



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

January 17th, 2021
Second Sunday In Ordinary Time



“Behold, the Lamb of God”

John 1:35

“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

(With Sympathy) Deacon Ken Maher

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

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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



**FAITH DIRECT:
GO TO SSPJ.ORG
CLICK ON THE FAITH DIRECT ICON**

Parish of Saints Philip and James
account code NY232 when signing up

Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration In The Church— 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 KAIRES

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY

CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN

LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY

JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC

CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY

LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-

STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC

CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL

STEVEN CAVA-USN

ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ

CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN

CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC

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

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

\$17,890.

Weekly Collection: Sunday January 10th, 2020

\$ 10,186

Faith Direct : (121 Participants)

3,044.

Total Collections:

\$13,230.

Thank you for your generosity

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Today's readings tell of young Samuel, hearing God's voice but not initially recognizing who spoke his name. In the gospel, John has pointed out Jesus, the Lamb of God, to two disciples who in turn asked Jesus "where do you live?". His invitation to "come and see" initiated an amazing journey.

Have you ever heard your name called while you were sleeping? Perhaps you were dreaming – or just waking up. Have you ever heard the voice of God speak your name? Or have you ever called out to God, asking a question? Seeking a path? Don't think it could happen to you?

Fr. John Foley, SJ, reflects:

God can call any of us by a name that reaches all the way down into our souls, to a place that we do not even know about! Our job is to begin hearing and to grow. Must it always be God or Jesus who calls our name in order for us to become ourselves? Couldn't a psychologist do it, or a spouse, or a dear friend who believes in us? Yes, of course, each of these know us and beckon us to be ourselves.

But only God can know our very deepest desires, and only God can satisfy the one that is the most precious in each of us: the reaching out for that person we want most and for whose sake we love others. Jesus God.

Do you sense in your insides a kind voice whispering such an invitation, calling you by your real name, calling you to be an ally of the Christ of God?

Listen! Notice! Respond! Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will!

I encourage each of us to read and spend some time in prayer with Fr. Ron Rolheiser's column found in today's bulletin. In light of all that is happening in our country and our world, I find his thoughts to be exceptionally poignant. Ponder: ***Given what is happening, what is love asking of me now?***

This week we remember the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., a powerful advocate for racial justice and non-violence. Unfortunately, racism and violence are still powerful forces of evil in our world. We each have the responsibility to pray for and to work for an end to racism and violence. We ask our loving Savior, brother to all and guide to non-violence, to open minds and hearts - including our own - to live as He taught and teaches us.

This is a prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

***Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism finds no home within me.
Keep watch over my heart Lord, and remove from me any barriers to your grace,
that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters.
Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give services of justice and peace.
Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory.
And finally, remind us Lord that you said,
"blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Amen.***

Peace,

Father Tom

Mass Intentions, For the week of January 17th, 2021

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday, January 18th, 2021

From 1:30-7:00pm

In the Church

Join us for Adoration and Holy Hour for the Nation.

Monday's adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will end with a Holy Hour for the nation. We pray for peace and respect and for the sanctity of every human life. Let us pray that God make us all instruments of His love and peace.



Remembering in Our Prayers~

<p>Angie Mingione Angela Amoroso Anna Ormsby Antoinette Fisher Arthur Gureck Baby Ben Barbara Bombace Barbara Ruland Mattia Rose Lubrano Belinda Groneman Belinda Vega Brianna Florio Bob Keenan Carol Claudia Chandler Daniel Radice Deirdre W. Dolores North Donna Patrissi Dorothy Mitchell Dylan Beach Ella Ellie Walsh Gary McLean Georgia Priebe Ginny & John Rief Gladys Blake Gregory Parker Helen Ida Wehman Joanna Jack Donohue John Cronin John DeStefano</p>	<p>J.C. Joseph S. Luis Anthony Antonette Sabatino Judy Rampola Kathleen N. Kitty Cronin Leon Donach Lisa McLean Mark Hildreth Mary Fresi Maryann Kevlin Maria Clark Marie del Ciello Matthew Parrella Michael Fisher Mike Lofaro Monsignor Iocavacci Pasquale Savarese Peter Donach P.I. Ricardo Buffit Riordan Cavoaris Sara Jean Andersen Sheila Ginty Stephen Dolce Theresa Kassay Tara CesarSKI Vivien Cordes Victoria Zubrycky Vicki Archdeacon</p>
--	--

Saturday	January 16th, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Kevin</i> <i>Lector: Student Lector</i> <i>EM: D. Anderson</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Maxima (Max) Cortina</i> <i>Joan Fahey</i>
Sunday	January 17th, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Kevin</i> <i>Lector: P. Kanuika</i> <i>EM: C.Czujko</i>	8am	<i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: T. Cafaro</i> <i>EM: K. Consenz</i>	10:00am	<i>Living~Karl Walz and</i> <i>Carol Walz ~departed</i>
	<i>Collective Mass</i> <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: A. Dinnigan</i> <i>EM: B. Luna</i>	12:00pm	<i>Charles "Buzz" Reynolds</i> <i>Joseph "Chickie" Martin</i> <i>Regina Fischer</i> <i>Theresa Marotta</i> <i>Michael Grady</i>
Monday	January 18th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Joseph Galletta</i> <i>Mario Mignone</i>
Tuesday	January 19th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Mary C. Anderson</i> <i>Margaret Olsen</i>
Wednesday	January 20th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Peter Grennan</i> <i>Rocco Ciurleo</i>
Thursday	January 21st, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Living~Regina Family</i> <i>Collective Mass:</i>
Friday	January 22nd, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Katie Farrell</i> <i>Deacon Ken Maher</i>
Saturday	January 23rd, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: R. Donegan</i> <i>EM: L. Sisti</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Jeff Pose</i> <i>Thomas Holub</i>
Sunday	January 23rd, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: S. Cavoaris</i> <i>EM: M. Koke</i>	8:00am	<i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
	<i>Presider: Father Kevin</i> <i>Lector: E. Burke</i> <i>EM: E. Sotomayer</i>	10:00am	<i>Frank Cafaro, Jr.</i>
	<i>Collective Mass</i> <i>Presider: Father Kevin</i> <i>Lector: P. Geier</i> <i>EM: P. Parish</i>	12:00pm	<i>Patrick Cawley</i> <i>Joseph Galanti</i> <i>Michael Grady</i> <i>Joseph Winters</i> <i>Bruce C. Ogilvie</i>

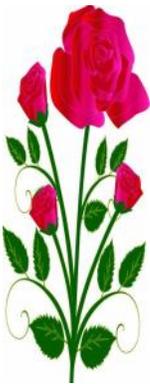
Altar Memorials for the Week of January 17th, 2021



*The Bread & Wine
Are Offered In Loving Memory
of,
Kristen O'Brien-Ayers
With all our love,
Your family*



*The Altar Candles
Are Offered
In Loving Memory of
Carol Walz
Happy Birthday in Heaven
With love,
Karl, Karl Jr. and Tim*



*The Pro Life Rose
Is Offered In Thanksgiving for,
Lynn Sisti
With Gratitude for your tireless efforts
in serving those who seek your loving
hands of help and encouragement.
Thank you for spreading the fragrance
of God's love through
Saints Philip & James
Parish Social Ministry
With God's Peace and Grace,
We thank you,
Love and blessings,
Your SSPJ Parish Family*



*The Sanctuary Lamp
Is Illuminating
In Loving Memory of,
Kristen O'Brien-Ayers
On your 50th Birthday
In Heaven*

JANUARY PRAYER OF THE MONTH

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

JANUARY ACTS OF SERVICE: "Warming others by your light"

During these winter months we ask you to consider the simple things that keep you warm....

Using your own "fundraising efforts, purchase a warm hat, or gloves or socks for a man, woman or child ...

Place the item(s) that you are sharing in a zip lock bag, with your act of service card, and drop it off at the Parish Center Office from Jan19th-22nd.

Your gifts will be shared with someone who is cold, and lonely...



My God,

*I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,*

*I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.*

*I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.*

*Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered
and died for us.*

In His name, my God, have mercy.

Amen.

Information for Parish Volunteers

Background Screening Update

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People:

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct;
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5 yr. intervals. volunteers/employees.

A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct- provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application background offered during the Virtus registration process.

Active Volunteers:

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened you may be at – or beyond- the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application on-line. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware-this is not a scam nor has your e-mail been hacked**. The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically resign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

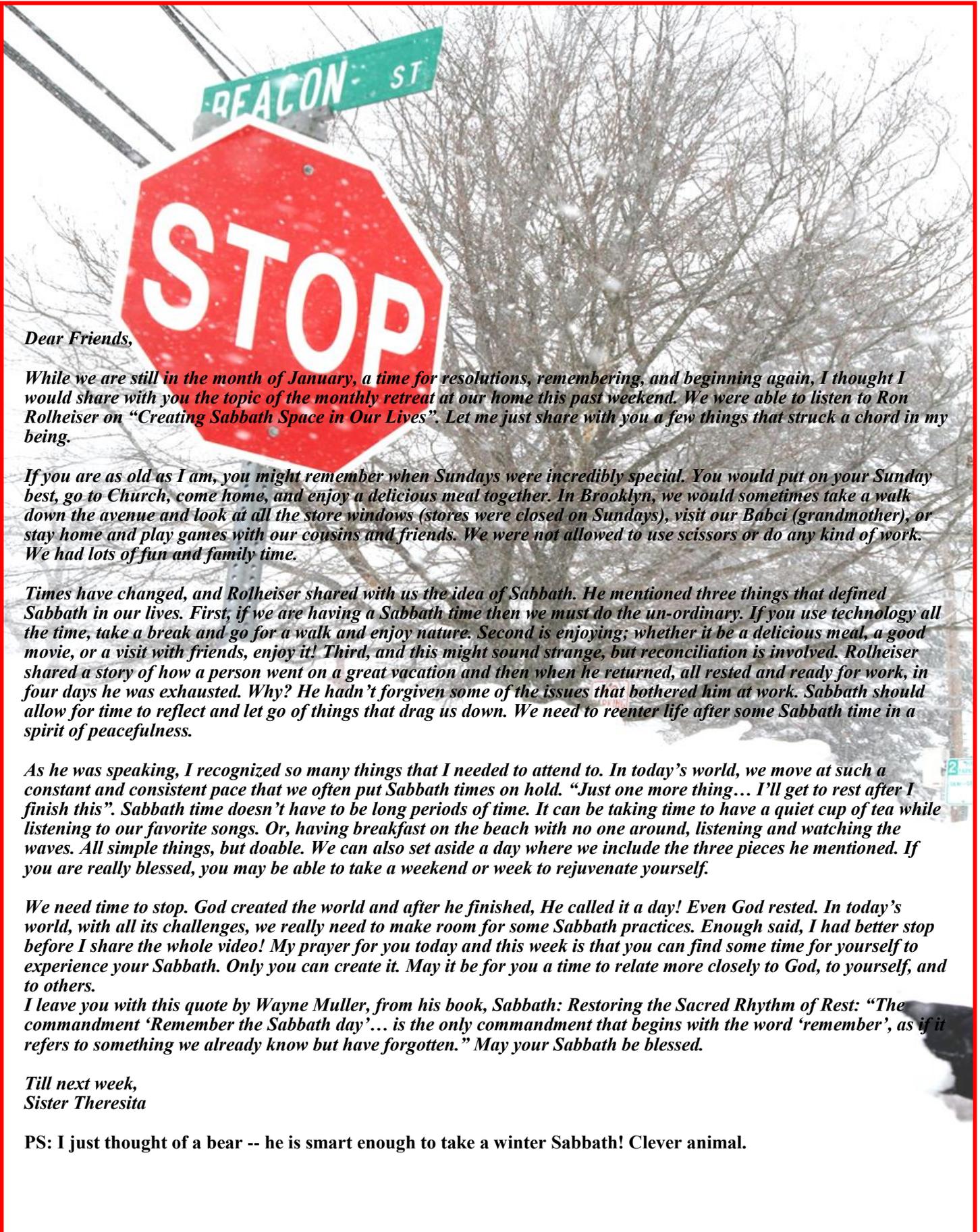
Edit Your Virtus Account:

To access your Virtus account: www.Virtus.org You will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or helpdesk@virtus.org. Once in your account, review your account information-particularly your e-mail address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen in the green column click "Update My Account" You will be able to make the necessary changes-please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: mmcmahon@drvc.org; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org;
pditomasso@drvc.org

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.

Sister T's Words to Reflect Upon



Dear Friends,

While we are still in the month of January, a time for resolutions, remembering, and beginning again, I thought I would share with you the topic of the monthly retreat at our home this past weekend. We were able to listen to Ron Rolheiser on "Creating Sabbath Space in Our Lives". Let me just share with you a few things that struck a chord in my being.

If you are as old as I am, you might remember when Sundays were incredibly special. You would put on your Sunday best, go to Church, come home, and enjoy a delicious meal together. In Brooklyn, we would sometimes take a walk down the avenue and look at all the store windows (stores were closed on Sundays), visit our Babci (grandmother), or stay home and play games with our cousins and friends. We were not allowed to use scissors or do any kind of work. We had lots of fun and family time.

Times have changed, and Rolheiser shared with us the idea of Sabbath. He mentioned three things that defined Sabbath in our lives. First, if we are having a Sabbath time then we must do the un-ordinary. If you use technology all the time, take a break and go for a walk and enjoy nature. Second is enjoying; whether it be a delicious meal, a good movie, or a visit with friends, enjoy it! Third, and this might sound strange, but reconciliation is involved. Rolheiser shared a story of how a person went on a great vacation and then when he returned, all rested and ready for work, in four days he was exhausted. Why? He hadn't forgiven some of the issues that bothered him at work. Sabbath should allow for time to reflect and let go of things that drag us down. We need to reenter life after some Sabbath time in a spirit of peacefulness.

As he was speaking, I recognized so many things that I needed to attend to. In today's world, we move at such a constant and consistent pace that we often put Sabbath times on hold. "Just one more thing... I'll get to rest after I finish this". Sabbath time doesn't have to be long periods of time. It can be taking time to have a quiet cup of tea while listening to our favorite songs. Or, having breakfast on the beach with no one around, listening and watching the waves. All simple things, but doable. We can also set aside a day where we include the three pieces he mentioned. If you are really blessed, you may be able to take a weekend or week to rejuvenate yourself.

We need time to stop. God created the world and after he finished, He called it a day! Even God rested. In today's world, with all its challenges, we really need to make room for some Sabbath practices. Enough said, I had better stop before I share the whole video! My prayer for you today and this week is that you can find some time for yourself to experience your Sabbath. Only you can create it. May it be for you a time to relate more closely to God, to yourself, and to others.

I leave you with this quote by Wayne Muller, from his book, Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest: "The commandment 'Remember the Sabbath day'... is the only commandment that begins with the word 'remember', as if it refers to something we already know but have forgotten." May your Sabbath be blessed.

*Till next week,
Sister Theresita*

PS: I just thought of a bear -- he is smart enough to take a winter Sabbath! Clever animal.



Sunday of the Word of God ~ January 24th, 2021 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!

Pope Francis instituted 'The Sunday of the Word of God' to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, The Sunday of the Word of God is a means to help people "reawaken an awareness of the importance of Sacred Scripture for our lives as believers, beginning with its resonance in the liturgy which places us in living and permanent dialogue with God." Through the proclaimed biblical readings in the liturgy, God speaks to his people and Christ himself proclaims his Gospel."

For more information please visit: <https://www.homilytools.org/sunday-of-the-word-of-god.html>

Some suggested ways of praying with scripture....

Saint Ignatius Loyola invited a person when an individual made a retreat in the pattern of his Spiritual Exercises to pray to come to know Christ so that one may love him in a more real way and following from this knowledge and love become a more faithful disciple.

In order to grow in this faith knowledge, Ignatius invited the retreatant to engage in a prayer method called contemplation. This is not some kind of mystical prayer but a prayer form in which one uses his or her senses in an imaginative way to reflect on a Gospel passage. One uses the senses, seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and smelling to make the Gospel scene real and alive.

Here is a way of engaging in this prayer form which is relaxing and rather easy.

1. Select a passage from one of the Gospels in which Jesus is interacting with others.
2. Recall what one is doing in engaging with the Word of God and what one desires from this encounter. God is present and because God is present one relies on God.
3. Read the Gospel passage twice so that the story and the details of the story become familiar.
4. Close one's eyes and reconstruct the scene in one's imagination. See what is going on and watch the men and women in the scene. What does Jesus look like? How do the others react to him? What are the people saying to one another? What emotions fill their words? Is Jesus touching someone? As one enters into the scene, sometimes there is the desire to be there. So a person can place oneself in the scene, perhaps as an observer, as one lining up for healing, or as one helping others to Jesus.
5. Some people's imaginations are very active so they construct a movie-like scenario with a Gospel passage. Others will enter the scene with verbal imagination, reflecting on the scene and mulling over the actions. Vividness is not a criteria for the effectiveness of this kind of prayer. Engagement is and the result is a more interior knowledge of Jesus.
6. As one finishes this time of prayer, one should take a moment to speak person to person with Christ saying what comes from the heart.

When a person wants to use Lectio Divina as a prayer form today, the method is very simple. When one is a beginner, it is better to choose a passage from one of the Gospels or epistles, usually ten or fifteen verses. Some people who regularly engage in this method of prayer choose the epistle or the Gospel for the Mass of the day as suggested by the Catholic Church.

First one goes to a quiet place and recalls that one is about to listen to the Word of God. Then one reads the scripture passage aloud to let oneself hear with his or her own ears the words. When one finishes reading, pause and recall if some word or phrase stood out or something touched one's heart. If so, pause and savor the insight, feeling, or understanding. Then go back and read the passage again because it will have a fuller meaning. Pause again and note what happened. If one wants to dialogue with God or Jesus in response to the word, one should follow the prompting of one's heart. This kind of reflective listening allows the Holy Spirit to deepen awareness of God's taking the initiative to speak with us.

His Words Will Speak To You....Be At Peace....Listen



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, **9 Days for Life**, Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

PAPER TOWELS

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity



Travel differently. (Or just less.) Transportation is a big part of nearly everyone’s carbon footprint, whether it’s the daily commute or that vacation flight. Personal and commercial transportation is the United States’ biggest contributor to greenhouse gases. So, until we can shift the nation’s transportation infrastructure to favor lower-emissions travel, a lot of you are looking for ways to get around without burning fossil fuels — or, at least, to do it without producing as much planet-warming carbon emissions.

Music Ministry

Well, we are back in ordinary time. The sounds of Christmas fade and the future awaits Lent and Easter. Now I start to look ahead to the next church season. The Mass parts will stay the same until Ash Wednesday.

The Gloria is back from the Mass of St Ann which we will sing until Lent.

This weekend’s theme is becoming a team player. Jesus shows us we are truly called to work with each other.

I have always been grateful that I had a calling to music, Church music to be exact. Lifting people with music while praising God is a gift of which I hold in high regard.

What are you called to? Maybe to be a part of our Music Ministry. Right now, the need is with Baptism Music but in the future, the choir.

It is never too late to join.

Our presentation hymn this weekend is The Summons which reflects the theme of calling, following Jesus. Will you hear the call??

*Remember “he who sings prayers twice”
Sing louder at home softer in church.
Sunday’s music titles can be found on the website*



Parish Social Ministry

When you find yourself in the position to help someone, be happy and feel blessed because God is answering that person's prayer through you. Remember, our purpose on earth is not to get lost in the dark but to be a light to others, so that they may find God's way through us. The light you shine produced these written words of thanks from just a few families we served.

"Thank you so much. You have once again made Christmas for my family."

"There will never be the right words to express our gratitude. Just know we would be lost without you. As always, thank you, thank you, thank you."

"Good morning, I just went food shopping – can't thank you enough."

"There are no words enough to thank you."

"You always know just when I need diapers. I literally threw out the last box last night. God bless you and thank you so very much for everything, always."

"My husband just brought everything in. Thank you so much. Was actually heading to do groceries tomorrow so this helps tremendously. Forever grateful and thankful."

"Happy New Year. I do not know how you knew we needed that food card so badly. It's been really hard for me to keep up. We were completely out of everything, thank you so much. My fridge was so empty. Thank you so very, very much."

"Bless you for the way you've brightened up so many days with your giving heart."

"I want to thank you and everyone for all the help you have given me, not only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but all year long. I really appreciate it."

"Thank you, Lynn and Parish Outreach, from the bottom of my heart. It is warmly appreciated and much needed. It is my wish one day to financially pay it forward. Until then please accept my gratitude for your love and moral support. Where would I be without you and my faith in the Lord?"

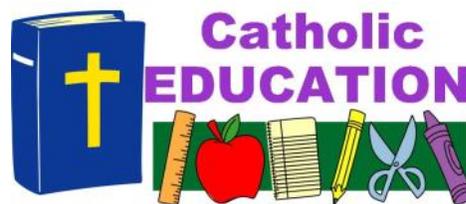
"It has been a long 7 years. I am grateful for all the angels the Lord has blessed me with. Thank you, Lynn. I never would have made it without you and the Sts. Philip & James people. Love to all of you."

Thank you!



Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year begins on
January 31, 2021

To schedule a tour and for more information contact
Diane Anderson, Principal
danderson@sspjschool.net



*Congratulations to the following SSPJ School Alumni
First Trimester Honor Roll Achievement:*

Kellenberg Memorial High School

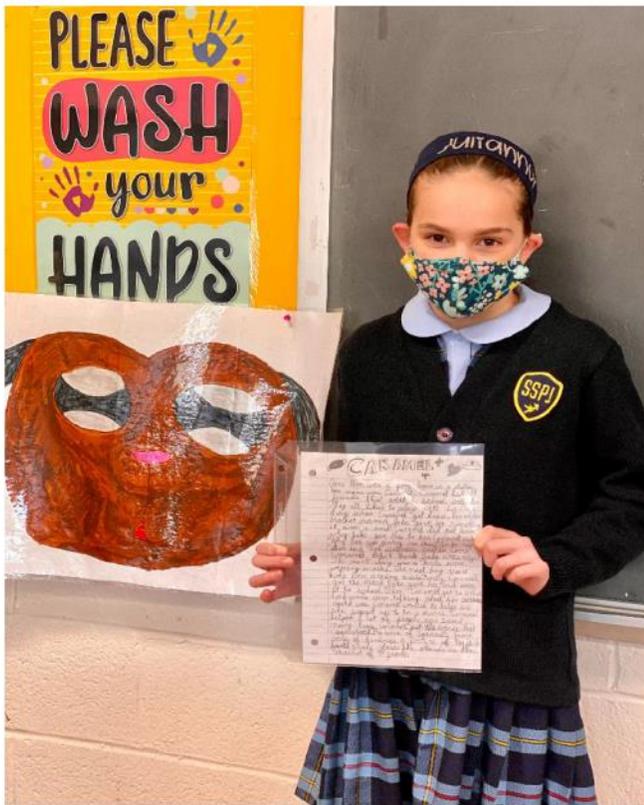
*Emma D'Amelia
Matthew D'Amelia
Andrew Kaiser
Ava Kaiser
Thomas Passela*



SSPJ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Although this school year has been unlike others, some things remain: SSPJ students are creative writers, aware of their faith, and conscious of random acts of kindness. Beautiful story Julianna Carey, Grade 4 -keep up the great writing and answering your call of being an Apostle of Hope.



CARAMEL ⁴

Once there was a pug born in a stable. Her name was Caramel. Caramel had 19 friends that went to school with her. They all liked to play with her. One day when Caramel got home, her older brother named Jake gave her something it was a mask. Caramel did not know why Jake gave this to her. Caramel asked "Why are you giving me this?" Jake replied "There is a bad sickness called Covid-19." Caramel didn't think Jake was right. The next day some kids were wearing masks. The next day more kids were wearing masks. Finally, Caramel got the mask Jake gave her and wore it to school. When Caramel got to school her friends were talking about how serious Covid was. Caramel wanted to help so she signed up to be a nurse. Caramel helped a lot of people and saved many lives. Caramel got the virus but she survived. Because of Caramel's brave acts of kindness a picture of her is in fourth grade class. She stands as the mascot of 4th grade.

All smiles under their masks!

Stephen Yazulla, Grand Knight of the Sts. Philip & James Knights of Columbus Council #12839 presented SSPJ School with a check for \$500. which will now be doubled!

We are grateful that the NYS Knights of Columbus Council is participating in the Matching Funds Program to Catholic Schools, supported by local councils.



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Ps 25:4-9

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Monday January 25

Conversion of St. Paul

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22

Ps 117:1bc,2

Mark 16:15-18

Tuesday January 26

Sts. Timothy and Titus

2 Tim 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5

Ps 96:1-3,7-8a,10

Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday January 27

Hebrews 10:11-18

Ps 110:1-4

Mark 4:1-20

Thursday January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas

Hebrews 10:19-25

Ps 24:1-6

Mark 4:21-25

Friday January 29

Hebrews 10:32-39

Ps 37:3-6,23-24,39-40

Mark 4:26-34

Saturday January 30

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

Lk 1:69-75

Mark 4:35-41

Today's Gospel reading is a call to surrender ourselves fully to God. "Now is the time of fulfillment" – not just 2000 years ago, not at the Second Coming of Christ, but right now in your life when and where you need Jesus the most.



"The kingdom of God is at hand" – what you need from the Lord is right here, at hand, ready for you.

"Repent, and believe in the gospel" means "Come follow Me and learn from Me to become like Me." For the first disciples, it meant dropping whatever they were doing to spend so much time with Jesus that their whole lives were forever affected.

And this is what it means for you and for me: We have to put aside our own agendas and overly busy schedules to spend more time following Jesus wherever he leads us.

In the modern world, we have become more dependent on our technological devices than on Jesus. Many of us cannot even go on vacation without remaining accessible to their employers via the cell phone. Somehow, we need to find a way to take a stand against this.

It's one of the social justice teachings of the Church: We are actually called by God to rebel against working on

Sundays and other days of rest. Why? Because we need to spend that time with Jesus quietly being restored and re-energized.

Unfortunately, Jesus doesn't walk through the door and circle dates on our calendar and write "Rest with Jesus" on it so that we can

plan ahead. We have to follow his lead at a moment's notice – every moment. To experience the kingdom of God on the earthly side of heaven, we have to be willing to drop everything to follow Jesus into unfamiliar places at unexpected times. We have to learn to follow his lead even in situations where his way is the surprising way.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What's on your to-do list? What keeps you busy? What are your goals for the future? What are you dreaming of?
2. If Jesus has a different plan for your day or for your life, how easily could you switch over to new ideas and plans?
3. What are some of the nets you've abandoned in the past in order to follow Jesus? How difficult was that to do?
4. Are you happy about it now? Why? How was this an experience of the kingdom of God on earth?

WHAT IS LOVE ASKING OF US NOW?

You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." Anne Lamott

Those are words worth contemplating, on all sides of the political and religious divide today. We live in a time of bitter division. From our government offices down to our kitchen tables there are tensions and divisions about politics, religion, and versions of truth that seem irreparable. Sadly, these divisions have brought out the worst in us, in all of us. Common civility has broken down and brought with it something that effectively illustrates the biblical definition of the "diabolic" – widespread lack of common courtesy, disrespect, demonization and hatred of each other. All of us now smugly assume that God hates all the same people we do. The polarization around the recent USA elections, the storming of the USA Capitol buildings by a riotous mob, the bitter ethical and religious debates about abortion, and the loss of a common notion of truth, have made clear that incivility, hatred, disrespect, and different notions of truth rule the day.

Where do we go with that? I am a theologian and not a politician or social analyst so what I say here has more to do with living out Christian discipleship and basic human maturity than with any political response. Where do we go religiously with this?

Perhaps a helpful way to probe for a Christian response is to pose the question this way: *what does it mean to love in a time like this?* What does it mean to love in a time when people can no longer agree on what is true? How do we remain civil and respectful when it feels impossible to respect those who disagree with us?

In struggling for clarity with an issue so complex, sometimes it can be good to proceed via the *Via Negativa*, that is, by first asking what should we avoid doing. What should we not do today?

First, we should not bracket civility and legitimize disrespect and demonization; but we should also not be unhealthily passive, fearful that speaking our truth will upset others. We may not disregard truth and let lies and injustices lie comfortable and unexposed. It is too simple to say that there are good people on both sides in order to avoid having to make real adjudications vis-à-vis the truth. There are sincere people on both sides, but sincerity can also be very misguided. Lies and injustice need to be named. Finally, we must resist the subtle (almost impossible to resist) temptation to allow our righteousness morph into self-righteousness, one of pride's most divisive modalities.

What do we need to do in the name of love? Fyodor Dostoevsky famously wrote that love is a harsh and fearful thing, and our first response should be to accept that. Love is a harsh thing and that harshness is not just the discomfort we feel when we confront others or find ourselves confronted by them. Love's harshness is felt most acutely in the (almost indigestible) self-righteousness we have to swallow in order to rise to a higher level of maturity where we can accept that God loves those we hate just as much as God loves us – and those we hate are just as precious and important in God's eyes as we are.

Once we accept this, then we can speak for truth and justice. Then truth can speak to power, to "alternative truth", and to the denial of truth. That is the task. Lies must be exposed, and this needs to occur inside our political debates, inside our churches, and at our dinner tables. That struggle will sometimes call us beyond niceness (which can be its own mammoth struggle for sensitive persons). However, while we cannot always be nice, we can always be civil and respectful.

One of our contemporary prophetic figures, Daniel Berrigan, despite numerous arrests for civil disobedience, steadfastly affirmed that *a prophet makes a vow of love, not of alienation*. Hence, in our every attempt to defend truth, to speak for justice, and to speak truth to power, our dominant tone must be one of love, not anger or hatred. Moreover, whether we are acting in love or alienation will always be manifest – in our civility or lack of it. No matter our anger, love still has some non-negotiables, civility and respect. Whenever we find ourselves descending to adolescent name-calling, we can be sure we have fallen out of discipleship, out of prophecy, and out of what is best inside us.

Finally, how we will respond to the times remains a deeply personal thing. Not all of us are called to do the same thing. God has given each of us unique gifts and a unique calling; some are called to loud protest, others to quiet prophecy. However, we are all called to ask ourselves the same question: *given what is happening, what is love asking of me now?*