



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

631-584-5454

March 10th, 2024  
The Fourth Sunday  
Of Lent

*"For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."  
John 3:20*



*"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, March 3rd, 2024:**

Collections from Weekend masses: \$9,747.

Mail Collections: \$ 1,656.50

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

**Total Collection: \$14,777.54**

**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,

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally was known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare is Latin for "joy". In a season of fasting, prayer and abstinence, it's easy to forget that one of the liturgical prayers we pray at Mass thanks God, saying, "each year you give us this joyful season." The Lenten season recalls the fact that God chooses to restore, heal, forgive, raise up and save rather than what we might expect: punish for sin. God's plan which we hear today is "that the world might be saved through Christ." All of Lent then, is not about our making up for the sins of the past (they are forgiven), nor trying to persuade God to love us (we are loved beyond all telling), but Lent is a joyful preparation to celebrate and take in the freedom Christ has won for us. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God."

Today's gospel speaks of the light. Fr. John Foley, SJ, offers this reflection and poem:

*At the end of the Gospel there is a very interesting, wise saying that sums up the message of this week's Lenten readings:*

*Light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.*

*Maybe these sentences reveal the heart of sin itself. Light displays too much of our life. We become ashamed. We hide ourselves. Yet we are built to seek the light...*

*Once there was a city built in the sunlight. Warmth and laughter abounded. Memories of day would remain every night until the sun could return.*

*Fear one morning said light is too bright. Too much truth can be seen. How can we seem what we say we are if light the intruder is here?*

*So walls went up and a ban on all windows and nothing of day could remain. The city said, you have left us, O sun. In the darkness we have gone blind.*

*But the sun outside still shed its light, and its warmth and its laughter and love. It lightened the walls and gave warmth to their chill, while within, the soul bored a hole.*

*Into it poured a single beam, a sunlight of laughter and care. Softly, silently, almost like spring, love opened and blossomed and grew.*

Listen to the light. Listen to God this Lent. Let love open and blossom and grow.

Many thanks to Susan and Kevin McNamara for sharing their marriage sacrament with the couples who completed our pre-Cana session this past weekend.

And finally,

*How do English teachers get married? They exchange vowels.  
Dogs can't operate MRIs, but catscan.  
Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.  
Why do dads take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing? In case they get a hole-in-one.*

Peace,

Father Tom

# Mass Intentions, For the week of March 10th, 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  
 Jessie Lokai  
 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  
 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 Matterna  
 Tina Cafaro  
 Tiffany Lochan  
 Thomas Liferieri  
 Tom Ryan  
 Tom Focone  
 Vivien & John  
 Cordes  
 Wayne Smith Sr.

<b>Saturday</b> <b>March 9th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> Murtha	<b>Presider: Father Joe</b> <b>Lector: Grimaldi/Student</b> <b>EM: Damato/Drechsler/</b> <b>Duffy/Toto/Napolitano</b>	<b>9:15am</b>  <b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Stephen Landers</b>  <b>Richard Wehman</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>March 10th</b> <b>Cantor: .</b> Meringolo	<b>Presider: Father Joe</b> <b>Lector: Czujko/Dervan</b> <b>EM: Dunn/Ramos/Sica/M&amp;P</b> Tully	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b> <b>Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Hill	<b>Presider: Father Tom</b> <b>Lector: Baker/Lombardi</b> <b>EM: Suski/Dervan/Clarke/</b> <b>Luna/Mulhall/Sotomayer/</b> Keane	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Sarah Wilder</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Hill	<b>Collective Mass</b> <b>Presider: Father Tom</b> <b>Lector: O'Leary/Suski</b> <b>EM: Samson/Bleggie/</b> <b>Latino/Orlando</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Richard Reich</b> <b>Matthew C. Bracco</b> <b>Lucille Hoffman</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>March 11th</b>		<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Living~Eric Selin, USMC</b>  <b>Constance Brown</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>March 12th</b>		<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Katie Farrell</b>  <b>Steven Carr</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>March 13th</b>		<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Living~Vinny Garguilio</b>  <b>Edward Mars</b>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>March 14th</b>		<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Joan &amp; John Purcell</b> <b>Collective Mass:</b> <b>Claire Calderone</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>March 15th</b>		<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Living~CW2 Chris Munz</b>  <b>Sarah Wilder</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>March 16th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> LoCastro	<b>Presider: Father Tom</b> <b>Lector: Thompson/Student</b> <b>EM: Rizzo/Mantia/Anderson/</b> <b>Duffy/Urce</b>	<b>9:15am</b>  <b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Living~Michael Smith</b>  <b>Jack Duffy</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>March 17th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> Meringolo	<b>Presider: Father Tom</b> <b>Lector: Luna/White</b> <b>EM: Dunn/Dervan/Diaz/</b> Sica/M. Tully	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b> <b>Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Lupinacci	<b>Presider: Father Joe</b> <b>Lector: Sehne/Just</b> <b>EM: Amen/Parish/Clarke/</b> Keane/Suski/McKie	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>John Pavelka</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> Lupinacci	<b>Collective Mass</b> <b>Presider: Father Joe</b> <b>Lector: Kenton/Rubano</b> <b>EM: Margaret/Rubano/</b> <b>V. Rubano/Settineri</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Mary</b> <b>Finnigan~Mashikion</b> <b>Clifford Bollhofer</b>



"Let us look, then, at Jesus' journeying and remind ourselves that our first spiritual task is this: to abandon the God we think we know, and to convert every day to the God Jesus presents to us in the Gospel, who is the Father of love and the Father of compassion. The Father who is close, compassionate and tender. And when we discover the true face of the Father, our faith matures: we no longer remain "sacristy Christians", or "parlour Christians", but rather we feel called to become bearers of God's hope and healing."

### *MUSIC MINISTRY*

#### *Lenten Musings*



Our focus this weekend, Darkness into light.

We need to see more clearly.

We see with our hearts, hoping that in the light of Christ we can come to see the world as God does. I Have Loved You, our Communion song, tells us that God loves us with an everlasting love. He will bring us his light/peace, joy/hope, care/love.

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS 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.**



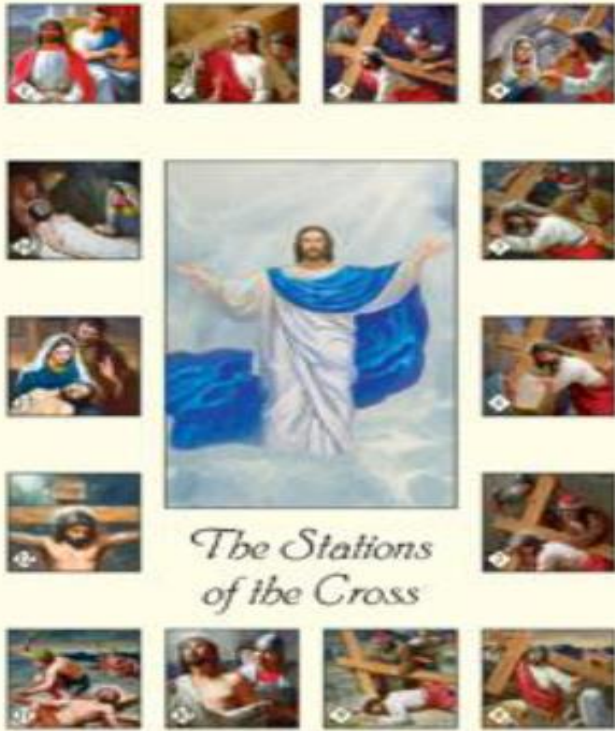
*National Catholic Sisters Week is scheduled for March 8th to the 14th, 2024. Let us continue to pray for the women religious who have gone before us and are now serving our Church. Let us also pray for Vocation to Religious life.*



*The Catholic Daughters will hold their annual St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale in the school Lobby March 16<sup>th</sup> & March 17<sup>th</sup> after all Masses. Please join us for Irish Soda Bread and a selection of home baked treats.*

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 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



**Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time**

Just as Jesus fell from the weight of the Cross and His own exhaustion, we fall into apathy and discouragement and fail in our commitments.

Calvary was a difficult path for Jesus to climb. He stumbled; He fell. We, too, feel like sometimes we can go no further, that our efforts are in vain.

Some people do not want to hear of the urgency of the climate crisis.

Others place profits ahead of compassion. National and international efforts are weak. Fossil fuel usage increases. Forests and whole towns burn. Storms rage. But "God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give Him our all, offers us the light and the strength to continue on our way... The Lord of Life who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us...for He has united Himself definitively to our earth, and His love constantly impels us to find new ways forward."

EIGHTH STATION

**Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented Him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.'

Today we mourn the destruction caused by the climate crisis and are deeply concerned about the future of the earth that our children and their children will inherit.

If we don't drastically reduce our greenhouse gases within the lifetimes of our own children, coastal cities will be flooded, temperatures over 100 will be common. powerful hurricanes will be more frequent, and conflicts caused by food and water scarcity will occur in many parts of the world.

What kind of world do we want to leave those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?...It is no longer enough ...simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations...

Leaving a habitable planet is first and foremost up to us."

*GOD BLESS OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED~SUNDAY MARCH 3RD, 2024*



*Welcome Clancy Family  
And babies,*

*Declan George  
and Dylan  
Thomas Clancy*



*Welcome Clancy Family  
And baby,  
Cayden Nicholas  
Clancy  
(pictured left)*



*Welcome Massa Family  
And baby,  
Molly Elizabeth Massa*

*(Pictured right)*



 **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



The Written Image  
Iconography by Janine Manheim



On exhibit at The Smithtown Library  
Smithtown, NY  
February 26 - March 31, 2024

**PARISH LENTEN RETREAT~ A LOVE BEYOND TELLING  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME**





***PARISH LENTEN RETREAT~ A LOVE BEYOND TELLING  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME***



*You are created in the image and likeness of  
God~ You are HIS Reflection*



*It is your reflection that I  
see Lord!*

*Painting by Sieger Koder*

*Handprints are Heartprints  
We leave handprints on what we touch...  
Let us receive others as Christ...  
Simply by stretching out our hands...*

***We express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Thomas Petriano for his poignant presentation.  
Thank you for never failing to touch and move our hearts.  
Also thank you to Jason ~ from Camps R Us for sharing his expertise and audio visual  
equipment that contributed in making this evening so very special to all.***

*God Bless Our RCIA Candidates and their Families*



## THE THREE SCRUTINIES

During the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent. You the parishioners will witness our RCIA Elect expressing their desire “to receive all as Christ” and participating in the Three Scrutinies. The purpose of the Scrutinies is **“to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful” in the hearts of the Elect and “to strengthen all that is upright, strong and good.”** The true meaning of the word ‘Scrutinize’ is to simply “see clearly or inspect closely.”

As we experience the Elect going through this process, We as Baptized Catholics would do well “to receive all as Christ” and ask ourselves “what is defective in my heart and soul that needs strengthening?” Resolve to ask for God’s grace, go to reconciliation and work prayerfully on those areas of your spiritual life. Pray with us during these rites so that you may enter with your hearts ready for the joys of Easter.

And please continue to pray for those involved in the RCIA process, Kristina Quadrino, Nick Hoffman, Christie Gallina, and Mariana Avellan.

Thank you,  
Sister Theresita



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



**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.**

**"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**

## **SSPJ Students continue on their Lenten journey by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.





# SSPJ Spring Plant Sale

Orders Due By: April 10, 2024

## 10" HANGING BASKETS: \$ 20

Begonia: Miss Montreal (White/Ivory) \_\_\_\_\_ Miss Miami (Orange/Red) \_\_\_\_\_

l'Conia Portofino (Hot Orange) \_\_\_\_\_ Portofino (Yellow) \_\_\_\_\_ Boston fern: \_\_\_\_\_

Fuchsia: \_\_\_\_\_ Ivy Geranium: Red (Calliope) \_\_\_\_\_ Pink (Calliope) \_\_\_\_\_

### New Guinea:

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink/Light Rose \_\_\_\_\_ Lavender \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon (Dark Leaf) \_\_\_\_\_

### Wave Petunia:

Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_\_ Mix \_\_\_\_\_ Magenta (purple wave) \_\_\_\_\_

## 10" COMBO BASKETS \$22

Kombo Pink Limeade (yellow/rose star / lime green) \_\_\_\_\_

Kombo Curb Appeal (Yellow / White / Blue) \_\_\_\_\_

Kombo Mom's Chosen One (Purple / Gold / Rosey Pink) \_\_\_\_\_

12" Combo Baskets (Large & Beautiful Mix Garden) \$33 \_\_\_\_\_

## 6" Pots-\$10

### New Guinea Impatiens:

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink/Light Rose \_\_\_\_\_ Lavender \_\_\_\_\_ Orange Flame Sun Standing \_\_\_\_\_

## Perennials 8" Pot \$13

Astilbe (Deer Resistant/Shade/part sun/Attracts Butterflies)

Peach Blossom \_\_\_\_\_ Montgomery Red \_\_\_\_\_

Lavandula: (Full Sun/Deer/Rabbit Resistant/Attracts Butterflies) \$13 \_\_\_\_\_

10" Square Planter filled with a beautiful mix of annuals \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

(Great centerpiece for Bistro table or Picnic table)

Culinary Herb Garden 12" Oval pot (great for kitchen) \$16 \_\_\_\_\_

10" Round Simply Salad Mix (Red/Green Lettuce) \$ 11 \_\_\_\_\_

## VEGETABLE SIX PACKS- \$13

2 Basil/ 2 Parsley/ 2 Roma Tomato (sauce in a six pack) \_\_\_\_\_

2 Large Tomato/2 Cherry Tomato/2 Plum (roma) Tomato \_\_\_\_\_

6 Cucumber \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Green Beans \_\_\_\_\_

6 Zucchini \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Bell Peppers \_\_\_\_\_

6 Eggplant \_\_\_\_\_

- All orders must be in no later than April 10, 2024
- Orders received after APRIL 10th cannot be guaranteed.
- All orders must be paid for in full at time of order. Checks can be made out to SSPJ School.
- Orders must be picked up at SSPJ School on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> between 3:30-5pm (after the buses leave)
- SSPJ is not responsible for any orders not picked up.
- Please contact Nicole Butera at 631-624-2271 or Gladis Cortazar at 631-566-7255 with any questions.

## SSPJ Guild Spring Plant Sale

Orders Due by: April 10, 2024

Orders received after 4/10 cannot be guaranteed.

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SSPJ SCHOOL.

*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...

*As we have continued along our Lenten Journey, the "Be"-Attitudes of Pope Francis have certainly been challenging and thought provoking. While preparing to write this, I took a moment to ask a group of 5th grade students what it meant to be Bridge Builders. Two answers stood out: you need to strengthen the relationship and you need to be the one to reach out.*

*Out of the mouth of babes!*

*What they said reminded me of something I read a long time ago: Pride builds walls between people whereas humility tends to build bridges. It is also true that if you try to become a Bridge Builder and actually become the bridge, you will be walked over!*

### *Be Bridge Builders*

*Let's look at this week's reflection questions:*

*Am I able to reach out to those who are on the fringes of society?  
Am I kind to those I may see or meet on the street that are down on their luck, or do I cross the street not to have to make eye contact?*

*Am I able to share with the Gospel of Joy and Love? Does kindness and compassion fill my heart so that I can be joyful in sharing the Gospel? How do I get to that point in my spiritual life?*

*Am I willing to bring Christ to others despite what some may think?  
It is a known fact that people will throw stones in your path.  
What will you make with those stones? A WALL or a BRIDGE?*

*Am I able to show kindness to those who have left the Church, no matter what the reason? Am I able to listen to others as they share their concerns with me, or do I put them down immediately? How would Jesus deal with them?*

*Lots to keep us thinking this week. My prayer is that you continue to build bridges and not walls.*

*Till Next week,*

*Sister T*



# Parish Social Ministry

**Our Food Pantry Needs:**  
Bathroom Tissue Paper  
Canned Fruit any kind  
**Thank you for your generosity**



*We remember the family and friends of,*

*Salvatore Tussa*

*Safely Home in the arms of our Lord*

## THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Invites all who are unable to join us during these **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** to pray the Magnificat prayer daily and even once an hour if you remember and also be aware the Catholic Church offers all those who have difficulty conceiving to call The Gianna Center @ 866-472-4483 for the most up to date most effective treatment available for infertility.

God is good all the time!

All the time, God is good!

# 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.

## 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





## Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

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

**Sunday, March 17**  
Jer 31:31-34  
Ps 51:3-4,12-15  
Heb 5:7-9  
Jn 12:20-33

**Monday, March 18**  
Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62  
or 13:41c-62  
Ps 23:1-6  
Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday, March 19**  
**St. Joseph, Husband of Mary**  
2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16  
Ps 89:2-5,27,29  
Rom 4:13,16-18,22  
Mt 1:16,18-21,24a  
or Lk 2:41-51a

**Wednesday, March 20**  
Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95  
Dn 3:52-56  
Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday, March 21**  
Gn 17:3-9  
Ps 105:4-9  
Jn 8:51-59

**Friday, March 22**  
Jer 20:10-13  
Ps 18:2-7  
Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday, March 23**  
Ez 37:21-28  
Jer 31:10-12d,13  
Jn 11:45-56

To be a Christian is to follow Christ, be like Christ, serve as Christ, love as Christ, suffer and die as Christ, and ultimately rise as Christ. During his public ministry, Jesus told his disciples from the start that anyone who wished to be a follower of his must renounce himself and take up his cross every day to follow him.

As "his hour" drew nearer and the Holy Will of his Heavenly Father was just around the corner, Jesus once again told his disciples in no uncertain terms that to follow him would mean to take up their own crosses and be willing to suffer and die for the love of others. Jesus challenged his disciples to live lives of selfless service to others then, and his challenge continues for us now.

What a beautiful image Jesus gave us of the grain of wheat! According to the Catechism, "The grain of wheat points to the Holy Eucharist in which the Sacrifice of Christ becomes really present. As we die to ourselves in union with him, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we

become other christs." (CCC 2731)

As we submit our hearts to the Lord and give our lives as disciples of Christ, every one of us is called in many ways to share in the joys and sorrows of Christ. Just as at different seasons of our lives we are given different crosses to bear, we are also called to different ways to serve others. When we serve others, Christ works in us and through us. We can be Jesus to those he puts in our paths to help.



We can see Jesus in those we serve.

Sometimes it is easier than other times, but we must remember that Jesus is reflected in us when we are serving. Sometimes God uses our acts of faith and charity to break open seeds in other souls as well.

#### Reflect & Discuss:

- † What has had to die in your life for you to draw closer to Christ?
- † Thinking of a cross you have carried in the past, how has your faith grown since it has lifted?
- † What is the heaviest cross you are being asked to bear right now?
- † How have you seen the face of Jesus in those you serve?
- † What are ways that have helped you the most to bear your crosses as Jesus bore his?

## AGING AS A NATURAL MONASTERY

What is a monastery? How do monasteries work? Saint Benedict (480-547 AD), who is considered the founder of Western monasticism, offered this counsel as an essential rule for his monks: *Stay in your cell and it will teach all you need to know*. Properly understood, this is a rich metaphor, not a literal counsel. When he is telling a monk to stay in his cell and let it teach him what he needs to know, he is not referring to a literal monk's cell in a monastery. He is referring to the state of life in which a monk or anyone else finds himself or herself.

Sometimes this has been expressed in Christian spirituality as being faithful to *your duties of state*. The idea here being that if you are faithful in love and in good heart to the situation in life in which you find yourself, life itself will bring you to maturity and virtue. For example, a mother who gives herself over in selflessness and fidelity to raising her children will be brought to maturity and altruism through that process. Her home will be her monk's cell and she will be metaphorically the Abbess of the monastery (with some very young monks) and staying inside that monastery, her home, will teach her all she needs to know. She will be raising children, but they will also be raising her. Motherhood will teach her what she needs to know and will turn her into a wise elder, a biblical and archetypal Sophia.

The process of aging is a natural monastery. If we live long enough, eventually the aging process turns everyone into a monk. Monks take four vows: poverty, chastity, obedience, and perseverance. The process of aging, which moves us (seemingly without mercy) toward marginalization, dependence on others, away from an active sex life, and into a living situation from which there will be no escape, in a manner of speaking, imposes those four vows on us. But, as Saint Benedict counsels, this can teach us all we need to know, and has a unique power to mature us in a very deep way. Monks have secrets worth knowing. So does the aging process.

This can be particularly instructive vis-à-vis how we can make our final days and our death a more radical gift to others. In the first centuries of Christianity, martyrdom was seen as the ideal way for a Christian to end his or her days here on earth. It was seen as a radical way of imitating Christ and giving your death away as a gift. Of course, this had to be rethought after Christianity became the state religion and emperors no longer martyred Christians. What followed then were various attempts at doing this, metaphorically martyrdom. One fairly popular way of doing it was that, after raising their children and reaching retirement, a couple would leave each other and each would go off to a separate monastery and live out the rest of his or her life as a monk or a nun.

Classical Christian mystics speak about how in the last phase of our lives we should enter something they call the *dark night of the spirit*, namely, that we proactively make a radical decision grounded in faith to move into a situation in life where we can no longer take care of ourselves but must trust, in raw faith, that God will provide for us. This parallels Hindu spirituality which suggests that in the last, fully mature stage of life we should become a *sannyasin*, a holy old beggar.

I suspect that most of us will never proactively cut off all our former securities and, on purpose, place ourselves in a situation within which we are helpless to provide for and take care of ourselves. But this is where nature steps in. The aging process will do it for us. It will turn us into a *sannyasin* and put us into the *dark night of the spirit*.

How? As we age and our health declines and we find ourselves more marginalized in terms of having a vital place within society, we will progressively lose our capacity to take care of ourselves. Eventually, if we live long enough, for most of us it will mean moving into an assisted facility, which is in effect a natural monastery.

What an apt metaphor! An assisted living facility as a natural monastery. The metaphor is also apropos for what it means to (by conscription) enter the *dark night of the spirit* and what it means to be a holy old beggar, a *sannyasin*. In essence it means this: When someone is in an assisted living facility, irrespective of whether he or she is a millionaire or a pauper, the rules are the same for everyone. Since you can no longer take care of yourself (and indeed you don't have to) you live a monastic life of obedience and dependence.

In assisted living, you live by the monastic bell and you die as a holy old beggar.