



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

631-584-5454

November 22nd, 2020 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers
of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25: 40

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

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

STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

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

Website—www.sspj.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento

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

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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



**FAITH DIRECT:
GO TO SSPJ.ORG
CLICK ON THE FAITH
DIRECT ICON**

Parish of Saints Philip and
James account code
NY232 when signing up

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 KAIRES

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY

CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN

LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY

JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC

CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY

LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-

STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC

CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL

STEVEN CAVA-USN

ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ

CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN

CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC

GREGORY DEVANEY- 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—2ND LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY

MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:
Weekly Collection: Sunday November 15th, 2020

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Social Ministry

Faith Direct : (121 Participants)

Total Weekly Collection:

ON TRACK RAFFLE~ \$32,350. IN SALES AS OF 11-18-20~YTD PROFIT: \$18,850.

Your continued support of SSPJ is very much appreciated.

\$17,890.

\$ 9,340

300.

850.

3,044.

\$13,534.

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

What if...?

*The quote from today's gospel that begins "just as you did it to one of the least of these..." is surely one of the most recognized in scripture. It's also one of the most misunderstood. If we really understood what Jesus was saying - that Christ is in every single person, including ourselves - and acted accordingly, then our world would be a very different place, to understate the obvious. Instead, we read this passage and mentally nod our heads.... But what if every person who reads these words spent the next 24 hours behaving as if this were true: **that Christ dwells within everyone, no exceptions. What might happen?***

As we continue our journey through this pandemic, let's make special efforts to recognize Christ within everyone – in those who are ill, in healthcare workers, in all workers and in all who are out of work, in those who are hungry and those who help to provide food, in those who struggle with the effects of natural disasters, in our family members, our friends, in those with whom we agree and those with whom we disagree. We are called to be Apostles of Hope to all – to recognize and respond to the Christ in each of us. **“What if” we really did this!**

Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the king. It is a significant day for the church in several respects. For one, it marks the end of the Church year. This past year we have been listening to the gospel according to Matthew. In the coming year, we will hear Mark's gospel. Mark's gospel is the oldest – and the shortest. His portrait of Jesus is often described as “harried and hurried”. Mark wrote during a time of persecution, and he helps his hearers to connect with the sufferings of Jesus. Mark reveals Jesus as a man of action, and we are challenged to not just “talk the talk”, but to “walk the walk” with Jesus.

Next week we will begin a new liturgical season with new colors as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. Our Advent liturgies will begin in silence and darkness as we long for the Light to illumine new ways for us to embrace the One who comes among us in one another.

Thursday is Thanksgiving! As you know, Eucharist means Thanksgiving. Like most celebrations this year, Thanksgiving will be different in many ways. The coronavirus is challenging us, – forcing us to pause and, perhaps, take more time to reflect on the many blessings for which we are thankful. And, yes, we are blessed! Our parish Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 9:15am, and will be livestreamed. Happy Thanksgiving!

And, to keep them laughing at your Thanksgiving table:

What's the official dance of Thanksgiving called? The turkey trot.

With Coronavirus being a possible concern this year, what's likely to be the most popular side dish?

Masked potatoes.

What was the turkey suspected of? Fowl play.

What's a running turkey called? Fast food.

If Pilgrims were still alive, what would they be known for? Their age.

Why did the turkey refuse dessert? He was already stuffed.

What can you call your brother who falls asleep after dinner? Your napkin.

What should you say when your family begs you to stop making these jokes? “I can't quit cold turkey!”

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of November 22nd, 2020

Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday, November 26th, 2020
 9:15am mass



We remember...
 Joseph Napolitano
 Tom Oneta
 Their presence missed as they rest in
 the loving arms of Jesus



Eucharistic Adoration
-In Church
Monday's
from 1:30-7pm

- Remembering in Our Prayers~**
- | | |
|--|--|
| Angie Mingione
Angela Amoroso
Anna Ormsby
Antoinette Fisher
Arthur Gureck
Baby Ben
Barbara Bombace
Barbara Rowland
Mattia Rose Lubrano
Belinda Groneman
Belinda Vega
Bob Keenan
Brendan
Claudia Chandler
Daniel Radice
Deirdre W.
Dolores North
Donna Patrissi
Dorothy Mitchell
Dylan Beach
Ellie Walsh
Ginny & John Rief
Gladys Blake
Gregory Parker
Ida Wehman
Jack Donohue
John Cronin
John DeStefano
J.C.
Joseph S.
Luis Anthony | Antonette Sabatino
Jeff Posé
Joseph Galletta
Judy Cunnius
Judy Rampola
Kathleen N.
Kitty Cronin
Leon Donach
Mary Fresi
Maryann Kevlin
Maria Clark
Marie del Cielo
Matthew Parrella
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Monsignor Iocavacci
Pasquale Savarese
Peter Donach
P.I.
Ricardo Buffit
Richard Cembrale
Riordan Cavooris
Sara Jean Andersen
Stephen Dolce
Tara Cesarski
Vivien Cordes
Victoria Zubrycky
Vicki Archdeacon
William Quinn |
|--|--|

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>November 21st, 2020</i> Presider: Father Joe Lector: R. Donegan EM: D. Anderson	9:15am 5:00pm	Joyce Gibson Vincenza Colantropo
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>November 22nd, 2020</i> Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Auleta EM: C. Czujko	8am	For The People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Kaiser EM: L. Sisti	10:00am	Edward H. L. Smith
	<u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Tom Lector: L. Just EM: P. Parish	12:00pm	Noel Gaines Anna Ormsby Kenneth Rathjen Donna Di Iorio
<i>Monday</i>	<i>November 23rd, 2020~</i> St. Clement	7:30am	Thomas A. McGrath
		9:15am	Andrew Krauer
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>November 24th, 2020~</i> St. Andrew Dung-Lac	7:30am	Ezio DiNucci
		9:15am	Robert Ferreira
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>November 25th, 2020~</i> St. Catherine of Alexandria	7:30am	John P. Boland
		9:15am	Frank Spatarella
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>November 26th, 2020~</i> Collective Mass	9:15am	Robert Remhild
			Joan & John Purcell Dolores Weisenreider
<i>Friday</i>	<i>November 27th, 2020~</i>	7:30am	Donna Di Iorio
		9:15am	Edwin Reid
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>November 28th, 2020~</i> Presider: Father Tom Lector: B. Thompson EM: L. Sisti	9:15am 5:00pm	Carl D'Angelo Agnes Souza
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>November 29th, 2020</i> Presider: Father Tom Lector: M. Sehne EM: M. Koke	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: T. Cafaro EM: E. Sotomayer	10:00am	Thomas Lerch
	<u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Joe Lector: K. Smith EM: P. Parish	12:00pm	Marie P. Loughlin Pauline Boccio Humberto Serrano Living: Pasquale Savarese



Join us for an afternoon of Praise and Worship in
 Thanksgiving for our many Blessings
 Today, Sunday – November 22, 2020
 Sts. Philip & James Church
 3 – 5 pm.
 Scripture Readings ~ Reflections and Meditation ~
 Songs of Praise and Worship
 Due to Covid distancing – seating is limited to 125 guest
 Call 631-584-5454 to make a reservation or email:
vportanova@sspj.org
 Free will offering at door
 Call the Parish Office For additional information



You may be feeling as though we have the air conditioning on but in fact it is what is required of us from the CDC. During the current COVID Pandemic, the CDC requires a 30% fresh air exchange within the church.

So bundle up and be grateful always!

Our Altar Memorials for the Week of November 22nd, 2020

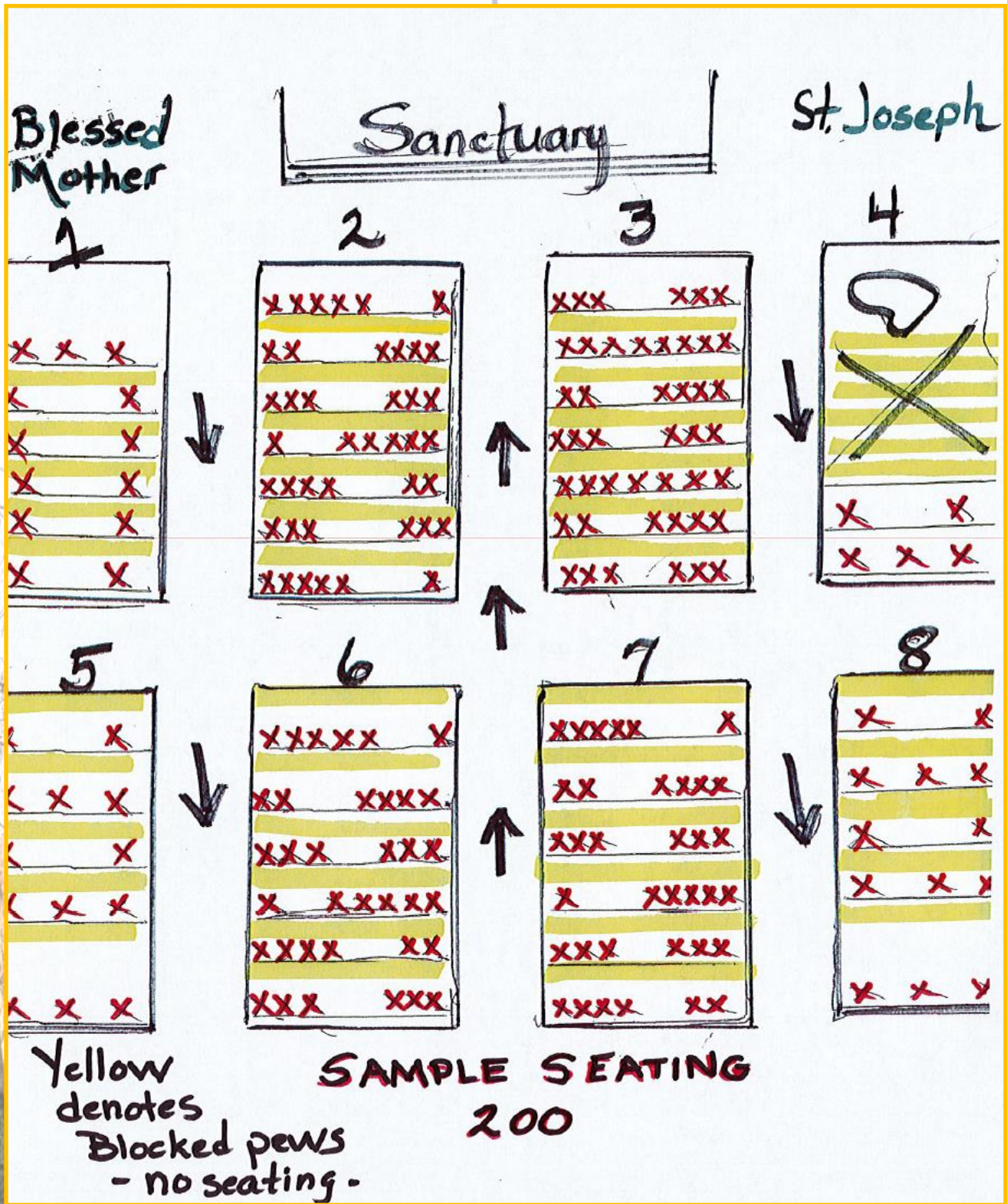
Our Bread & Wine
Offered in appreciation
For
Ms. Diane Anderson
With Love,
Your Faculty
Staff
And Students

The Sanctuary Lamp Illuminates
The memory of,
Dolores Weisenreider
Mother of Sue Weisenreider
Grandmother of Eugene & David Sahler
 11~28~21 ~ 4~24~20
“It is finished”
John 19:30

The Pro-Life Rose Upon the Altar
Is Dedicated to:
My Sister, Christine and her husband Ted
Married 45 years ~ 11~22~1975
“God loves you & so do I”
Love,
Carol

God, we thank you for the blessing and joy of family. Thank you for those who are gathered with us today and those who are far away. May we all see the many ways you provide for us, comfort us and protect us. Bless this food to make us healthy and strong. Amen.

Seating Flow Inside SSPJ Church
During COVID~2020



THIS DRAWING ACCOMODATES APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE
2 FEET PER PERSON WITH 6 FEET OF SPACE BETWEEN GROUPS
CENTER PEWS ARE 18 FOOT IN LENGTH

A Note to Our Parishioners and Visitors...

Hello and welcome to Saint Philip and James Parish. We understand the hesitation and uncertainty some feel about returning to indoor events including church. We hope to clarify some of your concerns by reviewing our church attendance with you. At the forefront of our procedures is always the reverence of our Holy place and the safety and well-being of our parish family while adhering to all guidelines given by the Department of Health (DOH), the Center for Disease Controls (CDC), the Diocese of Rockville Centre (DRVC) and local government agencies.

Our church has been open every day since the start of this pandemic. Since mid-March our doors have been open for personal prayer from 7 am - 7 pm daily and 7 am - 5 pm on Sunday. We have offered live-streaming Mass every day and have added live-streaming events and Mass times as needed. We are joy-filled to see our Parishioners once again seated in our pews and to hear your voices fill the hollow echo of empty space. It is our prayer to welcome you all back into our church walls to congregate as a loving and faith-filled parish community.

We ask you to bear in mind that while we are many parishes under the direction of DRVC, we are each individual and what works for one parish may not necessarily work for another. We respect the efforts each parish is making to welcome home their parishioners especially during the Christmas Season.

We are going to try and explain to you what works in our parish - policies, procedures and protocols that have been instructed by the DOH, CDC, and DRVC.

We ask that you MAKE a RESERVATION to attend Mass - contact tracing importance. Knowing attendance beforehand allows for strategic seating to accommodate all wishing to attend Mass.

ALL MUST wear a MASK in church. You may remove the mask only to consume Holy Communion and replace while returning to your seat. Communion is not permitted to be distributed or received with gloved hands.

There is a SANITIZING STATION in the church lobby as well as in the church body. All are asked to sanitize upon entering and leaving church. Entrance to church is through THE CENTER DOORS ONLY.

An USHER GREETER will welcome you and guide you to your seat. This seat may not be where you may have sat for the past 5+ years and we ask you to understand these difficult times and our desire to fill the pews allowing as many fellow parishioners in our church as safely possible. Our church and stained glass windows are beautiful - take this time to enjoy a new view and appreciate the beauty of our church from a different view.

SEATING is limited and spaced allowing 6 ft recommendations. Every other pew is available for seating. X's marked on the open pew - denotes the 6 ft of distancing. These restrictions control the number allowable in our church body. While we can normally accommodate 700-800 that is now reduced to 400 due to pew elimination alone and reduced even further 130-150 allowing 6 ft distancing between neighbors. Families / couples may sit next to each other and need not distance the 6 feet between each other but must follow 6 ft distancing between pew neighbor.

A Note to Our Parishioners and Visitors, continued....

TRAFFIC PATTERNS are in place to reduce cross contamination between cohorts (groups). We are advised NOT to ask someone to “move over” after they have sat in a seat. We should not “climb over” or “pass in front of” others. One way traffic patterns are marked on the flooring as well as 6 ft space markers.

BOOKLETS, missals, and papers are not permitted in church. BULLETINS, limited in print, are available on the back pews but will not be handed out. Bulletins are available on line for your convenience. You may follow along with the reading using personal booklets or by following the link on our website to USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops). If using your cell phone be sure to shut off volume and sounds.

You will notice only ONE LECTOR during Mass for the readings. The CANTOR will remain at the lectern throughout Mass. To maintain safety precautions movement and people in the sanctuary is limited.

DISTRIBUTION of HOLY COMMUNION is followed most reverently and prayerfully. Our Presider will Don a mask and sanitize his hands. He will be assisted by one Extraordinary Minister who will distribute Communion to the back half of our church. PLEASE follow the DIRECTION of the USHERS. Cohorts will be directed to receive Communion separately. Cohorts will not criss-cross the center aisle. Careful measure has been taken to assure safe distancing between cohorts crossing each other when walking to and from Communion distribution. You are to remove you mask when you are receiving Communion - step to the side - consume Communion - replace your mask and continue back to your seat.

At the END of MASS traffic Patterns will flow from the SIDE AISLES to EXIT church. The side doors will be open and you are to exit from those doors.

Once again an usher will direct the movement of pews exiting. Please maintain distancing between neighbor when exiting, giving careful consideration to our elderly who may move a little slower.

You may remain in church after mass to pray or light a candle, however, we ask that you exit as soon as possible as we have staff that comes in AFTER EVERY MASS to CLEAN and SANITIZE the pews, door handles, restrooms and more before the next Mass begins.

COLLECTION BASKETS are in the CHURCH LOBBY during Mass. We appreciate everyone’s continued generosity and certainly understand the hardships during these times. We are not permitted to pass a collection basket, however, contributions may be dropped into the baskets at church, mailed or delivered to the Parish Center

We are making every effort to keep all within our church healthy and safe. We welcome your return with us and look forward to the day we can remove restrictions and join together in full. Until then we hold you and your family and friends circle in our daily prayer at Mass. We miss you all.

We pray for you in Thanksgiving and hope you see you during the Christmas Season.



CHRISTMAS ~ 2020

We are asking your help...

We are planning a Christmas Mass schedule to accommodate room at the Inn for all who wish to celebrate this beautiful day.

Appreciating your help always, we ask that you complete this survey and submit your response to SSPJ.org Or call the Parish Center at 631-584-5454.

PLEASE NOTE: AT THIS TIME NO MASS TIMES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR CHRISTMAS

(Circle which applies)

- A. I PLAN TO ATTEND MASS THIS CHRISTMAS IN CHURCH(APPROX. FAMILY CNT: _____)
- B. I REMAIN UNCOMFORTABLE AND WOULD PREFER LIVE STREAMED MASS
- C. I AM NOT QUITE SURE YET HOW I WILL ATTEND-EITHER IN PERSON OR LIVE STREAMED I AM LEANING TOWARD LIVE STREAM.
- D. I AM CONSIDERING ATTENDING MASS IN OUR CHURCH.

PLEASE RESPOND BY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2020

The safety and well-being of all in our Parish Family is of the utmost importance. Every safety measure by the CDC, DOH, DRVC is being followed in our church.

RESERVATIONS will be required to plan for the maximum allowable attendance and, more importantly, for contact tracing.

All are required to wear a Mask while in church –ONLY TO BE REMOVED WHEN CONSUMING HOLY COMMUNION.

Six feet social distancing between neighbors will be adhered to.

FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO SIT WITH EACH OTHER-NO NEED TO SOCIAL DISTANCE WITHIN FAMILY GROUPS.

Hand sanitizing is recommended upon entering the Church at the designated station, as well as when leaving the Church.

OUR CHURCH IS CLEANED AND SANITIZED AFTER EVERY MASS.

It is our desire to offer as many Masses needed to accommodate our Parishioners and all those who visit our Church during this Christmas season and always.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Office at 631-584-5454x202.

Thank you, be well, be safe, be grateful....



RESERVATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE : SSPJ.ORG
BEGINNING THE FIRST WEEKEND OF ADVENT:
NOVEMBER 28TH & 29TH, 2020

PICKING A STAR OF LOVE AND HOPE
PICK A STAR ~ 2020



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



*Thinking of you and wishing you a Blessed Christmas
Item Enclosed: SIZE:*



Pick-a-Star ~ 2020

This year, in a continued effort to keep everyone safe, we are changing the format for Pick-A-Star.

You can cut a tag from the attached page and affix to your gift, OR you may make your own from construction paper.

Please use the proper colored star, which indicates the recipient, label it with contents and size, place unwrapped item in a gift bag, adhere star firmly to the package.

There will be large boxes outside the church for your gifts.

As always, gift cards are a great replacement for shopping in the stores.

Purple Stars

*Needs: 8 year old Girl - Shoe size 1, Clothes size 8
3D craft and pen set, Toy/games/crafts for 8 yr. old girl*

*2 year old Boy - Shoe size 8/9, Clothes size 4/5, Diapers size 6,
Barn/farm animals, anything Mickey, Blues Clues Dinosaurs, Cars*

2 year old Girl - Shoe size 6, Clothes 2T, 2 year toddler learning toys

Gift Cards - Cards may be placed in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked PSM or they may be brought to the parish office. Suggestions: Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Macy's, Visa, MasterCard, Gasoline

Red, Green and Orange Stars

*Needs: Men's warm clothing:
Men's sweatshirts and sweatpants, all sizes
Hats and gloves
Sweaters, all sizes
Casual tops, all sizes*

Yellow Stars: Visit www.sco.org/holiday-giving-2020

You will then be able to click on links to order gifts from Target, Walmart or Amazon and have them shipped directly to :

*SCO Development Office, 151 Burrs Lane, Dix Hills, NY 11746
If you ship directly, please identify Sts. Philip and James Church.*

Blue Stars

*Needs: Women's and Children's warm clothing:
Hats and gloves,
Sweatshirts and sweatpants, all sizes (adult or children's)
Sweaters, all sizes, Casual tops, all sizes (adult or children's)*

Brown Stars

*Needs: Men's and Women's Warm Socks, Men's and Women's Sweaters, all sizes
Men's and Women's warm tops, all sizes*

Gift Tag~ You can create your own, or use the labels on the opposite page

HELPING HANDS NEEDED:

An Apostle of Hope, willing to occasionally drive a 90 year old parishioner from Moriches Road To Northwell Cardiology Group in Smithtown.
If you can help, please contact the Parish Social Ministry office at 631-584-5454.

Thank you,



Filling A Families Home

with

Needed Items



CANNED CHICKEN
PARMALAT BOXED MILK

PAPER TOWELS

SIZE 6 DIAPERS

KING KULLEN &
STOP & SHOP
GIFT CARDS

GAS GIFT CARDS

*Thank you for sharing your
treasure.*

THE GABRIEL SEEKS SUBMISSIONS

The editors of our parish magazine, The Gabriel, are preparing a Christmas edition. The staff is soliciting articles to be included in this edition. Guidelines for submission are as follows:

- Articles should be prepared in Microsoft Word using Arial 12 point font, single spaced, and should not exceed 500 words.
- The deadline for submission is Wed., Nov. 25, 2020.
- While there is no specific theme for this edition, it will be distributed on Christmas. Topics appropriate to the season are welcome.

Thanksgiving~2020

To promote the independence of our service users and to better respect their dignity, we would like to empower them to make their own choices for a holiday dinner.

Therefore, again this year, we would appreciate more supermarket gift cards or monetary contributions and less in the way of food items.

Your donations may either be placed in the basket in an envelope clearly marked PSM or be brought to the parish office during the day.

Distribution to our clients will be on Thursday, November 19th to allow them shopping time.

As ever, thank you for your heartfelt generosity.

We Can Always be found

Every week (each day sometimes)
you ask me to pray
for people who are hurting,
your friends who are losing,
your family who is grieving,
your children who have died.

I wonder in the dark
what good a prayer does,
what shape hope can hold
in a world bent on destruction,
swirling and swarming with loss.
When I drift away on despair,
I go back to words that anchor
and here is what I find.

The opposite of losing
(in God's love)
is not winning
or gaining.
The opposite of losing
is finding.

A woman loses one coin
and sweeps the whole house
to find what rolled away.
(Makes no sense. Just let it go.)
A shepherd loses one sheep
and leaves the whole flock
to seek the wandering.
(Makes no sense. Just let it go.)

When we have lost
in the worst ways,
we cannot win or gain.
But we can always be found.

So this is what I pray
for you, your losses, all our pain.
I pray that we will be found.
That every inch of our soul will be
swept,
no corner missed by its maker.
That every dark hill where we
wandered
will be crossed by our caretaker.

I pray, too, for that long good day
of homecoming, joy embracing
surrounded by the love
of all we thought we lost.
That hope might find us here, too—
in glimmers or glimpses,
may there be tender mercy
to hold us till the finding.

So when you ask me to pray
for you and yours,
this is what I pray for loss:
not that you would win or gain,
but that you would be found.
Amen. -Laura Kelly Fanucci

Reflecting with Sister T

November 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I was preparing myself for Thanksgiving and Advent, I wondered what I could write about for this week's reflection. As I scrolled through some of my Facebook memories, I came across a quote from Thich Nhat Hanh. It is rather lengthy, but these few lines really struck me:

"The blue sky, the white clouds, the gentle breezes, the delightful rains, political stability, free speech, good schools for children, beautiful flowers, and good health... These are the positive ingredients of peace and happiness that exist alongside the negative ingredients. But if, day after day, we are only in contact with our anxieties and our anger about what is ugly and corrupt, we will lose our joy and our ability to serve others." ~Thich Nhat Hanh from *Transformation and Healing*.

Somehow, during these past few months, it seems to me that "we are only in contact with our anxieties and our anger about what is ugly and corrupt..." Things aren't the same right now. We might be saying to ourselves, "We can't do *this* and have to do *that*. And, Thanksgiving -- that's our special family time! What do you mean we can only have ten people! Why can't I travel?" It appears to me that all of these questions are self-centered, rather than other-centered. We are becoming very weary of the present situation, but if we only look at the down side, we are doomed to failure. It's important for us to remember to give thanks and praise God for all that is good in our lives. Once we "lose our joy," we are unable to serve and be for others.

Each of us has much to be thankful for this year. Perhaps we just need to dig a little deeper to find our gratitude. Can we take the time to sit with those we are with and create a litany of things we are grateful for? What are the positive things that have happened to us and for us during these past months? I can offer many examples but each of us needs to search our soul and create that litany. It may be different than years past but it will be real and holy. The gift is that they may all be simple things. Like the old Shaker song goes, "*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down to where we ought to be. And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*"

I wish you an early Thanksgiving and encourage you to create your list of thankfulness, remembering that God is always with us -- we only need recognize His presence. So take it from here and have a blessed Thanksgiving next week, however you celebrate!

Till next week,
Sister T

Music Ministry

Today we celebrate two special feasts.

First today is Christ The King. The last day of the Liturgical year. Christ Jesus is victor, ruler and redeemer. Jesus will sit on His throne. Let the music sound!!

The tiny baby born in Bethlehem at the start of a great adventure concludes as He becomes the King of Glory!! Our Lord of Love for all people and calling us to live in that love.

November 22 is the feast day of St. Cecilia. Patroness of Music. All musicians receive a special blessing from St. Cecilia on this her feast day

Prayer to St. Cecilia

St. Cecilia, heroic martyr who stayed faithful to Jesus your divine bridegroom, give us faith to rise above our persecutors and to see in them the image of our Lord.

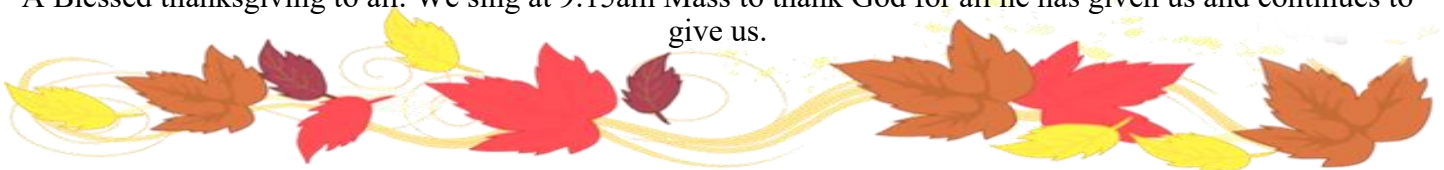
We know that you were a musician and we are told that you heard angels sing. Inspire musicians to gladden the hearts of people by filling the air with God's gift of music and reminding them of the Divine Musician Who created all beauty.

Amen

This is a busy week.

We also celebrate Thanksgiving Day on November 26.

A Blessed thanksgiving to all. We sing at 9:15am Mass to thank God for all he has given us and continues to give us.



Rememberingwith love...Lights of Love Tree Lighting Next Saturday, November 28th after the 5:00pm

“Shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life” Phil 2:15

***We Welcome All to Participate in Our 2020 Tree Lighting Ceremony
Saturday, November 28th, 2020 after the 5:00mass***

*This event offers a wonderful opportunity to remember in your hearts
“the lights of our loved ones” during this holiday season.*

*Our Christmas tree located on the front lawn of the rectory
will be lit as the names of our loved ones are read aloud...*

Hot cocoa and Cookies for your trip home.

*Those who wish to remember their loved ones with this special tribute, are asked to
complete the form below and return it to the Parish center office by the following dates:
Wednesday, November 25th ~ For name to be announced at the tree lighting ceremony*

*Tuesday, December 8th ~ For names to be published in our Christmas bulletin
All names received by December 8th will be printed in our Christmas bulletin and posted on the
SSPJ.org website*

\$5.00 donation per each name being memorialized

“Let their lights shine not only in our hearts, but, in our Parish”

Annual Tree Lighting Memorial

*Let the Light
of:*

*Illuminate the SSPJ Christmas Tree this Christmas season and in my heart.
Remembered by:*

Contact#: _____

Amount Paid: Number of Names _____ x \$5.00 per name = Total Enclosed \$ _____

*Please place this form in an envelope with payment and return to Parish center office by: November 25th for
name to be read at Tree lighting ceremony or December 8th to be included in the Christmas bulletin*

CMA ~ JUST 6 WEEKS REMAIN TO REACH OUR GOAL....

Dear Parish Family,

For several months we have shared our movement forward, ever so slowly, toward reaching Sts. Philip & James 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$111,000.

We never lose that wonderful feeling of gratitude for the generosity of all who have assisted us on our journey upward.

As the seasons change and we approach a new year, let us be grateful for each day we rise and each day we think of those struggling before us.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal does just that, and only because of people like us, Apostles who HOPE, who think of and remain open to opportunities to serve.

Your contributions to the CMA Appeal feed, warm, care, support and touch so many different lives afflicted with hardship.

For SSPJ Parish, reaching our goal for the Catholic Ministries appeal means continued assistance to warm, care, support and touch all who extend to us the opportunity to serve.

As we near the end of a challenging year, won't you, if able, make a donation to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal?



"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

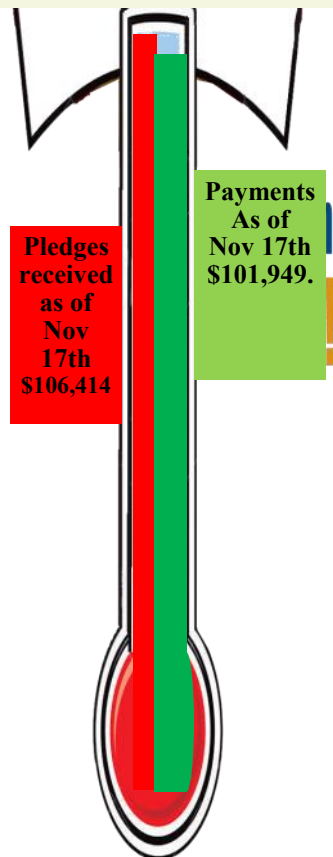
-Pope Francis

Payments increased by: \$1,750 which is 93% of goal. OUR PLEDGES ARE AT 96% OF GOAL!!

2020 CMA GOAL \$111,000



2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL Give Thanks - Give Hope is in 2 day! This campaign will raise additional money for the CMA! Thank you to everyone who has already given.



The appeal supports The Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics (Respect Life) which enunciates and promotes the sanctity of life from birth to natural death.



A gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal reminds us that we are all God's children and life is precious!

Please consider donating to the Appeal and a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal
 Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____
 Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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



PLEASE SUPPORT SSPJ TROOP 7'S CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

*Please complete this form and scan it back to:
Dorothy Levin: dorothylevin1961@gmail.com
(Mother of Scout: Stephen P. Levin)*

SMALL 10"
WREATH \$15.00 QTY: _____ Total: _____

MEDIUM 12"
WREATH \$20.00 QTY: _____ Total: _____

LARGE 16"
WREATH \$30.00 QTY: _____ Total: _____

TOTAL QTY: _____ TOTAL AMT: _____

**PAYABLE IN CASH OR
CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BOY SCOUT TROOP 7**

CUSTOMER NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Any questions, please contact Dorothy Levin:
631-862-9710

Many thanks for supporting Troop 7 with this effort.

SSPJ School Teachers ~ Always Learning

i-Ready - Own Our Data Day

SSPJ Faculty spent their Diocesan Professional Development Day analyzing data from their students' first i-Ready Reading and Math diagnostic.

Building on the pillars of the *Morning Star Initiative*, SSPJ is able to continue to offer **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**, which fosters individual growth and development according to time-tested, Catholic faith-based models of teaching and learning.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

We thank Zachary Satchwill and Mathew Trubulsi, two of our 7th grade Confirmation I students who filmed and shared a Thanksgiving prayer video with all our Religious Ed students on Google classroom this past weekend! They did an amazing job in sharing their talent and time with all our families.

Any students interested in safely participating in our brief, Advent reflection videos for Google Classroom, are asked to contact the Religious Education office at 631-584-3204.

As we approach the Season of Advent, WE INVITE ALL OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS TO OUR CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28TH, OUR FIRST WEEKEND IN ADVENT, AFTER THE 5:00PM MASS.



AT THE LIGHTING ALL OUR RELIGIOUS ED FAMILIES WILL BE GIVEN AN "ADVENT THEMED FAMILY ACTS OF SERVICE GIFT"

GUIDING OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THIS BEAUTIFUL SEASON.

As we keep in our hearts that our gifts are to be shared, we offer these acts of service to all our families not just our Confirmation Students....

More information will be emailed to our Religious Education Families during this week....

OUR SPECIAL NEEDS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY! IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL: MSEHNE@SSPJ.ORG. Thank you

CAN THE GROUND CRY OUT?

Does the earth feel pain? Can it groan and cry out to God? Can the earth curse us for our crimes?

It would seem so, and not just because ecologists, moralists, and Pope Francis are saying so. Scripture itself seems to say so.

There are some very revealing lines in the exchange between Cain and God, after Cain had murdered his brother Abel. Asked where his brother was, Cain tells God that he doesn't know and that he's not responsible for his brother. But God says to him: *Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you will till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength.*

Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground ... and from now on the ground will curse you! Is this a metaphor or a literal truth? Is the ground we walk on, till and plant seeds in, build highways and parking lots over, and call "Mother Earth, nothing other than simple dumb, lifeless, speechless, brute matter which is totally immune to the suffering and pain that humans and other sentient beings feel or indeed to the violence we sometimes inflict on it? Can the earth cry out to God in frustration and pain? Can it curse us?

A recent, wonderfully provocative book by Mark L. Wallace entitled *When God was a Bird – Christianity, Animism, and the Re-Enchantment of the Word* would say, yes, the world can and does feel pain and it can and does curse us for causing that pain. For Wallace, what God says to Cain about the earth crying out because it is soaked in murderous blood is more than a metaphor, more than just a spiritual teaching. It also expresses an ontological truth in that there is a real causal link between moral degeneration and ecological degeneration. We're not the only ones who bear the consequences of sin, so too does the earth.

Here's how Wallace puts it: "The earth is not dumb matter, an inanimate object with no capacity of feeling and sentiment, but a spirited and vulnerable living being who experiences the terrible and catastrophic loss of Abel's death. Its heart is broken and its mouth agape, Earth 'swallows', in the text's startling imagery, mouthfuls of Abel's blood. ... Bubbling up from the red earth, Abel's cries signal not only that Cain had murdered his brother but that he has done lasting, perhaps irreparable, violence to the earth as well. ... [Now] wounded and bloodied, Earth strikes back. Earth has its revenge. Earth does not passively acquiesce to Cain's attacks and stand by and watch his gory rampage proceed with impunity. On the contrary, Earth retaliates and 'inflicts a curse' on Cain by 'withholding its bounty' from this farmer-killer who now must roam the land unprotected and without security." The earth now refuses to give its bounty to Cain.

What Wallace affirms here is predicated on two beliefs, both true. First, everyone and everything on this planet, sentient and non-sentient being alike, are all part of one and the same supreme living organism within which every part ultimately affects all the other parts in a real way. Second, whenever we treat the earth (or each other) badly, the earth retaliates and withholds its strength and bounty from us, not just metaphorically but in a very real way.

Perhaps no one puts this more poignantly than John Steinbeck did some eighty years ago in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Describing how the soil which produces our food is now worked over by massive steel tractors and huge impersonal machines that, in effect, are the very antithesis of a woman or man lovingly coaxing a garden into growth, he writes: *And when that crop grew, and was harvested, no man had crumpled a hot clod in his fingers and let the earth sift past his fingertips. No man had touched the seed, or lusted for the growth. And men ate when they had not raised, had no connection with the bread. The land bore under iron, and under iron gradually died; for it was not loved or hated, it had not prayers or curses.*

When Jesus says that the measure we measure out is the measure that will be measured back to us, he's not just speaking of a certain law of karma within human relationships where kindness will be met with kindness, generosity with generosity, pettiness with pettiness, and violence with violence. He's also speaking about our relationship to Mother Earth. The more our houses, cars, and factories continue to breathe out carbon monoxide, the more we will inhale carbon monoxide. And the more we continue to do violence to the earth and to each other, the more the earth will withhold its bounty and strength from us and we will feel the curse of Cain in violent storms, deadly viruses, and cataclysmic upheavals.

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

Solemnity of Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17
Ps 23:1-3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28
Matthew 25:31-46

Monday November 23
Revelation 14:1-5
Ps 24:1b-6
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday November 24
St. Andrew Dung-Lac &co
Revelation 14:14-19
Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday November 25
Revelation 15:1-4
Ps 98:1-3b,7-9
Luke 21:12-19

Thursday November 26
Revelation 18:1-2,21-
23;19:1-3,9a
Ps 100:1b-5
Luke 21:20-28

Friday November 27
Revelation 20:1-4,11-21:2
Ps 84:3-6a,8a
Luke 21:29-33

Saturday November 28
Revelation 22:1-7
Ps 95:1-7b
Luke 21:34-38

We don't usually think of shepherds as kings, but the scriptures this Sunday describe the kingly powers of Jesus as our Good Shepherd. A good king cares for his subjects the way a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Kings increase the size of their reign and accomplish their work over the whole territory through their subjects. That's why Jesus says, "Whatever you do for one of the least of mine, you do for me."

For example, our Good Shepherd-King wants to distribute food to the hungry, all the way to the farthest reaches of his kingdom. How does he get it done? He gives an abundance of food to some of us and commands us to take it to those who need it.

What happens if we don't fulfill the King's commands? Do the starving people think the King is benevolent? No, they can only see his goodness

when we do as he tells us to do.

Look at the people who are around you. Each one is an opportunity to give the King a good name.

What about the people whom you like least of all? What about those who've made you feel angry or intimidated or hurt? Well, ask this: What is he/she hungry for? If the answer's not obvious, ask the Holy Spirit. Observe that person long enough to identify the emptiness or pain or fears that are buried under the surface.



Then ask this: What abundance has God given to me that this "least one" is lacking and needs from Christ our King? Can I show him/her the King's benevolence despite my feelings?

When we say no to opportunities to share what we have, we are behaving like one of the goats whom the Good Shepherd-King separates from the sheep. And when we say yes, despite the feelings that could make us goat-like, the King's good reputation spreads, and we are all blessed.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What good things do you have in abundance? How readily do you share them?
2. Who is of least importance to you? How can you take your focus off of what you don't like about them so that you can give them what God wants to give to them through you?
3. Have you ever done something good to someone who didn't deserve it? How did this affect your relationship with Jesus?
4. What abundance do you see in each member of your family or faith sharing community that, when shared, blesses others?



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