



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

November 26th, 2023  
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 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, November 12th, 2023:**

Collections from Weekend masses: \$12,336.

Collection for Heat: 3,125.

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

**Total Collection: \$18,835.04**

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON: USING  
SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

**November 19th Collection figures unavailable at  
bulletin submission date due to early print schedule**

## 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 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

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

**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,

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 we don't really believe it, and we certainly don't act on it with any regularity. 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?*

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. St. Mark's symbol is the lion – roaring out! Calling us to act on what we have heard from St. Luke last year. The compassionate Christ bids each of us as Apostles of Hope to say "yes" to our own missioning. In what bite sized way have you said "yes" to the Spirit's enlivening promptings?

Next week we will begin a new liturgical season, with new colors as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. The monk Thomas Merton described Advent "as the beginning of the end in each of us of all that is not yet Christ". While Advent challenges us to prepare the way of the Lord, we know that these short weeks before Christmas are filled with many, many, many activities. It's a wonderful time to prepare the way of the Lord by entering into the good, fun, family preparations with the purpose of sharing the light of Christ. As you spend time baking cookies, or decorating your homes, or wrapping gifts, or standing on long lines to purchase gifts – connect your activities and your heart with the One who comes and dwells among us – yes, even on that long, long line!

Don't forget our SSPJ Advent Happenings!

**Advent Family Retreat on Saturday, December 2nd.** Last year's Lenten Family Retreat was outstanding. Please be sure to send in the registration form so we can properly prepare.

**Tree Lighting following the 5pm Mass on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

**Showing of The Chosen Christmas story on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm.**

Prior to the 5, there will be family games, opportunities to package gifts for the needy, popcorn, prayer and of course, the Chosen Nativity. If you can help in any way, great! Please leave your name and number and we'll give you the details. This is a fun afternoon for all ages. Please let us know how many are coming by calling in number of adults, children. Hope to see you there!

And,

*Bread is a lot like the sun – it rises in the yeast and sets in the waister.*

*My favorite memory is my back not hurting.*

*Jellyfish have survived over 650 million years without a brain. This gives hope to many people.*

*I'm taking care of my procrastination issues. Just you wait and see!!*

Peace,

*Father Tom*

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

# Mass Intentions, For the week of November 26th, 2023



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

*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  
Rob Remhild  
Carol  
Carolyn Nehl  
Cathleen Henchey  
Chase Addison  
Christella Stewart  
David Beleck  
David McCue  
Deirdre W.  
Diane LaPorte  
Donna Patrisi  
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

Judy Rampola  
Joe Dorrian  
Joseph Costa  
Joseph Domizzio  
Kaitlyn Remhild  
Kathleen Draper  
Kathleen N.  
Kerry  
Karl Walz  
Kitty Cronin  
Kristin Galetta  
Laura Bode  
Leon Donach  
Lola Santangelo  
Lori Cearney  
Mary Monte  
Marty Rizzo  
Margaret Remhild  
Mark Wagner  
Mary Ryan  
Marie Feicco  
Maria Clark  
Maria Collaro  
Marie del Cielo  
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  
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 Lifrieri  
Tom Ryan  
Tom Focone  
Vivien & John  
Cordes  
Wayne Smith Sr.

<b>Saturday November 25th Cantor: N. LoCastro</b>	<b>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Schor/Thompson EM: Rapp/Damato/Sisti/ Byrne/Toto</b>	<b>9:15am  5:00pm</b>	<b>Tony Galano  Vincenza &amp; Nunzio Colantropo</b>
<b>Sunday November 26th Cantor: L. Stefanowski</b>	<b>Presider: Father Tom Lector: White/Sehne EM: Czujko/Dunn/Kenney/ LaSerra/P. Tully</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ Parish</b>
<b>Cantor: L. Lupinacci</b>	<b>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Tomasino/Dobres EM: Rizzo/Suski/Clarke/ Keane/Amen/Conti</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Pegeen R. Amato</b>
<b>Cantor: J. Hill</b>	<b><u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Joe Lector: Kenton/Just EM: Consenz/Stack/C. Napolitano</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Claudia Chandler Thomas Spellman Christine Sidoli Marilyn Ormiston Living~Rob Remhild Living~ Philip Giarraputo</b>
<b>Monday November 27th</b>	<b>Adoration 1:30-7pm In the church</b>	<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>Alan B. Evans</b>
<b>Tuesday November 28th</b>		<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>Living~Thomas Ficht  James Hanrahan</b>
<b>Wednesday November 29th</b>		<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>Living~John Cordes  Kathryn Noonan</b>
<b>Thursday November 30th</b>	<b>St. Andrew , Apostle</b>	<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>Living~Claire &amp; Tyler Farrel <u>Collective Mass</u> Lawrence T. Quinn Philip Giarraputo</b>
<b>Friday December 1st</b>		<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>Living~Steven LoRusso  Thomas Ficht</b>
<b>Saturday December 2nd Cantor:</b>	<b>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Merlino/Student EM: Mantia/Duffy/Taurassi/ Toto/Urce</b>	<b>9:15am  5:00pm</b>	<b>Andrew Dunn  Vincent Danese</b>
<b>Sunday December 3rd Cantor:</b>	<b>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Czujko/White EM: D Napolitano/Kenney/ M Dunn/Portanova/Ramos</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<b>Presider: Father Tom Lector: O'Leary/Smith EM: Parish/Amen/Luna/ McKie/Mulhall/Orlando</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Valerie &amp; Jerry Linder</b>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<b><u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Tom Lector: Geier/Wagner EM: Bleggi/Kaleita/ Rubano</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Robert Remhild Tom Collins Nocola Giannantonio Living~Rob Remhild &amp; Kaitlyn Remhild</b>



## ***Altar Memorials for the Week of November 26th, 2023***

**Our Bread & Wine  
Are Offered In memory of,**

**Catherine Smith**

**Requested by.**

**The Christophides**



*The Pro-Life Rose*

*Is offered In loving Memory of,  
Alan Bruce, My Son...*

*Love,  
Mom*



*The Altar Candles are  
burning*

*In Loving Memory of  
Alan Bruce*

*"My Son"*

*Love,  
Mom*



**Our Sanctuary Lamp  
Is Illuminating the presence  
and love of our Lord  
In loving memory of our  
brother,**

**Alan B. Evans**

**Love,  
Keith, Laura and Michelle**



## ***The Chosen***

***During the Advent season, we will be showing an episode from The Chosen, The Nativity, on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. All in the parish are invited to attend and participate.***



***This is the season of giving. We plan to put together small kits for the needy. Perhaps we will have a contest or game or two for everyone (both kids and adults). Are you up to the challenge?***

***Since we all come from varied backgrounds, we also would like to have a few adults give a 3- minute talk about how their family celebrates Christmas with traditions from your youth, e.g., Mexican traditions, Polish traditions, etc. If you would like to participate by giving a brief highlight, please submit your name and phone number to Fr. Tom no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.***

## SSPJ ANNUAL PICK A STAR PROGRAM BEGINS THIS WEEKEND!

Parish Social Ministry's Annual Pick-a-Star Program begins on this weekend November 25th and November 26th!

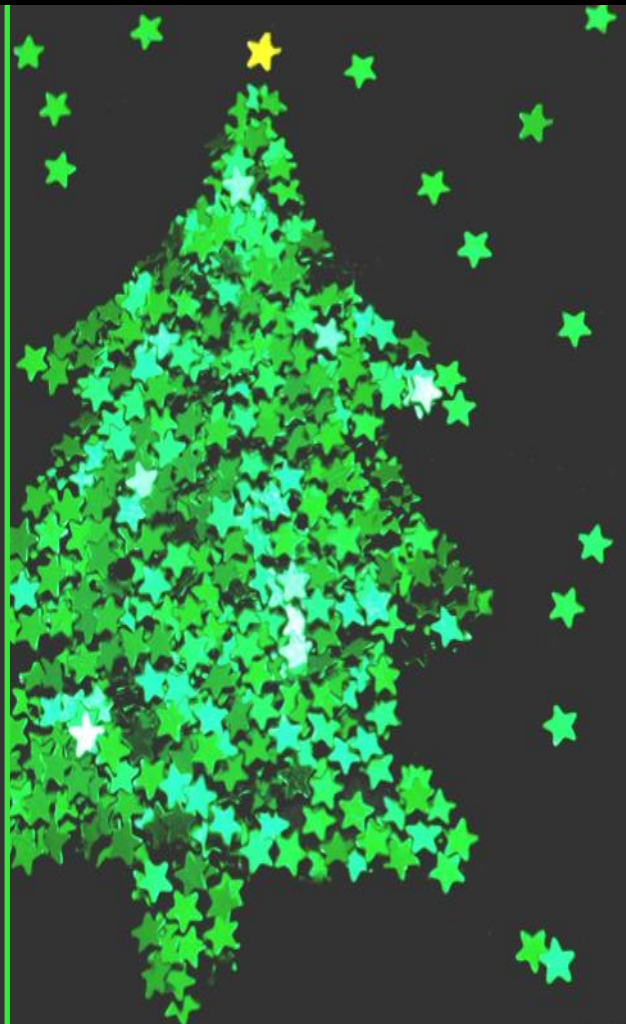
Our Pick-a-Star tree will be located at the front of the church near the statue of St. Joseph. For your convenience, there will also be baskets of stars at the church doors in the back. Please choose the star (s) indicating items you would like to purchase for someone in need.

Gifts should be placed under the tree in **unwrapped** boxes or gift bags, with the original star tag securely attached. The color of the ornament indicates its destination.

Please place **unwrapped** gift cards in the basket near the Pick-a-Star tree **at weekend Masses only** or drop them off at the Parish Center. Gift cards may also be placed in the collection basket.

All our gifts will be delivered on **Monday, December 18.**

As always, thank you and God Bless you for your generosity.



## Music Ministry

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.

The Chords of Faith will be leading us next Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, after the 5pm Mass, as we light our Christmas Tree. Join us after 5pm Mass.

Next weekend, the beginning of Advent. Different music will be sung, different color for Advent.

Stay tuned.....

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

*Ongoing conversations processing grief from loss to healing will be held in the Bethany Center at 1PM on Monday, December 4. Share your feelings and acknowledge others are grieving too. We need not make this journey alone.*

*If you would like to join us, call Lynn at 631-584-5454 and leave your name and phone number.*

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THIS DAY OF  
ADVENT ACTS OF LOVE COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FUN!  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28TH!  
GREAT WAY TO BEGIN THE ADVENT SEASON**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND!!**

WE WELCOME ALL FAMILIES TO OUR ADVENT RETREAT...

*"WAITING IN SILENCE,  
FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS"*

The fun begins at  
10am  
In the  
Auditorium  
AND  
CONCLUDES AT  
12:00  
WITH A VERY  
SPECIAL  
FAMILY  
BLESSING



HOPE  
PEACE  
LOVE  
JOY

**FUN, CRAFTS, SNACKS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY  
ADVENT ACTS OF LOVE SERVICE PROJECTS!**

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE AT 631-584-5454  
*COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM AND DROP IT OFF AT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE*

YAY! WE WILL BE ATTENDING THE ADVENT RETREAT:  
*"WAITING IN SILENCE,  
FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS"*

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_



## The SSPJ Guild Presents Celebrate with Santa!!!



Sunday, December 10, 2023, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Where: SSPJ Auditorium

Please Join Us at Santa's Workshop for  
Pictures with Santa, Crafts, Storytime, Letters to Santa, Raffles, and more! (Light  
food and refreshments will be served)

\$5 per person (children 3 and under are free)

For questions, please contact Nicole Butera at 631-624-2271 or Erica Negri at 516-353-6701

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## The SSPJ Guild Presents Celebrate with Santa!!!

Please RSVP no later than November 29, 2023

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children 3 and under: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_; Checks made payable to SSPJ School



HELPING OUT SSPJ SCHOOL: DECEMBER 4TH!!



# Donation Day

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**December 4th**

**11AM - 10PM**

Show this flyer at the register or use code **DONATE25** on the Shack App for pickup, delivery or kiosk when checking out and we'll donate **25%** of your total meal purchase to

**St. Philip and James School**



LAKE GROVE  
2093 Smthhaven Plaza | Lake Grove, NY, 11755



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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

*"Wisdom means knowing how to make room for silence, so as to be capable of listening to ourselves and others. It means knowing how to give up some of the time passed in front of the telephone screen to look at the light in the eyes of others, in one's own heart, in God's gaze upon us. It means not falling into the trap of activism, but devoting time to the Lord, to listening to His Word."*

*Pope Francis*

## SSPJ School Guild 2023 Christmas Tree Sale

Opening Day: Saturday, November 25th - 10 AM - 8 PM



### Tree Sale Times:

Monday - Friday: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM



## COFFEE with JESUS

### Advent Zoom Webinars

#### Join Bishop Andrzej

10:00 am on Friday mornings in December:

**December 1, 8, 15, 22**

Online Advent Reflections

#### on Scripture Readings

with the special emphasis  
on Mary, Joseph and Jesus.



Great opportunity to prepare and nourish your mind and heart,  
in preparation for Christmas.

To register,  
please call Suzanne 516-744-6850  
or email [westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org).

Once you are registered, you will be emailed the  
Zoom Webinar information prior to each session  
of this Advent series.



*We Remember with love...SSPJ Lights of Love Tree Lighting*  
*~ Saturday, December 2nd, 2023~Following the 5pm First Week of Advent Mass*

***We Invite all to the 2023 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony***

*This event offers a wonderful opportunity to remember in your hearts*

*"the lights of our loved ones, safely home" 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 chocolate and cookies will be served*

***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:***

***TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28th~ For your loved ones to be remembered at the tree lighting ceremony***

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th~ For your loved ones names to be printed in the Christmas bulletin and displayed upon the Christmas Altar***

***\$5.00 donation per each name being memorialized***

***Annual Tree Lighting Memorial***

***We Remember:***

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***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 the Parish Center office by: Tuesday, November 28th for names to be read at Tree lighting or Monday December 4th for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.*



## ***THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM SISTER T~***

Dear Friends.

***Pope Francis has said that Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist in order that we may ourselves become a gift to others, especially the poorest and neediest.***

**Who are the poor the neediest that Jesus speaks of?**

*The poor are the center of the Church. But who are the poor?*

*At first, we might think of people who are not like us: people who live in slums, people who go to soup kitchens, people who sleep on the streets, people in prisons, mental hospitals, and nursing homes.*

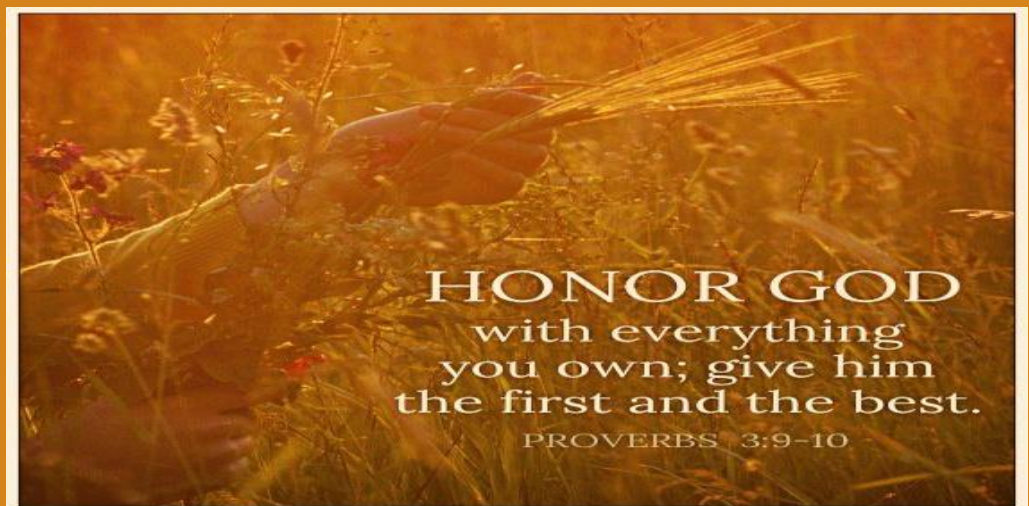
*But the poor can be very close. They can be in our own families, churches, or workplaces. Even closer, the poor can be us, who feel unloved, rejected, ignored, or abused. It is precisely when we see and experience poverty - whether far away, close by, or in our own hearts - that we need to become the Church; that is, hold hands as brothers and sisters, confess our own brokenness and need, forgive one another, heal one another's wounds, and gather around the table of Jesus for the breaking of the bread.*

*Thus, as the poor we recognize Jesus, who became poor for us. Lack of money or status does not make us poor; it is a lack of relationship with God and trust in Jesus' plan for us. As I reread these words all I think of is the financially deprived folks who have been my richest source of inspiration. How do you fit into this situation? Are you **Poor or Rich**, only you can say, although scripture reminds us that **'by their fruits you shall know them.'***

*Spend some time during this week calculating your wealth (what is your wealth, name it) and see how you would describe yourself— **Rich or Poor**. A better question is what is my relationship with God? You may be surprised at your answer. As we head into the Advent Season, it is a great time to see how well I share my resources, myself with and for others. Do I make Christ's presence visible to others? Am I willing to express my brokenness? No matter our status in life or wealth we can always be Christ to others. Jesus came to us in the humblest of settings. His birth has Richly blessed us. Claim your own richness and be blessed. Happy Advent*

Till next week,

Sister T



"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



### RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

GRADE 3	MONDAY NOVEMBER 27TH	6:30-7:30PM
GRADE 4	MONDAY DECEMBER 4TH	5PM-6PM
GRADE 5	MONDAY NOVEMBER 20TH	5-6PM 6-7PM
GRADE 6	MONDAY NOVEMBER 6TH	5PM-6PM
GRADE 7	MONDAY NOVEMBER 13TH	5-6PM 6-7PM



### Everyone *NEED's* Jesus Program

Friends and teachers were so excited to share time together with Sister T and Sister Pia Maria and Sister Incarna!

Not only did they share their beautiful stories of faith and discernment, but they also shared and helped the students create their "Thanksgiving Trees of Gratitude"

What a wonderful day and a fun time for all.

Together, we journey as pilgrims of faith!!

May God continue to bless Sister Pia, Sister Incarna and of course, Sister T!!!

## ***The Barnabas Ministry Needs Your Help....***

*The SSPJ Barnabas ministry shares their time and treasure by reading the reflections of our Religious Education Students and School Students.*

*They share positive compliments for our students and encourage them upon their journey of faith.*

*Reflections can be picked up weekly at the Parish Center and returned to the office within a weeks time.*

*If you are interested in joining this wonderful ministry, kindly contact the religious education office at 631-584-3204.*

*A brief training will be provided .*

*Thank you for sharing in this gift of love and service.*





***We are at 79% of GOAL which mean we are \$21,260 away!***

***WE ARE AT 79% OF OUR GOAL as of November 15th, 2023***

***Our Pledges are \$80,740***

***Our Payments are \$77,136.50.***

***Could you help us reach this goal?***

**GOAL: \$102,000**  
**PAYMENTS AT**  
11/14/23  
**\$77,136.50**  
**PLEDGES AT**  
11/14/23  
**\$80,740.**  
**Thank you!**



**June 2023— July 2024**

**Our Year of the Eucharistic Revival**

***The table of our home is like the table of the Lord.***

The table is, beyond all others, the social furnishing. It is, to begin with, the piece of furniture made for reunions; being accessible from all sides, the table is made to be surrounded...Here, then, in the center of the common room, the members of a family have a kind of permanent...rendezvous. During the hours when the members are away at work, the universal table in the quiet room embodies an invitation...It is here that the family, daily scattered, is daily reunited... At the center of our lives is thanksgiving at a table and a simple meal. Every table all week long, every meal, is an echo of the table of the Lord. (Excerpts Edmond Barbotin)

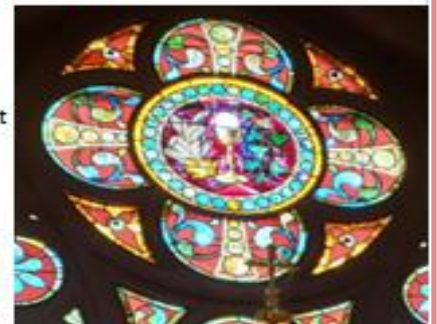
**Ponder:**

Take time to see the similarities between your table and the Table of the Lord. How often do you gather around your table?

**Pray:**

Heavenly Father help us remember that the Eucharist is food for the soul as a family meal is food for the body.

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





## Parish Social Ministry

### SSPJ SENIORS

*Will meet on Monday,  
November 27 in the Sts  
Philip & James room  
from 1:30-3:30 PM. All  
Seniors are welcome to  
join us for faith  
friendship, and fun.*



*We remember the family and friends of*

*Richard Pederson*

*Safely Home in the arms of our Lord*



#### Our Food Pantry Needs:

Toilet Paper  
Canned Beans

Thank you for all of your support!

## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

### THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

welcomes the season of Advent as  
we anticipate  
the coming of our infant savior on  
Christmas.

Please reach out to mothers and  
support  
them in every way. Continue to drop  
all donations @ Life Center 80  
Maple Ave  
Smithtown OR 57 Tillotson Ave St.  
James



**WE DELIGHT IN CREATION'S SONG  
AND COMPASSIONATELY RESPOND TO  
CREATION'S CRY.**

*Would you like to become part of our  
Laudato Si movement as we seek to respond  
to Pope Francis'  
call to be better stewards of God's  
creation? For more information, please  
contact Loretta Celitan  
at [Celitan@optonline.net](mailto:Celitan@optonline.net), text 631-431-7565  
or call 631-862-6429.*

#### 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



## Katie's Way

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**

My Weekly Sunday Gospel FOR ALL GRADES

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY~ SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH, 2023

My Name Is:\_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS:\_\_\_\_\_SSPJ SCHOOL

This reflection is due next weekend

The first week of Advent: December 2nd or December 3rd, 2023

**The Gospel Message: Matthew 25:31-46**

*Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself. When we use the gifts that God has blessed us with, we are performing acts of mercy. Such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, praying for the ill and for those who are struggling. Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us.*

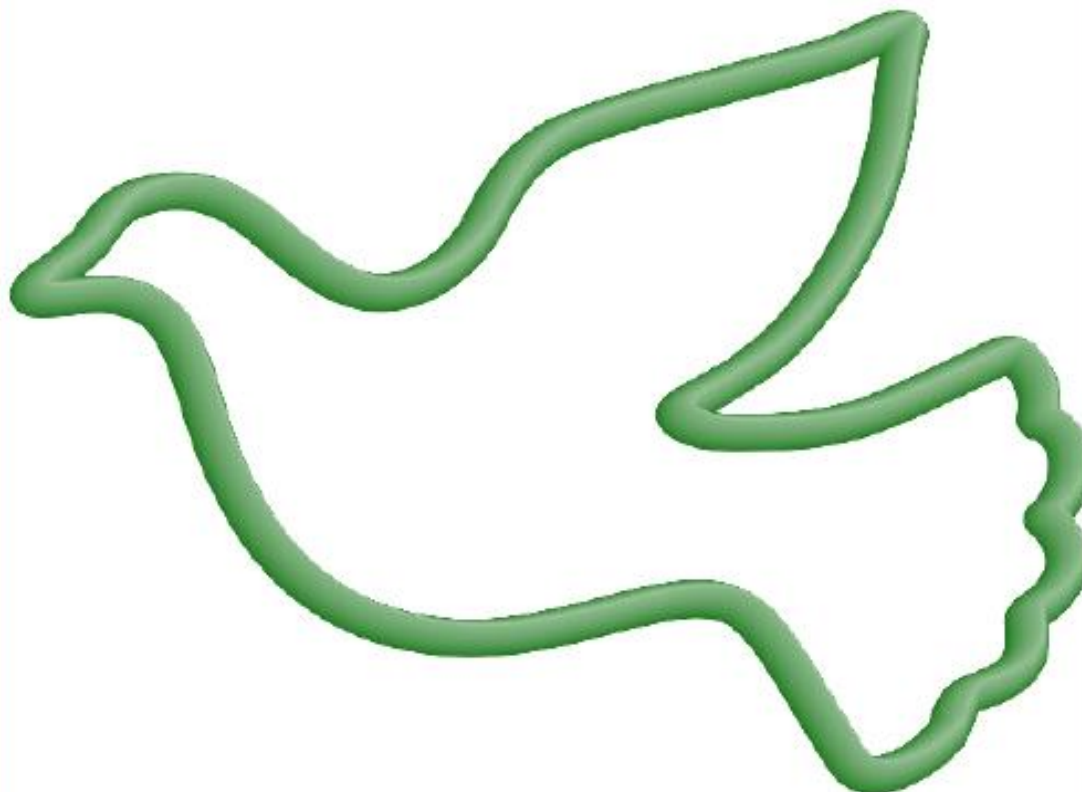
*Your reflections for the next four weeks will be a bit different and will focus on your beautiful light and gifts that you share with others*

*On Christmas, when you attend mass, you will see some of your reflections in special locations throughout our beautiful church!*

*We are so proud of you and look forward to celebrating a great advent season!*

**JUST REMEMBER...YOU CAN KICK OFF A GREAT ADVENT SEASON BY ATTENDING THE  
ADVENT FAMILY RETREAT ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND AT 10AM!!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!**



Upon your  
Peace Dove,  
Please share  
how you will  
share peace  
during this  
Advent season.  
By sharing  
Peace, you will  
be preparing  
your beautiful  
hearts for the  
birth of Jesus  
that we  
celebrate  
during the  
Christmas  
season.



# Reflecting and Preparing for Next Sunday December 3rd, 2023

## The First Sunday of Advent

### Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, December 3**

Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7  
Ps 80:2-4,15-16,18-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:33-37

**Monday, December 4**

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Ps 122:1-9  
Matthew 8:5-11

**Tuesday, December 5**

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17  
Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday, December 6**

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Ps 23:1-6  
Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday, December 7****St. Ambrose, Bp, Dr**

Isaiah 26:1-6  
Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a  
Matthew 7:21,24-27

**Friday, December 8****Immaculate Conception**

Genesis 3:9-15,20  
Ps 98:1-4  
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12  
Luke 1:26-38

**Saturday, December 9**

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26  
Ps 147:1-6  
Matthew 9:35 – 10:1,5a,6-8

As we prepare for Christmas, of course we're thinking about how to show fondness and appreciation to the special people in our lives by choosing gifts that will be meaningful to them. And yet, assuming that we can actually find (or make) something that will be appreciated, will the gift really make a difference in the long run?

Since Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, let's give him a gift, too – a long-lasting gift. But what can we give to someone who already has everything? Or does he?

What gift can you give to Jesus that will have an eternal impact, a gift that no one else can give him, a gift he doesn't already have? Here's the answer: What have you been withholding from him?

Today's first reading reminds us that God is our Father. The responsorial Psalm asks the Father to help us turn to him. The second reading gives thanks to God for all that he has done for us. So – what gift can you give to God to express your appreciation for what he has given to you?

this Christmas. And it's about the way he is coming to you right now, today.

There's something new that he wants to give you. When he offers it, will he find you doing what's right (as in the first reading)? Will he find you using your spiritual gifts (as in the second reading)? Will he find you alert and ready to do his bidding (as in the Gospel reading)?



Advent is an opportunity to take notice of the gifts he gives us and become

aware of the gifts we can give to him that he doesn't already have. It should make an eternal difference – for him *and* for us.

**Reflect & Discuss:**

- † List the gifts that God has given to you. Then think about how much appreciation you have given to God for the gifts on that list. Do you know how much he appreciates your appreciation?
- † Name ways that Jesus comes to us today.
- † What will you do this Advent to become more aware of Jesus coming to you?
- † How will this make you more ready for Christmas?

In the Gospel reading, we're reminded of the need to prepare – to actually do something that makes a difference – for the coming of Christ. This not only refers to his Second Coming; it's also about the day when he comes for us as we breathe our last earthly breaths. And it's about the way he wants to come to you



## God's Closeness

There's a growing body of literature today that chronicles the experience of persons who were clinically dead for a period of time (minutes or hours) and were medically resuscitated and brought back to life. Many of us, for example, are familiar with Dr. Eben Alexander's book, *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife*. More recently Hollywood produced a movie, *Miracles from Heaven*, which portrays the true story of a young Texas girl who was clinically dead, medically revived, and who shares what she experienced in the afterlife.

There are now hundreds of stories like this, gathered through dozens of years, published or simply shared with loved ones. What's interesting (and consoling) is that virtually all these stories are wonderfully positive, irrespective of the person's faith or religious background. In virtually every case their experience, while partially indescribable, was one in which they felt a warm, personal, overwhelming sense of love, light, and welcome, and not a few of them found themselves meeting relatives of theirs that had passed on before them, sometimes even relatives that they didn't know they had. As well, in virtually every case, they did not want to return to life here but, like Peter on the Mountain of the Transfiguration, wanted to stay there.

Recently while speaking at conference, I referenced this literature and pointed out that, among other things, it seems everyone goes to heaven when they die. This, of course, immediately sparked a spirited discussion: "What about hell? Aren't we judged when we die? Doesn't anyone go to hell?" My answer to those questions, which need far more nuance than are contained in a short soundbite, was that while we all go to heaven when we die, depending upon our moral and spiritual disposition, we might not want to stay there. Hell, as Jesus assures us, is a real option; though, as Jesus also assures us, we judge ourselves. God puts no one to hell. Hell is our choice.

However it was what happened after this discussion that I want to share here: A woman approached me as I was leaving and told me that she had had this exact experience. She had been clinically dead for some minutes and then revived through medical resuscitation. And, just like the experience of all the others in the literature around this issue, she too experienced a wonderful warmth, light, and welcome, and did not want to return to life here on earth. Inside of all of this warmth and love however what she remembers most and most wants to share with others is this: *I learned that God is very close. We have no idea how close God is to us. God is closer to us than we ever imagine!* Her experience has left her forever branded with a sense of God's warmth, love, and welcome, but what's left the deepest brand of all inside her is the sense of God's closeness.

I was struck by this because, like millions of others, I generally don't feel that closeness, or at least don't feel it very affectively or imaginatively. God can seem pretty far away, abstract and impersonal, a Deity with millions of things to worry about without having to worry about the minutiae of my small life.

Moreover, as Christians, we believe that God is infinite and ineffable. This means that while we can know God, we can never imagine God. Given that truth, it makes it even harder for us to imagine that the infinite Creator and Sustainer of all things is intimately and personally present inside us, worrying with, sharing our heartaches, and knowing our most guarded feelings.

Compounding this is the fact that whenever we do try to imagine God's person our imaginations come up against the unimaginable. For example, try to imagine this: There are billions of persons on this earth and billions more have lived on this earth before us. At this very minute, thousands of people are being born, thousands are dying, thousands are sinning, thousands are doing virtuous acts, thousands are making love, thousands are experiencing violence, thousands are feeling their hearts swelling with joy, all of this part of trillions upon trillions of phenomena. How can one heart, one mind, one person be consciously on top of all of this and so fully aware and empathetic that no hair falls from our heads or sparrow from the sky without this person taking notice? It's impossible to imagine, pure and simple, and that's part of the very definition of God.

How can God be as close to us as we are to ourselves? Partly this is mystery, and wisdom bids us befriend mystery because anything we can understand is not very deep! The mystery of God's intimate, personal presence inside us is beyond our imaginations. But everything within our faith tradition and now most everything in the testimony of hundreds of people who have experienced the afterlife assure us that, while God may be infinite and ineffable, God is very close to us, closer than we imagine.