



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

August 8th, 2021
The Nineteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time



“Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him
comes to me.”

John 6:45

“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 COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

TRUSTEES

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890

Weekly Collection: Sunday August 1st, 2021 : \$14,728

Faith Direct : (126Participants) 3,253.

Total Collections: \$ 17,981.

**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
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.
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
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
STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY
MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN.

As you probably know, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has declared Bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

In order to be as helpful as possible to the parties that may be affected by this bankruptcy, we will be publishing the following note regarding “proof of claim forms” for the next few months:

Information regarding the deadlines for filing proofs of claim in the Diocese’s chapter 11 case and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese’s bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

While Father Tom is away...

A Reflection from Sister T

Dear Friends,

I am writing this reflection on the eve of August 1, 2021. It is the 78th anniversary of the martyrdom of Blessed Stella and her 10 Companions. On that morning in 1943, Sr. M. Stella (Adela) Mardosewicz, CSFN, and her 10 companion CSFN sisters, were executed by the Nazi regime and buried in a common grave outside Nowogródek, then in Nazi-occupied Poland, now part of Belarus. Many thoughts went through my mind during the day as I thought of the sacrifice each one of them made for the families of Nowogródek.

I then read a letter from our Provincial superior which let us know that on Wednesday, August 4, the Sisters in Des Plaines would be welcoming our four postulants to their new home for the next two years. On August 8, they will enter the canonical year of their Novitiate. It made me think of the sacrifices they were making. Of course, not quite the same, but there I am sure there were challenges that each had to face to reach this point of their life.

Why share this with you in a reflection? I thought it was important, especially during our challenging times. I re-read a piece by Macrina Wiederkehr I had been saving to send to them. Part of it says **“Life unfolds a petal at a time, slowly. The beauty of the process is crippled when I try to hurry growth. Life has its inner rhythm which must be respected. It cannot be rushed or hurried... life unfolds slowly a petal at a time, like a flower opening to the Sun, slowly. A disciple is not made in a hurry. Slowly I become like the One to whom I am listening.”** There is more, but I especially love the line that says ‘a disciple is not made in a hurry.’

These women who are entering our community and the blessed Martyrs of Nowogródek had one thing in common: they were and are working on being followers of Jesus. Each one made decisions that changed their lives. What about us? We are coming out of some difficult times during the pandemic and experiencing our reentry into ‘back to normal’. Have we grown during that time, and are we willing to look at what lies ahead with new eyes? Has our life opened one petal at a time, allowing God’s grace to enter in and recreate us?

I am not sure, for I have experienced many people whose choices seem to be rash, angry, and wanting what they want, when, and how they want it. We live in a world where we need one another, and I think we may have forgotten how to be kind. What about the other person? Am I willing to give so someone else may have? The women I spoke of above were and are willing to do so. I also truly believe there are families and individuals who at this time are being patient with the petals of life unfolding.

During the week take some time to look at the petals of your life and their unfolding. Celebrate the growth which has been filled with beauty and delight as well as tears and heartaches and graces. Have a blessed week. May our Martyred Sisters give you the strength to become the best disciple you can be!

Till next week,
Sister Theresita

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of August 8th, 2021

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Monday's in the church: 1:30-7:00pm

Dear Lord, You sent Your Son as the living bread that came down out of heaven. You promised that if anyone eats of this bread, they will live forever. The bread which You gave for the life of the world was Your flesh. Father, I am eternally grateful for the sacrifice that You made. You gave Yourself for the world, and You would do it all over again even if it was only to save me! I love You, Lord, Amen.

Remember in our hearts and prayers

Angie Mingione	Joseph H
Angela Amoroso	Joseph S.
Anna Ormsby	Luis Anthony
Avery Akhogba	Antonette Sabatino
Arthur Gureck	James Macchiano
Baby Ben	John Harney
Barbara Bombace	Judy Rampola
Barbara Ruland	Joseph Mazelis
Mattia Rose Lubrano	Joseph Costa
Belinda Groneman	Kenneth Cook
Brendan O'Connor	Kathleen N.
Belinda Vega	Kitty Cronin
Brianna Florio	Kim Olofson
Bob Keenan	Leon Donach
Carol	Lynn McDonnell
Carolyn Nehl	Mark Geld
Charles Figliosi	Mark Hildreth
Claudia Chandler	Mary Monte
Deacon Ron Blasius	Mary Fresi
Deirdre W.	Maryann Kevlin
Dermit O'Connor	Maria Clark
Dolores North	Marie del Cielo
Donna Patrissi	Marilyn Suli
Dorothy Mitchell	Matthew Parrrella
Dylan Beach	Marie & Frank Fiecco
Ella	Michael Fisher
Ellie Walsh	Mike Lofaro
Esther Styles	Monsignor Iocavacci
Grace Bertolone	Pasquale Savarese
Ginny & John Rief	Paul Bertrand
Gladys Blake	Peter Donach
Gregory Parker	P.I.
Helen	Ricardo Buffit
Heidi Ray	Riordan Cavoaris
Joanna	Sara Jean Andersen
Jackie Harvey	Stephen Dolce
Jack Donohue	Tara Cesarski
John Cronin	Vivien Cordes
John DeStefano	Vicki Archdeacon
John Harney	Veronica Broderick
John Soscia	Wayne Hendricks
John Scomillio	

Saturday	August 7th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: Tobin/Dreschler EM: Mantia/Martin/Rapp	9:15am 5:00pm	Bob Keenan Patricia McNulty
Sunday	August 8th 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: Luna/Sehne EM: Portanova/Ramos/Sica	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: Koke/Rubano EM: Anderson/Lombardi/Sisti	10:00am	Teresa Orlik
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: Kenton/M. Hoonhout EM: Klee/Napolitano	12:00pm	Richard & Lois Chopik Marie Csorny Bob (Red) Keenan Charles A. Jones, Jr. Steven Gnyp
Monday St. Teresa Benedicta	August 9th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Paul Czujko Gerard & Madelyn McNulty
Tuesday St. Lawrence	August 10th 2021	7:30am 9:15am	John De Graw Joseph Lecco
Wednesday St. Clare	August 11th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Robert Keenan Eileen D'Albenzio
Thursday St. Jane Frances deChantal	August 12th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<u>Collective Mass:</u>
Friday Sts Pontian, Pope/Hippolytus	August 13th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Edward H.L. Smith Bob (Red) Keenan
Saturday St. Maximilian Kolbe	August 14th, 2021 Presider: Father Kevin Lectors: Schor/Donagan EM: Consenz/Anderson/Dreschler	9:15am 5:00pm	Arthur Byrns Patricia Leo
Sunday	August 15th, 2021 Presider: Father Kevin Lectors: Kanuika/Cavoaris EM: Kanuika/Kenney/Koke	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lectors: Lombardi/Cashman EM: Latino/Mulhall/Sotomayer	10:00am	Pauline Boccio
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: Geier/O'Leary EM: Luna/Parish	12:00pm	Vera Morillo Esther A. Citrola Bob (Red) Keenan

Our Father, We Offer You Our Gifts

“Lord, receive our gifts in this wonderful exchange: from all you have given us we bring you these gifts, and in return, you give us yourself.”

Beginning August 14th, the eve of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will be reinstating the Offertory Procession. This beautiful blessing coincides with the following directive from the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

“The general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation in the Diocese of Rockville Centre will end on the eve of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: August 14, 2021. This means that the faithful are required to attend Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation Masses beginning on August 14, 2021.”

We hold in our prayers and hearts those who are ill, homebound, or in a hospital or nursing facility who are exempt from this obligation.

We, at Sts. Philip & James, have missed both old and new faces, and we continue to hold in our hearts those whose lives have been altered by the Pandemic, those who are suffering the effects of COVID 19 and those whose hands are caring for patients struggling with this virus. We have followed all protocols, guidelines and recommendations from our Diocese and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) throughout this pandemic and we will continue to do so.

At this time, if you personally feel more comfortable wearing a mask in church, please do so.

Welcome to the parish of Sts. Philip & James Parish, Welcome Home...

**“God of mercy, look with favor upon our offering, and in this eucharist open to us the source from which all blessings flow.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord...”**



The queen
stands at your
right hand,
arrayed in gold.

—PS 45:10bc



GABRIEL SUBMISSION:

**The Gabriel is seeking Writers
for the Fall publication, the
theme for which is...**

**“Being Apostles of Hope in
our daily lives”**

**If you are interested or have
any questions, kindly contact:**

Elena Mingione-Editor
emingione55@yahoo.com

Next Sunday, August 15th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As a solemnity, it holds a higher rank and so replaces the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Mary's Assumption holds special meaning and promise for all of us. A simple but very special human, Mary enjoys eternity in Heaven. We too are promised eternal life if we follow Mary's path of saying yes to God's will and being a Christ-bearer to others.

Pope Francis tells us that “The wondrous reality of the Assumption of Mary reveals and confirms the unity of the human person and reminds us that we are called to serve and glorify God with our whole being, soul and body” (Angelus message, August 15, 2018).

Just as Mary's body and soul are united in Heaven, our bodies will be reunited with our souls in Heaven at the Final Judgment.

SSPJ FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Main parking lot across from church



TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 8:00 PM

(rain date Wed. AUG. 11)

MOVIE: YES DAY rated PG

Always feeling like they have to say "no" to their kids, Allison and Carlos decide to give their three kids a "Yes Day", during which the kids have 24 hours to make the rules.

Create and Bring Your Own Car CONTEST

starting at 7:00PM

Be as creative as you like!
You can sit in your car to watch the movie!
Prizes will be awarded at **7:45 PM**

POPCORN will be provided!

Feel free to bring your own non-alcoholic drinks/coolers!

Don't forget to bring your outdoor chair and/or blanket!

****ALL CHILDREN 18 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT****

News from the Religious Education Department

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOOKS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES
IN THE BETHANY CENTER:

**Growing
Together
in Faith**

Tuesday, Aug. 24: 5 pm - 8 pm
Wednesday, Aug. 25: 1 pm - 5 pm
Thursday, Aug. 26: 9am - 12 noon



ALL FAMILIES MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO RECEIVING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MATERIALS

Any questions, please contact the Religious Ed Office at 631-584-5454

Religious Ed Registration

1. FIND THE RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR AT:

SSPJ.ORG UNDER THE RELIGIOUS ED TAB

2. PLEASE NOTE: PERMISSION TO PUBLISH PHOTOS IN OUR BULLETIN, ON OUR WEBSITE, PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE AND GABRIEL.

3. GRADES 1 & 2 WILL BE INVITED BACK TO PARISH CAMPUS FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES. THE DAYS AND TIMES ARE BEING FINALIZED. ALL CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED.

4. GRADES 3-8 WILL CONTINUE THEIR LESSONS USING GOOGLE CLASSROOM

5. GRADE LEVEL MASSES TO FOSTER COMMUNITY WILL BE SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

6. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, KINDLY CONTACT THE RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE AT 631-584-3204.

ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR WILL END ON:

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2021

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE AT 631-584-3204 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

HOPE
starts here

Loving God,

We give you thanks for the many blessings you have given us through our families: through our parents, our primary educators in the faith; through our siblings, who walk with us on our earthly journey; and through all who guard and guide us in your light and in your truth.

We pray that you will continue to inspire our families, so that our devotion to you and our care for one another may be a visible sign of your unconditional love.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.



Enrolling Now!

SSPJ Nursery School Program

A strong FAITH-filled foundation is a Gift that will last FOREVER!

2021 -2022



A safe, fun loving program, *(taught by certified teachers)* where children will engage in age-appropriate activities designed to help them learn and grow socially, academically and spiritually.

Half Day Program 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

2 Days - Tuesday/Thursday

3 Days - Monday/Wednesday/Friday

5 Days - Monday - Friday

Full Day Program 8:30 am - 2:50 pm

2 Days - Tuesday/Thursday

3 Days - Monday/Wednesday/Friday

5 Days - Monday - Friday

Before Care available Monday - Friday from 7:30 am - 8:30 am

After Care available Monday - Friday from 2:50 pm - 5:30 pm

Children must turn 3 on or before **Dec. 1st 2021** and be totally potty trained to participate in the Nursery Program

For more information or to schedule a tour Email Ms. Anderson

danderson@sspjschool.net



SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES COUNCIL #12839

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

SMITHTOWN LANDING COUNTRY CLUB

495 LANDING AVENUE
SMITHTOWN, NY 11780



This Year's Honoree
Deacon Kenneth J. Maher



Registration: 12:30pm
(Hotdogs/Beverages at check in)
Shotgun Tee Off: 2:00pm
Open Bar, Full Dinner, Carving Station, Dessert



Proceeds to benefit Sts. Philip & James Knights of Columbus Charity Outreach Efforts.



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
Number of Players: ___ #190.00 per person
(includes Cart, Cocktail Hour, Dinner)
Dinner only: ___ \$90 per person
Number attending: ___ Total: \$ _____

- SPONSORSHIPS**
- ___ Dinner Sponsorship @ \$1,000 (2 Available)
 - ___ Driving Range Sponsor @ \$500 (2 Available)
 - ___ Tee Signs Sponsorship @ \$100 each
 - ___ Cart Sponsorship (1) \$300
 - ___ Putting Green Sponsorship (4) @ \$250 each
 - ___ Pin Flag Sponsorship (18) @ \$125
- Sponsor Information

Please Make Checks Out To:
Sts. Philip & James K of C Council #12839
PO Box 201 St. James, NY 11780
Credit Card/PayPal: www.kofcsspj.org
Click on "News and Announcements" or scan above



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT : TOM SICA-(631)521-4771
SIKACHU45@HOTMAIL.COM



WE ARE ON OUR WAY!!!
2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal
The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300.
Status as of August 4th
Pledges: \$90,250. Payments Received: \$76,612.
We are at 86% of GOAL!! Thank you!

GOAL
\$105,300



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



**Pledges at
 8/4/21
 \$90,250.**

**Payments at
 8/4/21
 \$76,612.**

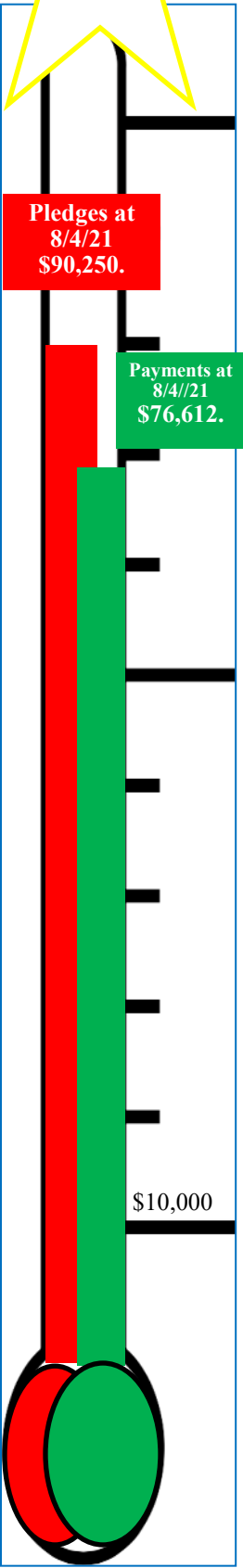
Your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps our Parish Outreach and Catholic Charities Programs serve people in our community by providing food, clothing, shelter, counseling and care. And most importantly, it lets those we serve know that God loves them and is with them during the difficult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

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE 2021 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	\$ _____

THANK YOU!



Parish Social Ministry



We are establishing an ongoing Laudato Si Corner for our Bulletin. Please take a look each week for suggestions, inspiration and activities happening for our care of God's Creation!

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and the sisters and brothers who share it. Stay tuned for our parish activities during this time!



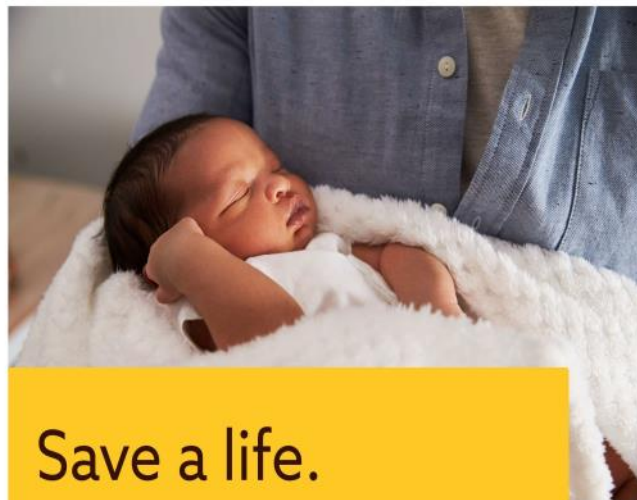
Remembering in Our Prayers

Elaine C. Borelli

Safely home in the arms of Jesus

BACK TO SCHOOL

There are local children in our community in need of teacher mandated school items. If you would like to help, please take a card from the baskets in the back of the church. You may return unwrapped supplies with the color-coded card attached. The color of the card determines the grade level. Donations can be brought to the rectory office during the week or be placed in the boxes marked "Back to School" as you enter Church for weekend Masses. As always, thank you for your help.



Save a life.
Contact Congress.

WHAT

Congress is trying to force Americans to pay for abortion.

HOW

The Hyde Amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from funding elective abortion for 45 years. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away these laws that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century.

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT THESE PROTECTIONS?

Billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion.

TAKE ACTION

Sign the petition to Congress at NoTaxpayerAbortion.com!

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Need to talk?

855
818
HOPE(4673)
projecthope@nhcc.us
www.nhcc.us



NY Project Hope
Coping with COVID

Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

NY Project Hope Crisis Counselors understand what you are going through. Talking with a crisis counselor is always free, confidential, and anonymous, allowing you to talk freely about the issues that are affecting you. We will help you navigate these unusual times and take some of the burden off of your shoulders.

Project Hope Crisis Counselors will help you with anything from economic hardships to behavioral health issues. We understand there are a whole range of emotions you might be feeling and we will work through it. A Crisis Counselor will give you self-help tips and come up with a plan for you to be your own advocate. We have a multitude of resources available to you and would love to be the shoulder you lean on. After all, New Yorkers are in this together.

NY Project Hope is a program of the NYS Office of Mental Health
Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
Administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Free, anonymous & confidential

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health
Funded by FEMA

Food Pantry Needs

Paper Towels
Small Packages of Napkins
Tide Detergent



Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

A PRAYER FOR VOCATION

*Your gifts—whatever you discover them to be—
can be used to bless or curse the world.*

*The mind's power,
the strength of the hands,
the reaches of the heart,
the gift of speaking, listening, imagining, seeing, waiting*

*Any of these can serve to feed the hungry,
bind up wounds,
welcome the stranger,
praise what is sacred,
do the work of justice
or offer love.*

*Any of these can draw down the prison door,
hoard bread,
abandon the poor,
obscure what is holy,
comply with injustice
or withhold love.*

*You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?*

Choose to bless the world.

*The choice to bless the world is more than an act of will,
a moving forward into the world
with the intention to do good.*

*It is an act of recognition,
a confession of surprise,
a grateful acknowledgment
that in the midst of a broken world
unspeakable beauty, grace and mystery abide.*

*There is an embrace of kindness
that encompasses all life, even yours.*

*And while there is injustice, anesthetization, or evil
there moves a holy disturbance,
a benevolent rage,
a revolutionary love,
protesting, urging, insisting
that which is sacred will not be defiled.*

*Those who bless the world live their life
as a gesture of thanks
for this beauty
and this rage.*

*The choice to bless the world can take you into solitude
to search for the sources
of power and grace;
native wisdom, healing, and liberation.*

*More, the choice will draw you into community,
the endeavor shared,
the heritage passed on,
the companionship of struggle,
the importance of keeping faith,
the life of ritual and praise,
the comfort of human friendship,
the company of earth
the chorus of life welcoming you.*

*None of us alone can save the world.
Together—that is another possibility, waiting.*

Amen.

**—Rebecca Parker, from *Blessing the World: What
Can Save Us Now, via the [Unitarian Universalist
Association](#)***



Music Ministry

The Bread of life...

“Eat the food that God provides and you will have strength for the journey”

Our Communion song, “Gift of Finest Wheat” states... come give to us O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat. Look up the song and read the words. It beautifully reflects our bread of life theme.

Are you thinking about joining the Adult or Teen choirs? The Children’s choir is on hold until further notice, and don’t forget Baptism Ministry. The need is great.

Please consider joining. Sing your praise to God.

Good News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Monday August 16
Judges 2:11-19
Ps 106:34-37,39-40,43ab,44
Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday August 17
Judges 6:11-24a
Ps 85:9,11-14
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday August 18
Judges 9:6-15
Ps 21:2-7
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday August 19
Judges 11:29-39a
Ps 40:5,7-10
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday August 20
St. Bernard
Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22
Ps 146:5-10
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday August 22
St. Pius X
Ruth 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17
Ps 128:1b-5
Matthew 23:1-12

The scriptures for this solemnity can help us understand Mary's holiness and how it affected her physically. They answer the question: How could she pass directly from earth to heaven without experiencing the corruption of death in her body?

Mary was the only human after Adam and Eve who was conceived without inheriting their Original Sin. God the Father arranged this so that Jesus the Son – who was completely holy and fully God – could reside within her human body during pregnancy and then live in a very holy family.

This gave Mary an advantage of grace that you and I do not have. Adam and Eve had it, but when faced with temptation, they chose to sin. As a new Eve, Mary faced temptation but chose to remain close to God.



saying no to temptation. Since we fail at this, Jesus died on our behalf so that we can get to heaven anyway, as long as we don't completely turn away from God's grace. He gave us the Sacrament of Baptism to free us from the inher-

itance of Adam and Eve's Original Sin. But we don't have to be satisfied with the minimum. God wants to give us much more grace!

We have the Holy Spirit so that we can resist temptation and be holy.

God gave Mary a ministry that did not end when she was transferred from earth to heaven. Her calling was – and still is – an eternal vocation of sharing the gift of grace that she received from God. Thus, she is able to care for us like a real mother and help us to grow in our love for Jesus and in our desire to resist temptations.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How similar to Mary are you?
2. What do you need from Mary so you can become more like her?
3. Share the story of a time when you prayed the Rosary or consecrated yourself to Mary and a miracle happened.

Thus remaining full of God's grace, she was able to live in complete holiness and never experience the corruption of sin and death. When she reached the end of her time on earth, God's divine life raised her from the earth and immediately resurrected her earthly body into her glorified body.

To live in God's grace, we have to cooperate with it by

WHO IS CLOSE TO GOD'S HEART?

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.