



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

August 27th, 2023  
The Twenty first Sunday  
In Ordinary Time

*"But who do  
You  
say that I am?"*

Matthew 16:15

*Art4TheGloriousGod*

"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](http://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](mailto:cczujko@sspj.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~[bluna@sspj.org](mailto:bluna@sspj.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~[davento@sspj.org](mailto: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, August 20th, 2023:**

Collections from Weekend masses: \$8,731.

Collections from mail: \$2,005.

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

**Total Collections: \$14,110.04**

**FAITH DIRECT: VISIT [SSPJ.ORG](http://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 KAIRE

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.

## While Father Tom is away...A Reflection from Sister T

Dear Friends,

I've just returned from my annual retreat, and there is so much I would love to share with you! One of the recurring themes throughout the retreat this year was asking ourselves how we are to bring the presence of Christ to all we meet. How do we do that?

Let me use an example. Being a Rotarian, I know I should act in a certain manner. This specific manner of behavior is called the Four Way Test, and it goes like this:

It is called "the Four-Way Test of the things we think, say, or do".

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

My actions are to be guided by these important questions. Any Rotarian can remind you of these questions at any time you ask, because we all memorize and live by them.

Another example on a philosophy to live your life by came across my desk in the form of a quote from the Buddha:

***"Teach this triple truth to all: a generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things that will renew humanity."***

Great quote, but how do I live my life so as to bring the spirit of Christ to all those I meet? One way can be found in something St. Ignatius of Loyola once said:

***"Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to Him and if they were to allow His grace to mold them accordingly."***

When we are praying or at Mass, do we abandon ourselves to God so that He may make us 'other Christs'? St. Ignatius goes on further to say ***"most people have no idea what God would make of them if they would only place themselves at His disposal"***.

What does all of this mean? Simply put, we need to surrender our lives to God and become worthy of our Catholic calling. It is possible! If Rotarians and Buddhists can live a life worth of their calling, then so can we! It does take some reflective time, energy, and determination, but with God, all things are truly possible.

How will you live our your week?

Till next week,  
Sister Theresita



***A generous heart, kind speech, a life of service , and compassion...its a good thing***



# Mass Intentions, For the week of August 27th, 2023

**Our Bread & Wine  
Are Offered  
In Loving Memory of,**

**Martin Caltabiano**

**"Happy Birthday in Heaven  
To my dear Brother"**

**Love and Miss you,  
Always in my heart,**

**Janice**

**We Pray for those who are ill...**

Andy  
Anna Capizzio  
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  
Carol  
Carolyn Nehl  
Catherine Smith  
Catherine Levine  
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  
Jackie & Christine  
Duffy  
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

Joe Dorrian  
Joseph Costa  
Joseph Domizzio  
Kaitlyn Remhild  
Kathleen Draper  
Kathleen N.  
Kerry  
Kitty Cronin  
Kristin Galetta  
Laura Bode  
Leon Donach  
Lola Santangelo  
Lori Cearney  
Mary Monte  
Marty Rizzo  
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  
Nick Lella  
Patricia Acker  
Patricia Trippree  
Pasquale Savarese  
Pat McCumber  
Peter Donach  
Peter Portanova  
P.I.  
Ricardo Buffit  
Riordan Cavooris  
Rogelio Martinez  
Rose  
Ronnie Paciella  
Ryan Duffy  
Sara Jean Andersen  
Stanley Stura  
Stephen Dolce  
Susanne Smith  
Tonia Perdue  
Tara Cesarski  
Teresa Matterna  
Tina Cafaro  
Tiffany Lochan  
Tom Devaney  
Tom Ficht  
Tom Ryan  
Tom Focane  
Tom Spellman  
Vivien & John  
Cordes  
Wayne Smith Sr.

|   |   |                      |   |
|---|---|----------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday<br/>August 26th</b><br>Cantor:<br>L. LoCastro   | Presider: Father Shibi<br>Lector: Halluska/Healy<br>EM: Rapp/Consenz/<br>Anderson/Kanuika/Urce                  | 9:15am<br><br>5:00pm | Ronald A. Mincio<br><br>John Silvestre  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>August 27th</b><br>Cantor:<br>L. Lupinacci    | Presider: Father Shibi<br>Lector: Koke/Sehne<br>EM: Czujko/Dervan/Diaz/<br>Dunn/Kenney                          | 8am                  | For the People of SSPJ Parish   |
| Cantor:<br>B. Meringolo                                     | Presider: Father Joe<br>Lector: Zahorodny/Smith<br>EM: Keane/Suski/Sisti/<br>Conti/Napolitano/Parish            | 10:00am              | Jane Catherine Shannon  |
| Cantor:<br>J. Lohmann                                       | <u>Collective Mass</u><br>Presider: Father Joe<br>Lector: Just/Geier<br>EM: Bleggi/Kaleita/<br>Samson           | 12:00pm              | Marty Caltabiano<br>John Muller<br>Anthony & Filomena Mauceri<br>Rosemary Culhane<br>Fran Settoducato<br>Teresa Hynes |
| <b>Monday<br/>August 28th</b>                               | Eucharistic Adoration<br>1:30-7pm<br>St. Augustine Bishop   | 7:30am<br><br>9:15am | Edi Schwencher<br><br>George Dunn   |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>August 29th</b>                              | The Passion of St. John<br>The Baptist  | 7:30am<br><br>9:15am | Cathy McGrath<br><br>William T. Fisher  |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>August 30th</b>                            |   | 7:30am<br><br>9:15am | Alan Evans<br><br>Edwin Reichert, Jr.   |
| <b>Thursday<br/>August 31st</b>                             |   | 7:30am<br><br>9:15am | Living~Jennifer Zeman<br>Collective Mass<br>Living~ Eleanora & Bob Devenish<br>Mariana Moyo                           |
| <b>Friday<br/>September 1st</b>                             | World Day of Prayer for<br>Creation   | 7:30am<br><br>9:15am | Tom & Hannah Chura  |
| <b>Saturday<br/>September 2nd</b><br>Cantor:<br>N. Hughes   | Presider: Father Joe<br>Lector: Dreschler/Burke<br>EM: Rizzo/Calderone/<br>Anderson/Taurassi/Byrne              | 9:15am<br><br>5:00pm | Kevin Cocoman<br><br>Guy Thomas Gulotta-Gold  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>September 3rd</b><br>Cantor:<br>L. Stefanowki | Presider: Father Joe<br>Lector: Cavooris/Marino<br>EM: Clarke/Dervan/Diaz/<br>Koke/LaSerra                      | 8:00am               | For the People of SSPJ Parish   |
| Cantor:<br>B. Meringolo                                     | Presider: Father Tom<br>Lector: Tomasino/Rean<br>EM: Licari/Consenz/Amen/<br>Latino/Luna/Sotomayer              | 10:00am              | Diane Corey   |
| Cantor:<br>J. Hill  | <u>Collective Mass</u><br>Presider: Father Tom<br>Lector: O'Leary/Rubano<br>EM: Rubano/<br>Napolitano/Settineri | 12:00pm              | Deborah M. O'Connell<br>Charles Salomon   |

## A Great Big Thank You From Parish Social Ministry!

*To Our Wonderful SSPJ Parish Family,  
Our school supply collection has ended. Your response to the requested needs was overwhelming and you made many children excited and happy.*

*On behalf of these children and Parish Social Ministry, we send a resounding "Thank you". God bless you for your generosity.*



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



**So, let us ask ourselves: How do I react when I am afraid, in difficulties? Do I go ahead alone, with my own strength, or do I call on the Lord with trust? And what is my faith like? Do I believe that Christ is stronger than the adversarial waves and winds? But above all: Am I sailing with him? Do I welcome him? Do I make room for him in the boat of my life – never alone, always with Jesus? Do I hand the helm over to Jesus?"**

**Pope Francis**

## Music Ministry~

*End of August already WOW where does the time go.*

*My wedding Anniversary is this week and that flew by too, 20 years married to a great guy who is my right hand here at SSPJ. A lot of things wouldn't happen if it were not for my husband Tim.*

*Jesus calls us to be followers. In the Presentation hymn this week, The Summons, Jesus wants us to follow him. Will We?? Why not follow him by singing. Wouldn't that be great!!*

*Make some memories by joining the music ministry. It's a fun way to sing and praise God through music. The Adult Choir, Chords of Faith and Baptism groups are always in need of members We really NEED YOU!!! Our numbers need to come up. Now is the time to join!!*

*Baptism Music is a good start. It takes a bite size piece of your time. Baptisms are twice a month. More people mean less time. Singers and accompanists NEEDED!! Choirs take a little more time but all groups are rewarding.*

*Sooooo, come join us.  
More info in September.*



**The Catholic Daughters will be selling chances for their annual Labor Day 50/50 Scholarship Raffle in the school lobby this weekend after all masses.**

**The raffles are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.**

**The drawing will be held in the church lobby following the 9:15 Am Mass on Labor Day, September 4th, 2023**





**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY**  
**"LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME"**

**Registration for the  
2023-2024  
Religious Education School Year**

**WILL BE ENDING IN  
4 WEEKS!**  
**After September 15th,  
registration will be closed.**

All of the information for  
registration can be found on  
our website SSPJ.ORG,  
Select: "Religious Education"  
Then Select: "Registration  
Information."



**PARENT MEETINGS FOR THE  
UPCOMING  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR**

**ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PARENT  
MEETINGS  
WHICH WILL BE OFFERED AFTER EACH  
OF  
THE MASSES ON THE WEEKEND OF:**

**SEPTEMBER 16TH  
AFTER THE 5:00PM MASS**

**SEPTEMBER 17TH AFTER  
THE 8AM and 10AM MASS  
AND THE 12 NOON MASS**

These meetings will offer a chance to  
review the  
Upcoming year and opportunities to grow in  
faith and service.  
Questions, please contact the RE office at  
631-584-3204

**"Everyone NeEdS Jesus  
Program"**

**SSPJ ministry of special  
education offers time spent with  
Jesus for our students and their  
families.**

**This wonderful program begins in  
October and meets at 9am on  
scheduled Saturdays through  
April, 2024**

**If your family may be interested  
in this ministry, kindly contact  
the religious ed office at  
631-584-3204**

Dear Lord,

Thank you for another school year.  
Thank you for blessing me and my family.  
Thank you for watching over us and protecting  
us, and for the wonderful summer we've had.

Please be with my children  
as they walk through the doors of this school.  
Help them to seek you and look to you for guidance.  
Calm all their fears, worries, and anxieties  
with a peace only you can give.  
Surround them with good friends and  
teachers who are kind and loving.  
Protect them and keep them away  
from anyone seeking to do them harm.  
Help them in their studies to not be  
overwhelmed and to do their best.  
Put your hedge of protection  
over their school and keep them safe.  
Bless each child and teacher  
and worker of any kind who  
comes through those doors.  
Be with every teacher, administrator,  
and support staff,  
and calm their worry and anxiety.  
Give them the strength, energy, and  
endurance to teach and mentor our kids.  
Thank you that we can come to you  
in prayer and you hear us.

lovethelittlethings.com  
Thank you that even in an overwhelming,  
anxious, and exhausting time  
like the start of a new school year  
you offer hope and peace  
to all those who pray and seek your face.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Eucharistic Revival

## Why Now?

Because it is time to extend our hands in hope  
for all things possible~

**BECAUSE THE CHURCH NEEDS HEALING.  
AND THE WORLD NEEDS THE JESUS.**



*Scandal, division, disease, doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal.*

*In the midst of these roaring waves, **Jesus is present**, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world.*

*How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation.*



# SSPJ ACADEMY

Class of 2023 earned a total of

## \$282,340

in scholarship money to the  
Catholic High School of their choice!

★★★★★ Facebook and Google Rating

★★★★★ Greatschools.org

*If you are considering Catholic Middle School, schedule a tour with  
SSPJ. We offer a welcoming environment where students thrive!*



**Academics**  
Regents Algebra 1  
Living Environment



**Faith**  
Over 100 Years of  
Faith Based Education



**Community**  
Buddy Program  
Apostles of Hope



**Register Now: 631-584-7896**  
**danderson@sspjschool.net**

*Sts Philip & James School, St James NY*



# June 2023— July 2024

## Our Year of the Eucharistic Revival



### *A Will To Share*

***Anyone who goes to the Eucharist without having compassion for the needy and the without sharing is not modeling the Actions of Jesus.***

The Eucharistic sacrifice, Pope Francis reminds us, is nothing less than Jesus offering his life out of love for us. By receiving this gift, we are called to understand and embrace our own obligation to care for the poor, the needy, the homeless, the rejected, the sick, and anyone who is looked down upon by society. What Jesus has done for us is what we must do for others—love them, accept them, help them, accompany them on their journey in life, and act out of sacrificial love on their behalf. If we don't grasp this, we are not following Jesus' path.

#### **Ponder:**

What do receiving communion mean to me?

#### **Pray:**

God of mystery and wonder, I can never pay you back for your blessings, but help me to be a blessing to others in your name.

***(Taken from What Pope Francis Says About Eucharist)***

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



Sister T

***YOUR GENEROUS HELP TOUCHES LIVES***  
***The Thermometer is inching upward!***  
***WE ARE AT 74% OF OUR GOAL as of August 22, 2023***  
***Our Pledges are \$75,410.***  
***Our Payments are \$64,738.***  
***Together we can reach our goal!***

**GOAL: \$102,000**  
**PAYMENTS AT**  
**8/22/23**  
**\$64,738.**  
**PLEDGES AT**  
**8/22/23**  
**\$75,410.**  
**We are on our**  
**Way~**  
**Thank you!**

**GOAL**  
**\$102,000**  
**PAYMENTS**

\$60,000

\$10,000



Each year Americans celebrate Labor Day as a national holiday to honor working people. For Catholics, it is also an opportunity to recall the traditional teaching of the Church on dignity of work and the rights of workers. As Pope Francis pointed out, "Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. . . It gives one the ability to maintain oneself, one's family, to contribute to the growth of one's own Nation."



This Labor Day, the economic facts are stark, and the human costs are real, especially for the poor, who may be unemployed or underemployed, the struggle to support their families is a daily battle. Please consider supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal which supports the programs and services that assist families and individuals struggling in our communities.

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE 2023 Catholic Ministries Appeal! Every Gift Makes a Difference in the Lives of Others.**

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Down Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Catholic Ministries Appeal, Diocese of Rockville Centre, P.O. Box 4000, Rockville Centre, New York 11571 [catholicministriesappeal.org](http://catholicministriesappeal.org)

**THANK YOU!**

**GOAL**  
**\$102,000**  
**PLEDGES**

\$60,000

\$10,000

## Parish Social Ministry

**Our Food Pantry Needs:**  
Please check expiration dates.

Dinty Moore Beef Stew  
Tissues  
Paper Towels



Thank you for your kindness and compassion



If you are being called to help the unborn, the Smithtown Life Center is in need of a **VOLUNTEER to assist part time Mon. Tues. Thurs. as needed.**

For details, call Mary at the Smithtown Clinic, 91 Maple Ave. Smithtown **631-656-0441.**

In anticipation of our Fall Wash Kit Gang family hour, over the summer we are in great need of the following items only:



Small Body Lotion  
Small toothpaste  
Wash Cloths

Donations may be put in the St. Anthony Bread closet in the back of the church, or they may be dropped off at the office at any time. Thank you



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

SEASON OF CREATION  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR  
CREATION  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2023



Let Justice  
and Peace Flow  
Season of Creation 2023

Let Justice and Peace Flow is the theme for the Season of Creation 2023, the ecumenical celebration we hold each year from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

We are called to take up climate and ecological justice and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 SUMMER Sunday Gospel

The Transfiguration of Jesus ~ Sunday, August 27th, 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, September 2nd or Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

### **The Gospel Message: Matthew 16:13-20**

Dear Jesus,

It is sometimes hard to  
imagine how great your  
love for me is. How  
awesome your heart is and  
how simple your love and  
your hopes for me are.  
Please help me to try  
everyday to greet you and  
simply ask your help to live  
and act like you would.

Amen

My Prayer Intention~ Share with Jesus what is  
on your heart...he hears you and is right beside  
you...

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In today's gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are  
saying about his identity.

Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon  
Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of  
God.

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that the Church is built on the  
foundation of faith in Jesus Christ.

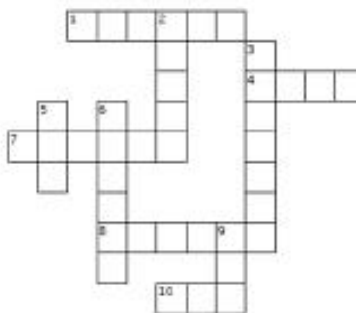
Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son.

### Peter's Confession of Christ Crossword

#### **Peter's Confession of Christ**

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I  
am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



#### ACROSS

1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
7. A male parent
8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
10. An adult male human being

#### DOWN

2. The name that Jesus called Simon
3. A persons who speaks for God
5. To speak
6. The whole body of believers in Christ
9. A male child in relation to his parents

|         |        |        |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| PETER   | FATHER | PEOPLE | SON    | CHRIST |
| PROPHET | ROCK   | MAN    | CHURCH | SAY    |



## Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

### 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

#### Sunday September 3

Jeremiah 20:7-9  
Ps 63:2-6,8-9  
Romans 12:1-2  
Matthew 16:21-27

#### Monday September 4

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Ps 96:1,3-5,11-13  
Luke 4:16-30

#### Tuesday September 5

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11  
Ps 27:1,4,13-14  
Luke 4:31-37

#### Wednesday September 6

Colossians 1:1-8  
Ps 52:10-11  
Luke 4:38-44

#### Thursday September 7

Colossians 1:9-14  
Ps 98:2-6  
Luke 5:1-11

#### Friday September 8

Nativity of Bl. Virgin Mary  
Micah 5:1-4a or  
Romans 8:28-30  
Ps 13:6abc  
Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

#### Saturday September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest  
Colossians 1:21-23  
Ps 54:3-4,6,8  
Luke 6:1-5

Today's first reading is one of my personal favorites. I have often felt the way Jeremiah does here. I have yelled at God, "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped!" And I allow it again and again. "You knew this would happen, Lord! Why did you lead me into this trial?" Have you ever felt that way?



God. We can tell him, without getting punished, that we do not like working for him. Complaining to others, however, is a sin because it causes gossip and prejudices and makes God look bad.

Asking for prayer support during our trials is important, but

Why do we let him do this to us? Why do we trust God even though he leads us into difficult situations? Why do we follow Jesus into giving our help and love to others even though it's going to feel very uncomfortable if not downright painful?

complaining to others shows how little we trust God. Eventually, we will see the good that comes from our sacrifices, and this is what we should communicate to others.

Walking with God and serving his kingdom is an adventure. We can expect the unexpected, and unfortunately in this world that includes suffering – denying ourselves the opportunity to pursue self-centered agendas, taking up crosses, and following Jesus all the way to Calvary (but then of course, all the way to resurrection, too, as explained in the Gospel reading).

Because we love God, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, like the second reading asks us to do. This is the highest form of worship; it's a spiritual communion that we experience outside of the Eucharistic liturgy of Mass. In union with Jesus, we are the Eucharist.

As Jeremiah's complaint shows us, we can safely complain to

#### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How do you feel when you do a good deed and it later works against you? Have you said "no" to allowing it to happen again?
- † What brings the healing love of Jesus to you to help you recover?
- † What unexpected sufferings have you encountered while giving someone a gift of unconditional love or while doing some other service for the kingdom of God?
- † How did you feel about God at that time? Was the cross you carried worth all the hardships? Explain.

## U N F I N I S H E D   R E L A T I O N S H I P S

A colleague of mine, a clinical therapist, shares this story: A woman came to him in considerable distress. Her husband had recently died of a heart attack. His death had been sudden and at a most inept time. They'd been happily married for thirty years and, during all those years, had never had a major crisis in their relationship. But, on the day her husband died, they had gotten into an argument about something very insignificant and it had escalated to where they began to hurl some mean and cutting words at each other. At a point, agitated and angry, her husband walked out of the room, told her he was going shopping, then died of a heart attack before he got to the car. Understandably, the woman was devastated, both by the sudden death of her spouse but by that last exchange. "All these years," she lamented, "we had this loving relationship and then we have this useless argument over nothing and it ends up being our last conversation!"

The therapist led off with something meant in humor. He said: "How horrible of him to do that to you! To die just then!" Obviously, the man hadn't intended his death, but its timing was in fact awfully unfair to his wife, as it left her holding a guilt that was seemingly permanent with no apparent avenue for resolution.

However, then the therapist went into a different mode. He asked her: "If you had your husband back for five minutes what would you say to him?" Without hesitation, she answered: "I'd tell him how much I loved him, how good he was to me for all these years, and how our little moment of anger at the end was a meaningless epi-second that means nothing in terms of our love."

The therapist then said: "You're a woman of faith, you believe in the communion of saints; well, your husband is alive still and present to you now, so why don't you just say all those things to him right now. It's not too late to express that all to him!"

He's right. It's never too late! It's never too late to tell our deceased loved ones how we really feel about them. It's never too late to apologize for the ways we might have hurt them. It's never too late to ask their forgiveness for our negligence in the relationship, and it's never too late to speak the words of appreciation, affirmation, and gratitude that we should have spoken to them while they were alive. As Christians, we have the great consolation of knowing that death isn't final, that it's never too late.

And we desperately need that particular consolation, that second chance. No matter who we are, we're always inadequate in our relationships. We can't always be present to our loved ones as we should, we sometimes say things in anger and bitterness that leave deep scars, we betray trust in all kinds of ways, and we mostly lack the maturity and self-confidence to express the affirmation we should be conveying to our loved ones. None of us ever fully measures up. When Karl Rahner says that none of us ever have the "full symphony" in this life, he isn't just referring to the fact that none of us ever fully realizes her dream, he's also referring to the fact that in all our most important relationships none of us ever fully measures up. We cannot not be disappointing sometimes.

At the end of the day, all of us lose loved ones in ways similar to how that woman lost her husband, with unfinished business, with bad timing. There are always things that should have been said and weren't and there are always things that shouldn't have been said and were.

But that's where our Christian faith comes in. We aren't the only ones who come up short. At the moment of Jesus' death, virtually all of his disciples had deserted. The timing here was also very bad. Good Friday was bad long before it was good. But, and this is the point, as Christians, we don't believe there will always be perfect endings in this life, nor that we will always be adequate in life. Rather we believe that the fullness of life and happiness will come to us through the redemption of what has gone wrong, not least with what has gone wrong because of our own inadequacies and weakness.

G.K. Chesterton said that Christianity is special because in its belief in the communion of saints, "even the dead get a vote". They get more than a vote. They still get to hear what we're saying to them.

So, if you've lost a loved one in a situation where there was still something unresolved, where there was still a tension that needed easing, where you should have been more attentive, or where you feel badly because you never adequately expressed the affirmation and affection that you might have, know it's not too late. It can all still be done!