



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

March 3rd, 2024  
The Third Sunday  
Of Lent



*“Take these out of here, and stop  
making my Father’s House as  
marketplace.”*

*John 2:16*

*“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, February 25th, 2024:**

Collections from Weekend masses: \$9,881.

Mail Collections: \$ 1,869.

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

**Total Collection: \$15,124.04**

**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 KAIREZ  
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  
CARL JOSEPHSON-USAF  
DANIEL JOSEPHSON-USAF  
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON-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,

Jesus' outburst in today's Gospel is a little disconcerting - but Jesus' anger is the kind of anger that leads to change and transformation. We've all been angry. We've all had that moment when we've wanted to strike back, shout down, take apart. We've been angered by constant disappointment, continued incompetence, unrelenting criticism.

Here is a brief reflection on anger by Barbara Nilson:

*Anger can take two directions. "Bad" anger can lead us into ourselves: we shut ourselves off from whatever makes us angry: walls are set up, bridges are destroyed. Reconciliation is out of the question.*

*But "good" anger takes us outside of ourselves. Good anger emboldens us to face injustice, to confront wrong, to take on what hurts and diminishes us and others. "Good" anger knows the consequences - but always keeps open a path for reconciliation.*

*"Bad" anger is an out-of-control conflagration of emotions; "good" anger is controlled, focuses and reasoned.*

*"Bad" anger can move us to do great harm and evil and sin greater than the cause of anger; "bad" anger seeks punishment and harm for those who hurt us.*

*But "good" anger cries for healing and making things better again; "good" anger can bring us to resurrection.*

*In other words, we must not act in anger but act out of anger.*

Our parish Lenten mission is here! Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in Church. Ask anyone who attended the fall sessions with Doctor Tom Petriano – you are sure to be richly blessed as we both deepen our Lenten journey and further our Eucharistic revival. Please be sure to read a little further on in the bulletin, a description and what you are asked to bring with you each of the evenings.

Prayer opportunities during Lent continue this week. Perhaps you might participate in Mass one weekday, or come to Stations of the Cross on Friday. Try taking some time at home to read the Bible, or pray the rosary, or prepare for Reconciliation. Lent offers us many invitations. Let's respond.

And finally,

*All of my childhood punishments have become my adult goals: eating vegetables, staying home, having a nap, going to bed early.*

*When older people say, "Enjoy them while you're young" they're talking about your knees and hips, not your kids.*

*Don't trust everything you see. Even salt looks like sugar.*

*Peace,*

*Father Tom*

# Mass Intentions, For the week of March 3rd, 2024

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Monday**  
**In the Church**  
**1:30-7:00pm**



*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  
 Benito Fernandez  
 Betty DiSimone  
 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  
 Ed Ceraso  
 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  
 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 Kennedy  
 Lauretta Prague  
 Laura Bode  
 Leon Donach  
 Lola Santangelo  
 Lori Cearney  
 Marjorie Fox  
 Mary Monte  
 Margaret Remhild  
 Mark Hildreth  
 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 & Family  
 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 Liffrieri  
 Tom Ryan  
 Tom Focone  
 Vivien & John  
 Cordes  
 Wayne Smith Sr.

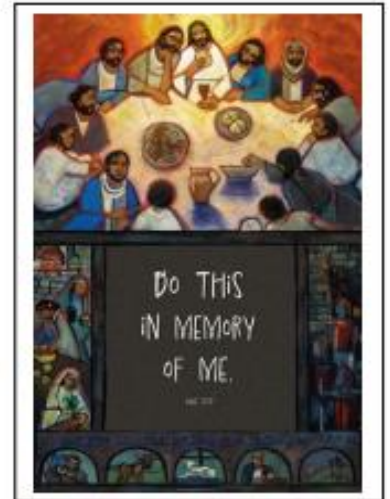
<b>Saturday</b> <b>March 2nd</b> <b>Cantor:</b> Feeney	<i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector:Healy/Student</i> <i>EM:Rizzo/Sisti/Anderson/</i> <i>Byrne/Taurassi</i>	9:15am  5:00pm	<b>Marty Rizzo</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>March 3rd</b> <b>Cantor: .</b> Lupinacci	<i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector:Halluska/Cavooris</i> <i>EM:Clarke/Dervan/Diaz/</i> <i>Koke/LaSerra</i>	8:00am	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b> <b>Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Hill	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Tomasino/Smith</i> <i>EM:Licari/Consenz/Parish/</i> <i>Amen/Luna/Sotomayer</i>	10:00am	<b>Kevin Hauth</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Lohmann	<b>Collective Mass</b> <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Latino/Rubano</i> <i>EM:Chilton/D.</i> <b>Napolitano/Settineri/</b> <b>Stack</b>	12:00pm	<b>Joyce Lamb</b> <b>Maria Fazio</b> <b>Living~Kaitlyn Remhild</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>March 4th</b>	<b>St. Casimir</b>	7:30am  9:15am	
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>March 5th</b>		7:30am  9:15am	<b>Patricia McNulty</b>  <b>Antony Correya</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>March 6th</b>		7:30am  9:15am	<b>Vera &amp; Vincent Hulvehill</b> <b>and Frances Sexton</b>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>March 7th</b>	<b>Sts Perpetua &amp; Felicity</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Michael Deyak</b> <b>Collective Mass:</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>March 8th</b>	<b>St John of God</b>	7:30am  9:15am	<b>Living~Jeremiah &amp; Elena,</b> <b>Jennifer &amp; John</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>March 9th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> Murtha <b>St Francis of Rome</b>	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Grimaldi/Student</i> <i>EM:Damato/Drechsler/</i> <i>Duffy/Toto/Napolitano</i>	9:15am  5:00pm	<b>Stephen Landers</b>  <b>Richard Wehman</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>March 10th</b> <b>Cantor:Meringolo</b>	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Czujko/Dervan</i> <i>EM:Dunn/Ramos/Sica/M&amp;P</i> <i>Tully</i>	8:00am	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b> <b>Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Hill	<i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector:Baker/Lombardi</i> <i>EM:Suski/Dervan/Clarke/</i> <i>Luna/Mulhall/Sotomayer/</i> <i>Keane</i>	10:00am	<b>Sarah Wilder</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Hill	<b>Collective Mass</b> <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: O'Leary/Suski</i> <i>EM:Samson/Bleggie/</i> <i>Latino/Orlando</i>	12:00pm	<b>Richard Reich</b> <b>Matthew C. Bracco</b> <b>Lucille Hoffman</b>

## PARISH LENTEN RETREAT~ A LOVE BEYOND TELLING

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH  
AT 7:00PM IN THE CHURCH  
IN THE CHURCH

### Lent and the Eucharist – A Love Beyond All Telling

Looking for something to do this Lent? Consider joining us for three evenings of reflection on Jesus' words at the Last Supper, "Do this in Memory of Me." During these three evenings, **March 4, 5, and 6 - at 7 pm in the church.** We will explore, through prayer, ritual, and reflection, the meaning of these words that Jesus left us. The Passover meal, the bread that becomes his body, the wine that becomes his blood, the water and the basin used to wash the disciples' feet, and Jesus' death on the cross are his great gift to us and reminders of a love beyond all telling. We hope you can join us for any or all of these evenings as we seek to deepen our understanding of this great mystery of faith. ~ **Tom Petriano**



We encourage you to fully open yourself to receive the gift of Christ as Real Presence in the Eucharist by participating as much as you feel comfortable with during these three evenings. Each evening will be filled with music, prayer, a presentation by **Tom Petriano**, reflection, and gestures.

**On Monday** we are inviting you to reflect on what weighs you down. What heavy burden do you carry? What keeps you from receiving Christ as real presence?

Write that word or phrase (anger, envy, resentment, bitterness, etc.) on a stone and drop that stone at the foot of the cross (set up in the church lobby) turning stones into bread. We will then have the opportunity to break bread and offer hope and vision for receiving Christ as real presence and becoming Eucharist for each other.



**On Tuesday** we will offer Taizé - Ignatian Prayer of Imagination. we ask you to bring a candle (votive in a receptacle, a Mason jar, battery operated, etc.) You will be invited to carry your light and place it around the cross during the evening. An evening of Prayer, silent meditation, reflection and song.

**On Wednesday** we invite you to deposit into a basket your written prayer, personal offering to bless and received others as Christ. There will be opportunity to see Christ reflected in yourself and in each other and to bless the hands that serve. Christ has no body but yours.



**We hope you join us this Lenten Retreat as we awaken and receive Christ as real presence, food for the journey.** ~ Virginia Portanova



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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

*"Brothers and sisters, let us not be afraid to strip ourselves of worldly trappings and return to the heart, returning to what is essential. Let us think of Saint Francis, who after stripping himself embraced with his entire being the Father in heaven. Let us acknowledge what we are: dust loved by God, called to be dust in love with God. Thanks to him, we will be reborn from the ashes of sin to new life in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit."*

*Pope Francis*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### Lenten Musings



*How is your Lent going? Third Sunday of Lent already. How are you doing with your challenges? Are you singing more? Remember "yes you can."*

*The Music Ministry Lenten Reflection from 2021 is on our website. If you get a chance listen. Go to the Music Ministry page. The link is there.*

*It's about*

*30 min. of Lenten songs. Listen, reflect, and enjoy.*

*Just a reminder as to why we are still singing Let there be Peace on earth. When the war in Ukraine and Russia started, we realized peace in the world was a must. Singing this hymn is a way of praying twice for the war to end. Actually, ALL wars, Israel and Palestine included. We need to persist in our cause for peace.*

*Let There be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.*

*So, sing loud and strong!!*

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT**

**WEEKEND:**

**MARCH 9TH & 10TH, 2024**

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

**You can make an immediate lifesaving difference and give hope to children, mothers and fathers around the world.**

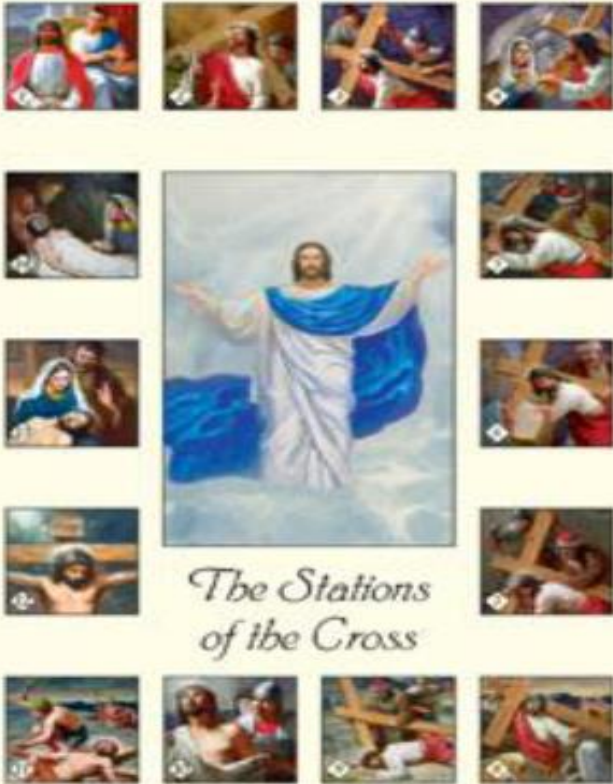
**When you give, refugees find safety and receive emergency assistance and trauma counseling. Farmers learn innovative ways to plant and grow crops despite drought or disease. And women find dignity in opportunities for savings and training.**



**SSPJ Youth Group will be making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Gerald Ryan Food Pantry on Saturday, March 9th. Donations of peanut butter, jelly, and bread can be dropped off in the St. Anthony's Bread Closet. Thank you for your generosity!**

PREPARING FOR LENT...

*“Heavenly Father, grant the strength and discipline to make this Lent a time of spiritual growth. May my fasting, prayer, and almsgiving draw me closer to you.”*



Join us every Friday Evening

In the church

at 7:00 pm during Lent

as together we journey the Stations of the Cross focusing each week on hope and healing that unites Christ journey to the cross through prayer with our lives today.

Praying through the eyes of Mary 3/2

Praying through the eyes of St. Joseph 3/8

Praying for the Elderly 3/15

Praying with Pope Francis 3/22

Praying as Witnessed by the Crowd 3/29

Prayers of the Resurrection 4/5

**Stations of the Cross Through the Eyes of Laudato Si**

**Fifth Station – Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross**

As they led Him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus, we too follow behind Him helping to carry the crosses of others.

The climate crisis impacts us all. Those who do not have the resources to adapt to or defend against the impacts of climate change bear the heaviest crosses.

Heat waves, droughts, storms and the resulting economic hardship fall most heavily on Them. Often these events force them to migrate from their homelands to other countries.

As with Simon, the duty to help sometimes feels placed upon us – something we did not volunteer for. But as followers of Christ, we have the responsibility to address the injustices of climate change and To help those who are struggling to survive its impacts. “As Saint John Paul the Second taught, ‘by Enduring the toil of working union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for redemption of humanity.’”

**Sixth Station – Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

It has been said that we are the last generation who can address climate change before it's too late.

The compassion and courage of Veronica inspire us to bold actions to protect God's creation.

In response to Veronica's tender act of wiping His face, Jesus, in a miraculous gesture, left a perfect imprint of His image on her veil – another revelation into who He really was.

As we now rise to this challenge before us, we will grow closer to knowing our Creator. “At the end we will find ourselves

face to face with the infinite beauty of God, and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe...”



# LENTEN BOOK CLUB OFFERING



## Join the SSPJ Lenten Book Club!

The Parish Council is excited to be offering a Lenten Book Club based on the book *Beautiful Eucharist* from Dynamic Catholic. The book consists of a dozen short passages and inspiring stories from various authors who share personal encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist, provide new insights into the Mass, and inspire a deeper relationship with

God. Books will be provided free of charge in the Parish Center to those who want to commit to reading and participating in the two book discussion sessions. All sessions will be held in the Philip & James Room. Session choices are:

### Session 1:

Sunday 2/25 1:00 - 2:00

Wednesday 2/28 10:00 -11:00 or 6:00 - 7:00

### Session 2:

Sunday 3/10 1:00 - 2:00

Wednesday 3/13 10:00 -11:00 or 6:00 - 7:00

**SIGN UP  
SHEETS AND  
BOOKS  
AVAILABLE  
AFTER MASS IN  
THE PRAYER  
ROOM**



**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO  
OUR  
PARISH FAMILY FOR THE  
GENEROSITY OF YOUR  
STEWARDSHIP.**

**OUR CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES APPEAL  
GOAL FOR 2024  
IS \$102, 000**

**THE CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES APPEAL  
WILL BEGIN  
NEXT WEEKEND:  
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024**

**GOD BLESS YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILIES.**

**LET US WALK THIS  
LENTEN JOURNEY  
HOLDING OUR  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
WHO NEED BASIC LIFE  
SUSTAINING SUPPORT,  
IN OUR HEARTS AND IN  
OUR PRAYERS.**



# 2024

## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith –  
Renewed by the Eucharist*

**Please consider making a gift to the  
2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**



**For more information, to watch our video  
or to make a donation,  
visit [www.catholicministriesappeal.org](http://www.catholicministriesappeal.org)  
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296**





# SAVE THE DATE

## JULY 17, 2024

CRAB MEADOW GOLF COURSE

*12PM Registration / 1:30PM Start*

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES  
COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS IN CONCERT WITH  
STS. PHILIP & JAMES  
SCHOOL PRESENT THE  
INAUGURAL MID-SUMMER  
GOLF CLASSIC AND DINNER**

*More information to  
come, regarding  
golfer registration  
and sponsorship  
opportunities*



**"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**



Miss Charlotte shared a very special lesson with her first and second graders, that is the "Thoughtful and Safe" program.

A program through the Diocese that teaches safety to our children .

Miss Charlotte was so happy to share this lesson with her students and was so proud of their knowledge and preparedness!



**CSW Camps R Us Carnival!**  
Celebrating our amazing students!



**CONFIRMATION II  
STUDENTS  
RECONCILIATION**

**MONDAY, MARCH 4TH  
PROMPTLY AT 5:30PM  
IN THE CHURCH.**

**ALL FAMILIES HAVE  
BEEN NOTIFIED VIA  
EMAIL WITH DETAILS.**

**ANY QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE  
RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE  
AT  
631-584-3204**

A great big THANK YOU to Camps R Us and all our parent volunteers for making this day possible!

# SSPJ YOUTH GROUP MEETING

## Calling all Seventh and Eighth Graders at SSPJ Parish!

For our Lenten Youth Group Meeting, we are focusing on helping our neighbors in need. We will be making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which we will donate to the Gerald Ryan Food Pantry. Supplies will be provided, but please feel free to bring peanut butter, jelly, or a loaf of bread (or two!)

Details:                      When: Saturday, March 9th  
                                      Where: SSPJ Cafeteria  
                                      Time: 3:30-4:45pm followed by 5pm Mass

**Please contact Sandy Rago with any questions at [srago@sspj.org](mailto:srago@sspj.org).**

----- CUT ALONG THIS LINE -----

*Please detach this page and return to SSPJ Parish or School by Thursday, March 7th.*

My child \_\_\_\_\_  
will be attending Youth Group on Saturday,  
March 9th.

My child is in:

7th Grade

8th Grade

Please check all that apply. My child will be  
staying for:

Youth Group Meeting (3:30-4:45pm)

Mass (5:00pm-6:00pm)

Primary Contact

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

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Home number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to child: \_\_\_\_\_

My child will be picked up by:

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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or medical concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please open your hearts to these beautiful ministries;*

*The Lector Ministry and the ministry of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

*If you are feeling a calling to either, kindly write a note to Father Tom describing your desire to share your time and gifts .*

*Kindly send your letter to Father Tom by April 10th, 2024*

### Liturgical Minister Training- Spring 2024

The Diocese of Rockville Center will offer training in Spanish and English for those who wish to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. No walk-ins permitted, all participants must be registered in advance with a letter from their pastor.

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion: Part A** - This training is required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. This "BASIC" training is required for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who wish to minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to the homebound are required to attend Part B training in addition to BASIC training. One must attend Part A training prior to Part B training. A **Lector Workshop** is available for both new and experienced lectors.

### Dates and Locations for Liturgical Minister Training

#### **Training in SPANISH:**

- **Lector Workshop:** Sat., April 20 – Our Lady of Loretto / Hempstead – Divine Mercy Chapel 9:00 – 1:00 pm
- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Part A:**  
Sat., April 27 - Our Lady of Loretto/ Hempstead – Divine Mercy Chapel 9:00 – 1:00 pm

#### **Training in ENGLISH:**

- **Lector Workshop and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – Part A:**  
Tuesday, April 16 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm  
Sat., April 27 – Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach - Parish Hall; 9 am – 12:00  
Tuesday, May 21 – St. Christopher/Baldwin – McGoldrick Hall; 7 pm – 10 pm  
You may register for EITHER Lector OR Extraordinary Minister training at each session.  
Doors open 30 minutes before the training start time.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Part B** – presented in conjunction with Catholic Health  
Sat., April 27\* – Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach - Parish Hall; 1 – 4 pm  
Tuesday, May 14 - St. Elizabeth / Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm  
Tuesday, June 4 - St. Christopher/Baldwin – McGoldrick Hall; 7 pm – 10 pm

\*On April 27, we are offering Part A and Part B on the SAME day. Those who attend Part A in the morning are welcome to bring lunch or leave for lunch and return for the 1 pm Part B session. Please indicate if you are doing BOTH on your registration letter from your pastor. This will be in English only.

A letter from your pastor will be required to reserve your space at any of these trainings and must be received at least five days prior to the session you wish to attend. To request registration for any of these sessions, please contact your rectory. Do not call the host parishes with questions. For questions relating to the Spanish training, call Ingrid Oliva at 516-678-5800, ext. 560. For questions regarding the English training, call Suzanne Lynn at 516-744-6850. Thank you for your interest.

## A REFLECTION FROM SISTER T...

Dear Friends,

We have reached the end of February, and what a blessed month it is, with 29 days on this Leap Year! One more day to continue to develop that relationship with God through our Lenten plan. Not to worry if you haven't been entirely faithful to your plan; there is still time! Our desire to come to know our God on a deeper level is what is truly important.

Continuing on our journey through Lent using the "Be"-Attitudes of Pope Francis, our next one is:

### **Be MERCIFUL**

It calls to mind this quote from Fr. Mike Schmitz, which would be good to keep in mind while reflecting on the following questions: *"Mercy is to love someone when they need it the most and deserve it the least!"*

Am I judgmental? Do I judge a book by its cover? Am I open-minded when I meet someone new?

Do I consider myself better than others? Is it always my way or the highway? Do I tend to put others down?

Can I accept others' opinions when they are different from my own? This one explains itself. Am I really listening to the individual, or am I planning my rebuttal?

Can I reach out even if I don't care for the other person? This may be the hardest thing to do! Jesus even reminded us that we need to do for those who cannot or won't repay us. Where do you stand on this issue?

There really is a lot to think about and I love Fr. Mike's quote. Like myself, I am sure you may have said at some point in your life "They don't deserve it". All I could think of is, imagine if Jesus said that we would all fall short. May Mercy fill your week.

Till next week,

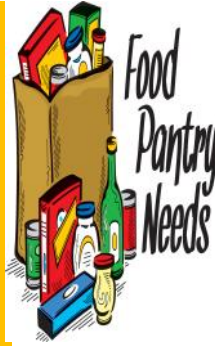
Sister Theresita



BE MERCIFUL

# Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Needs:  
Thanks to your  
overwhelming  
generosity, we  
are fully stocked  
again!



We remember the family and  
friends of,  
Stephen Landers  
Safely Home in the arms of  
our Lord

## SSPJ SENIORS

The next meeting of the seniors will be on **Monday, March 11** in the Philip & James Room  
from **1:30 to 3:30**.

Please join us for a sharing of faith, fellowship, and fun.



This week, the AMC Stony Brook Theater will be showing the movie **Cabrini** on March 7, 8, 9, and 10th. Tickets are available to purchase in advance on their website.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

When we practice living our Lenten Theme... "Let all be received as Christ", we call to mind all hearts being received as our Lord receives them.

Every life is crafted by a loving God. When these lives are jeopardized by decisions of fear, it is then that we must reach out our hands in faith to pray for and assist the heart of Christ before us.

During this season of Lent...pray for those who are struggling with life decisions...and receive them with gratitude and hope in your hearts.

Because all life is to be valued, cared for and loved as Christ values, cares for, and loves us.

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](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



# God bless SSPJ Students and School! Congratulations to the February Apostles of Hope!

## February Apostle of Hope 2024

### Nursery

**Peyton Vigliotti** is an Apostle of Hope. Peyton joined our school in December and has been a joy to have in class. Peyton is kind and helpful, loves to participate in prayers and circle time, and is always happy and ready to learn! She is making new friends and is always ready to help everyone in our class!

### Pre-Kindergarten

**Brielle Butera** is an Apostle of Hope. Brielle is a quiet girl who comes into class everyday shyly. After a few minutes she acclimates herself to the room and starts her work. Brielle makes sure her table of friends are all taken care of with pencils and crayons. She's always willing to help a friend who is stuck or struggling with learning. Brielle is very proud to be an SSPJ Owl and works hard practicing. Brielle enjoys learning Bible stories and knows all of her prayers.

### Grade 2

**Alina Sharma** is an Apostle of Hope. Alina comes into school everyday ready to demonstrate she is a follower of Jesus. She is kind to anyone she meets and is always willing to help someone who needs it. She always listens and responds during Mass. During religion lessons she is an active participant and is truly interested in learning about God. She is an amazing example to anyone around her.

### Grade 3

**Gabriella Gonzalez** is an Apostle of Hope. Gabriella works hard and tries her best each day with her schoolwork. She is reverent during prayers and when we attend Mass with fourth grade on Thursdays. She also recently attended our grade-level Mass with her family. Gabriella is a wonderful example to her classmates of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

### Grade 4

**Grace Carey** is an Apostle of Hope. Grace is a sweet, polite young lady with a great sense of humor. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to her fellow classmates. Grace attends Mass with her family and submits her weekly reflections. She knows all her prayers and actively participates in class during religion. Grace is an altar server and takes on this honor very seriously. Grace works hard and enjoys school. She is a wonderful role model and a pleasure to have in class.



### Grade 6

**Antonella Franco** is an Apostle of Hope. Antonella is an altar server during class and Sunday Masses and she regularly turns in her weekly reflections at Sunday Mass. Nelly is incredibly kind to her classmates and is an amazing role model for her Nursery Buddies. Nelly has a beautiful and active faith, and is a wonderful example of how to follow Jesus.

### Grade 8

**Benjamin Wos** is an Apostle of Hope. Ben is an altar server, he attends Mass with his family on Sundays and submits his weekly reflections. Academically, Ben is motivated and works hard towards his studies. In addition, Ben treats others the way Jesus would. Ben is kind to his peers and respectful to the SSPJ staff. He always volunteers when help is needed and even holds the door for all of us each day. Ben shows us every day through his actions what an Apostle of Hope is meant to be.

### Faculty

**Sister Theresita** is an Apostle of Hope. Sister T is a bright light when she walks into school. She is always smiling and enjoys her encounters with the children. She is encouraging and supportive of the SSPJ faculty and staff. Sister T loves to attend school masses and functions. Her presence is a reflection of her devotion to Jesus.



# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

### Sunday, March 10

2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23  
Ps 137:1-6  
Eph 2:4-10  
Jn 3:14-21

### Monday, March 11

Is 65:17-21  
Ps 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b  
Jn 4:43-54

### Tuesday, March 12

Ez 47:1-9,12  
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9  
Jn 5:1-16

### Wednesday, March 13

Is 49:8-15  
Ps 145:8-9,13c-14,17-18  
Jn 5:17-30

### Thursday, March 14

Ex 32:7-14  
Ps 106:19-23  
Jn 5:31-47

### Friday, March 15

Wis 2:1a,12-22  
Ps 34:17-21,23  
Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

### Saturday, March 16

Jer 11:18-20  
Ps 7:2-3,9b-12  
Jn 7:40-53

making Jesus the center of our lives. It's a commitment to surrender one's selfish ways and to love others the way Christ loves.

It is still true today that many people continue to stay in the darkness rather than have their sins exposed in the light. Sometimes it is self-denial and they are afraid to confront their own sins. Other times, they don't want to admit to others that they are struggling. They fear that changing will be too hard. If only they would trust our most gracious and merciful God, who forgives and restores our souls when we offer our lives to Him.

God's love is more than we can ever imagine. Through God's infinite and merciful love, He sent his only beloved Son, Jesus, to Earth to teach us how to love. He sacrificed his Son to suffer and die a cruel death on the cross to save us from eternal death and damnation for our sins and the sins of Adam and Eve. He sent the Holy Spirit to guide us out of darkness and promised that if we believed, we would be rewarded with true happiness in heaven.

What an amazing gift this is! Through our faith and commitment to Jesus, we can be assured that God, who knows everything about us, including our faults and imperfections, loves us and promises us salvation rather than judgment for our failings!

But what is meant by the words "everyone who believes in Him?" The action word "believes" is much more than merely saying, "I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior." Real belief in Jesus involves turning one's life over to Jesus and His teachings. It means



We show belief when we come into the light and see, accept, and live in the truth of Jesus and His teachings. When we are true believers, our works of love will be Christ-like. Those who believe in Christ love Him and want to be like Him. Our good works will be done out of pure love and gratefulness for our God. Our belief – our faith in Christ – will go hand in hand with our actions – our works – to save us, and we will reach out to bring the Good News to others, too.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How do you live your life in a way that others can see that you believe God loves you and He loves them, too?
- † In what areas of your life must you continue trusting in the love and light of Christ to transform you out of darkness?
- † How can you clearly and simply communicate the Gospel message of God's saving grace through Jesus to others?
- † How can you sincerely share your testimony to show your personal need for a Savior?

## REINDEER GAMES

I hate crowds, at least most of them. I'm okay at football games, where a crowd has bracketed its sanity for a couple of hours for a cathartic release. But I hate those crowds that are caught up in a fever that feeds off group think, be that a cultural fad, a political ideology, a religious fundamentalism, an unconscious racism, a misguided nationalism, or hype of any kind. I fear such a crowd because, irrespective of whether its voice is coming from the right or from the left, conservative or liberal, one hears in it echoes of intimidation, crucifixions, lynchings, holocausts, assassinations, wars, suppression of other voices, and (today) teenage suicides from cyber bullying. Crowds take various modalities, but their bent and their energy are invariably the same.

One of my favorite authors is Czeck novelist Milan Kundera who, like me, hates crowds. In them, he sees something he calls "the great march", namely, a blind, mindless march toward a totalitarianism of some kind or other. Crowds with an ideological intent always end up there.

But this raises a question: What about crowds (marches, demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins) that have led to helpful social, political, and even moral change? What about the crowds Gandhi inspired? What about the crowds that followed Martin Luther King? What about the crowds that helped end apartheid in South Africa? What about the crowds that gather around *Black Lives Matter*? What about the folks that gather round a just cause and go to prison for their actions? Aren't those good crowds?

Yes, they are, but they are good precisely to the extent to which they are mindful and not mindless; that is, they are good to the extent that they are not caught up in a fever of group-think and their focus is on healing a sick situation as opposed to hating and crucifying whatever opposes them. That is why in such a crowd, both in its leader and in its overall ethos, you don't see hatred and violence.

Admittedly, you do see hatred and violence even within these crowds because a crowd by the very fact that it is a crowd will invariably have its rogue elements. But the hatred, violence, and anarchy you see then is not representative of that overall crowd. The Gandhis, the Martin Luther Kings, the Nelson Mandelas, and the Dorothy Days are the real face and ethos of any crowd which is genuinely bent on moral change.

But not all crowds are mindful and so it's hardly a surprise that Jesus' crucifixion was incited by a crowd (ironically by the same one who just five days earlier was chanting that he should be their king). Crowd energy is fickle and mindless. That is why crowds are to be feared, irrespective of whether they are idolizing you or hollering for your crucifixion.

I'm not much of a poet, but sometimes something just lends itself to a different kind of language. So, stealing some lines from an old (mindless) Christmas song and adding my own little commentary, allow me to express my feelings about crowds in an attempt at a poem – which in good conscience you may disagree with.

### ***Reindeer Games***

*Rudolph, the red nosed reindeer*

*Had a very shiny nose*

*And if you ever saw it*

*You would even say it glows.*

*All of the other reindeer*

*Used to laugh and call him names.*

*They never let poor Rudolph*

*Join in any reindeer games.*

*Then one foggy Christmas eve*

*Santa came to say:*

*Rudolph with your nose so bright*

*Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?*

*Then all the other reindeer loved him*

*As they shouted out with glee ...*

*Rudolph smiled ...*

*and then*

*To see this affection*

*aid reflectively:*

*Forgive, dear friends, my reluctance*

*Separate from the cruelty*

*Mock difference – Crucify him!*

*Exult triumph – Make him king!*

*Hype is hype*

*Hysteria*

*Mindless and blind*

*Self-serving*

*A reindeer game*

*With the crowd forever amazed and chanting*

*Whether for a coronation*

*Or a crucifixion.*