



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

April 11th, 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Sunday of Divine Mercy



“Peace be with you” John 20:21

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” John 20:29

“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

### 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

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890.

Weekly Collection: Sunday April 4th 2021: \$ 27,754.

Faith Direct: (126 Participants) 3,253.

**Total Collections: \$ 31,007.**

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY: \$ 4,400.

**\*\*FIGURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE : EARLY BULLETIN SUBMISSION DATE**

**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

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 WILMS

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

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— LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY

MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

As you probably know, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has declared Bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

In order to be as helpful as possible to the parties that may be affected by this bankruptcy, we will be publishing the following note regarding “proof of claim forms” for the next few months:

Information regarding the deadlines for filing proofs of claim in the Diocese’s chapter 11 case and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese’s bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

# Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

**Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!** Yes, I know last Sunday we celebrated Easter, rejoicing in Jesus' Resurrection. But Easter isn't just one day. The Easter Season lasts for *fifty days*. And in reality, we celebrate Christ's Resurrection every day. We are an Easter people!

What does that mean? Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, writes,

***"In the Risen Christ, God reveals the final state of all reality. God forbids us to accept "as-it-is" in favor of "what-God's-love-can-make-it". To believe in Resurrection means to cross limits and transcend boundaries. Because of the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus we realistically can believe that tomorrow can be better than today. There is a future that is created by God, and much bigger than our own efforts.***

***We should not just believe in some kind of survival or immortality or just "life after death" – but Resurrection, an utterly new creation, a transformation into Love that is promised as the final chapter of all history. That is why a true Christian has to be an optimist. In fact, if you are not an optimist, you haven't got it yet."***

Many thanks to all who shared so prayerfully in last week's Holy Week Services and our Easter celebrations. It was such grace to again be able to celebrate those sacred days together. Thanks, too, to all whose loving ministry made each of the celebrations so meaningful, enabling us to be encountered by God's loving heart.

This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, reminding us of the call to each of us to be so touched by God's mercy that we will extend that mercy to all. Pope John Paul II designated Divine Mercy Sunday in April of 2000, when he canonized St. Faustina, a Polish nun whose great devotion to Jesus and his divine mercy has spread throughout the world. Jesus instructs us to be merciful, to enter into the often painful, messy, confusing situations of others to offer help and a caring presence. Faithfulness to our faith tradition's corporal and spiritual works of mercy guides in following the example of Jesus.

During the month of April we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with our young candidates. They have written letters of intent, done a wonderful job on their saint reports, have made an online retreat and celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation. Please keep them in your prayers.

Many thanks to all who have joined in our effort to reach our goal in the Catholic Ministries Appeal. The CMA is a concrete way in which we live the gospel call to care for those with whom the Lord identified and also support our local community as we work together to build up the Body of Christ. Please, if you are able, join in our efforts by making a pledge this week.

And,

*Did you hear about the monkeys who shared a Prime account?*

*They're called Prime Mates.*

*Don't use "beef stew" as a password. It's not stroganoff.*

*What do you call it when you have your mom's mom on speed dial? Instagram.*

Peace,

*Father Tom*

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

# Mass Intentions, For the week of April 11th, 2021

**Our Bread & Wine  
For the Week of  
April 11th, 2021**

*Are Offered In Loving Memory of,*

**Joey Morda**

*On your 8th Anniversary in  
Heaven*

*Forever in my thoughts and  
prayers,  
Love,  
Mom*



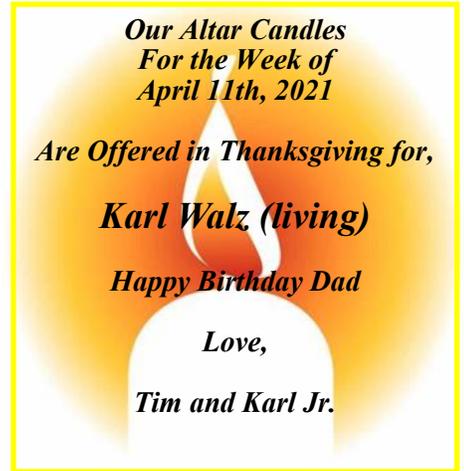
**Our Altar Candles  
For the Week of  
April 11th, 2021**

*Are Offered in Thanksgiving for,*

**Karl Walz (living)**

*Happy Birthday Dad*

*Love,  
Tim and Karl Jr.*



**Remembering in Our Prayers~**

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Angie Mingione      | Luis Anthony         |
| Angela Amoroso      | Antonette Sabatino   |
| Anna Ormsby         | James Macchiano      |
| Arthur Gureck       | John Harney          |
| Baby Ben            | Judy Rampola         |
| Barbara Bombace     | Kathleen N.          |
| Barbara Ruland      | Kitty Cronin         |
| Bunny & Dave Hayes  | Leon Donach          |
| Mattia Rose Lubrano | Mark Geld            |
| Belinda Groneman    | Mark Hildreth        |
| Belinda Vega        | Mary Fresi           |
| Brianna Florio      | Maryann Kevlin       |
| Bob Keenan          | Maria Clark          |
| Carol               | Marie del Ciello     |
| Claudia Chandler    | Marilyn Suli         |
| Daniel Radice       | Matthew Parrella     |
| Deirdre W.          | Marie & Frank Fiecco |
| Dolores North       | Michael Fisher       |
| Donna Patrisi       | Mike Lofaro          |
| Dorothy Mitchell    | Monsignor Iocavacci  |
| Dylan Beach         | Pasquale Savarese    |
| Ella                | Peter Bertrand       |
| Ellie Walsh         | Peter Donach         |
| Ginny & John Rief   | P.I.                 |
| Gladys Blake        | Ricardo Buffit       |
| Gregory Parker      | Riordan Cavoaris     |
| Helen               | Sara Jean Andersen   |
| Ida Wehman          | Sheila Ginty         |
| Joanna              | Stephen Dolce        |
| Jack Donohue        | Steven Iglio         |
| John Cronin         | Theresa Kassay       |
| John DeStefano      | Tara Cesarski        |
| J.C.                | Tom Kiernan          |
| Joseph S.           | Tom Unverzagt        |
|                     | Vivien Cordes        |
|                     | Victoria Zubrycky    |

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 10th, 2021</b> Presider: Father Joe Lector: B. Thompson EM: L. Sisti	9:15am  5:00pm	<b>Easter Novena</b>  Joey Morda
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 11th, 2021</b> Presider: Father Joe Lector: E. Dobres EM: M. Sehne	8am	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b>
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: M. Hoonhout EM: E. Sotomayer	10:00am	<b>Easter Novena</b>
	<b>Collective Mass</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: M. Cashman EM: B. Luna	12:00pm	<b>Evelyn Eustace Bruce Ogilvie Brigid Winters Miriam Dorrian Living-Pasquale Savarese</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 12th, 2021</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Easter Novena</b>  Janice Kassay
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 13th, 2021</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Donna Toto—Living</b>  Eileen Frazita
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 14th, 2021</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Michael Arato</b>  Pasquale Savarese-Living
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 15th 2021</b>	7:30am 9:15am	<b>Marie Therese Turcotte</b> <b>Collective Mass:</b> John Leonsky Stella Rizzo
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 16th, 2021</b>	7:30am 9:15am	<b>Agnes Kingston</b> William Quinn
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 17th, 2021</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: L. Halluska EM: D. Anderson	9:15am  5:00pm	<b>Diane Rowley</b>  MaryAnne Cooke
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 18th, 2021</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: B. Luna EM: E. Sica	8:00am	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b>
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: P. Wos EM: K. Consenz	10:00am	<b>Frank Cotoia</b>
	<b>Collective Mass</b> Presider: Father Joe Lector: A. Latino EM: B. Luna	12:00pm	<b>Philip &amp; Loretta Quagerelli</b> Michealina Martino Norma Montalto Marie Csorny James Lynch Jacqueline Jackmore

# NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED~ Effective Sunday, April 11th, 2021 for all masses

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Many thanks for your cooperation during this difficult time of pandemic.

As you know we've taken very seriously all the recommendations put to us by the CDC. Reservations which we felt to be necessary based on what we were told were difficult... for some of you, and truthfully for us in trying to coordinate them. They will no longer be necessary.

We want to assure you that the church continues to be sanitized after each of the masses, that masks continue to be required, and that we maintain social distancing regulations put forth by the CDC. The ushers, and I am most grateful to them, will continue to assist with seating. They will continue to properly escort you to your seat which will ensure safety within the maximum church capacity at this time of approximately 200 people.

Your generosity during this past year has been greatly appreciated. Many have mailed their contributions in weekly or dropped them off at the rectory office. Your support helped us cover general operating costs and minister to the needs of our parishioners and neighbors. Our Ushers will begin collections once again by passing the basket at Mass. If you are still not attending Mass in person and are able to mail or drop off your financial support please continue to do so.

Father Joe and I will also again be processing both in and out of the church beginning this Sunday. We've missed having contact with you and being able to greet you personally as you come in and out of the church. We still however, need to follow the social distancing regulations put forth by the CDC.

Father Thomas Haggerty

## SSPJ SPRINGING FORWARD RAFFLE! DRAWING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2021

SSPJ is *Springing* Forward  
Apostles of Hope • Planting Seeds of Hope

\$25 Each / 3 for \$50

Buy 6 for \$100

get this **BONUS** ticket

Drawing to be held April 25th



SSPJ is  
"SPRINGING IT  
FORWARD"

With a  
PLANTING SEEDS  
OF HOPE RAFFLE!  
6 for \$100.

Grand Prize: \$5,000!  
Tickets are available at the  
Parish Center Office





*Congratulations and God's Abundant Blessings Upon,*

*Sharon Gill and her beautiful Family!*

*Sharon was received in Full Communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Ceremony.*

*Let your light of faith always illuminate the love and grace of our faithful God.*

## *A Reflection from Sister T~*

*Dear Friends,*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, you can say it and sing it as many times as you want for the Lord is truly Risen!!! And we get to celebrate the season for 50 days! Notice we get ten more days than Lent to celebrate. I pray that you all had a blessed Easter*

*This Sunday is Mercy Sunday, instituted by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Reading, I found this quote:*

***"Jesus gives us a key: go to the Fountain of Mercy."***

*During Lent, our parishioners were reflecting on how Jesus is the key. I like this quote because it states that He gives us the key. There are so many graces and blessings that we could receive from the Lord if we only ask in trust. His mercy is boundless, but we need to believe that. How do we unlock those graces that dwell within us? Jesus has a key for each of us, we only need to ask!*

*In thinking about how I would go about being more merciful and appreciating the Mercy of God, I remembered a story a friend once told me. It goes something like this:*

*One day on the way to the airport, a cab driver was rudely cut off by a big truck. The other driver screamed at the cabbie while the cab driver just smiled and gave a friendly wave.*

*The passenger was amazed; "He almost killed us and ruined your cab. How can you be so friendly?"*

*"Well, you see," said the cab driver, "Most people are like garbage trucks. They continue to fill the truck with the garbage of anger, frustration, and disappointment, until it can't hold any more, and then they dump their garbage. Lots of times, it can be on you. Don't take it personally, just wave, wish them well, and pray for them. Make sure not to bring the garbage home or to work, or to dump on your friends. The trick is to not let garbage trucks take over your day. Life is too short. Love and enjoy those who love you, and pray for those who don't."*

*There is a lot to unpack there, but I have a hunch that if I take the cab drivers theory seriously, I can start to be my best 'merciful' self, using the Key that Jesus gives me.*

*May this Mercy Sunday help to fill your Easter Season with mercy, peace and joy.*

*Till next week,*

*Sister T*

*Happy Easter from the Music Ministry.*

*I would like to thank our dedicated volunteers that presently make up the Music Ministry here at SSPJ. They provide music all year long including Christmas, Easter and the overflow Masses.*

*I acknowledge and thank our cantors and instrumentalists:*

*Barbara Meringolo  
Jeannie Hill  
Katelin Feeney  
Tim Adams-Guitar*

*Barbara O'Donnell  
Grace Cazzaniga  
Nina Hughes  
Jim Scully-Guitar*

*Jane Lohmann  
Anthony Spiezio  
Susan Ricci-Flute  
Steve O'Donnell-Drums*

*The ministry would not be the same without you.*

*Already the second Sunday of Easter. Our theme this weekend, along with it being Divine Mercy Sunday, is believe. Believe as in seeing but also true believing allows us to see beyond physical sight. The **Communion Hymn** this weekend, *We Walk by Faith* by Marty Haugen, talks of us and how we walk by faith and not by sight. To truly believe without seeing. Look up the words and sing along.*

*It is so good to have the Gloria and Alleluia back. You may have also noticed the parts of the Mass have changed as well. We will be singing Mass of Christ the Savior by Dan Schutte through the Easter season.*

*So together let us sing together the hymns. Louder at home softer in church.*

**Jesus is the Key.....**

**Jesus is the key because he is the key to LOVE, the key to HAPPINESS, the key to JOY. He is the key to everything and anything. You unlock yourself and your potential. YOU can do anything with the KEY. UNLOCK JESUS and be your best self.**

**Katelin Feeney-8th grade religious ed student, Cantor**

**Jesus is the key because....**

**He Helps Unlock Our Best SELVES.**

**Sarah Feeney- 6th grade Religious Ed Student**

**Jesus is the Key because...**

**He brings LIGHT to EVERYONE!**

**Brianna Feeney-3rd grade Religious Ed Student**

# Parish Social Ministry

## FOOD PANTRY HELP

## PAPER TOWELS

*Many thanks for your kindness and generosity*



*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

*We Remember,  
Delores Weisenreider (Memorial)  
Muriel T. Unverzagt  
Patrick Joseph O'Leary Sr.*

*Safely home in the arms of Jesus*

## Diocese of Rockville Centre *Healing after Abortion*



Project Rachel retreats offer the opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The retreats are directed by specially trained compassionate caregivers, including counselors and clergy, who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer.

### **Day of Prayer and Healing for Women— Saturday, May 15, 2021**

Register by: May 10, 2021

For more information and to register please visit

[www.drvc.life/projectrachel](http://www.drvc.life/projectrachel)

or contact Project Rachel at 1(888) 456-HOPE (4673), 1(516) 766-2538 or [projectrachel@drvc.org](mailto:projectrachel@drvc.org). All information will remain confidential.

COVID 19 Protocols will be observed

## Caring for God's Creation



*May you feel the Risen Lord close to your heart, and there be reborn. May you be strengthened in your desire to act in the face of the ecological crisis and the climate emergency, responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*

## Prayer for the Second Sunday of Easter

*Sunday of Divine Mercy*

God of faithfulness,  
help us embrace our doubts  
as part of the journey of faith.

When we encounter doubt in others,  
allow us to be witnesses to your faithfulness,  
waiting patiently with those who feel alone.  
May we ask, with Thomas, for what we need,  
trusting you will meet our needs in your time.

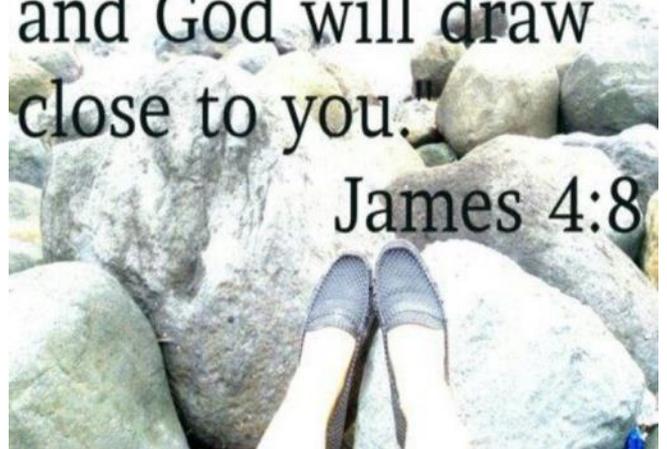
Amen.



Prayer from [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)  
[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

"Draw close to God  
and God will draw  
close to you."

James 4:8



*Due to circumstances that are beyond our control, unforeseen obstacles may arise that prohibit our ability to communicate our "live stream events" on the parish website's : Facebook page: SSPJ Church*

**We appreciate your understanding**

*There are occasions when the livestream filming becomes available later on in a given day, however that is not always guaranteed.*

# Religious Education News

## *Confirmation II Students: Preparing for Confirmation*

***Confirmation will be held on Saturday, April 17th, 2021 and Saturday, April 24th, 2021***

*We congratulate all of our Confirmation II Candidates, their families and their Sponsors. It has been a very different year of preparation, but you all rose to the challenge! May you feel the power of the Holy Spirit dwell within each and every one of your hearts. For it is there that your journey continues. The powerful work of the Spirit dwelling within will always guide your paths in the direction of the light of life...*

*You began this journey by dedicating yourself to small Acts of Service, may you continue this work in testament to the wonderful Apostles of Hope that each of you have become!*

**REHEARSAL FOR APRIL 17TH  
CONFIRMATION AT 11:30AM**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2021 AT 5PM  
IN THE CHURCH**



**REHEARSAL FOR APRIL 17TH  
CONFIRMATION AT 2:00PM**

**APRIL 13TH, 2021 AT 7PM  
IN THE CHURCH**

**CANDIDATE AND SPONSOR ONLY**

We are so proud of our students and families for sharing with so many in need, "your beautiful and thoughtful, small acts of service"

Since December, you have shared comfort and love with those who are grieving, who are lonely, all while sharing your love and gratitude with those whom you love. You have clothed those who were cold and frightened, you have cheered the family whose Dad is going through cancer treatments, your works of art cheered residents in nursing homes and children in ICU units of a hospital, and now, your actions gathered box loads of cleaning supplies and food for a local shelter for displaced residents.

**YOU ARE AMAZING APOSTLES OF HOPE AND KINDNESS!!!**

**TO CULMINATE A WONDERFUL YEAR, OUR ACTS OF SERVICE FOR APRIL WILL BE USING THE APP CALLED "CHARITY MILES". WE ARE ASKING YOU TO SET A GOAL OF THE NUMBER OF MILES YOUR FAMILY CAN WALK, RUN OR BIKE, FROM APRIL 12TH, 2021 THRU MAY 13TH, 2021.**

**WE AS A PARISH FAMILY WILL BE DONATING ALL OUR MILES TO FEEDING AMERICA!**

For more than 40 years, Feeding America has responded to the needs of individuals struggling with food insecurity in this country. In times of uncertainty, they have not wavered from their mission to end the fight against hunger.

**AS OF THE BULLETIN SUBMISSION DATE, SOME TECHNICAL ISSUES WERE BEING RESOLVED, SO YOU WILL BE RECEIVING AN EMAIL BY SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.**

**AT THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY, WE ASK THAT YOU TAKE A PHOTO OF YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY HOLDING A SIGN WITH YOUR NAME, GRADE AND THE NUMBER OF MILES YOU ACCOMPLISHED.**

**ALL PHOTOS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE SSPJ BULLETIN!!!**



**RELIGIOUS ED ACTS OF SERVICE**  
**March 2021**  
*Cleaning supply and food collection for a family shelter*

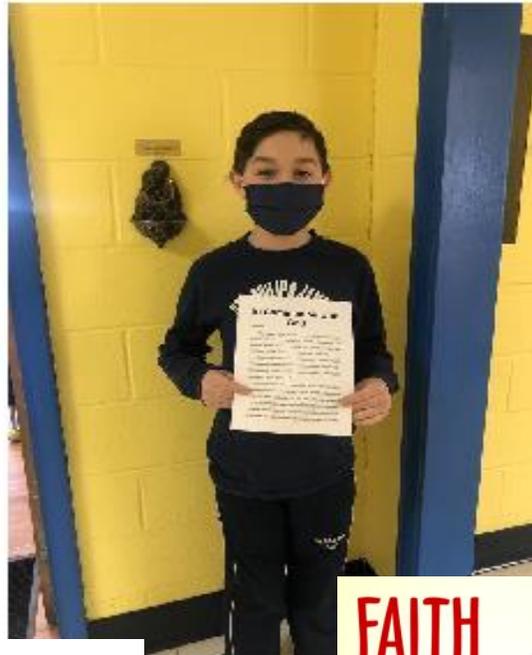
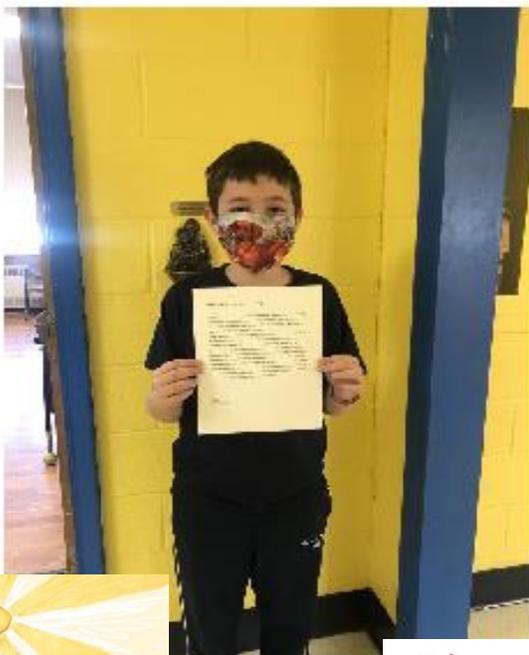


**Congratulations to Tyler Farrell and Jack Kollmer on their touching thoughts essay:  
"A time in my life that I felt closest to God"**

#### 4th Grade Sts. Philip & James School News

SSPJ School, along with the fourth graders participated in a Christ is Alive Essay Writing Contest. The students all wrote essays about a time in their life when they felt closest to God. The students were excited to write about their special moments and submit their essays. Two students were chosen for writing the top essays in their class. Tyler Farrell and Jack Kollmer's essays were chosen and submitted. The prize is \$100.00 cash and your choice of a Bible from comcenter.com along with 20 copies of the book *Everyone Belongs*, to distribute to your classmates. We look forward to hearing the results. Best of luck to our participants.

Ms. Brown



I AM A CHILD OF GOD

Have  
Faith  
in  
GOD

FAITH  
in GOD

CHANGES  
EVERYTHING



CONGRATULATIONS TO SSPJ STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED  
HONOR ROLL DISTINCTION!

Principal's List Trimester II

2020-2021



**Grade 8**

Rylan Baxter  
Victoria Caputo  
Samuel Rennie  
Elyse Wos

**Grade 7**

Emma Beam  
Ethan Cruz  
Nicole LoCastro

**Grade 6**



Honor Roll - Trimester II

2020 - 2021



**Grade 8**

Jonah Carlson	Katelynn Sandbichler
Nicholas Fazzini	Craig Williams
Brandon Ferrara	Matthew Williams
Natalie Kwee	

**Grade 7**

Thomas Aluisa	Madison McCulloh
Madison Carlino	Claire O'Connor
Julianna Donegan	Joshua Prew
Kaitlyn Fioto	Syoni Sharma
Adelina Hughes	Madelyn Saladino
Brendan Kieran	

**Grade 6**

Tessa Bennett	Lilyanna Marino
Nicholas Bjorklund	Nicolas Merlino
Ella Carlson	Joseph Nigro
Annabelle Cassimatis	Alexandra Paredes
Ryan Cruz	Nicholas Piliero
Kaitlyn D'Amelia	Liam Regan
Mariana Ferrigno	Kailey Ryan
Bradley Garger	Shane Stephen
Magnus Healy	Ryan Tobin
Jack Hurlbert	Gianna Tomasino
Scott Kady	



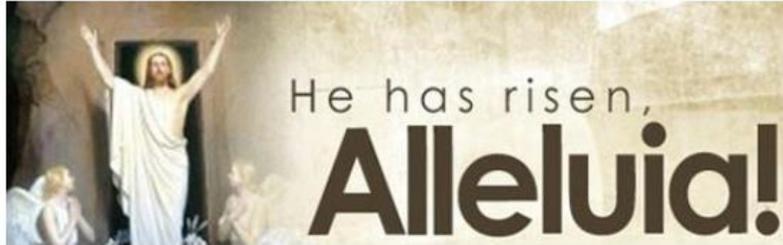
**2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal**  
**The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300.**  
**Status as of April 7th, 2021**  
**Pledges: \$51,440. Payments Received: \$32,095.**  
**We are at 48% of GOAL!! Thank you!**

2021 CMA  
GOAL

\$105,300

Thermometer  
represents  
Payments  
received at  
04/07/21

GOAL:  
\$105,300



**Happy Easter! Alleluia! The Lord Is Truly Risen!**

**Christ is alive** and His light has illuminated the darkness. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, may we continue to discover where Christ is truly alive in our life and on Long Island. Christ is alive through your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, *creating pathways of faith* through the ministries it serves by touching more than 600,000 people in our community.

**Christ is Alive** through our Parish Outreach and Catholic Charities programs that serve the needs of the disadvantaged in our Community.

**Christ is Alive** through our Faith Formation programs, educating our Lay Leaders and children. And through our Seminary as we train our future priests and deacons.

**Christ is Alive** in our Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries as our young people grow closer to the Lord.

**Christ is Alive** in our schools as children learn in an environment that's vision is directed by the teachings of our Lord.

**Christ is Alive** in our Respect Life Office as we promote the sanctity of life at all stages.

And most of all **Christ is Alive** as we join together to celebrate the Eucharist at our Parish.

**Thank you for your help in keeping Christ Alive in our Long Island Community through your financial support and prayers for the Catholic Ministries Appeal!**

Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

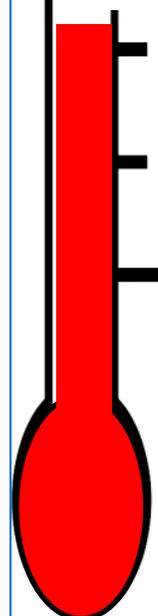
Telephone number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Thank You!

Payments at  
04/07/21  
\$32,095.



*Reflecting and Preparing for Next Weeks Gospel~April 18th, 2021  
Third Sunday of Easter*

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15,17-19  
Psalm 4:2,4,7-9  
1 John 2:1-5a  
Luke 24:35-48

### Monday April 19

Acts 6:8-15  
Ps 119:23-24,26-27,29-30  
John 6:22-29

### Tuesday April 20

Acts 7:51 -- 8:1a  
Ps 31:3cd-4,6,7b,  
8a,17,21ab  
John 6:30-35

### Wednesday April 21

Acts 8:1b-8  
Ps 66:1-7a  
John 6:35-40

### Thursday April 22

Acts 8:26-40  
Ps 66:8-9,16-17,20  
John 6:44-51

### Friday April 23

Acts 9:1-20  
Ps 117:1bc,2  
John 6:52-59

### Saturday April 24

Acts 9:31-42  
Ps 116:12-17  
John 6:60-69

Now that we're a renewed people – an Easter people – the scriptures at Mass remind us of the stark difference between living a redeemed life and living in sin. The first reading says: "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." The second reading says: "Those who say, 'I know him', but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them."

And the Gospel reading says: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name...."

We are all liars in some way every day, professing our faith with our lips but not al-

ways in our behaviors. Our actions often say that we don't truly believe what we say about Christ's love. Our worries might be saying that we don't truly believe that God cares about each and every situation.

Our decisions say that we don't truly believe that Jesus knew what he was talking about when he commanded us to love our enemies and do good to those who hurt us. Our moral relativism says that we don't truly believe he was smarter than us when he gave us his commandments.



How loudly do your actions preach the truth about Jesus?

Many of us undervalue what Jesus has done for us, thinking that his death and resurrection is enough to get us into heaven; we neglect the need to humble ourselves under the reality of the need for daily redemption.

God's not expecting perfection from us on this side of heaven's gate. What he does want, however, is our desire to become more and more like Christ every day. As long as we're continually examining our lives and

educating ourselves about how we can improve, and as long as we follow through by doing what is necessary to produce changes, God is very pleased with us.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What sinful tendencies still enslave you?
2. What will you do this week to turn these over to Christ and his redemptive power?
3. What do you do to stay in touch with your need for Christ and his redemptive power?
4. How do you rely on the resurrected life of Christ to overcome sinful tendencies and enter into victorious Christian living?

## THE POWER OF BEAUTY

*The world will be saved by beauty!* Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote that, Dorothy Day quoted it, and centuries before Jesus, Confucius made it central to his pedagogy. They were on to something. Beauty is a special language that cuts through and sidelines all the things that divide us – history, race, language, creed, ideology, politics, economic disparity, gender, sexual identity, and personal wounds. Beauty melts down all differences. Its speech, like that of a newborn, has no explicit words, but is a language so perfect that it can only be soiled by violating oneself. Two things in this world cannot be argued with, beauty and a baby. They also cannot defend themselves, and have only their own vulnerability as protection.

In classical Western philosophy, beauty is seen as one of the transcendental properties of being, and therefore as one of the properties of God. God is understood as having four transcendental qualities, namely, as being *One, True, Good, and Beautiful*. Hence, beauty possesses a divine, sacred quality. Artists and everyone sensitive to aesthetics have always recognized this, not necessarily in that they affirm explicitly that beauty is a property of God, but that they recognize a godly quality in beauty; they sense a “blaspheme” whenever it is defaced, and feel the energy to create as divine.

Beauty, as we know, takes many forms. Who of us has not at times felt the stunning power of physical beauty? Who has not been momentarily transfixed by the beauty of a sunset, an ocean, a mountain range, the stars, a full moon, a desert landscape, a particular tree, a thunderstorm, fresh snow, a gentle rain, an animal in the wild, a work of art or architecture, or a human body? Physical beauty is self-justifying. It cannot be argued with and may never be denigrated by an appeal to something higher and more spiritual. It is unequivocally real and thus needs to be recognized, affirmed, and blessed.

For most of us, when we hear the word beauty, physical beauty is what comes to mind. Now, while that beauty is real, powerful, and can transform the heart, there are other kinds of beauty equally as powerful and transforming. I am not sure what language works in terms of what I am about to describe, so forgive me if my expression here is amateur and awkward, but we can speak, and need to, of beauty in the emotional and moral realm. There is something we might call emotional beauty or moral beauty.

Emotional beauty is not the beauty of a sunset or a great painting, but is the beauty of a particular expression of love, of empathy, or of compassion that, like a beautiful sunset, we are occasionally graced to witness. For example, we can be transfixed when seeing the miraculous rescue of a child, when seeing a helpless animal saved by rescuers, when seeing an elderly couple affectionately holding hands, or when hearing of a generous response by the public to a plea for help by a poor family. As with physical beauty, there is a divine quality here and, as with physical beauty, there is something here that only the most boorish of persons would dare smudge. However, whenever our emotions are involved there is always the danger of an unhealthy sentimentality also being present; but, that danger notwithstanding, our emotions, like our eyes, are also an opening to beauty.

Finally, not least, there is moral beauty, beauty of soul. The salient example here is martyrdom and every other kind of love that sacrifices its own wishes, desires, and life for something higher. While this does not always make for a beautiful body, it does make for a beautiful soul. In affirming this, I am not thinking, first, of its most salient examples, the religious martyrs who gave up their lives rather than deny their faith, or even of persons like Mohandas Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Maximilian Kolbe, Oscar Romero, and the many today who give up their lives for others. These are powerful examples of moral beauty, but many of us see this first-hand in our own families and circle of friends. For example, I look at my own mother and dad who for most of their lives sacrificed to provide for a large family and, especially, to provide that family with what is more important than food and clothing, namely, faith and moral guidance. There was a moral beauty in their sacrifice, though sometimes during those years, by Hollywood standards, my mom and dad looked more haggard than beautiful. Moral beauty, though, is measured by a different standard. That being said, there is also the need to be cautious here: while emotional beauty carries the risk of sentimentality, moral beauty carries the risk of fanaticism. Fanatics, serial killers, and snipers are also highly focused morally. Morality, like anything else, can be misguided.

*The world will be saved by beauty!* True, though I would employ the present tense, *the world is being saved by beauty.*