



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

631-584-5454

January 7th, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord



They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2: 10-12

“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, December 31st, 2023:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$9,158.

Mail Collections: \$565.

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

Total Collection: \$13,097.04

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON:USING

SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

Collection for 12/24 \$7,098

Christmas Collection~ \$68,518

We are blessed by your continued generosity and support!

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

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,

Happy Epiphany! The word means "showing forth", and today we hear in the gospel the showing forth of the infant Jesus to the three wise travelers from the East. On their journey in search of the newborn king, they encountered another king, a power-hungry and fearful Herod. Fr. John Foley, SJ, reflects:

You know the story. The Magi had found and worshipped the tiny Christ. Herod, still in the dark, sent out troops to slaughter all boy babies of two years old or less in Bethlehem and surroundings, just to eliminate this so-called "King" And, Jesus' parents had to cross the harsh desert into Egypt in order to save him....

Why do the readings talk so much about dark night on this Epiphany, which is the very feast of the dayspring? It is a complicated question, but here is one answer. **Because God's light only comes to us thoroughly mingled with the grubby reality of human life.** Why else did he come as an infant? The Christ did not arrive to erase our troubles but to join us in them, to be a quiet light in our darkness, not a blinding replacement for the dark.

So, we have to be like the Magi. We have to have our own puzzling, sleepless nights, and we have to search and search, and never ever rest until we see the light as God chose to reveal it.

As we begin a new year, praying to move from the darkness toward the light of hope, may we always feel and be grateful for the loving presence of Lord of Light in our midst, AND let's keep looking for ways to share the Light with others. Tomorrow, Monday, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season and returns us to "ordinary time". Let's live our "ordinary days" sharing the Light of Christ

Traditionally today's Epiphany feast has been a day for the blessing of home and family. Surely all of us could benefit from pronouncing over our homes today: "Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love". It's another way to make Epiphany not simply an abstract feast we celebrate but something we experience and fulfill with our lives.

Please be sure to set aside February 5th. The Dine Around is back! Tickets will be limited to 200 and will not be sold at the door. Ticket sales will commence shortly.

Also set aside Sunday, January 28th, and come to visit SSPJ School as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. I guarantee you'll be amazed by the extraordinary things happening in the school. Unlike other area schools ours offers two Regents programs to all eight grade students, has a strong faith-based program, participates in the Catholic Sports League, offers multiple after school clubs and introduces and develops a friendship with Jesus among the students. Please visit SSPJ School and spread the word!

And finally,

Cooking fact: If you stir coconut oil into your kale it's easier to scrape it into the trash.

Fun fact: There has never been found a cave drawing of a salad.

Love fact: He said, "Please bring me a screwdriver." She said, "Flat head, Phillips, or vodka?" That's when I knew she was the one for me!!!

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of January 7th, 2024

SNOW REMOVAL COLLECTION: NEXT WEEK JANUARY 14TH, 2024



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
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
Eleanor Bayley
Elizabeth Martin
Elizabeth Smith
Eileen
Emily Schiaratta
Emily Souders
Flo Donohue
Gail Lumley
George Fitzpatrick
Gloria Montesano
Ginny & John Rief
Gregory Parker
Helen
Harold Scott
Jack Donohue
Jakob King
Jamie Accardi
Jean Saladino
Jenny Bonanno
Jerry
Joelle Nicholas
Joni Deleo
John Capizzio
John Cronin
John DeStefano
John Maynes
John Mattia
Joseph
Joe Benaburger
Joseph Domizzio

Judy Rampola
Joe Dorrian
Joseph Costa
Joseph Domizzio
Kaitlyn Remhild
Kathleen Draper
Kathleen N.
Kerry
Karl Walz
Kitty Cronin
Kristin Galetta
Laura Kennedy
Lauretta Prague
Laura Bode
Leon Donach
Lola Santangelo
Lori Cearney
Marjorie Fox
Mary Monte
Marty Rizzo
Margaret Remhild
Mark Wagner
Mary Ryan
Marie Feicco
Maria Clark
Maria Collaro
Marie del Cielo
Maureen Litten
Mary Ann Cesarski
Mary Beth McGovern
Matthew Parrella
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Michael
Nick Lella
Patricia Acker
Patricia Trippree
Pasquale Savarese
Pat McCumber
Peter Donach
Peter Portanova
P.I.
Ricardo Buffit
Rob Remhild
Riordan Cavooris
Rogelio Martinez
Rose
Ryan Duffy
Sara Jean Andersen
Stanley Stura
Stephen Dolce
Susanne Smith
Tonia Perdue
Tara Cesarski
Teresa Mattered
Tina Cafaro
Tiffany Lochan
Thomas Liffieri
Tom Ryan
Tom Focone
Vivien & John
Cordes
Wayne Smith Sr.

Saturday January 6th Cantor: McCulloh	President: Father Tom Lector: Schor/Student EM: Calderone/Sisti/ Anderson/Byrne/Taurassi	9:15am 5:00pm	John J. Tierney Sister Carlita Vollmer, FSP
Sunday January 7th Cantor: . Meringolo	President: Father Tom Lector: Czujko/Cavooris EM: Clarke/Dervan/Diaz/ Koke/LaSerra	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: Lupinaci	President: Father Tom Lector: Contrino/Franco EM: Licari/Consenz/Parish/ Amen/Luna/Sotomayer	10:00am	Joseph Bitet
Cantor: Hill	Collective Mass President: Father Tom Lector: Geier/Rubano EM: Chilton/Rubano/ Settineri/ Stack	12:00pm	Virginia Kelly James Philip Posillico Robert & William Sommerville Linda Russo Mary & Neil Garguilo
Monday January 8th	The Baptism of the Lord Adoration 1:30-7pm	7:30am 9:15am	Thomas Ficht
Tuesday January 9th		7:30am 9:15am	Dorothy Rudnicki Dorothy Rudnicki
Wednesday January 10th		7:30am 9:15am	Living~Patti Havagim George McNamara
Thursday January 11th		7:30am 9:15am	Thomas J. Ficht Collective Mass: Living~Christopher Hurtado Living~Jental Marie Living~Michael Hurtado Living~Victoria Zeman
Friday January 12th		7:30am 9:15am	Margaret Regina Living~Virginia & Peter Portanova
Saturday January 13th Cantor: LoCastro	President: Father Tom Lector: Ryan/Student EM: Damato/Drechsler/ Duffy/Toto/D. Napolitano St. Hillary	9:15am 5:00pm	LeRoy Amato Wendy Beiner
Sunday January 14th Cantor: Stefanowski	President: Father Tom Lector: Dervan/Marino EM: Dunn/Ramos/Sica/M&P Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: Lohmann	President: Father Tom Lector: Tomasino/Piliero EM: Suski/Clarke/Luna/ Mulhall/Sotomayer/Keane	10:00am	Carol Walz
Cantor: Lupinacci	Collective Mass President: Father Tom Lector: Just/Latino EM: Samson/Latino/ Bleggi/Orlando	12:00pm	Sherry Alessandro Joan Tumbleson Otto Schindlar Angela Signorelli Thomas J. Ficht Carol Napolitano

Altar Memorial for the Week of January 7th, 2024

Dedicated to SSPJ Parish

By~ Carol J. Napolitano July 10, 1941~December 21st, 2023



*Our Bread & Wine
Is Offered for,*

The People of SSPJ Parish

*“Because someone we love is in Heaven, there’s a little bit of
Heaven in our homes”*

*With Love,
Carol*

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



January 1st, 2024

"That is how the Virgin Mary listens. She receives the message of the angel with complete openness, and consequently does not conceal her questioning and inner turmoil. Rather, she opens her heart to the God who chose her and she accepts his plan. Dialogue and obedience. Mary realizes that she has received a priceless gift and on her knees, that is, with humility and awe, she continues to listen. There is no better way to listen than "on our knees", since this means not thinking, in our pride, that we already know or have understood what others are about to tell us, but are instead open to the mystery of the other, ready to receive with humility what he or she wants to tell us."

Pope Francis

Hearts of Gratitude~ A Thank You from Parish Social Ministry

My dear friends, to say you are wonderful is an understatement and a simple thank you is hardly enough. We are called to be community, to love and celebrate God's love for us and to make that love known to others, that all may have life and have it to the fullest. You have done just that.

On behalf of the Parish Social Ministry and the entire SSPJ staff, we offer gratitude for your continued support of our Outreach programs. Your donations of food, gift cards, gifts, and your financial support have done so much for our underprivileged brothers and sisters.

On December 25th alone, you made 17 local children light up on Christmas morning when they received many of the gifts on their wish lists. In all we received more than 500 packages. Besides our local families, we were able to contribute to The Learning Center (Sisters of St. Joseph's Brentwood), Hope House, Pax Christi, Madonna Heights (servicing families with children of all ages), the Smithtown Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, and finally Sr. Theresita's community member, Sr. Michelle, who services the jails both in Riverhead and Yaphank.

God bless you all for living Eucharistic lives.

With Peace,

Lynn Sisti~ Parish Social Ministry Coordinator



**RCIA CANDIDATES AND CATECHUMENS
RITE OF WELCOMING & ACCEPTANCE
DECEMBER 16TH & 17TH, 2023**

For all of these, we give thanks and praise to God who has led them by various paths to oneness in faith.”

~excerpted from the Rite of Acceptance

Receive the cross on your forehead:

It is Christ who now strengthens you with this sign of his love

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears:

That you may hear the voice of the Lord.

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes:

That you may see the glory of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips:

That you may respond to the word of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your heart:

That Christ may dwell there by faith.

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders:

That you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands:

That Christ may be known in the work you do.

Receive the sign of the Cross on your feet:

That you may walk in the way of Christ.

The Rite of Acceptance is an ancient Rite that recognizes the Catechumens decision to begin the process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism. It welcomes the Candidates, those who have been baptized in another faith or baptized Catholic as a child, but never catechized in the Catholic faith, into the experience, education and faith of full communion with the Church.

On this special day, Christie Galina, Marianna Avellan, Nick Hoffman and Kristina Quadrino, beside their Sponsors, were officially welcomed by SSPJ Parish and The Church as disciples, fellow brothers and sisters of this community of faith.



Save the date!



Dine Around Dinner

SSPJ Auditorium

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Tickets \$25 each

No tickets available at the door

Adults Only--BYOB

Sample dishes from many local restaurants!



...and more to come!

**"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**



**CONFIRMATION I AND II GRADES 7 & 8
FAMILY MASS
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024
AT 5:00PM**

**COMMUNION II 8TH GRADE NICENE CREED MASS
MONDAY JANUARY 22ND AT 7**

Congratulations and
God bless Maggie on
being the 3rd
member of the SSPJ
2024 graduating class
to join the Lector
Ministry.



**FAMILY MASS
FOR
GRADES 3 AND 4:
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 21ST,
2024 AT 8AM**

**FOLLOWED BY
A RECEPTION
HOSTED BY THE
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBAS**

**GRADES 1 & 2
FAMILY MASS
ON SUNDAY,
JANUARY 21ST
AT 10:00AM**

**FOLLOWED BY
A RECEPTION
BY THE
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS**

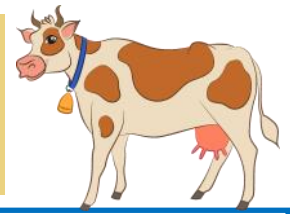


Congratulations and
God bless Sarah on
being the 4th
member of the SSPJ
2024 graduating class
to join the Lector
Ministry.

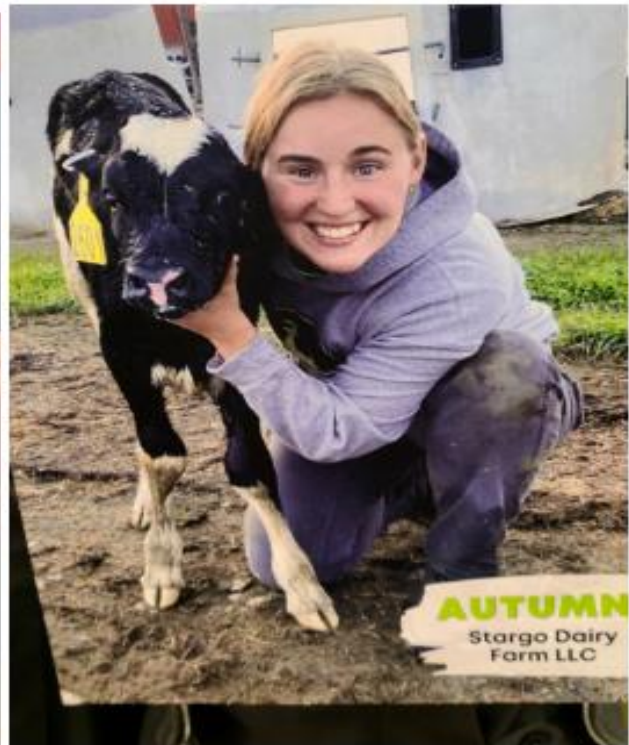
*A great big THANK YOU to Miss Rita
for preparing our students so well.*



THERE IS A NEW STUDENT AT SSPJ SCHOOL....
AUTUMN THE DAIRY COW!!!
WELCOME ABOARD AUTUMN!!



SSPJ Academy students are participating in the Adopt a Cow Program with Ms. Skoblicki where they have adopted Autumn, a dairy cow. They will participate in exciting science activities together as they virtually watch her grow.



NURSERY-8TH GRADE



ST. JAMES, NEW YORK



JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE!

SUNDAY • 1/28/24

11:00AM - 1:30PM

Join us for our Open House and experience our community! Meet our students, parents, and staff! Teachers will invite you into their classrooms and speak with you about academics, extracurricular activities, and faith formation, and will be present to answer any questions you may have.


ALL ARE WELCOME!

WHY STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL & ACADEMY?

- For over 100 years, SSPJ has offered academic excellence, which fosters individual growth and development according to time-tested, Catholic faith-based models of teaching and learning.
- SSPJ's primary commitment is to integrate the Gospel message with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of students, enabling them to become the leaders of tomorrow.
- SSPJ cultivates a robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church.
- SSPJ provides a safe and supportive community that recognizes the dignity of every person and promotes human flourishing in a familial atmosphere.



 sspjschool.net

 (631) 584-7896

 359 CLINTON AVENUE, ST. JAMES, NY 11780

 @SSPJAcademyandSchool

 @SSPJSchool



A Reflection from Sister Theresita

Dear Friends,

Ah, we have made it into January 2024. The preparation of Advent, Christmas parties, family visits, gift wrapping, and finally Christmas Day. We then add the feast of the Holy Family and New Years! We can now breathe a sigh of relief. (hopefully)

I was catching up on some of my Advent readings and found this quote of Pope Benidict the XVI, **“The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”** Wow, do you really believe that? So, if you do, that means being a true Christian, we are asked to follow Christ and the example He set for us. First by his humble birth and complete vulnerability. Next by His simple and common life followed by his three years in public ministry. We need to look at all of these life events and emulate those virtues of vulnerability, simple life, and prayerful compassion in dealing with others.

Everything that Jesus did include prayer and action where many a time the action was not comfortable. Yet the truth needs to be spoken and done. I think of the woman caught in adultery, Jesus prayed, spoke the truth, and saved her life. He was a friend to the common folks who sometimes failed, and He loved them into **GREATNESS**. So many stories, so many people who were touched by Jesus’ compassion.

In 2024 what worldly comforts do you need to let go of so that you can allow Jesus to make you GREAT? Spend time during this week reflecting on the virtues of Jesus. How can you change your ways of living by the norms of this world to those of living to those things that reflect Christ’s life?

Till next week and welcome to 2024,

Sister Theresita



Happy Feast of the Epiphany! May you experience an Epiphany of GREATNESS!



SSPJ RCIA MINISTRY WELCOMES ALL TO ATTEND RCIA SESSIONS

SUNDAYS 9AM-10AM IN THE SSPJ ROOM

7-Jan	Feast of Epiphany	Epiphany Process of Conversion
14-Jan	2nd Sunday	Divine Revelation
21-Jan	3rd Sunday	Morality/Ten commandments
28-Jan	4 th Sunday	Jesus



June 2023— July 2024

Our Year of the Eucharistic Revival

Accepting the Mission

The encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist becomes the font of hope for the world if we accept the mission to transform the world by showing God's love to all.

Pope Francis says that when we accept our encounter with Jesus in the eucharist as a two way street, we allow ourselves to be transformed into nothing less than “the image of the one we encounter” by the action of the Holy Spirit. So we need never fear—we can be confident that what we do can transform the world, one person, one life, at a time. As St. Teresa of Avila put it so well, Christ has no body now but ours on earth to do his work. Knowing that in the Eucharist we will always be fed, let us take up our call with hope and joy!

Ponder:

May I always seek to feel God's presence with me!

Pray:

God of mystery and wonder, fill me with courage and conviction so that I may share goodness and love!

(Taken from What Pope Francis Says About Eucharist)

Sister T

(Window from St.
John the Evangelist
Church, Center
Moriches)



Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Needs:

Jars Prego Sauce
Canned Chicken
Cereal

Thank you for your generosity



We remember the family and friends of,

*Richard Reich
Carol J. Napolitano
Ralph F. Marciante
Robert R. Boccafola
Cecilia Force*

Safely Home in the arms of our Lord

Everything is connected. Concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.



THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Invites all to join us each morning at 8 AM in the Prayer Room of the church to pray the Rosary for all life.



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
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
Overeaters Anonymous 631-260-6615 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

My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 1-3

For the Epiphany of the Lord ~ Sunday, January 7th, 2024

My Name Is: _____ My Grade IS: _____ SSPT SCHOOL _____

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and
bring it to mass with you next weekend**

Saturday, January 13th or Sunday, January 14th, 2024

The Gospel Message: Matthew 2:1-12



Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a big word that describes a sudden insight or understanding. What some might call a lightbulb moment or "ahamoment".

Today's gospel describes how the three magi visited the baby Jesus by following a brilliant star that God had placed in their midst. They traveled to Bethlehem and when they reached the stable in which the baby lay, They recognized that this baby, created by God, was Jesus.

What gift might you have brought to the baby Jesus?

Why?

Dear Jesus,

I love you and I am so grateful for all you have blessed me with.

Please remind me that the best gift I can give you is to love everyone around me.

Amen

Amen



My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 4-6

For the Epiphany of the Lord ~ Sunday, January 7th, 2024

My Name Is: _____ My Grade IS: _____ SSPJ SCHOOL _____

Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and bring it to mass with you next weekend



Saturday, January 13th or Sunday, January 14th, 2024

The Gospel Message: Matthew 2:1-12

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a big word that describes a sudden insight or understanding. What some might call a lightbulb moment or "aha moment".

Today's gospel describes how the three magi visited the baby Jesus by following a brilliant star that God had placed in their midst. They traveled to Bethlehem and when they reached the stable in which the baby lay, they recognized that this baby, created by God, was Jesus.

The Magi brought Jesus expensive gifts as gifts to welcome him. What gift could you bring the baby Jesus without spending any money?

How did you choose to bring that gift?

Have you received a gift that you will never forget?

Please share what that gift

is. _____

Dear Jesus,

I love you and I am so grateful for all you have blessed me with.

Please remind me that the best gift I can give you is to love everyone around me.

Amen

My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 7-8

For the Epiphany of the Lord ~ Sunday, January 7th, 2024

My Name Is: _____ My Grade IS: _____ SSPJ SCHOOL _____

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and
bring it to mass with you next weekend**

Saturday, January 13th or Sunday, January 14th, 2024

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Today's gospel describes how the three magi visited the baby Jesus by following a brilliant star that God had placed in their midst. They traveled to Bethlehem and when they reached the stable in which the baby lay, they recognized that this baby, created by God, was Jesus.

Why do you think the Magi relied upon the direction of a star to travel in hopes of finding this newborn baby?

What is the best gift you have ever given that did not cost money to purchase?

What made you select this gift?

Dear Jesus,

I love you and I am so grateful for all you have blessed me with.

Please remind me that the best gift I can give you is to love everyone around me.

Amen

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, January 14

1 Sm 3:3b-10,19
Ps 40:2,4,7-10
1 Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20
Jn 1:35-42

Monday, January 15

1 Sm 15:16-23
Ps 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 16

1 Sm 16:1-13
Ps 89:20-22,27-28
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 17

St. Anthony, Abbot
1 Sm 17:32-33,37,40-51
Ps 144:1b,2,9-10
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, January 18

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7
Ps 56:2-3,9-13
Mk 3:7-12

Friday, January 19

1 Sm 24:3-21
Ps 57:2-4,6,11
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, January 20

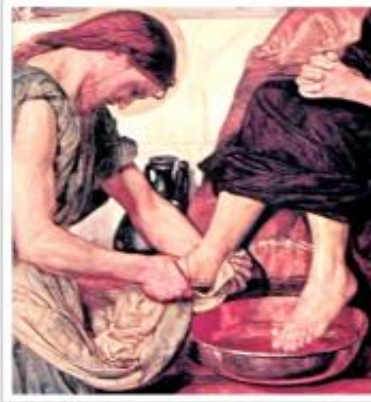
2 Sm 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27
Ps 80:2-3,5-7
Mk 3:20-21

response to God's invitation. We proclaim it in the Responsorial: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Peter was privileged to witness first-hand the wondrous miracles of Jesus. He personally experienced God's love through the gentle eyes of Jesus, the tone of kindness in his voice, and the forgiveness that was visible in his smile.

Yet with all of this, Peter did not really find all that he was

Like Jesus did to Simon Peter, he says to each of us: "What are you looking for?" When you pray, and when you look at a crucifix, or when you see a picture of Jesus, what exactly are you looking for?



Jesus says: "Come and see!" Come and see what? His love? His healing power? His supernatural ability to answer our prayers? Whatever we're looking for, the reason we're seeking it is because we don't yet have it.

Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise by God the Father. Jesus is the fullness of love, the provider of mercy, the divine healer, the perfect mediator of all our prayers and concerns, and everything else we truly need. So, why does it feel like something is still missing? Why do our lives feel incomplete? Why do our prayers seem unanswered?

The answer is revealed in what happened after Peter began to follow Jesus. We read about it in Samuel's

looking for (remember how easily he felt afraid or confused or uncertain) until he was on the giving end of it. He didn't discover the fullness of Jesus until Jesus was no longer present in the flesh and Peter accepted the call to continue Christ's earthly

ministry.

The same is true for us who have never seen Jesus' actual eyes or heard his actual voice. We find what we're seeking when we give it to others. Why? Because then we discover that we really had it all along! This is the miracle of "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What do you need from Jesus that he doesn't seem to be providing yet? At the core, what is it you're really seeking?
- † How can you find it by doing the will of God? Figure out something to do, then do it and see what happens.
- † Describe a time when you gave away what you thought you did not have (money? time? patience? hope? love?) How were you doing the will of God?
- † What happened to your own needs afterward?

MY TOP TEN BOOKS FOR 2023

There are thousands of new books published each year and they join the millions that are already in print. And so, a book has to find you as much as you have to find it. Also, it is said that the book you need to read finds you at just that time when you most need to read it. With this as a background, let me list the top ten books that found me in 2023 at an apropos time.

In the area of spirituality ...

- **Tomas Halik's**, *Touch the Wounds – On Suffering, Trust, & Transformation*, takes the biblical image of Jesus inviting the apostle Thomas to touch his wounds so as to overcome his weak faith and universalizes it as an invitation for each of us. Are you having faith doubts? Reach out and touch those places where Christ is still wounded in our world.
- **Karl Rahner**, *Servants of the Lord*. This book is more than fifty years old but is worth reading and rereading. It's in one of the essays in this book that Rahner offers us his famous maxim: *In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we learn that ultimately in this life there is no finished symphony*.
- **Bill Cain**, *The Book of Cain*. This is a very personal book written by a man, a Jesuit, who keeps a journal while he is keeping vigil with his mother as she is dying of a terminal disease. The book is full of poignant reflections on life, love, imperfection, and letting go.
- **Ben McBride**, *Troubling the Water – The Urgent Work of Radical Belonging*. This is the book on social justice that I most recommend this year. McBride works among the poor in Oakland, California, and beyond some of his practical recommendations as to how each of us might become more involved in justice work, the great strength of this book is what he invites us to in terms of heart and attitude while working for justice. He puts some practical skin on what this means in terms of working with a community as opposed to being a lone ranger, and on how to sustain yourself for the long haul and remain empathic in the face of opposition and hatred.
- **Connie Zweig's**, *The Inner Work of Age – Shifting from Role to Soul*, is an excellent book on aging. Her subtitle says it well; the task in aging is to shift from role to soul. The book makes some valuable suggestions on how this is done.
- **Kim Colella**, *Spirit Embraced, AS A Guiding Memoir for a Life Authentic*. This is a very personal book, a memoir, which traces out her own journey in life. How does someone mature? We each have our own path, but Colella shares the path she took and there is much we can learn from reading her story. I'm also proud to say that she is a former student of mine.

In the more academic realm ...

- **Brian Swimme**, *Cosmogogenesis, An Unveiling of the Expanding Universe*. Leaning on great theological thinkers (such as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Berry) Swimme (who is a scientist) proposes a vision that incorporates how our universe began, how it is bent in terms of its ongoing evolution, and how all of this is meant to all end up in a powerful vision of hope. Contemporary astrophysics and the Bible can befriend each other. Brian Swimme will give you that link.
- **Philip Sheldrake**, *Julian of Norwich: In God's Sight – Her Theology in Context*. The book is somewhat heavy academically, but it is a first-rate textbook on Julian of Norwich.
- **Lisabeth During**, *The Chastity Plot*. This is a brilliant (and basically very fair) history of the concept of chastity within Western culture. From its ascetic roots in Christianity, through its social roots in the centuries of arranged marriages in which women were often the victims of patriarchy, through its romantic roots in Victorian England, this book highlights the various nuances and modalities of chastity – and leaves us with the question, *Can anyone today say the word purity without a cringe?*

Novels ...

- 2023 was not a good year for me in terms of reading novels. Although I read a number of novels, all of which had received good reviews, only one of them stood out for me, **Barbara Kingsolver's**, *Unsheltered*.

Special mention ...

The renowned scripture scholar Raymond E. Brown wrote monumental works on both the birth and the death of Jesus. The editors at *Worship*, recognizing that these great commentaries would be inaccessible to most everyone outside of an academic classroom, invited him to condense these into a series of short, popular booklets. Brown did this brilliantly and has left us five short popular books (all by *Liturgical Press*) that contain his deep insights.

- *Coming Christ in Advent*
- *An Adult Christ at Christmas*
- *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week, Essays on the Four Passion Narratives*,
- *A Risen Christ at Eastertime*
- *A Once and Coming Spirit at Pentecost*

They are a treasure, worth rereading every year during their proper season.