



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

631-584-5454

December 17th, 2023 The Third Sunday of Advent



“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of
God for you in Christ Jesus” *1 Thes 5:16*

“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, December 10th, 2023:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$8,898.50

Mail Collections: \$1,405.00

Immaculate Conception \$1,669.50

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

Total Collection: \$15,347.04

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

Sacraments

Baptism— Celebrated twice per month. Parents are asked to register at the Pastoral Center for Pre-Baptism Program.

Marriage—Couples are asked to contact the Pastoral Center before visiting the reception hall. The Marriage Preparation process is nine months before your proposed wedding date.

Confirmation—Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

Reconciliation— Available Saturdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Church or by contacting the Parish Center for an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 8:00am mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

R.C.I.A.— Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (non-Catholic adults desiring to become Catholic) are asked to contact the Parish Center Office.

Eucharistic Adoration In The Church— Monday 1:30pm -7pm

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN

CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN

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

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,

Welcome to Gaudete Sunday! Rejoicing Sunday! The lighting of the pink candle on our Advent Wreath signals that we're getting closer to the great feast we're anticipating. But we're not there yet! I wonder, during these busy and exciting days of preparing to celebrate Christmas, do you ever feel stressed? I do. Perhaps why I am so taken with parts of a reflection by Fr. Richard Rohr, who in turn quoted a French Jesuit from the 1700s, Fr. John-Pierre Cassuade.

*"Every moment we live through is like an ambassador that declares the will of God to us." There is no more infallible way to seek the will of God than moment by moment to see that what this moment offers me is the grace of God... "True mystics seek the real; we seek the ephemeral. They want God as God is; we want God as we imagine or would like God to be." **The greatest ally of God is what is.** God can always work with what is. That is why there can be no real obstacle to union with God except our own resistance. God can and will use everything, absolutely everything, even the worst things—which is the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. "Every moment we live through is like an ambassador that declares the will of God to us.... ***We find all that is necessary in the present moment.***"*

As Advent continues, we hear in today's second reading Paul encouraging us to *rejoice* and to *pray without ceasing*. Might we do this by focusing on God's grace in the present moment? God is present in every aspect of our lives – in our joys and sorrows, our activities, and our stillness. May we truly feel God's all-embracing grace moment by moment as we continue our preparations to celebrate the coming Christmas feast.

The Music Ministry has prepared well and is happy to treat us all with their annual Christmas Concert this Sunday evening, December 17th, at 6:30pm in the church. Enter into the peace, joy and hope of the season!

On Monday evening, December 18th, at 7:30pm in the church, we will have a **Communal Reconciliation Service**. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray in gratitude for God's love and to experience God's gentle and freeing mercy. Come and participate in this time of prayer in preparation for welcoming Christ more deeply into our lives. We begin by praying and reflecting together, followed by an opportunity for individual confession.

And finally, a little humor of the season...

Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?

Because every buck is dear to him.

What did the bald man say when he got a comb as a Christmas gift?

I'll never part with it!

What do you call an elf who runs away from Santa's workshop?

A rebel without a Claus.

What did the English teacher call Santa's elves?

Subordinate clauses.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Noah. Noah who?

Noah good Christmas joke??? (Apologies to all!)

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of December 17th, 2023

Eucharistic Adoration Monday

1:30-7pm
In the church



We Pray for those who are ill...

Andy
Anna Capizzio
Anna Maria
Alfred Fox
Antonette Sabatino
Angie Mingione
Angela Amoroso
Arthur Gureck
Austin Rocky
Baby Ben
Baby Penny Grace
Candela
Barbara Bombace
Brian
Mattia Rose Lubrano
Barbara Sammarco
Belinda Groneman
Bob DelCielo
Rob Remhild
Carol
Carolyn Nehl
Cathleen Henchey
Chase Addonizio
Christella Stewart
David Beleck
David McCue
Deirdre W.
Diane LaPorte
Donna Patrissi
Dorothy Mitchell
Eleanor Bayley
Elizabeth Martin
Elizabeth Smith
Eileen
Emily Schiaratta
Emily Souders
Flo Donohue
Gail Lumley
George Fitzpatrick
Gloria Montesano
Ginny & John Rief
Gregory Parker
Helen
Harold Scott
Jack Donohue
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.

Saturday December 16th Cantor: K. Murtha	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Healy/Student EM: Conti/Mantia/Sisti/ Drechsler/Urce	9:15am 5:00pm	Rick Dorso Charlie Reynolds
Sunday December 17th Cantor: B. Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Mantia/Koke EM: Koke/Portanova/Ramos/ Sehne/P. Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: J. Hill	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Zahorody/Piliero EM: Licari/Luna/McKie/ Mulhall/Orlando	10:00am	Michael Kaplon
Cantor: J. Hill	Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector: Suski/Regan EM: Bleggi/Rubano/ Margaret	12:00pm	Evelyn Eustace Claudia Chandler Marilyn Mooney Walter Larosa Michael Zausin Living~Rob & Kaitlyn Remhild
Monday December 18th	Adoration 1:30-7pm In the church	7:30am 9:15am	Anthony Hurtado Greg Mattia
Tuesday December 19th		7:30am 9:15am	Adele Graham Margaret Castiglie
Wednesday December 20th		7:30am 9:15am	Bernadette Alter Matthew Ryan Martin
Thursday December 21st	St. Peter Canisius	7:30am 9:15am	Bernadette Alter Collective Mass: Living~Rob & Kaitlyn Remhild Douglas A. McLaughlin George John Beckett James Ficht
Friday December 22nd		7:30am 9:15am	Joan & John Purcell William T. Fischer
Saturday December 23rd Cantor: K. Feeney	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Dreschler/Student EM: Calderone/Byrne/ Dreschler/Taurassi/Toto	9:15am 5:00pm	Eva Maria & Philip Alaimo Philip Giarraputo Sr. Theresa & Angelo Marinello
Sunday December 24th Cantor: L. Stefanowski	Presider: Father Tom Lector: Sehne/Cavooris EM: Rizzo/Koke/Portanova/ Sehne/Sica	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: B. Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Cafaro/Lombardi EM: Mantia/Licari/Parish/ Clarke/Keane/McKie	10:00am	Vincent Tambone
Cantor: L. Lupinacci	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: Kenton/Rubano EM: Margaret/Rubano/ Settineri	12:00pm	John Murphy Stanislawa Luckiewicz

Altar Memorials for the Week of December 17th, 2023

*The Pro Life Rose
Is Offered*

In loving memory of,

William Thomas Fisher

***"Beloved Son, Husband,
Father and Brother"***

***Love,
Your Family***

***Our Bread & Wine
Are Offered for,***

Michael Kaplon

***"Four years gone from our
sight, but never gone from our
hearts"***

***"Happy 43rd Birthday in
heaven"
Mom & Dad***

***The Altar Candles are
burning***

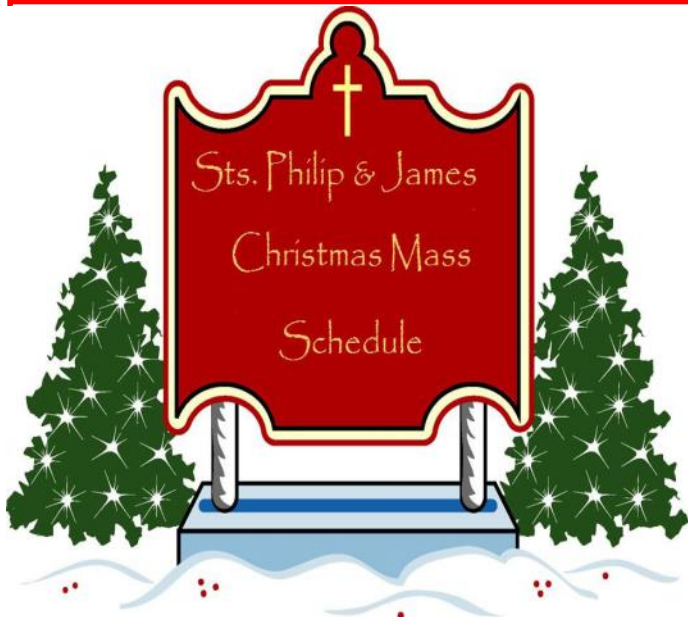
In loving memory of,

William Thomas Fisher

With our love,

Your Family

Sts. Philip & James 2023 Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass In the Church

6:00pm Mass in the Church

8:00pm Mass in the Church

Christmas Day

8:00am Mass in the Church

10:00am Mass in the Church

12 noon Mass in the Church

New Year's Eve

5:00 pm Mass

New Year's Day

10:00am Mass



"The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3

THANK YOU!

**PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY PICK A STAR PROGRAM HAS
CONCLUDED**

ANOTHER TOUCHING YEAR...

**MANY THANKS FROM SO MANY HEARTS FOR THE GENEROSITY
AND COMPASSION
OF THE STS PHILIP & JAMES PARISH FAMILY**

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are so grateful for sharing your dedication, time and faith.

The sign up sheets for our Christmas and New Year masses is

Available in the prayer room

Your assistance during these masses is very much appreciated.



With just **14** days left in this year of 2023; we remain **\$19,540**

away from our Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$102,000

OUR LAST DAY TO MEET OUR GOAL IS

DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

SSPJ Parish stands as a valiant cornerstone of FAITH...it welcomes the joy filled...the hopeless...the newly baptized...the grieving...

The ill and most importantly...its families of deeply rooted faith...

***It stands by your generosity and during these turbulent financial times,
It relies upon reaching its CMA goal..***

This GOAL affords SSPJ to maintain its structures and well, to keep the lights on ,
welcoming all in need..

If you haven't done so already...might you share any amount you could spare?

YOU ARE NOT JUST HELPING SSPJ PARISH, YOU ARE HELPING
OUR BROTHERS,
SISTERS AND CHILDREN
SUFFERING THE LOSS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS
WHO WALK
SILENTLY BESIDE US.

***Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. '.***

Mathew 25:40

***Won't you prayerfully consider giving a gift ?
KINDLY PLEASE COMPLETE THE SLIP BELOW
EVERY GIFT MATTERS***



How does the **Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God's People**? It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



**Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation!
It's fast and secure.**

**Go to the following link to find your parish's
keyword: bit.ly/3VFrMCE**

**TEXT your parish's Keyword To:
(516) 271-3338**

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making 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 **CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org**

or call us at **516-678-5800 ext. 296**

Thank You!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation~ Monday, December 18th

Jesus, I need you...

Celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Advent is a powerful way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. This sacrament celebrates God's love for us, and God's desire that we relish that love and allow it to overflow into our lives.

The sacrament of Reconciliation has a long and varied history. As with all our sacraments, it has a personal and communal dimension. The revision in the ritual following the Second Vatican Council reminds us of the importance of both dimensions.

We're called to:

Gather-Reflect on God's word-Reflect on our response-Confess our sins, our sorrow, and our desire to respond more generously to God's love-Receive God's mercy and go forth to live that love.

*On Monday evening, December 18th, 2023
There will be a Communal Reconciliation Service in
The Church at 7:30pm.*

We will gather in song as the candles of the Advent Wreath are lit, reminding us that Christ our Light overcomes any and all darkness.

We will listen and respond to the Word of God proclaimed.

The homily will invite us to reflect on God's love for us and God's invitation to deepen our experience of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

As a community, we will be led in a simple examination of conscience, and allowing God to gently reveal to us the sinfulness we need to admit.

As a community, will be given an act of penance to help us heal our relationships with God, others and ourselves and will pray an Act of Contrition together.

As music plays we are invited to approach the priests stationed around the church, confessing the sin revealed and receiving individual absolution.

We continue on our almost concluded Advent journey, praying that all of us feel and nurture Emmanuel, God-with-us, this Christmas and throughout our lives.



Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



DON'T MISS THIS AWESOME EVENT!!

TONIGHT AT 6:00 PM IN THE CHURCH!

***The Parish of
Saints Philip and James***

***One Crow Place
Saint James N.Y. 11780***

Music Ministry

presents

A Christmas Concert

December 17, 2023

6:00pm

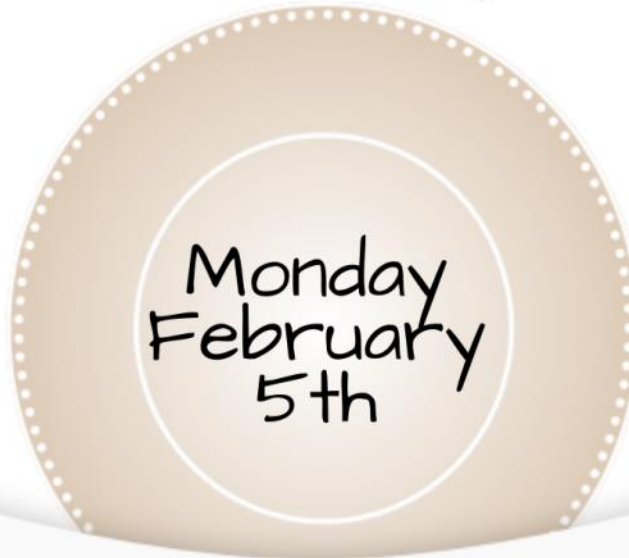
in the Church

Free Admission

***This is our Christmas gift to you, so
plan on joining us for a special evening of
spiritual, seasonal favorites, and
our annual sing-along.***

***Please make time to join us for an evening
Of music.***

Save the date!



Dine Around Dinner

SSPJ Auditorium

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Adults Only--BYOB

Tickets \$25 each

On sale in January in the school lobby after Masses
and at the Parish Center

No tickets available at the door

Sample dishes from many local restaurants!



Watch the bulletin for more news about participating
restaurants!

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM BECAUSE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE." Matthew 19:14



CONFIRMATION II 8TH GRADE :

CHANGE OF DATE FOR NICENE CREED MASS

The Nicene Creed Mass scheduled for December 11th has been changed to January 22nd, 2024

CONFIRMATION II ~ 8TH GRADE RETREAT! IT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2024
IN THE AUDITORIUM



2 SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AND FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL.

"Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire."

Religious Education classes are all back in session. Classes will not be held from December 17th-December 30th. Classes will resume the week of Dec. 31! Wishing all our families A blessed Christmas!



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CONFIRMATION I AND CONFIRMATION II STUDENTS WHO OFFERED SOME ELBOW GREASE TO POLISH THE PEWS READYING THEM FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



A very special thanks for a job well done to:

Sean Power, Finn Sullivan, Claire Rubano, Gianna Rivera, Jackson Parker, Nina Farrell, Dylan Lawrence, Phoebe Smith, Nicholas Gentile, Lily Gentile



CONFIRMATION I AND II GRADES 7
& 8
FAMILY MASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024
AT 5:00PM

Cleaning Out Your Closet?

We need your shoes!

Group Name:

SSPJ School



Drop-Off Location:

359 Clinton Ave.
St. James, NY 11780

Dates:

Now- Until December 18th 2023

Contact:

Mrs. Jessica Leahy (631)-413-9455
jessicaguest@gmail.com

Help us raise funds just by donating gently worn, used and new shoes! Be sure to ask, friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to donate too!

Collected shoes not only help support us, but they will be reused and given a second life by those in need through #microenterprise. It's a WIN-WIN!

052022F

Third Week of Advent...

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord'" Jn 1:23*

Act of Love~ the greatest gift

*Pay a visit or make a call to a friend or family member
that might be feeling down ...let them know how much
they mean to you.*

*Keep them in your heart and mind this Christmas
season...*

Rejoice!

LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



Join Bishop Andrzej

For Scripture Reflection Series

on St. JOSEPH - Part IV

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.



Bible Study Verses

JOSEPH

The Man of Loving Justice

Gospel of Matthew 1: 18-25

The Annunciation to Joseph

Registration is Required,

in order to receive the ZOOM link to each session.

Please contact the Western Vicariate office with your
name, parish, email address and phone number.

Send your email to:

westernvicariate@drvc.org

or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.



The Great Advent Hands of JOY at SSPJ School!



Happy Advent

SSPJ Students have begun preparing their hearts for Christmas. Student had the opportunity to shop for special gifts for their family and friends during our Annual Christmas Boutique. A great big THANK YOU to all the parents who helped to make this so special!



Apostles of Hope

Our amazing SSPJ Fifth Graders created homemade ornaments for the homebound in our Parish Community as part of their Advent project.

It is in giving that we receive!





June 2023— July 2024

Our Year of the Eucharistic Revival

This is the Path

When Jesus saw the crowds, his compassion for them led him to multiply the loaves for them; he does the same for us with the Eucharist.

Continuing this reflection on the story of the loaves and fishes, Pope Francis reminds us that this miracle happens every time we come to Mass. We are the crowds on the hillside looking for nourishment after our tiring and often frustrating days. We are the crowds hungry for a word of grace, a chance to gather new strength in hopes of being better disciples in the week ahead. And sometimes we are clueless and just hoping to hear and receive something that will help us make sense of our lives. Jesus listens and responds to us; he heals and feeds us. The miracle continues.

Ponder:

What do I hope to receive from Mass?

Pray:

God of mystery and wonder, let me hear you, let me see you, and help me witness to your love.

(Taken from What Pope Francis Says About Eucharist)

Sister T

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



THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM SISTER

Dear Friends,

We are so fortunate that our Church year begins with the Season of Advent. No matter what might be happening during this busy time, we are constantly being reminded to Listen, Take Heart, Make straight the Path, Be amazed at God's Everlasting love for us ...All of these invitations require some quiet time during a very hectic season. So, for your own sake and for those around you...take the time.

In taking that time for myself I was able to read a recent reflection by Joyce Rupp in which speaks of the Tapestry of Life. In this time of Advent, it is wonder- filled to look at all the threads that make up this tapestry of our life. For most of us there will be bright and not so bright colors. We've experienced joys, achievements, love as well as sadness, failures, and loss.

Our family, friends, co-workers, and people we meet have all woven a tread into our tapestry. This is the time to search and see what color thread we have woven into the tapestry of others' lives. Each day we can add the bright color of compassion to someone in need, the thread of generosity is often needed, what about a colorful thread of a smile, a nod of understanding, a whisper of a prayer for a friend...All of these can become bold beautiful colors in their own tapestry. What a wonderful way to prepare for the coming of the master weaver – Jesus.

During these remaining days of Advent, we could return to the age-old question of WWJD, WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Honestly, I constantly need to remind myself to breathe, tell myself all will be well and how can I best color another's tapestry. There is not much time left so take a little bit of it and take a 'tapestry check' on your very own piece and add a thread of hope, peace, and JOY to the tapestry of those you love and meet.

Till next week,
Sister Theresita



"It is the attitude of the sentinel, who in the night is not tempted by weariness, does not fall asleep, but remains awake awaiting the coming light. The Lord is our light and it is good to dispose the heart to welcome him with prayer and to host him with charity, the two preparations that, so to speak, make him comfortable."

Pope Francis

**SSPJ RCIA MINISTRY WELCOMES ALL TO ATTEND RCIA SESSIONS
SUNDAYS 9AM-10AM IN THE SSPJ ROOM**



17-Dec	3 rd Sun Advent	Faith
24-Dec	4th Sun Advent	NO CLASS CHRISTMAS Eve
31-Dec	Feast of the Holy Family	NO CLASS NEW YEAR'S Eve
7-Jan	Feast of Epiphany	Epiphany Process of Conversion
14-Jan	2nd Sunday	Divine Revelation

Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Needs:

THANK YOU SO MUCH WE ARE FULLY STOCKED!

Thank you for your generosity



We remember the family and friends of,

JOAN HOURICAN

Safely Home in the arms of our Lord

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” —Philippians 4:4



A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable. We do not have an unlimited right to trample His creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, humans will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality.

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Respect Life Committee wishes all of you a Blessed and Holy Advent.

As we prepare for the coming of Our Savior as a babe in Bethlehem, we ask you to remember in your prayers all life, especially expectant mothers and those praying for new life in their families.

Please join the prayer group in the prayer room @8AM each weekday morning Please join us to pray for all life, especially the unborn and their families..



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**

Helpful Phone Numbers~ YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Dept. of Social Services: 631-854-2300
Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124
Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827
Alzheimer's Disease: 631-954-2323
American Red Cross L.I.: 516-747-3500
Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900
Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800
Brookhaven Youth Counseling: 631-451-8011
Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546
Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480
Children's Community: 631-585-2020, 631-476-9698
www.childrenscommunityhs.org
Domestic Violence Hotline (Vibes): 631-360-3607
Elder Abuse: 631-761-7470
Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547
Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542
Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758
Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030
In Home Care- Home Instead: 631-724-2273
LI Against Domestic Violence: 631-666-8833
LI Head Start: 631-732-7100
L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833
Memory Care in NY: www.memorycare.com
Mental Health Emergency: 631-952-3333
Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
Nassau/Suffolk Law: 631-232-2400
National Aging in place-L.I. Chapter: 631-383-4341
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-784-2433
Office for the Aging: 631-853-8200
Overeaters Anonymous 631-260-6615 www.SuffolkOA.org
Rachel's Hope (Post Abortion): 888-456-4673
Response Crisis Center: (Suicide Hotline): 631-751-7500
The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200

Our Family Prayer Intention~

Please bring your intention to mass next weekend, December 24th, 2023
Or Sunday, December 31st, 2023
We as a Parish Family will be holding you in our prayers

FAMILY/STUDENT NAMES	STUDENT GRADE LEVEL/SSPJ SCHOOL

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for all the blessings we have received by your grace and love. We pray that you will continually remind us that we are never alone, and that you are always by our side.

Jesus, we offer you our hearts, our needs, our intentions, knowing that you hear us. Let your will be done.

Amen

Together as a family we offer our prayers....



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 31

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Ps 105:1-7a, 8-9 or
Ps 128:1-5
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

Monday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday, January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

1 Jn 2:22-28
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday, January 3

1 Jn 2:29 – 3:6
Ps 98:1, 3c-6
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 Jn 3:7-10
Ps 98:1, 7-9
Jn 1:35-42

Friday, January 5 St. John Neumann, Bp

1 Jn 3:11-21
Ps 100:1b-5
Jn 1:43-51

Saturday, January 6

1 Jn 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the demands of the Kingdom of God, we see

their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do.

As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God is.

Reflect & Discuss:

† What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5,6,7) or elsewhere in the

Gospels do you excuse yourself from?

- † How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught?
- † What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?
- † How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you?
- † What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?



LIGHTING AN ADVENT CANDLE

In the days of apartheid in South Africa, Christians there used to light candles and place them in their windows as a sign to themselves and others that they believed that someday this injustice would end. A candle burning in a window was a sign of hope and a political statement. The government didn't miss the message. It passed a law making it illegal to place a lit candle in a window, the offense being equal to owning a firearm; both were considered equally dangerous. This eventually became a joke among the kids: "Our government is afraid of lit candles!"

And well they should be! Lit candles, more than firearms, overthrew apartheid. Hope, not guns, is what ultimately transforms things. To light a candle as an act of hope is to say to yourself and to others that, despite anything that might be happening in the world, you are still nursing a vision of peace and unity that's based upon something beyond the present state of things and upon deeper realities and powers than what the world admits. To light a candle is to state publicly that you believe that, at the end of the day, more than what you see on the evening news will shape the final outcome of things. There are other powers also at work. To light a candle is an act of political defiance and an act of hope.

What is hope?

First, it's not wishful thinking. I can wish to win a lottery, but that wish, in itself, contains no real power to make it happen. Second, hope is not simply temperamental optimism, an upbeat temperament that always sees the bright side of things. An unwavering optimism about things can sometimes be helpful, but it's no basis for hope; like wishful thinking it lacks the power to make its own dream come true. Finally, hope is not simply shrewd observation and common sense, a talent for sorting out the real from the fluff. Useful as this is, it's still not hope. Why not?

Because hope doesn't base itself upon a shrewd assessment of the empirical facts, but upon belief in a deeper set of realities: God's existence, God's power, God's goodness, and the promise that flows from that.

There's a story told about Pierre Teilhard de Chardin that helps illustrate this. Teilhard wasn't much given to wishful thinking or even to an optimistic temperament; he tended rather toward a lonely realism. Yet he was a man of real hope. For example, on one occasion, after giving a conference where he laid out a vision within which ultimately unity and peace will be achieved on earth in a way that parallels the vision of scripture, he was challenged by some colleagues to this effect: "That's a wonderful, idealistic vision of things, but suppose we blow up the world with a nuclear bomb, what happens to your vision then?" Teilhard replied, "that would set things back some millions of years, but this will still come to fruition, not because I say so or because the facts right now indicate that it will, but because God promised it and in the resurrection of Jesus has shown that He is powerful enough to deliver on that promise."

Hope, as we can see from this, requires both faith and patience. It works like yeast, not like a microwave oven. Jim Wallis, the founder of *Sojourners*, expresses this colorfully: "All politicians are alike," he says, "they hold a finger up and check which way the wind is blowing and then make their decisions in that direction. That will never change, even if we change politicians. *So, we must change the wind!* That's hope's task – to change the wind!"

When we look at what has morally changed this world – from the great religious traditions coming out of deserts, caves, and catacombs and helping leaven whole cultures morally, to apartheid being overthrown in South Africa – we see that it has happened precisely when individuals and groups lit candles and hoped long enough until the wind changed.

We light Advent candles with just that in mind, accepting that changing the wind is a long process, that the evening news will not always be positive, the stock markets will not always rise, the most sophisticated defenses in the world will not always protect us from terrorism, and secular liberal and conservative ideologies will not rid this planet of selfishness.

However, we continue to light candles and hope anyway, not on the basis of a worsening or improving evening newscast, but because the deepest reality of all is that God exists, that the center holds, that there's ultimately a gracious Lord who rules this universe, and this Lord is powerful enough to rearrange the atoms of the planet and raise dead bodies to new life. We light candles of hope because God, who is the ultimate power, has promised to establish a kingdom of love and peace on this earth and is gracious, forgiving, and powerful