it be better not to start something new? Well, that's another temptation!

Lent is the perfect time to examine the temptations that we



face every day and turn them into new growth that will strengthen our faith.

Every time we face a sin and seek God's forgiveness, we become stronger. And if we take

it a step farther by walking into the confessional with it, we also receive powerful graces directly from Jesus, through the priest, that will render temptations much more powerless.

And this makes us more useful to God in the mission of conquering evil in the world and helping his kingdom spread into the lives of the people around us.

Think of temptations as blessings in disguise: Use them as opportunities to become more like Jesus and grow powerful in the faith.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How well do you recognize temptation?
- † How quickly do you rely on the faith that God has given you to say no to the devil's tricks?
- † Describe a time when you experienced a spiritual high and then faced a strong temptation. How did you handle it?
- † What role did (or will) Jesus play in overcoming this temptation?

THE DARK NIGHT AS IMPASSE

What happens to us when we experience a dark night of the soul? What's happening and what's to be our response?

There are libraries of literature on this, each book or article making its own point, but here I want to share a rather unique and highly insightful take on this by Constance FitzGerald, a Carmelite nun and someone well versed in the various classical spiritual writers who speak about the dark night of the soul.

She uses the word "impasse" to render what is commonly called a dark night of the soul. For her, in effect, what happens in a dark night of the soul is that you come to an "impasse" in your life in terms of your emotions, your intellect, and your imagination. All the former ways you understood, imagined, and felt about things, especially as this relates to God, faith, and prayer, no longer work for you. You are, so to speak, paralyzed, unable to go back to the way things were and unable to move forwards. And part of the paralysis is that you cannot think, imagine, or feel your way out of this. You are at an impasse – no way back and no way forward. So, what do you do? How do you move beyond the impasse?

There's no simple or quick path out of this. You cannot imagine, think, or feel your way out of this because the vision, symbols, answers, and feelings you need, in effect, don't exist yet, at least they don't exist for you. That's the exact reason why you are at an impasse and so emotionally and intellectually paralyzed. The new vision and feelings that can reset your vision, thoughts, and feelings first have to be gestated and given birth to through your own pain and confusion.

At this stage, there is no answer, at least not for you. You may have read accounts of others who have undergone the same impasse and who now offer counsel as to how to undergo the dark night. That can be useful, but it's still your heart, your imagination, and your intellect that are in the crucible of fire. Knowing that others have gone through the same fire can help give you vision and consolation in your paralysis, but the fire must still be gone through in your own life to reset your own imagination, thoughts, and feelings.

For FitzGerald, being in this state is the ultimate liminal space within which we can find ourselves. This is a crucible within which we are being purified. And, for her, *the way out is the way through*. The way out of a dark night of this kind is through "contemplation", namely, staying with the impasse, waiting patiently inside it, and waiting for God to break the impasse by transforming our imagination, intellect, and heart.

So ultimately, this impasse is a challenge for us to become mystics, not that we begin to search for extraordinary religious experience, but that we let our disillusion, broken symbols, and failed meanings become the space wherein God can reset our faith, feelings, imagination, and intellect inside of a new horizon wherein everything is radically reinterpreted.

How do we do this concretely? How do we contemplate? We do it by sitting in the tension, helpless, patient, open, waiting, and staying there however long it takes for us to receive in the depth of our souls a new way of imagining, thinking, and feeling about God, faith, and prayer – beyond the impasse.

Moreover, the broken symbols, the disillusion, and our helplessness to think or feel our way out of the impasse is precisely what assures us that the new vision which is given to us comes from God and is not the product of own imagination or projection or self-interest.

One of the most penetrating criticisms of religious experience ever given was made by Friedrich Nietzsche who claimed that all religious experience, all of it, is ultimately human projection. He argued that we create God in our self-image and likeness for our own self-interest, and that is why a lot of sincere faith and religion can be hypocritical and false. Reacting to this, Michael Buckley, the renowned Jesuit philosopher, and theologian, made this counterclaim: Nietzsche is 95% correct. Ninety-five percent of what claims to be religious experience is in fact human projection. But, Buckley adds, Nietzsche is 5% wrong and that 5% makes all the difference – *because in that 5% God's revelation flows untainted in our lives*.

Now, and this is the essential point here, that 5% happens precisely when we are in a dark night of the soul, when our symbols are broken, our intellect is impotent, our imagination is empty, and our hearts are at loss. It is precisely then, when we are helpless to help ourselves that we are also helpless to fudge and taint the way God is entering us.

God can flow into our lives pure and untainted when we are at an impasse and unable to substitute our