



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

631-584-5454

August 7th, 2022
The Nineteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

*“For where
your treasure
is,
there also will
your heart
be.”*

Luke 12:34



“With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be
Apostles of Hope”

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675

Website—www.sspj.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor
Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor
Deacon Ronald Blasius
Deacon John Keenan

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 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
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

**Collections: ~Thanking you for your generosity
Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:**

\$17,890

Weekly Collection: Sunday, July 24th, 2022:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$ 6,823.

Collections from Mail: \$2,430.

Faith Direct : (125Participants) 3,203.

Total Collections: \$12,456.

Collection for Communications:

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT

ICON:

USING SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

**** Collections for 7-31-22: unavailable at
bulletin print submission**

Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN

CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN

CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.

LT. COL. JOHN KAIRE

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY

CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN

LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY

JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC

CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY

LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-

STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC

CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL

STEVEN CAVA-USN

ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ

CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN

CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC

SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY

KEVIN JONES-USCG

PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG

GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA— US ARMY

MARIO CATANIA-USMC

RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC

KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY

ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN

STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC

DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF

SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC

PAUL MUMOLO-USN

VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY

MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD

KELLI MCLAUGHLIN— LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

1 LT MICHAEL J BANG—MILITARY INTELLIGENCE US ARMY

MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN.

**LIVE-STREAMING THE
8:00AM SUNDAY MASS**

We have begun live-streaming of the 8am Sunday mass which is available to view on our the SSPJ Church Facebook page, while it is live at the 8am mass, it can be recalled at any time.

While Father Tom is away, A Reflection from Sister T

August 7, 2022

Dear friends,

As I receive these quotes daily from the Pope Francis site, I like to share those which strike a chord in my heart and soul. And so, I ask you to read slowly and let the words resonate with your very being.

"Let us help one another to be leaven in the dough of this world. Together we can and must continue to care for human life, the protection of creation, the dignity of work, the problems of families, the treatment of the elderly and all those who are abandoned, rejected, or treated with contempt. In a word, we are called to be a Church (a people) that promotes the culture of care, tenderness, and compassion towards the vulnerable. A Church that fights all forms of corruption, and decay, including those of our cities and places we frequent, so that in the life of every people the joy of the Gospel may shine forth. This is our "fight" and this is our challenge. The temptation to stand still is great; the temptation of that nostalgia which makes us look at other times as better. May we not fall into the temptation of "looking back" which is becoming fashionable today in the Church." (Pope Francis)

This quote is meant to stir a flame within your heart and soul so that we can look at each day with a new perspective without trying to convince others that our way of thinking is right. We are truly meant to listen to one another and look to what we can do to make the future brighter. The quote is power packed and if we read it with an open heart, the words will become real for each one of us.

In this day and age, we truly need to listen and show compassion, deep love for all. Digesting these words of Pope Francis needs to be done on an individual basis. It is truly a challenge as so many of us want to be in control and help others realize that what we are saying and doing is the only way. The question we need to answer is it the thinking and doing of Jesus' way?

I find this quote a true challenge and struggle each day to do what Francis is saying. Some days are better than others. The only thing to do is keep trying to live the life Jesus intended for us. Let us become the leaven in the dough of this world.

Till next week,

Sister Theresita



"Let us help one another to be leaven in the dough of this world"

Pope Francis

Mass Intentions, For the week of August 7th, 2022

Eucharistic Adoration

**Monday's
1:30-7:00pm
In the Church**



Remember in our hearts and prayers

Andy
Alfred Fox
Antonette Sabatino
Angie Mingione
Angela Amoroso
Anna & Harold Clayton
Arthur Gureck
Austin Rocky
Baby Ben
Baby Penny Grace
Candela
Barbara Bombace
Barbara Ruland
Mattia Rose Lubrano
Barbara Sammarco
Belinda Groneman
Brendan McAlvin
Camille Staats
Carol
Carolyn Nehl
Catherine & Jimmy
Charles Figliosi
Charlie Stangarone
Claudia Chandler
David Beleck
David McCue
Deacon Ron Blasius
Deirdre W.
Donna Patrissi
Dorothy Mitchell
Eleanor Bayley
Elizabeth
Elizabeth Martin
Ellie Walsh
Emily Schiaratta
Esther Styles
Flo Donohue
Gerald Maas
Gloria Montesano
Grace Bertolone
Ginny & John Rief
Gladys Blake
Gregory Parker
Helen
Heidi Ray
Ida Jean D'angelis
Jack Donohue
Jakob King
Jamie Geiman
Jamie Accardi
Jennifer Clark
Jenny Bonanno
Jessica Venditto
John Cronin
John DeStefano
John Scmillio

Joseph B
Joseph
Joseph H
Judy Rampola
Gerry F.
Joe Dorrian
Joseph Costa
Kenneth Cook
Kathleen Draper
Kathleen N.
Kerry
Kitty Cronin
Lee Krauer
Lexi Dorman
Leon Donach
Lola Santangelo
Lori Cearney
Lynn McDonnell
Mark Geld
Margaret Remhild
Mark Wagner
Mary Ann Cesarski
Mary Monte
Mary Fresi
Maria Clark
Maria Collaro
Marie del Cielo
Marilyn Suli
Matthew Parrella
Melissa C.
Michael Fisher
Michael Viviano
Michele Williams
Mike Lofaro
Nancy & Paul Bertran
Nancy Cuccinotta
Patricia Trippree
Pasquale Savarese
Pat LeDoux
Pat McCumber
Peter Donach
P.I.
Ricardo Buffit
Riordan Cavooris
Robert Koop
Roberto Chong
Ronnie Paciella
Sara Jean Andersen
Stanley Stura
Sofia McCormick
Stephen Dolce
Susan Smith
Tara Cesarski
Tina Cafaro
Vivien Cordes
Veronica Broderick
Wayne Hendricks
William Capurso
William Martin

Saturday August 6th	<p><i>Presider: Father Ciya Lector:Thompson/Dreschler EM:Lombardi/Sist/Anderson/ Drechsler/Toto</i></p>	<p>9:15am 5:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Arthur Byrns Alexander Salerno</i></p>
Sunday August 7th	<p><i>Presider: Father Ciya Lector:Willman/Fitzpatrick EM:Czujko/Kanuika/Martin/ M. Dunn/M. Tully</i></p>	<p>8am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For the People of SSPJ</i></p>
	<p><i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Tobin/Just EM: Amen/Latino/Mulhall/ Sotomayer/Keane</i></p>	<p>10:00am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gerard & Madelyn McNulty</i></p>
	<p><u>Collective Mass</u> <i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Wos/Cashman EM:Sampson/Consenze/ Napolit</i></p>	<p>12:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Robert C. Alig Theresa Orlik Carol Kirdahy Joseph P. D'Anna Margaret Falkowski Jerry Linder</i></p>
Monday August 8th	Saint Dominic	<p>7:30am 9:15am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Patricia McNulty Margaret Dooley</i></p>
Tuesday August 9th	Saint Teresa Benedicta	<p>7:30am 9:15am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Paul J. Czujko Theodore Atter</i></p>
Wednesday August 10th	Saint Lawrence	<p>7:30am 9:15am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Joanne Harrison Kevin Kirdahy</i></p>
Thursday August 11th	Saint Clare	<p>7:30am 9:15am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Living~Josephine Fernandez Collective Mass Susan Renda</i></u></p>
Friday August 12th	Saint Jane France de Chantal	<p>7:30am 9:15am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dante Martorella Roy Viducich</i></p>
Saturday August 13th	<p><i>Presider: Father Joe Lector:Donegan/Schor EM: Mantia/Sisti/Byrne/ Damato/Dreschler</i></p>	<p>9:15am 5:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adeline Maresca Victoria Brewster</i></p>
Sunday August 14th	<p><i>Presider: Father Joe Lector: O'Hara/Dobres EM:Koke/Martin/Portanova/ Ramos/Sehne</i></p>	<p>8:00am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For the People of SSPJ Parish</i></p>
	<p><i>Presider: Father Ciya Lector:Sehne/Contrino EM:Latino/Luna/McKie/ Mulhall/Orlando</i></p>	<p>10:00am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Joanna Harrison</i></p>
	<p><u>Collective Mass</u> <i>Presider: Father Ciya Lector: Suski/Geier EM: Napolitano/Margaret/ Consenz</i></p>	<p>12:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Robert Combs Rose DeMaio Joseph P. D'Anna Living~ Claude Bertran &Sts. Philip & Jacques</i></p>

IT IS THAT MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN...PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY'S "BACK TO SCHOOL" SUPPLY COLLECTION!

It is hard to believe that we are already talking school supplies, but the days are going by so quickly. It will be September in the blink of an eye!

There are local children in our community in need of teacher mandated school items.

If you are able to help, kindly take a "school supply card" from the baskets in the back of the church.

The color of the card determines the grade level. You may return unwrapped supplies with the color-coded card attached, to the parish office during the week. Or these items can be placed in the St. Anthony's Bread Closet in the back of the Church.

There will be marked containers to hold your gifts.
As always, thank you for your help.

Music Ministry

I can't believe it's the beginning of August. Where is the time going!!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. I am except I hear Christmas Bells.

Yes, it's that time again when I start thinking about the Christmas Concert.

I usually start preparing for start of the new music season now. Festive thoughts are swirling through my head, it was just Christmas in July. As soon as the choirs are back in September I am ready to start Christmas. How funny!!

You should think about joining the music ministry and see for yourself how rewarding it can be. You know I am hearing more people singing at Mass. How wonderful!!! Keep up the good work, the Holy Spirit is in the house. Our spirit is Slowing coming back!!! How great!!!

Remember, singing is praying twice.
Happy August everyone!!!!

THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY
MONDAY,
AUGUST 15TH, 2022

(This year, NOT a Holy Day of
Obligation)

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you.

In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SSPJ
SECOND
ANNUAL
OKTOBERFEST



LET THE FUN BEGIN! lass den Spaß beginnen

MUSIC - ENTERTAINMENT - GERMAN DINNER

OKTOBERFEST BEER TASTING ~ SODA

CARNIVAL GAMES FOR THE KIDS ~ PUMPKIN PICKIN'

Lass uns zusammenkommen ~ Let's gather together

SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 9TH ~ 4 - 8 PM.

SSPJ TOWNE SQUARE / AUDITORIUM

Cost \$35. Per Person - Children 12 & under \$10. / Under 5 free

You may purchase tickets at the Rectory Office or complete the form below and drop in the collection basket ~ mail to: 1 Carow Place ~ or dropped through the mail slot at the office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Number attending _____ (adults) _____ (children)

Payment enclosed _____ check total _____ cash total

Any questions please call Virginia 631-584-5454 x202 or email vportanova@sspj.org



**SSPJ
SECOND
ANNUAL
OKTOBERFEST**

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 9TH

4 – 8 PM. SSPJ TOWNE SQUARE (AUDITORIUM)

Sponsor Opportunities to help defray the cost!

Donations of German Beers, Beverages!

I / We would love to SPONSOR OKTOBERFEST 2022

lass den Spaß beginnen

<u>Genutlichkeit Sponsor</u>	<u>Prost Sponsor</u>	<u>Bierhallen Sponsor</u>	<u>Wurst Sponsor</u>
\$500.	\$250.	\$100.	\$50.

Name: _____ (for program and advertising)

Address: _____

Phone / e-mail _____

I / We would love to volunteer our help for this event!

Please contact me at: _____ e-mail

_____ phone

_____ NAME

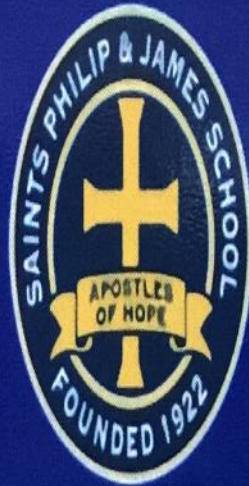
Forms / sponsorship may be dropped into the collection baskets at Mass, mailed to 1 Carow Pl, St. James
Or dropped off at the rectory office.

Celebrate SSPJ School

SAVE THE DATES

9/25/22

Mass & BBQ



11/25/22

Comedy Night

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education

5/3/23

Gala

<https://www.facebook.com/SSPJ-Alumni-Friends-101521398508292>



WHAT AN AWESOME BLESSING! COME,
CELEBRATE SSPJ SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS HISTORIC EVENT!



*SSPJ School Celebrates 100th Anniversary with
Centennial Mass & BBQ!*

*September 25, 2022
12 Noon Mass*

Bishop John Barres, Celebrant

*BBQ-SSPJ Recess Yard
1 pm - 4 pm*



Food, Games, DJ, Giveaways, 50/50 Raffle, Fellowship

Donation \$15 adult / \$10 child / \$50 family

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Family Name: _____

_____ Adult Tickets- \$15 each

_____ Child (4 yrs. - 12 yrs.) Tickets- \$10 each

Children under 4 FREE

_____ Family Rate \$50

Total # attending _____ Total \$ _____ cash or _____ check

Make checks payable to SSPJ School

Mail/drop off at SSPJ School, 359 Clinton Ave., St. James, NY 11780 OR Place in the collection basket at Church OR Place in the mail slot at the Parish Center. Thank you.

Today we are at 95% OF GOAL!! **THANK YOU!
OUR PLEDGES ARE ONLY \$5,370 AWAY FROM OUR GOAL!!!
OUR PAYMENTS ARE NOW \$18,415 AWAY FROM OUR GOAL!!
Every little sacrifice touches so many lives...**

MIGHT WE BE ABLE TO OFFER JUST A SMALL PIECE OF OUR TREASURE TO LIFT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?



"ONLY BY LOVING, SERVING OTHERS, CAN PEOPLE COME TO KNOW GOD."
 - Pope Francis

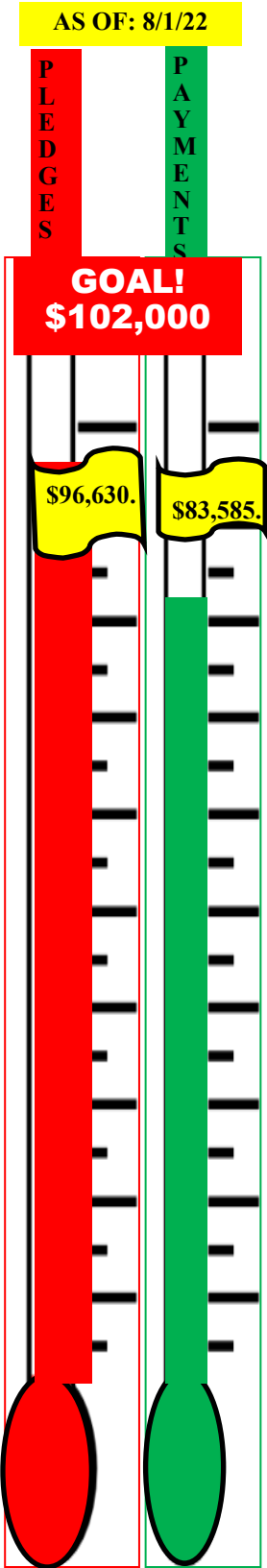


Your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps our Parish Outreach and Catholic Charities Programs serve people in our community by providing food, clothing, shelter, counseling, and care. And most importantly, it lets those we serve know that God loves them and is with them during the difficult times in their lives.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal! Every Gift Makes a Difference in the Lives of Others.

Parish: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 EMAIL: _____

Pledge	\$ _____
Down Payment	\$ _____
Balance	\$ _____





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION
FOR: 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

WILL CLOSE ON OCTOBER 1ST, 2022

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE WEBSITE: SSPJ.ORG

SELECT: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ALL FAMILIES MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE PARISH IN ORDER TO
REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

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

Due to the nature of our Google classroom curriculum, we are unable to extend
registration beyond October 1st, 2022.

*It's never too soon to prepare
for the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.*



DYNAMIC CHSEE PREP COURSE
taught by experienced teachers from
St. Anthony's High School

CALL DAC TEST PREP
for an application **631-663-3303**

FOR NEW
SAT COURSES
SEE OUR WEBSITE!

SPACE IS LIMITED!
CALL TODAY!

TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION

VISIT US AT: www.dactestprep.com

DAC TEST PREP, P.O. Box 134, Kings Park, NY 11754

*Everyone is Called to be an
Apostle of Hope*

*If you are interested or have
any questions please contact the following
Ministry Leaders:*

Usher Ministry~ srtheresita@sspj.org

Lector Ministry ~ rbyrne@sspj.org

Eucharistic Minister~ frjoe@sspj.org

Cantor ~ sspjmusicministry@gmail.com

Religious Education religioused@sspj.org

Children's Liturgy srtheresita@sspj.org

Youth Ministry ~ davento@sspj.org

Out-Reach to the Homebound ~ lsisti@sspj.org

Gardening Ministry ~ vportanova@sspj.org

Office volunteer~ vportanova@sspj.org

Parish Social Ministry



We Remember...

*Janice Holzmann
Gerard Michael Curran
Safely home in the arms of Jesus...*

Our Lady's Rosary Makers

Members of Our Lady's Rosary Makers at Sts. Philip & James Parish have been very busy. They create and send Rosaries to the missions throughout the year. Since their inception, more than 75,000 have been shipped all over the world and throughout the United States.

Their mission ensures that our Blessed Mother Mary continues to be revered around the globe. To continue this work they need additional members.

All are welcome to join in this special endeavor. If interested please call Parish Social Ministry and leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted.



Our Food Pantry Needs:

**Dinty Moore Stew
Hormel Chili with beans
Paper Towels**

**Thank you for your generosity
and support**

Opportunities for Apostles of Hope

~Telephone Ministry~ Checking in and spreading cheer through a simple call of love and compassion

~Occasional Transportation~ to Church, Stores, and Medical appointments

~Eucharistic Ministers~ Sharing Holy Communion with those who are homebound.

Please contact Parish Social Ministry at 584-5454.

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.childrencommunityhs.org
Domestic Violence Hotline (Vibes): 631-360-3607
Elder Abuse: 631-761-7470
Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547
Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542
Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758
Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030
In Home Care- Home Instead: 631-724-2273
LI Against Domestic Violence: 631-666-8833
LI Head Start: 631-732-7100
L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833
Memory Care in NY: www.memorycare.com
Mental Health Emergency: 631-952-3333
Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
Nassau/Suffolk Law: 631-232-2400
National Aging in place-L.I. Chapter: 631-383-4341
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-784-2433
Office for the Aging: 631-853-8200
Rachel's Hope (Post Abortion): 888-456-4673
Response Crisis Center: (Suicide Hotline): 631-751-7500
The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200

When we learn to
respect all life, we
learn to love all life.

Please consider praying with us for the unborn on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. We gather in front of the clinic between 8 AM and 12 Noon at 80 Maple Avenue, Smithtown.

Other opportunities are praying the rosary daily after the 7:30 AM Mass and Adoration on Mondays between 1:30 and 7:00 PM.

Instead of buying bottled water, buy reusable water bottles and fill them from home, work, or school. You can also carry empty water bottles, even metal ones, through airport security and fill them once you have passed security. This will help remove non-biodegradable plastic from the waste stream and help keep it out of our waterways.



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Ps 40:(14b)2-4,18
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Monday August 15 Assumption of Mary

Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab
Ps 45:10-12,16
1 Corinthians 15:20-27
Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday August 16

Ezekiel 28:1-10
Deut 32:26-30,35c-36b
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday August 17

Ezekiel 34:1-11
Ps 23:1-6
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday August 18

Ezekiel 36:23-28
Ps 51:12-15,18-19
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday August 19

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Ps 107:2-9
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday August 20 St. Bernard

Ezekiel 43:1-7ab
Ps 85:9a-14
Matthew 23:1-12

In the Gospel reading, Jesus says that he did not come to bring peace to earth. He came to light a fire. The fire that he longed for with great anguish was the presence of the Holy Spirit alive and active within each of his followers. This is what changes the world. This is what brings lasting peace, first within us and then flowing out from us.

The Holy Spirit is a fire that purifies us from impurities – the unloving behaviors and attitudes – that cause disharmony, disunity, conflicts and war. This purification makes us capable of feeling peaceful even in the midst of trials and attacks from others. This is what makes us channels of God's peace in a world that desperately needs it.

If you do not yet feel the fire of the Holy Spirit impassioning you to spread the peace of Christ, Jesus feels anguish over you.



To stop evil, we have to become like Jesus. Our willingness to make sacrifices for others is a sign of Christian maturity. We should be burning with so much love that we are not happy unless we're pouring our hearts and souls into works and prayers that to make a difference in someone else's ability to receive eternal peace.

Jesus noted that this fire divides households. It divides us from anyone who remains self-centered and unwilling to make sacrifices that will lead to peace. Nevertheless, we must continue to give them love. This heats up the fire within us, which purifies us further. And gradually, the world changes.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Who has "burnt" you? What pain has been inflicted on you by others? See this as happening to Jesus, too. Instead of retaliating to try to stop the pain, choose a sacrifice that you're willing to make for them.
2. Jesus appreciates the sacrifices you make for others. How does his appreciation make you feel?
3. How is it possible to experience peace after making a sacrifice for someone who is unloving toward you? Give an example of an everyday sacrifice you've made. How does the Holy Spirit bring God's kingdom to earth through this?

Think of the evil around you that you've been wishing would stop. What does Jesus want you to do about it? What impurities in your own spirit needs to be burn off by the fire of the Holy Spirit so you can overshadow the evil with divine goodness? Look at what Jesus had to do. What baptism was he talking about? Not the water baptism he'd already received. It was the baptism of painful self-sacrifice, which he willingly accepted in order to rescue us from evil.

WHO IS CLOSE TO GOD'S HEART? AUGUST 2, 2020

Who has God's sympathy? For whom especially should we be praying? For whom should we be asking God's blessing?

We are in the middle of the Olympic Games. What we see there are the healthiest bodies in the world, beautifully adorned with colorful spandex and youthful smiles. The Olympic Games are a celebration of health. Whatever else might surround or lie underneath these games (commercialism, ambition, illegal drugs, whatever) our first reaction to them may only be one of blessing: "Wow! Beautiful! This says something wonderful about life and about God."

Moreover, what we see there are not just the athletes. They are surrounded by spectacular billion dollar venues, a host country showcasing its finest, television networks sending out colorful coverage around the world, and everywhere the carefully calculated display of youth, health, beauty, and affluence, as if it were these alone that made the world go round.

Sadly, health, beauty, and affluence are not born equally, distributed equally, and shared equally. Flip a channel or two on your television and you see the polar opposite: news channels replete with images of suffering, poverty, injustice, hunger, devastation, millions fleeing violence, millions living in squalor, and millions living with little hope on our borders everywhere. And, that's just what we see openly on the news. What we don't see are the millions of sick, the millions of unemployed, the millions who are victims of violence and abuse, the millions with physical and mental challenges of every kind, and the millions with terminal diseases facing imminent death. What do these lives and these bodies say matched against the lives and bodies of our Olympic athletes? A good question.

How does one assess this seemingly bitter contrast between what we see in the Olympic Games and what we see on world news? Where does this leave us in terms of our prayer and sympathy? Does the suffering of the poor so spiritually dwarf the health of the rich that our hearts and prayers are meant to embrace only the poor? If so, would this not cast negative light on the wonderful gifts of health and wholeness?

We can learn something here from the offertory prayers at a Eucharist. At a Eucharist, the priest offers two elements to God to represent bread, wine, and us asking God to bless each equally. They represent two very different aspects of our world and of our lives. To quote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: "In a sense the true substance to be consecrated each day is the world's development during that day - the bread symbolizing appropriately what creation succeeds in producing, the wine (blood) what creation causes to be lost in exhaustion and suffering in the course of that effort."

In essence, the offertory prayer asks for a double blessing, God of all Creation, we hold up for you today all that is in this world, both of joy and of suffering. We offer you the bread of the world's achievements, even as we offer you the wine of its failure, the blood of all that's crushed as those achievements take place. We offer you the powerful of our world, our rich, our famous, our athletes, our artists, our movie stars, our entrepreneurs, our young, our healthy, and everything that's creative and bursting with life, even as we offer you those who are weak, feeble, aged, crushed, sick, dying, and victimized. We offer to you all the pagan beauties, pleasures, and joys of this life, even as we stand with you under the cross, affirming that the one who is excluded from earthly pleasure is the cornerstone of the community. We offer you the strong, along with the weak, asking you to bless both and then stretch our hearts so that they, like you, can hold and bless everything that is. We offer you both the wonders and the pains of this world, your world."

God has a preferential love for the poor, the suffering, the sick, and the weak, and so must we. Our faith assures us that the poor enter the Kingdom more easily than the rich and the strong. However, while that is true, this does not imply that somehow it is bad to be affluent, healthy and strong. These bring dangers, for sure. Being young, healthy, strong, physically attractive, and talented is often (though not always) a formula for a conceit that sees its own life as more special than the lives of others. Few people carry extraordinary gifts well.

Despite that, however, we must still affirm that God smiles, positively, with pride and with satisfaction, on vibrancy, on those places where life is flourishing, healthy, young, talented, and physically attractive. God smiles on our Olympic athletes. God's preferential love for the poor doesn't negate God's love for the strong. Like a good parent, God is proud of his over-talented children, even as there is a special affection for the child who is suffering.

At every Eucharist, we hold up both, our Olympic athletes and our refugees on our borders.