



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

631-584-5454

July 12th, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time



“A Sower went out to sow”

Matthew 13:3

“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-8pm

Open Thursday 9am-5pm

Open Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Friday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

Father Patrick Osei-Poku-Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Darrow

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

School Phone-631-584-7896 School Fax: 631-584-3258

TRUSTEES

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato

Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

TEXT TO GIVE PROGRAM:

ONLINE OFFERTORY

GIVING

TEXT:

148parishssphilipandjames

TO: 516-271-3338

FAITH DIRECT:

GO TO SSPJ.ORG

CLICK ON THE FAITH

DIRECT ICON

Parish of Saints Philip and

James account code

NY232 when signing up

Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration In The Church— Thursday 2-4pm
Friday 8-9pm

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN

CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN

CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.

LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY

CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN

LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY

JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC

CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY

LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-

STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC

CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL

STEVEN CAVA-USN

ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ

CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN

CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC

GREGORY DEVANEY- USMC

SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY

KEVIN JONES-USCG

PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG

GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA- US ARMY

MARIO CATANIA-USMC

RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC

KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY

ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN

STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC

DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF

SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC

PAUL MUMOLO-USN

VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY

MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD

KELLI MCLAUGHLIN- 2ND LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

Weekly Collection: Sunday July 5th, 2020

Live Streaming

\$17,800.

\$ 9,340.

475.

Faith Direct :

3,035.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$12,850.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Today's gospel presents us with the familiar parable of the sower and the seed. The sower scatters the seed. Some takes root, but much of it seems to go to waste. Yet that which takes root yields an unbelievable harvest! What are we to make of this during this time of pandemic? Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, shares a few thoughts:

We do not know when this pandemic will end; when and if we will return to our accustomed lives. We can identify with the farmer's life struggle: the waste of good effort; the loss of what we can't afford to lose; the unpredictable nature of life; the turn of events that might spell the difference between having enough to eat and going without...for some, maybe even starving. The dice are tossed and we just might come up losing.

But the last part of the sowing turns the story on its head. When ordinary farmers of the day would have expected 8, 10 or 15 fold from a planting, Jesus says the last part of the sowing yields a 100, 60 or 30 fold!... It is as if he is saying. "Pay close attention, you may think you have evidence for your negative expectations but look more closely at your lives and see a possibility for hope." We can put confidence in God, despite signs to the contrary. The Word that is planted in our spirits can bear enormous and surprising results during these pandemic days of testing.

But what seems like a small, fragile seed of faith in our lives, will yield a rich and a surprising harvest of: strength, when we normally would have been weak; hope, despite painful events that would have caused discouragement; faith, in the face of powerful forces lined up against us that make us feel small and fragile. We are the disciples who heed Jesus' word – and we trust.

I'd like to repeat a story I've share before. It's called "Unimaginable Seeds".

They agreed to serve as a leadership couple for the parish's Confirmation program. They met several times during the year with their young charges leading them in preparation for the sacrament. They were all good kids - with varying levels of interest and investment in the program. All in all, it was a good experience for both the couple and the Confimandi entrusted to them.

Two Christmases later, they received a card from Chris, one of the teenagers in the group. He was now a freshman in college. "Dear Mr. and Mrs. L," Chris wrote in the card. "I was in your confirmation program at St. Mark's two years ago. I didn't say much in the group, so you many not remember me. I just finished my first semester in college, and it's been tough. I was really having a hard time. When things were at their worst, I remembered how you told us about you own first year in school and how a professor had helped you make it through. So I went to talk to one of my profs whom I was least scared of. She has been great and helped me sort things out. So thanks for your advice. Have a Merry Christmas. Chris"

We plant many seeds without realizing it. An encouraging word, a kind act, a small gift, a moment to listen – all can result in a harvest of hope we cannot imagine. Such sowing is pure faith. Jesus challenges us in the parable of the sower to be both sower and seed: to sow seeds of encouragement, joy and reconciliation - regardless of the "ground" on which it is scattered - and to imitate the seed's total giving of itself, that becomes the harvest of Gospel justice and mercy.

And,

So you're telling me...

...a shrimp fried this rice?

....a flea runs this market?

....this garage is on sale?

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of July 12th, 2020

**The Sanctuary Lamp
For the Week of
July 12th, 2020**

*Is radiating the light and spirit
of,*

Father Patrick Osei-Poku

**In recognition of his
25th Anniversary of Ordination**

July 15th, 1995



Remembering in Our Prayers~

<p>Angela Amoroso Anna Ormsby Baby Ben Barbara Bombace Mattia Rose Lubrano Belinda Groneman Belinda Vega Bob Keenan Brooke Remhild Claudia Chandler Daniel Radice Deirdre W. Dolores North Dylan Beach Ellie Walsh Gladys Blake Gregory Parker Ida Wehman John DeStefano J.C. Joseph S. Judy Contrino Judy Cunnius</p>	<p>Judy Rampola Kathleen N. Kitty Cronin Leon Donach Maria Clark Marie del Cielo Matthew Parrella Michael Fisher Mike Lofaro Monsignor Iocavacci Peter Donach P.I. Ricardo Buffit Sara Jean Andersen Tara C. Tom Focone Tony Leo Tim Cavoris Vivien Cordes Victoria Zubrycky Vicki Archdeacon William Quinn</p>
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*For our Nation in time
of crisis*

**Our Pro Life Rose
For the Week of
July 12th, 2020**

Is Offered for,

Vincent Mennella

*Dear Daddy,
We miss your singing.
Rest in peace.
Love,
Margie*



*We remember in our hearts and prayers the
family of:
Carol & Raymond Juschkus
Resting now, together I
n the loving arms of our Lord*



Saturday	July 11th, 2020 <i>St. Benedict Abbot</i> Presider: Father Patrick Lector: B. Thompson	5:00pm	Steven Giacoppo
Sunday	July 12th, 2020 <i>Presider: Father Patrick</i> Lector: C. Czujko	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	<i>Presider: Father Tom</i> Lector: M. Koke	10:00am	Michael Stephen McDermott
	Collective Mass <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> Lector: K. Smith	12:00pm	Burke John Samson
			Irene Sims
Monday	July 13th, 2020~ Saint Henry	7:30am	Mary Reid
		9:15am	Caroline Esposito
Tuesday	July 14th, 2020 St. Kateri Tekakwitha	7:30am	Michael McDermott
		9:15am	William Olsen
Wednesday	July 15th, 2020 St. Bonaventure	7:30am	Ezio DiNucci
		9:00am	Leo Lomangino & Beatrice Dickinson
Thursday	July 16th, 2020~ Our Lady of Mount Carmel	7:30am	Irene Carasiti
	Collective Mass	9:15am	
Friday	July 17th, 2020	7:30am	
		9:15am	Jack Kelly
Saturday	July 18th, 2020~ St. Camillus deLellis Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Kaiser	5:00pm	Joseph Morda
Sunday	July 19th, 2020 Presider: Father Tom Lector: B. Luna	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	<i>Presider: Father Patrick</i> Lector: E. Nicastro	10:00am	Rosemarie & Pete Sherow
	Collective Mass <i>Presider: Father Patrick</i> Lector: L. Just	12:00pm	Mary Sposato-Palamara
			Frank, Maria, & Louri Borg
			John Schlee
			Peter James Hofmann

Dear Friends,

I just received news that Bishop Barres has assigned Father Joe Lobo to replace Father Patrick in September. If you can remember back a few summers, Father Joe joined us then...he is a friend of Father Leo (and also mine) and helped arrange for Father Leo to join us for three summers. Father Joe received an MBA from Molloy College in Rockville Centre while ministering with me for seven years in St Raphael's in East Meadow. He served additionally in St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, St Martin's in Amityville and in Our Lady of Mercy in Hicksville. He is coming from India and will need to be quarantined before beginning again with us.

I'll ask him to write up a piece of re-introduction for one of the upcoming bulletins.

Father Tom

*We Welcome
Father Joe Lobo*



Care of Creation:

The crisis in creation is real. People, animals and plants are dying because we human beings have abused God's world. Caring for God's creation is a core part of our identity. Love God! Love your neighbor! Love God's world!



If you enjoy the outdoors and gardening, we invite you to join the SSPJ Parish Social Ministry Garden Club.

This ministry would include occasional planting and maintenance, as well as more frequent weeding to keep our campus looking beautiful and welcoming.

If you are interested and willing to help, please call the parish center office at 631-584-5454 and leave your contact information.

We will contact you with details.

Thanks so very much!

***Parish Social Ministry
Thanks you for your help***



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**CEREAL
GRANOLA BARS
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
PASTA
SAUCE IN A JAR
CANNED CHICKEN**

BABY WIPES

**GIFT CARDS: KING KULLEN/STOP &
SHOP
GAS GIFT CARDS**

**Any donations may be left in the Church
Prayer Room or the St. Anthony's Bread
Closet.**

Thank you for planting seeds of hope...



MASS RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AT THIS TIME
(For Saturday 5pm mass and Sunday 8am, 10am & 12noon)

WHY?

- TO PROTECT YOURSELF
- TO PROTECT YOUR PARISH FAMILY
- TO MAINTAIN PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING

AND: FOR TRACING PURPOSES:

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR PARISHIONERS IN THE
EVENT SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION FOR SUNDAY MASS?

VISIT SSPJ.ORG
SELECT TAB AT TOP: MASS RESERVATION
SELECT THE MASS TIME

REGISTER YOURSELF
AND:
REGISTER THE NAMES OF ANY
ADDITIONAL FAMILY OR FRIENDS
YOU MAY BE BRINGING



PRINT OUT THE EMAIL
CONFIRMATION PAGE AND BRING
IT WITH YOU TO MASS OR
HAVE THE CONFIRMATION READY ON
YOUR PHONE

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER?

CONTACT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE AT:
631-584-5454
WE ARE HAPPY TO SCHEDULE YOUR REQUEST

ALSO:

PLEASE REGISTER FOR FLOCKNOTE

WHY?

SO THAT WE CAN IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY YOU OF ANY IMPORTANT,
URGENT ISSUES IN A FAST, EFFICIENT MANNER

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

TEXT: SSPJ PARISH
TO: 84576
THEN FOLLOW THE PROMPTS.

OUR NEW NORMAL...

Receiving Communion While Attending Mass with a Mask on...



IF RECEIVING COMMUNION ON THE
TONGUE WE ASK THAT YOU NOTIFY THE
GREETER WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT MASS, SO
THAT YOU MAY BE SEATED IN A LOCATION
FROM WHICH YOU CAN BE SAFELY
ESCORTED TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

#01

RESPOND

APPROACH THE
PRIEST WITH YOUR

MASK ON



IF RECEIVING COMMUNION ON THE
TONGUE
PULL MASK DOWN WHEN IN FRONT OF
THE PRIEST
RECEIVE COMMUNION
REPLACE YOUR MASK IMMEDIATELY

#02

RECEIVE

IF RECEIVING HOLY
COMMUNION IN YOUR HAND
APPROACH THE PRIEST WITH
YOUR
**MASK ON AND
HANDS EXTENDED**



#03

REMOVE

AFTER RECEIVING
COMMUNION
STEP TO THE SIDE
PULL DOWN YOUR MASK
CONSUME THE HOST
REPLACE YOUR MASK

#04

EXIT THE CHURCH REVERENTLY
USE HAND SANITIZER IN THE VESTIBULE
AND ENJOY THIS DAY THE LORD HAS MADE

Live Streaming Mass Equipment ~ We are Almost there...

We are so blessed by the generosity of our Parish Family. We are very close to reaching our goal of \$5,000!

We have begun to have some of the live streaming equipment installed.

This appeal continues with HOPE that we will reach our goal within the next few weeks.

Your help, your presence your understanding is greatly appreciated.

(For information kindly see the article below)

Twelve weeks ago - due to Covid-19 and regulations mandated by our government and health agencies - to reduce the number of lives lost to Corona Virus... churches were required to stop holding public Mass and the distribution of Holy Communion.

This was an extremely sad day for everyone in our parish. We immediately turned to our cell phones and started live-streaming our daily and weekend Mass on March 22. Though very unsophisticated, we were happy to be able to not skip a week and bring Mass to you in the safety of your homes. We attempted to reach out to those with far more knowledge in streaming Mass than we had. This was at the height of personal distancing and businesses had their doors closed and were unable to inspect our church for what we needed - and even if we knew what was needed...we were not able to hire anyone to set-up the equipment. Amazon was no longer guaranteeing fast delivery and audio/visual equipment was now on backorder. We were using a five-foot ladder with a wooden crate atop as our tripod. We were using a plate/frame holder to steady the cell phone.

As you can understand there were many hurdles and we did the best we possibly could to continue live-streaming...yet we heard your frustration about the quality of the audio and the visual and we shared that frustration.

Fast forward - we did get a "real" tripod and invested in a lavalier system specifically for the I-Phone and we are learning how to work with the church sound system and the I-phone lavalier simultaneously. A lavalier is a headset/sound speaker - currently our priest are using two - one that is directly connected to the church system so Congregants can hear the Mass and another connected to the cell phone so those at home can hear the Mass without the echo or feedback from the vast area.

This has been a major learning adjustment for all of us involved. We would like to have the ability to continue live-streaming Mass for those who are still uncomfortable attending in person and in light of the fact that due to socially acceptable distancing we are only permitted 90 parishioners at any given Mass.

To do this properly we would like to look into a system whereby the camera is not a personal cell phone, but one permanently mounted and connected directly to our Facebook streaming and hopefully onto our website as well. Preferably hard-wired to avoid any interruptions in service as is known to happen dependent on Wi-Fi. This would eliminate the need for any one person to have to physically be in church to live-stream Masses 7 days a week.

Unfortunately, as the Business Manager, you can understand my hesitation to spend the \$5,000 to complete this project. With weekly collections not coming anywhere near needed funds to meet budget...spending \$5,000 is a major consideration.

We are not debating whether there is a need for live streaming to continue as that has already been determined.

I hate to come to our parishioners, especially during these financially difficult times, to ask for funding specifically for live-streaming equipment - yet, I find myself doing so and pray that you understand the need and if you are able to help financially, it would be greatly appreciated. Please mark Live streaming on your donation.

I would be happy to discuss anything with you personally and always appreciative of your generosity and support.

Virginia Portanova
vportanova@sspj.org
631-584-5454 x202





Dear Friends:

Pope Francis likens the stone that sealed the tomb of Jesus to the tombstones of the pandemic that *“threatens to bury all hope...”* But he reminds us that *“we are not alone, the Lord goes before us on our journey, and removes the stones that paralyze us. This is the hope that no one can take from us. The disciples of Jesus discovered something that we are now learning: No one is saved alone.”*

Support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal allows us to continue to serve so many in our community as you journey with us to bring hope to others.

Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal we support the ministries that help us as we build up the Body of Christ, such as Pro-life efforts, formation of seminarians for the priesthood and Faith Formation and education of our children and young adults.

We have been working together with our schools to assist the underserved to get much needed internet service so that children are able to continue their education and parents can work from home.

It helps to support Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs. Catholic Charities meets the needs of Long Island throughout the year, but during times of crisis they are on the front lines providing emergency services to those in need; expanding food programs and services for seniors who are isolated or homebound.

Our Parish Outreach programs are working diligently to meet the needs of the growing demand of families reaching out to them for help.

During this unique time, there are so many ways to bring hope to others. One way, if you are able, is to provide assistance by making a gift to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Your continued support is critical at this time. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment.

Please know that you and your family are remembered in my daily prayer and Masses.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

**So blessed we are to say,
WE ARE AT 82% OF OUR CMA GOAL...**
As of July 7th, 2020, we have received pledges totalling
\$90,980. toward our **2020 CMA Goal of \$111,000.**
During this very difficult time, it is with great appreciation and gratitude
for your sacrifices and generosity.

If you wish to donate to the Catholic Ministries Appeal:
Diocese of Rockville Centre | Catholic Ministries Appeal | 516-678-5800 ext. 296
<http://www.drvc.org/CMA>



“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor.”

-Pope Francis

Help us Support A Place to Call Home

Charles spent 17 years deployed at military bases throughout the world. Returning home after an incident involving nerve gas, he began struggling with debilitating bouts of anxiety and depression.

His circumstances worsened and he couldn't maintain a steady job. Charles moved in with his mother, but within a year she died and his childhood home went into foreclosure.

Catholic Charities' *Project Veterans' Independence*, which guides homeless veterans into permanent housing so they can live independently and have access to support networks that get them back on their feet, reached out and helped Charles.

“I was out of the service, out of a family, out of a job and out of a home. Catholic Charities found me and helped me to not only find a place to live - but they helped me to turn my life around.”

- Charles, honorably discharged US Veteran

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

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

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

*At Home Retreat with Sister T ~
Song of the Seed by Macrina Wiederkehr*

Dear Sister Teresita,

As I look back and reflect on all of these spiritual journeys with most of my living years behind me and far less before me know, I have discovered that it's not over until it is over. I am still on the path of spiritual journeys and presently walking on one with three other women whom Sr. T has brought together to share out faith journey by reflecting on the book, "Song of the Seed" by Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, in an at-home type retreat setting, most of which have been via Zoom thus far.

This present experience is helping me to revisit and reflect on my life experiences which have formed me into who I am today. It is blessing me with a "look back" at moments of my life, thereby bringing me to the realization that there is "Gold in Your Memories" as Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr so aptly named in another book she wrote.

God isn't finished with me yet.

Amen

~ Rose G. Bruno

SSPJ SCHOOL SAYS....THANKS SO MUCH!



THANK YOU to everyone who registered their Stop & Shop Card. We just earned \$474.83 for SSPJ School.

If you have not done so already, please sign up for a Stop & Shop Card (stopandshop.com) and be sure to register our School ID #06975.

Everytime you shop at any Stop & Shop, using your Stop & Shop Card, you will earn A+ points. These points become cash for our school!

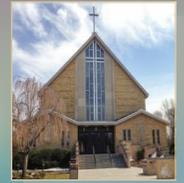


Thank
You!



Religious Education News

Registration for the 2020~2021
Religious Education Year HAS BEGUN



We welcome all New Families to our Religious Education Program! We ask that you contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-3204 so that we can welcome you to our program and discuss information needed to register.

We welcome back all Religious Ed families and ask you to visit the SSPJ.org website to register for this coming educational year.

The Religious Education Team has redesigned our parish program with an understanding of your new reality and ours, recognizing time demands and the many uncertainties we face as we approach the next school year.

Following are the main points for our new Religious Education Program:

- 1) Parents will be asked to view the Casey Cole video, "Saving a Dying Shrinking Church", YouTube video, April 15, 2020. We will be focusing our Religious Ed Program more on the importance of Family in catechesis.
- 2) All classes this year will be online. We will use Google Classroom and Google Meets. No classes will be held at Church/School.
- 3) All Classes will be prepared and taught by the Coordinators. When registering, Parents will not choose a day and time for class, or a Catechist. All students in a certain grade will be in the same class.
- 4) Students will have a week to complete a lesson. They will be required to answer a question/questions following each lesson. Attendance will be monitored through Google.
- 5) At the start of the year, all Parent Meetings, Class Masses and events will be virtual. Grade level events will be offered for students/families on campus as permitted, especially during Advent and Lent.
- 6) There will be a Family Parish Contribution of \$325.00 instead of a Religious Ed Fee. Everything will be included in this contribution, there will be no additional fees for First Communion or Confirmation.
- 8) Classes will begin the week of October 4, 2020.

TO REGISTER ON LINE:

VISIT SSPJ.ORG

SELECT THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TAB (top banner)
FROM THERE: SELECT REGISTRATION INFORMATION
COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

****PLEASE NOTE: FIRST GRADE STUDENTS: COPY OF BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE IS NEEDED**
(This can be scanned and emailed to: Religioused@sspj.org or brought to the Parish Center Office)

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION IS PAID THROUGH PAYPAL AND IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

As always, if you have any questions about Registration or if there is anything else we can assist you with, please contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-3204.

Religious Education ~ Planting seeds, for growing~
Apostles of Hope

Summertime Reflections for Families

Sunday July 12th, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time ~ Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Scripture: Today's Gospel reminds us that in order for God's Word to take root, or grow in us like a beautiful strong plant, we must work hard to create a good, healthy soil, or, a loving, forgiving heart open and ready to receive his blessings.

Jesus teaches us that the kingdom of heaven Is like a seed that has been sown on good soil.

For Kids...

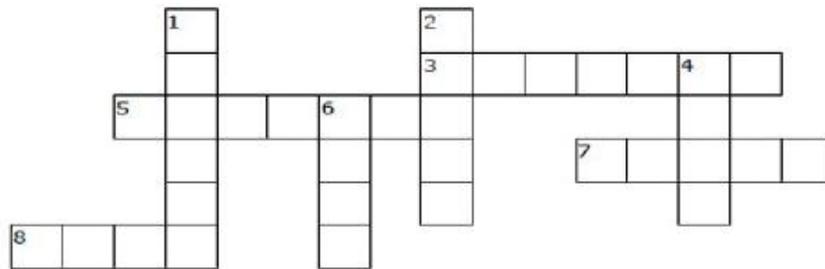
What are some-
things you can
do so that all
the beautiful
seeds Jesus
wants to plant
inside your
heart can grow?



The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Matthew 13: 24-29



ACROSS

3. The time for gathering crops
5. Stories told by Jesus to teach his followers
7. A plant that crowds out the good plants
8. A building used for storing grain and housing farm animals

DOWN

1. The place where God is
2. A grain that is ground into flour used in cooking
4. A small pod placed in the ground to grow a plant
6. To damage or destroy by fire

WEEDS	BURN	SEED	HARVEST
HEAVEN	WHEAT	BARN	PARABLE

For Parents...

There might be days that you feel less than adequate for the challenges that each day may bring...the Lord blessed you with everything you need to enrich the lives of your beautiful children. But you need to enrich your own hearts to allow the seeds of faith to prosper in your families. Please take a "quiet" moment to yourself and pray the following...

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the way you love and constantly provide for me. You have blessed me bountifully with the children I truly love. I can never ever love them more than you do, and so I surrender my desire for control into your loving hands. I ask that you would do the work that only you can do in their lives. I thank you for your provision for the family you have blessed me with. I want to relax and be the parent you want me to be. Lord, although I feel like I'm not doing a good job, help me to do my very best. What may work for my child might not work for someone else, so help me to be confident and at peace that you will equip me for the children I have. I want to teach my children about your love and goodness and all about you so they may grow up to love and serve you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Deeper Things under the Surface

Imagine this. You are the dutiful daughter or son and your mother is widowed and living in an assisted living facility. You happen to be living close by while your sister is living across the country, thousands of miles away. So the weight falls on you to be the one to help take care of your mother. You dutifully visit her each day. Every afternoon, on route home from work, you stop and spend an hour with her as she has her early dinner. And you do this faithfully, five times a week, year after year.

As you spend this hour each day with your mother, year after year, how many times during the course of a year will you have a truly stimulating and deep conversation with your mother? Once? Twice? Never? What are you talking about each day? Trivial things: the weather, your favorite sports team, what your kids are doing, the latest show on television, her aches and pains, and the mundane details of your own life. Occasionally you might even doze off for a while as she eats her early dinner. In a good year, perhaps once or twice, the conversation will take on some depth and the two of you will share more deeply about something of importance; but, save for that rare occasion, you will simply be filling in the time each day with superficial conversation.

But, and this is the question, are those daily visits with your mother in fact superficial, merely functionary because your conversations aren't deep? Are you simply going through the motions of intimate relationship because of duty? Is anything deep happening?

Well, compare this with your sister who is (conveniently) living across the country and comes home once a year to visit your mother. When she visits, both she and your mother are wonderfully animated, they embrace enthusiastically, shed some tears upon seeing each other, and seemingly talk about things beyond the weather, their favorite sports teams, and their own tiredness. And you could kill them both! It seems that in this once-a-year meeting they have something that you, who visit daily, do not have. But is this true? Is what is happening between your sister and your mother in fact deeper than what is occurring each day when you visit your mother?

Absolutely not. What they have is, no doubt, more emotional and more affective, but it is, at the end of day, not particularly deep. When your mother dies, you will know your mother better than anyone else knows her and you will be much closer to her than your sister. Why? Because through all those days when you visited her and seemed to talk about nothing beyond the weather, some deeper things were happening under the surface. When your sister visited your mother things were happening on the surface (though emotionally and affectively the surface can look wonderfully more intriguing than what lies beneath it.) That is why honeymoons look better than marriage.

What your sister had with your mother is what novices experience in prayer and what couples experience on a honeymoon. What you had with your mother is what people experience in prayer and relationships when they are faithful over a long period of time. At a certain level of intimacy in all our relationships, including our relationship with God in prayer, the emotions and the affectivity (wonderful as they are) will become less and less important and simple presence, just being together, will become paramount. Previous to that, the important things were happening on the surface and emotions and affectivity were important; now deep bonding is happening beneath the surface and emotions and affectivity recede in importance. At a certain depth of relationship just being present to each other is what is important.

Too often, both popular psychology and popular spirituality do not really grasp this and consequently confuse the novice for the proficient, the honeymoon for the wedding, and the surface for the depth. In all of our relationships, we cannot make promises as to how we will always feel, but we can make promises to always be faithful, to show up, to be there, even if we are only talking about the weather, our favorite sports team, the latest television program, or our own tiredness. And it is okay occasionally to fall asleep while there because as Therese of Lisieux once said: a little child is equally pleasing to its parents, awake or asleep, probably more asleep! That also holds true for prayer. God does not mind us occasionally napping while at prayer because we are there and that is enough. The great Spanish doctor of the soul John of the Cross tells us that as we travel deeper into any relationship, be it with God in prayer, with each other in intimacy, or with the community at large in service, eventually the surface will be less emotive and less affective and *the deeper things will begin to happen under the surface*.

July 19, 2020 • 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

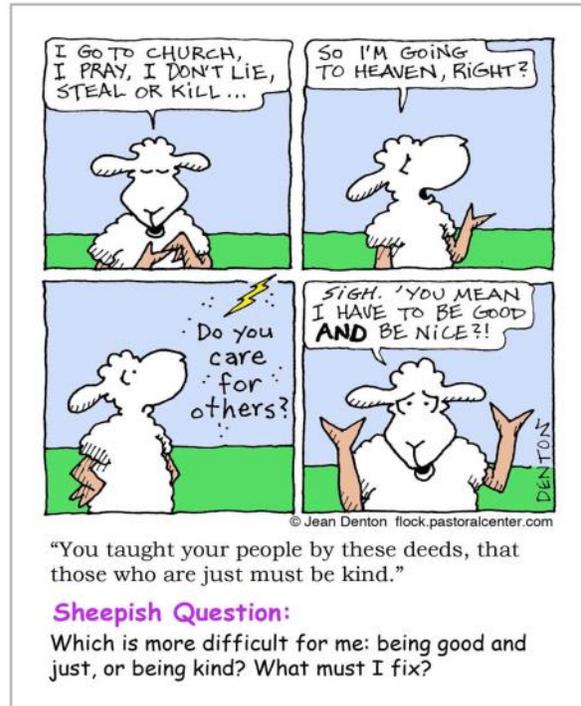
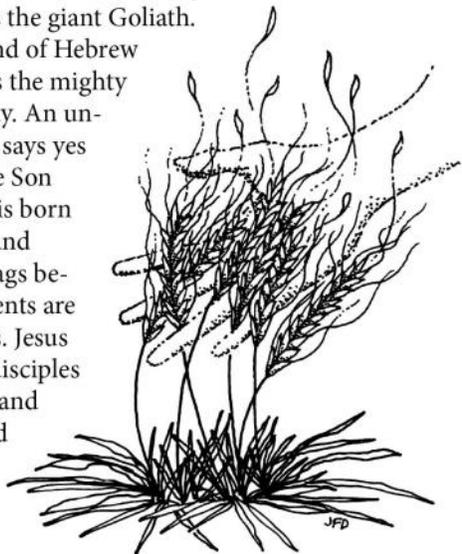
God Works with Small Things

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 - On God's mercy
- ▶ Romans 8:26-27 - The intercession of the Spirit
- ▶ Matthew 13:24-30 - The parable of the weeds

We are in the midst of a period of hearing Gospel readings about the Kingdom of God and how God is active in the world, sometimes in subtle ways. At the same time, the First and Second readings point out other characteristics of God. The First Reading, from the book of Wisdom, was written in the decades around Jesus' birth. The author stresses how mighty and powerful God is, yet how God is also tolerant, forgiving, and kind. Paul's words to the Romans teach that the Spirit of our God speaks in and through us, especially when we don't know how to pray. Taken together, all three readings today provide hope that God is alive and active in our lives, whether we always recognize it or now.

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast which leavens the bread are well-known parables that point to God's ability to bring about great things starting with something small and seemingly insignificant. In fact, that is a theme found throughout the Bible. The entire Jewish race begins because of Abraham and Sarah's faithfulness. The boy David defeats the giant Goliath. The small band of Hebrew slaves escapes the mighty Egyptian army. An unwed teenager says yes to bearing the Son of God. God is born into a stable and wrapped in rags because his parents are poor refugees. Jesus reminds his disciples to have hope and trust that God



"You taught your people by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind."

Sheepish Question:

Which is more difficult for me: being good and just, or being kind? What must I fix?

can and does, work through small things to do great things.

On the other hand, the parable about the wheat and the weeds seems to make a different point: we must have patience when we experience good and evil existing side-by-side in our world. Just as the farmer had no control over the fact that weeds were growing amidst his wheat crop, we have no control over bad things that happen to us. We can do all that is possible to cultivate the good (by sowing good seeds), but we have to live with unexpected and disappointing outcomes. As the farmer teaches his crew, it is not their job to sift out the bad from the good. Ultimately that is God's job. In the meantime, God invites us to live, and still grow together with the bad in the world.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What do you make of the above interpretation—that Jesus is affirming the equal role of women and men in discipleship?
- 2 Are there roles in the church that you would be uncomfortable seeing women in and might find yourself protesting like Martha to Jesus. Why?

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