



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

631-584-5454

October 31st, 2021  
Thirty first Sunday  
In Ordinary Time



*Which is the first of all the commandments?*

*"The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

*The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

*There is no other commandment greater than these" Mark 12:29-31*

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

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

## STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

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

Website—www.sspj.org

### PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

### CLERGY

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

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 631-584-3204

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko~cczujko@sspj.org

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~bluna@sspj.org

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~davento@sspj.org

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

### COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

### DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

### DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

### SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

### TRUSTEES

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

Weekly Collection: October 24th, 2021: \$ 11,344.

Faith Direct : (131Participants) 3,622.

Total Collections: \$ 14,966.

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 KAIRE

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY

CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN

LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY

JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC

CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY

LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-

STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC

CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL

STEVEN CAVA-USN

ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ

CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN

CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC

SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY

KEVIN JONES-USCG

PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG

GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA— US ARMY

MARIO CATANIA-USMC

RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC

KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY

ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN

STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC

DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF

SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC

PAUL MUMOLO-USN

VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY

MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD

KELLI MCLAUGHLIN—LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

1 LT MICHAEL J BANG—MILITARY INTELLIGENCE US ARMY

MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN.

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>

# A Letter From Father Tom

Dear Friends,

***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.***

In today's gospel, Jesus declares these the two great commandments. The scribe who questioned him went on to share his insight that following these commandments is worth more than any burnt offerings or sacrifices. And Jesus compliments his understanding. Yet following these commands is challenging. Too often it seems we are faced with incomprehensible events - in our families, our country, our church, our world. Does this change the commandments? No, and so we pray:

***Christ, so we never forget,  
write on our hearts that you want us to love you  
with our whole soul, our whole mind, and all our understanding,  
and with every ounce of our strength.***

***And let our love for you spill over to our neighbor. (Anne Osdieck)***

Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, is the Feast of All Saints, which this year, since it falls on a Monday, is not a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7:30am and 9:15am. Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we commemorate All Souls' Day. In addition to our regular morning Masses, we will celebrate Mass at 7pm to remember in a special way those SSPJ parishioners who have died during this past year.

During month of November, all are invited to write the names of deceased loved ones in our Book of Remembrance found near the statue of Our Lady. At each of the Masses we will include all of them in the prayer of the faithful, praying together: ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.***

A very special "danke" to Virginia Portanova for the absolute delight she created in last Sunday's Oktoberfest. Just ask someone who was there – it simply couldn't have been better! Requests for next year have already come in!

Please be sure to see the flyers included in today's bulletin inviting teen and adults to come to separate Saturday afternoon sessions geared specifically to each group covering the many issues we have faced and continue to face in dealing with the pandemic and its effects on our living. The time of 4pm was chosen to allow participants to join the Saturday 5 pm Mass.

You see many of our young parishioners joining us in liturgical ministries serving as greeters, ushers, singers, cantors, and readers. Thank you to all of you! We love seeing you actively involved and giving your youthful energies to our worship of God. Please be sure to acknowledge our young ministers as you see and pray with them.

A special request to our adult liturgical ministers: First, thank you for all you do to build up the Body of Christ. Our Pastoral Team has noticed some confusion as to what our changed roles are since the pandemic has altered our ministry. Many times, too many come forward to serve and have felt embarrassed to return to their seat. To ensure that all spots are covered and that we each know what is expected, **please meet in the prayer room fifteen minutes before Mass to gather in prayer, sign in, and to go over how/what/where each of us will serve.** If for some reason you are not there fifteen minutes before, please do not come forward to serve since your spot will have been filled. I don't know how to put this any other way – each of you is deeply appreciated and there are certainly extenuating circumstances when someone can't get here on time, but our gathering to pray together and assign locations helps all of us to serve one another. Thank you for your cooperation.

And,

*Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.  
Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.  
Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.  
How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.*

Peace,

*Father Tom*

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

# Mass Intentions, For the week of October 31st, 2021

**The Pro Life Rose Is Offered for Jack Duffy**

**5th Year Anniversary in Heaven**

**"If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever"**

**Love,  
Jackie**



**Banns of Marriage  
Second  
Joseph Huard  
St. Matthews, Lake Worth Fl  
To  
Megan Earl  
SSPJ  
Christopher D'Amico  
To  
Melissa Virga**

**Remember in our hearts and prayers**

Alan Evans  
Antonette Sabatino  
Angie Mingione  
Angela Amoroso  
Anne Pell  
Anna & Harold Clayton  
Arthur Gureck  
Baby Ben  
Baby Penny Grace Candela  
Barbara Bombace  
Barbara Ruland  
Mattia Rose Lubrano  
Belinda Groneman  
Brendan McAlvin  
Cathy McCulloch  
Carol  
Carolyn Nehl  
Charles Figliosi  
Charlie Stangarone  
Claudia Chandler  
Deacon Ron Blasius  
Deirdre W.  
Donna Patrissi  
Dorothy Mitchell  
Elizabeth Martin  
Elizabeth Thorton  
Ellie Walsh  
Esther Styles  
Flo Donohue  
Gloria Montesano  
Grace Bertolone  
Ginny & John Rief  
Gladys Blake  
Gregory Parker  
Helen  
Heidi Ray  
Jackie Harvey  
Jack Donohue  
Jamie Geiman  
Jessica Venditto  
John Cronin  
John DeStefano  
John Harney

John Scomillio  
Joseph H  
Joseph  
James Macchiano  
Judy Rampola  
Joseph Mazelis  
Joseph Costa  
Kenneth Cook  
Kathleen N.  
Kitty Cronin  
Kim Olofson  
Leon Donach  
Lynn McDonnell  
Mark Geld  
Mary Ann Cesarski  
Mary Monte  
Mary Fresi  
Maryann Kevlin  
Maria Clark  
Marie del Cielo  
Marilyn Suli  
Matthew Parrella  
Marie & Frank Fiocco  
Melissa C.  
Michael Fisher  
Mike Lofaro  
Monsignor Iocavacci  
Nancy & Paul Bertran  
Nancy Cuccinotta  
Pasquale Savarese  
Pat LeDoux  
Peggy Guerra  
Peter Donach  
P.I.  
Ricardo Buffit  
Riordan Cavoaris  
Richard Chiorando  
Sara Jean Andersen  
Stephen Dolce  
Suzanne Orlando  
Tara Cesarski  
Vivien Cordes  
Vicki Archdeacon  
Veronica Broderick

<b>Saturday October 30th</b>	<b>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Auleta/Student EM: Lombardi/Duffy/ Damato</b>	<b>9:15am  5:00pm</b>	<b>John Reese  Michael Arcurio</b>
<b>Sunday October 31st</b>	<b>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Halluska/ Kanuka EM: Ramos/Sehne/Sica</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b>
	<b>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Luna/O'Leary EM: Mulhall/Orlando/ Sotomayer</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Andrew Krauer</b>
	<b><u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Tom Lector: Rubano/Suski EM: Napolitano/Parish/ Consenz</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Margaret C. Lettieri Ramona Collado</b>
<b>Monday November 1st</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b>	<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>Living~Don Fisher  Basil Kowalzuk</b>
<b>Tuesday November 2nd</b>	<b>All Souls Day</b>	<b>7:30am  9:15am 7:00pm</b>	<b>Joanna Harrison  Living~Juan Madariaga All Souls Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday November 3rd</b>	<b>Saint Martin dePorres</b>	<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>All Souls Novena  Anthony Haynes</b>
<b>Thursday November 4th</b>	<b>St. Charles Borromeo</b>	<b>7:30am 9:15am</b>	<b>All Souls Novena <u>Collective Mass:</u></b>
<b>Friday November 5th</b>	<b>World Community Day</b>	<b>7:30am  9:15am</b>	<b>All Souls Novena  Bruce Baxter</b>
<b>Saturday November 6th</b>	<b>Presider: Father Tom Lectors: Drechsler/Student EM:</b>	<b>9:15am  5:00pm</b>	<b>All Souls Novena  Jackie Herbert</b>
<b>Sunday November 7th</b>	<b>Presider: Father Tom Lectors: Willman/Czujko EM:</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b>
	<b>Presider: Father Joe Lectors: Tobin/Auleta EM:</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>All Souls Novena</b>
	<b><u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Joe Lector: Rubano/Cashman EM:</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Stella Baker Elizabeth Moore Gloria Cintorino</b>

# Meeting of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



*Dear Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,*

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, our faith helped guide us through the overwhelming times of fear, loneliness and despair. Jesus took our hands and asked us to trust Him as He walked with us through the darkness. He continues to walk with us, leading us to the light.

As we all move forward on the path of healing, we invite all the Eucharistic Ministers for a prayerful gathering of recollection and renewal on

- ♦ **Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 7:30 with Adoration and Meeting**
- ♦ **Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 9:15am– 10:30am with mass and meeting.**

We request all the Eucharistic Ministers to participate in any one session of your convenient day. Both sessions will be held in the Church.

Thank you~ Father Joe Lobo



## Reminder to our Liturgical Ministers~ Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

*Kindly arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled mass assignment.*

*Please meet in the Prayer room for prayer and to sign in for your assignment.*

*This request assists us in preparing for the appropriate number of ministers at each mass.*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

## THE FEASTS OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS DAY

**Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, is the Feast of All Saints, which this year, since it falls on a Monday, is not a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7:30am and 9:15am.**

*All Souls Day Mass of  
Remembrance  
Tuesday,  
November 2, 2021, at 7 PM  
We will remember with love  
and in a special way  
Our dear ones who have died  
between  
September 1, 2020, and  
August 31, 2021  
ALL ARE WELCOME*

## THE MEN'S FORUM

AT THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES  
*A brotherhood of men dedicated to growing in their faith & discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

**Video Presentation & Discussion:**

**Bishop Robert Barron: Episode 2: "God, the Father Almighty"**

At five years old, Thomas Aquinas is said to have posed to his catechism teacher the question of all questions, "But, Master, what is God?" The Creed gives us a succinct, but inexhaustible, answer. The one God, unlike any other being in the cosmos, is fully actual and unconditioned. Furthermore, God is Father as he generates, cherishes, and directs all things. God is Creator, the non-contingent source of all contingent reality.

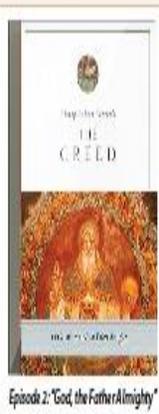
*In The Creed, a new film series blending both documentary footage and dynamic talks, Bishop Robert Barron guides viewers through the Creed recited at every Sunday mass, a statement of faith that has profoundly influenced both Eastern and Western spirituality, theology, and liturgy.*

6:00 to 7:00pm: Adoration: Main Church

7:00 to 8:30pm: Video Presentation: Bethany Center (Old Church) • Optional Coffee Social (Off Site)

Come for all, or part of our evening's schedule. No membership required. Open to all men!

*\*Please Note: Due to the threat of COVID face masks must be worn and social distancing maintained in the Bethany Center. Masks are optional in the main Church.*



Episode 2: "God, the Father Almighty"



Website: [www.sspjmensforum.org](http://www.sspjmensforum.org)

Church of Saints Philip & James • 359 Clinton Avenue • St. James, NY 11780 • 631-584-5454





At a recent Parish Council meeting, the topic of COVID concerns was discussed and the related effects it has had and continues to have on adults and their families, as well as teenagers. After much discussion, it was decided that it would be advisable to have presentations by professionals here at SSPJ. Since the concerns and effects are quite different for adults and teens, we plan to hold one session for adults and another for teenagers. We are planning to hold both sessions on **Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**. In order for us to coordinate and arrange these sessions, we will need to know of your interest in attending.

Please fill out and return the form below, or you may also call the Parish Center Office and let us know of your interest.

**PRESENTATION ON COVID CONCERNS ON NOVEMBER 20, 2021**

I am interested in attending the session for ADULTS\_\_\_\_\_ or TEENS\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Number \_\_\_\_\_

**We are Here to Help, To Lend a hand , and Listen to Your Voices...  
Teens and Adults are Invited to a Special Presentation of Understanding  
The Emotions, Isolation and Uncertainty brought on by the COVID -19 Pandemic**



**Dr. Paul Ginnetty**

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2021  
SSPJ PARISH WILL HOST TWO OUTSTANDING  
COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS  
DR. PAUL GINNETTY AND DANIELLE FINNERTY  
AT 4PM IN CHURCH  
FOLLOWED BY A YOUTH MASS AT 5:00PM

BOTH DR. GINNETTY AND DANIELLE FINNERTY WILL FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING THE VARIOUS THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS WE ARE FEELING AS A RESULT TO THE PANDEMIC AS WELL AS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO CULTIVATE AWARENESS AND METHODS OF IDENTIFYING AND ATTENDING TO THESE TROUBLING THOUGHT PATTERNS IN CONSTRUCTIVE AND SELF-CENTERED MINDFULNESS AND KINDNESS



**Danielle Finnerty**

**Words from Danielle Finnerty~**

*Last year I worked for the Diocese of Rockville Centre as part of a team called Project Alpha, which included both School Counselors and Social Workers. Project Alpha worked to provide outreach support services to Catholic schools in both Nassau and Suffolk County. During this time, I was fortunate enough to have been able to connect with Ms. Anderson, which led to my position as a part time School Counselor at Sts. Philip and James School. Growing up, I always knew that I wanted a career that would focus on my innate nature to want to help others. While I began my freshmen year in high school, my parents opened their home to foster children. Throughout the years, we were able to help many children during some of the most challenging times of their lives. These experiences drove me to focus my education on helping others, which led me to complete the Master's degree program in Mental Health/School Counseling at Long Island University.*

*As excited as I am to be able to work with Ms. Anderson and her staff, I am equally excited to work with Father Tom in support of the Church. These current times have proven to be challenging to us all as we continue to live through a pandemic and adjust to the new normal. Many of us are experiencing different emotions relating to Covid and have been struggling with our own experiences and situations. The workshop that I will be providing for our students will focus on identifying the various thoughts/emotions that are associated with the virus, as well as the challenges/concerns that are being faced by our students while also managing the stressors that they are exposed to daily. We will be identifying coping skills and learn how to implement them during times of need. I am looking forward to working with the students of the Parish by providing them with helpful information on how to persevere during this confusing time.*

Dr. Paul Ginnetty is a professor of psychology at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue. He is also in private practice as a clinical psychologist. His prior professional experience includes having served on the staff of an outpatient chemical dependency program and as a psychologist within the student health services at Stony Brook University. He has also served as the director of a Catholic Charities mental health clinic in New York City. He has graduate degrees in theology and divinity in addition to his Ph.D. in clinical psychology and his post-doctoral certification in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. His wife and he are long-time parishioners of St. Patrick's parish where they raised four children.

Dr. Ginnetty will be addressing the following "Co's" of Covid-19 for Adults~

The Co's of COVID-19-

Reflections on our individual and shared experience of COVID-19. An examination and discussion of: how we have attempted to COpe; the aspects of the experience that we can and can't COntrol; what the pandemic has COst us; what it has unCOvered about our personal, family, social and work lives; and how it can contribute to our ongoing process of COnversion.



**INTERESTED IN ATTENDING? KINDLY COMPLETE THE FORM ON THE PRECEDING PAGE AND RETURN TO THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE**

# MUSIC MINISTRY

*We have come to the last day of October!!  
Happy Halloween! Which means All Hallows Eve the day before  
All Saints Day.*

*Today is also the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time. Our focus is on listening.*

*God does listen as we pray. We shall love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, and strength. Ask God for the Grace to love your neighbor as yourself.*

*Let There be Peace on Earth, the Presentation, asks us to have peace within us and walk with each other as family in perfect harmony.*

*The Sending Forth, Take the Word of God with you, wants us to take the word, peace, joy, and love with us as we go out to serve the world.*

*How great the world would be if we could all live-in peace.*

*Songs should be familiar this week.*

*Sing loud and strong!!*

*And praise God through music!!*

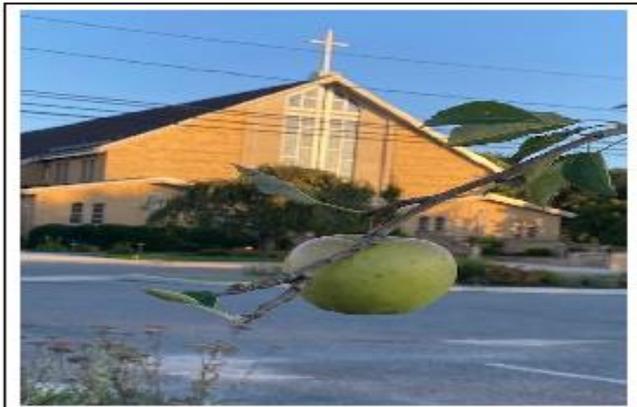


## *Sts. Philip & James ~ Building a Beautiful City Raffle*

Help us continue to Build a Beautiful City – not one out of reach but one within our own community

Out of struggles can we see a ray of hope reaching for the day ~  
we can start slowly but truly mending ~ Brick by Brick, Heart by Heart ~

Maybe now we start learning how WE CAN BUILD A BEAUTIFUL CITY. Yes, we can.



Cost \$25 each / 3 for \$50. / 7 for \$100

Cash Prize \$2500 - First prize

\$500 - Second prize -- \$250 - Third prize

Additional ticket at the Rectory Office

Drawing -- November 3, 2021 (after the 9:15 Mass)

### Building a Beautiful City Raffle

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Building a Beautiful City Raffle

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Building a Beautiful City Raffle

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Building a Beautiful City Raffle

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Building a Beautiful City Raffle

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

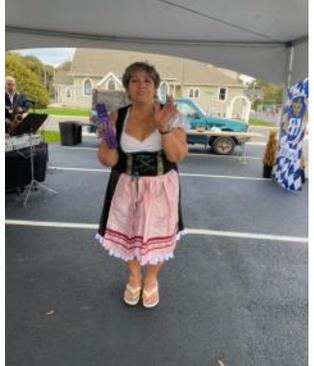
Tickets maybe dropped in the collection baskets at church or at the Rectory Office. If under \$5000 raised raffle will be held as a 50/50. Any questions call the office 631-584-5454 x202. Thank you for our support.

# Oktoberfest

SSPJ Towne Square



**"EINEN GUTEN ZEIT  
WIR GEHABT"  
"A GOOD TIME WE  
HAD!"**



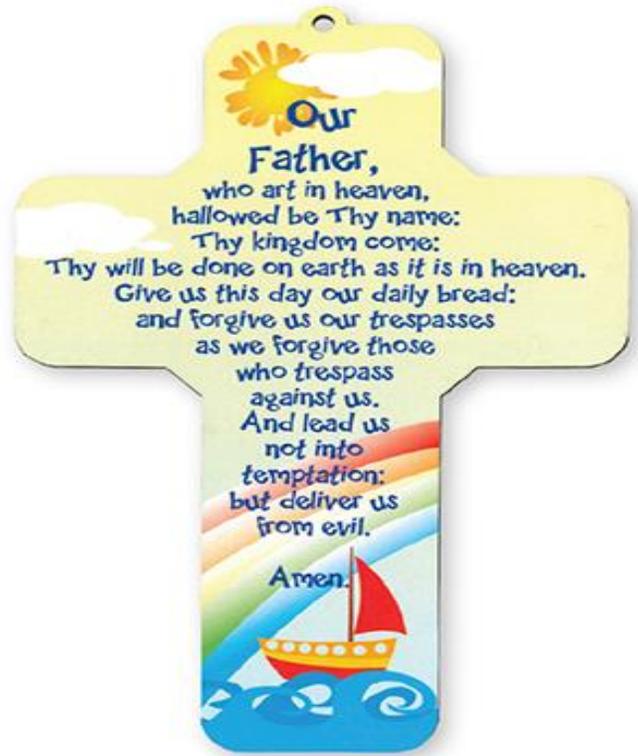
# Religious Education News

It has been a tradition at Sts. Philip and James to present our 6<sup>th</sup> graders with a Bible that we hope will stay with them through their religious education experience and well into their formative years in Youth Ministry.

On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> grade mass. At mass, these young people were presented with a New Testament Bible. Once again, it was so nice to see so many families coming back



NOVEMBER PRAYER OF THE MONTH



For O  
Take a  
when y

## *A Note To Our Students and Families ~ Weekly Gospel Reflections*

Reflections for our Religious Education students are presented weekly in our bulletin.

As we stated at the Grade Level meetings, our Religious Education program is three tiered – **Learning** (doing the lessons), **Receiving** (attending Mass), and **Giving** (Acts of Service). All three parts are equally important. When our children attend Mass, they are physically in the presence of Christ. Even if they are reluctant at first to participate in the liturgy, they are there and being in Church is different from being anywhere else. They will see that a faith-filled community is made up of real people, old, young, rich, poor, healthy, disabled, good, bad, bored, engaged, all united in the same act of worshipping our God.

At Mass they hear the Word of God and prayers praising our Lord. Those phrases expressing the foundation of our faith are repeated week after week and will stay with our children forever.

*"WORDS ARE POWERFUL THINGS, AND THE RIGHT WORDS SHOULD BE SEEDED DEEP IN OUR CHILDREN'S MEMORIES. THEY MAY BLOSSOM UNEXPECTEDLY WHEN THEY DESPERATELY NEED THEM, BUT ONLY IF THEY'VE BEEN PLANTED BEFOREHAND"*

Starting the weekend of November 6/7 for submission at Mass November 13/14 the following regulations will be in place:

A reflection **MUST** be handed in each week and will be recorded. The due date is noted at the top of the reflection page.

Weekly submissions will be recorded and **MUST** be handed in. Late submissions will not be credited. If you attend Mass at another church, please submit our reflection with a bulletin from that church by Tuesday for it to be credited accordingly.

Our Religious Education office **MUST** be notified of any exceptions or illness via email to [religioused@sspj.org](mailto:religioused@sspj.org) Parents will be notified in the event a student misses 3 reflections. There are no opportunities for making up reflection assignments. Missing reflections will be cause for your child to step down a grade level.

It is our hope that through these reflections and attending Mass weekly your children will develop a relationship with God. God merely extends the invitation. It is our role as parents to make sure our children are present for that invitation.

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN CHILDREN'S LITURGY! Your help is needed~ Might you Lend a Hand...



Sandra  
Ciralo

*I first became a volunteer for the Children's Liturgy two years ago. I wanted to help because I remembered how much my son enjoyed going when he was younger and wanted to help the program. One of my favorite parts about volunteering at the Children's Liturgy was seeing how much enjoyment the children got out of the readings and the discussions we had after. It was always fascinating to hear their point of view. Next we would work on a craft together. It was always fun seeing their creativity and how excited they were to show their families after. I am looking forward to volunteering again with the Children's Liturgy and hope you will consider joining us.*

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Parents are the happiest when their children are excited about learning new things. Here at SSPJ we want to keep that happiness going by returning to having Children's liturgy of the word start up in Advent. In order to do that we need help. A few parents have volunteered but we are looking for more. What are the details? CLW is celebrated at the Saturday 5 PM Mass and the 10 AM Mass Sunday. We need:

1. Parents to escort children down stairs
2. Parents remain with the children and supervise during the lesson
3. Parents help with the craft
4. Parents help Children clean up and return back upstairs for Mass
5. One can also volunteer to teach a lesson (materials will be provided)

If crafts are your thing you can help create the one for a lesson.

Please think about volunteering so we can help your children deepen their love for Jesus and His Holy Word. You may contact Sister Theresita at [srtheresita@sspj.org](mailto:srtheresita@sspj.org) Thank you in advance for helping!

Heather &  
James  
Waldmann

*I love teaching Children's Liturgy and sharing the word of God with the children of our parish. Watching them grow in their faith, learn about the love of God, and seeing their excitement each week is truly a rewarding experience. Listening to their ideas about how they can use each lesson in their daily lives fills my heart with such joy, and they help me strengthen my relationship with God as well!*



### SISTER T'S REFLECTION

Dear Friends,

**"When we begin to believe that there is greater joy in working with and for others, rather than just for ourselves, then our society will truly become a place of celebration." - Jean Vanier**

This quote really haunted me (no connection to Halloween!), so I thought I would share it with you. We here, in a little piece of the Kingdom of God on this good earth, are trying hard to do that. As you can guess there can be many challenges in trying to work with and for others. We can come up against folks who do not exactly have a positive attitude, or believe that they are entitled to 'everything' because of who they are. On the other hand, there are folks who want to experience the joy of working with and for others.

My question to you is: where do you fit in this quote, this picture? Do you enter each day with a positive attitude in the hope of bringing joy to others? That can be tough, especially if they don't receive your joyful spirit in a positive way. How do you respond? Are we able to turn the situation around or does our negative human spirit take over? I must say for me, it is a fifty-fifty chance of my going either way. The good thing is that I recognize when my no- so-joyful spirit is creeping in. **Progress, not perfection** - I'm banking on that!

During a recent presentation, the speaker shared that his favorite day of the year was, don't miss this, Holy Saturday! Very interesting! Holy Saturday? Yes, it is that time of unknowing between the Cross/Death and Tomb/Resurrection. What was that time like for the followers of Jesus? The speaker, Tom, shared with us that he felt that we can spend most of our life in Holy Saturday. Wow, does that ring true for you? It certainly hit a chord for me!

This where I found that the quote took on so much flesh and helped me realize that the greater joy is in working with and for others. My challenge to you is for you to check how you can or will live out this attitude? Remember: it is **Progress not Perfection** that we are looking for.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!! LOVE, SISTER T!!!



# CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL UPDATE~

**We are \$7,590 AWAY FROM GOAL!**

**We are \$13,488 AWAY FROM OUR REBATE**

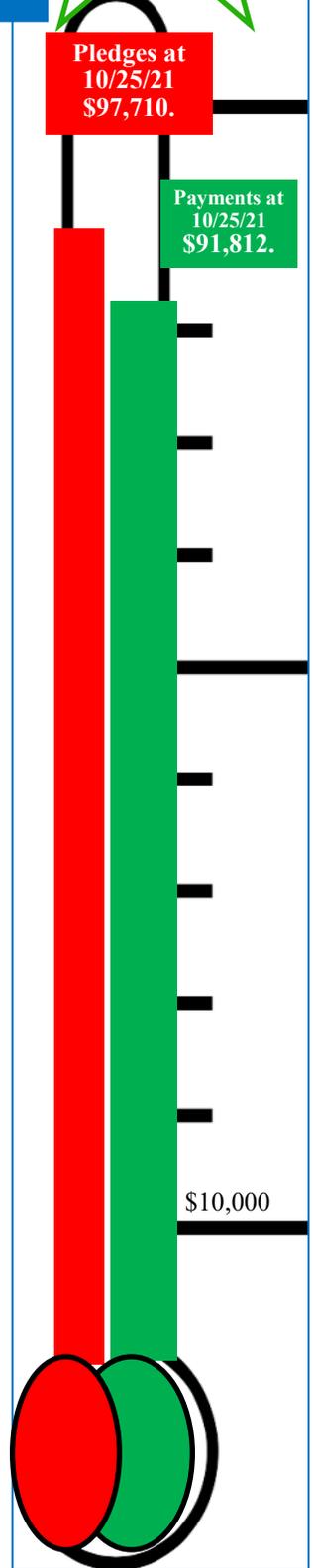
*In this season of thanks and gratitude we remain grateful for all your support.*

*Should your means allow, please consider making a contribution*



**Pledges at  
10/25/21  
\$97,710.**

**Payments at  
10/25/21  
\$91,812.**



*"No matter how much you live the experiences of these years of your youth, you will never know their deepest and fullest meaning unless you encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus"*  
- Pope Francis

Your donation to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal** creates pathways to faith for our Youth and lay leaders who catechize them. This is multi-level evangelization and *Dramatic Mission Growth* in action!

INSPIRE is a new initiative designed to invite young people to embrace their Catholic faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as to encourage renewal in outreach to teenagers in parish communities throughout the Diocese. Three "hub" parishes – St. Barnabas in Bellmore, St. John the Evangelist in Riverhead, and St. Joseph in Babylon – are hosting a series of INSPIRE Youth Nights over the next year. The nights will consist of Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship and inspiring talks, followed by games and refreshments. Each hub parish has a unique team of veteran youth ministers, worship leaders, and faithful young adults who will facilitate the night. The initiative officially kicked off on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Barnabas, with the other locations offering theirs in the weeks that follow.

## INSPIRE

Holy Hour & Youth Night

Doors open @ 7pm

For teens in grades 8-12

EAST	CENTRAL	WEST
St. John the Evangelist Riverhead	St. Joseph Babylon (Nolan Hall)	St. Barnabas the Apostle Bellmore
October 15	October 22	October 8
January 14	January 21	January 7
April 8	April 8	April 8

Registration & More Info:  
[bit.ly/DRVCINSPIRE](http://bit.ly/DRVCINSPIRE)

DRVCYOUTH.ORG

The Office of Youth Ministry has been hosting information sessions for parish leaders to learn and discuss how they can make the most of the initiative. Youth ministers, catechetical leaders, priests, parents, and other adult leaders will have the opportunity to accompany the youth (grades 8-12) of their parish to each INSPIRE night and use the event as a vehicle to build relationships with the teens and their families. Local follow-up to these nights is encouraged and some resources will be provided.

For more information, go to:  
<http://bit.ly/DRVCINSPIRE>

*"The pandemic has obviously brought new challenges and obstacles to youth evangelization efforts around Long Island. INSPIRE is designed to bring young people together safely for prayer, catechesis, and fellowship, as well as to sow the seeds of evangelization for each parish group that attends, so that we can all be in a better place to build up young disciples in the Diocese of Rockville Centre."* – Nolan Reynolds, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/> or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296. Thank you.

## Parish Social Ministry



We Remember in Our Hearts...

**George R. Klouda  
Barbara Walsh**

*Safely home in the loving hands of God*



**FILLING THE PANTRY NEEDS:**

**BREAKFAST FRUIT BARS**

**Thank you for sharing your hearts**

October

*Month of the  
Holy Rosary*



### ALL FOR JESUS THROUGH MARY

Join Catholic Radio @ 7PM each evening on AM 1350 or 1240 to pray the rosary for America. If you put Catholic Radio on your device, you can join individuals around the United States to pray for our country. Tune in during the day to hear amazing religious programming and listen while driving to learn more about your faith.

Here at SSPJ you can pray the rosary any weekday after the 7:30 AM Mass. Thursday morning in particular is for our Country. If you prefer, come after the early mass and you can stay for the 9:15 mass if you wish.

Any questions please call 631-862-9370

 **LiveLaudatoSi**

Our common home and common family are suffering. The climate emergency is causing rising seas, a warmer planet, and more extreme weather. It's devastating the lives of our poorest sisters and brothers. At the same time, biologists estimate that we're driving species to extinction at a rate of 100 to 1,000 times their usual rate. **"We have no such right"** (Laudato Si' 33).

**Please consider signing the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition at**

**[https:// thecatholicpetition.org](https://thecatholicpetition.org)**

### PRAYER BEFORE AN ELECTION

Lord God, as the election approaches,

we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country,

and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness

so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters,

one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned,

Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word,

live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth

as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.



**Join the Worldwide Movement which started on September 22 to protect mothers and babies.**

**40 days for Life campaigns have inspired many participants including the Respect Life Committee of SSPJ.**

**Their hearts of mercy are involved in:**

**Peaceful prayer Vigil on the sidewalk in front of the Planned Parenthood building in Smithtown each Wednesday and/or Saturday from 8AM to 12 Noon and Thursday rosary at 6 PM. We encourage the moms to Choose Life.**

**Fasting and Sacrifice**

**Eucharistic Adoration on Monday's from 1:30-7PM**

**The closing hour from 6-7PM praying for respect for human life.**

**For further information please call 631-862-9370**



*The presence of those praying and offering help to the women who are driven to Planned Parenthood is making an impact. Thank you to those who have been able to pray with us. Planned Parenthood has changed the day the doctor will be available to those women seeking abortions.*

*They are now only available on **Fridays**. So please join us on Friday mornings Starting OCT. 29TH. We need your presence to pray and offer help from 8AM to 12 Noon. If you have any questions, please call 631-862-9370*

# Congratulations to October 2021 SSPJ School Apostles of Hope

## Apostles of Hope October 2021

**Father Tom** is an Apostle of Hope. He celebrates Mass with us and helps us to understand the word of God. He visits our classrooms and shares faith-filled stories. Father Tom encourages us to sing and respond during Mass and to celebrate in the Eucharist often. Fr. Tom helps us to learn how to acquire the bricks to build a 'BEAUTIFUL CITY' and is a blessing to our parish and school.

### Nursery

**Alessia Gentile** is an Apostle of Hope. Alessia works hard and always tries her best. She is learning her prayers and is a good listener at Mass. Alessia is kind and a good friend to all her classmates. She is always helpful in school.

### Pre-Kindergarten

**Makenzie Johnson** is an Apostle of Hope. Makenzie is an excellent friend and role model in our classroom. She loves to share her knowledge about God with her classmates and always tries her best! She is helping to build a beautiful city at SSPJ.

### Kindergarten

**Ethan Hartman** is an Apostle of Hope. Ethan comes in each day, greets his teacher and classmates with a smile, and is ready to learn new and exciting things. He loves to participate in his learning. He is reverent during morning and afternoon prayers. When someone needs help, he is always one of the first ones to lend a helping hand, just like Jesus.

### Grade 1

**Michael Cullen** is an Apostle of Hope. Michael loves learning about God and participates in Mass weekly. He always says his prayers clearly and proudly. Michael works hard in class and is an excellent role model for his peers. He is always ready for the day and excited to learn. Michael is a wonderful follower of Jesus.

### Grade 2

**Christopher Degnan** is an Apostle of Hope. Christopher is a new student in our school and is a wonderful addition to our class. Christopher follows in Jesus' footsteps every day by being a caring brother to his siblings at home and a good friend to his classmates in school. He says prayers with his family every day thanking God for their blessings. He is learning all the prayers and responses that we say at Mass so that he will be ready to receive Jesus. Christopher works hard each day to shine the Light of Jesus.

### Grade 3

**Nicholas Puglia** is an Apostle of Hope. Nicholas is a friend to all the children in his class. He comes to school each day ready to do his best. Nicholas attends Mass and helps hand out the weekly bulletin. He is kind and respectful to everyone and a great example of an Apostle of Hope.



### Grade 4

**Chrystaluz Kenton** is an Apostle of Hope. Chrystaluz is an active member in the parish community. She volunteers as a member of the Mass ministry. Chrystaluz kindly welcomes, greets, and distributes bulletins to guests present at Mass. She attends Mass every Sunday with her family and every Thursday with her class. Chrystaluz enjoys listening to the Word of God and she acts on his calling by being kind and loving to others. She listens closely at Mass and she completes and submits the weekly reflections. Chrystaluz is a wonderful follower of Jesus.

### Grade 5

**Raizel Silvestre** is an Apostle of Hope. Raizel participates in Mass as an altar server, gift bearer, and by praying and responding. Raizel is constantly looking for ways to help her classmates and always gives 110% effort on her schoolwork.

### Grade 6

**Mackenzie Cartwright** is an Apostle of Hope. Mackenzie is so kind and friendly to all of her classmates. She participates during Mass and is very reverent when we are praying. Every class, she makes sure to pray for her family members and for anyone else in need of prayers. Mackenzie's care and concern for others and her kind heart makes her a beautiful disciple of Jesus.

### Grade 7

**Shane Stephen** is an Apostle of Hope. Within the first month and a half of school, Shane has set the bar high for what an Apostle of Hope should be. Shane is an altar service during Mass, volunteers at basketball club, and is an active member of the Student Council. Shane is heading our first event and shows true leadership qualities. Inside the classroom, Shane understands the balance of having fun and being focused and working hard. No matter where Shane is, he is kind and inclusive to all of those around him.

### Grade 8

**Marco Grimaldi** is an Apostle of Hope. Marco is a kind considerate student who always tries his best in the classroom. He participates in the school's senior choir as well as helping the students in the primary choir. Marco is also a member of the student council. Marco is an active member in the parish, he can be found singing in the church youth choir during the weekend masses as well as assisting where needed. Marco also does varying volunteering activities outside of the school and the church.

## SSPJ School Apostles of Hope

Sts. Philip & James School is blessed to be witnessing true

### **Apostles of Hope!**

The Carey family: Jack 7th, Grace 1st and Julianna 5th grade had a garage sale and donated part of the proceeds to our school. This act of kindness is just one way the Carey's show how much they "love their school".



A matching donation was made by the Cullen family. The donations made it possible to purchase a large paper cutter for our faculty room. Mrs. Falco, our Technology/Art teacher, is happily testing the machine.

**For Our Students~**  
**Take a picture of this prayer with your phone and remember, when you are struggling, read it and call out to Jesus...**

Dear God,  
I am weary and tired. The world around me has become difficult and hard to bear. I lay all these burdens down before you. You are my strength and rock in times of trouble. I listen and hear your presence in the trees and the flowers and all the beauty of nature. I know you are involved in every aspect of my life whether I see it now or not. I will choose to breathe deep, let go of fear and anxiety, and rest in you. Amen



STS PHILIP AND JAMES  
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 2111 NEEDS YOUR HELP



**2021 THANKSGIVING ADOPT-A-FAMILY**  
To benefit local families AND LI Cares

### Items needed:

- 4 cans of Vegetables
  - 4 cans of Fruit
  - 1 Box of Mashed Potato Mix
  - 1 can of Pumpkin OR Pie Filling
  - 1 Box/Bag of Stuffing
  - 1 jar/can/packet of Gravy
  - 1 can of Cranberry Sauce
  - 1 Box of Dessert Mix (Cake/Cookie/Muffin)
  - ReUsable Shopping Bag
- OR \$15.00 Donation

**2020 THANKSGIVING ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

### What is needed:

\$20 Grocery Store Gift Card (to purchase a turkey)

♥ Please share this with your friends, families, and neighbors. ♥

Thanksgiving Donation will be accepted thru Tuesday 11/16.

Multiple Donations will be accepted. Donations will stay local to our parish, our community, and in Long Island. All checks made out to "Troop 2111".

Drop off location(s): 1 Park View Lane, Lake Grove, 19 Weatherstone Way, Smithtown, and 17 Curfin Lane, St. James.

Thank you!

Members: Erin Kieran, Gabriella Dagostino, Melinda Shannon, Reilly Williams, Rosalia Rodosta, Sarah Franco, Francesca Scott, and Reagan Prew



### Calling All SSPJ School Alumni

Are you a former graduate or student of Saints Philip & James School?  
Ever wonder what your former classmate might be up to these days?

We'd love to hear from you and help you rekindle an old connection.  
Tell us more about yourself & become part of our new Alumni Directory  
Simply Scan this QR Code below & fill-in the questionnaire.



Looking forward to hearing from you!!

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10-16  
Ps 146:7-10  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

**Monday November 8**  
Wisdom 1:1-7  
Ps 139:1b-10  
Luke 17:1-8

**Tuesday November 9**  
**Lateran Basilica in Rome**  
Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12  
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9  
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17  
John 2:13-22

**Wednesday November 10**  
**St. Leo the Great**  
Wisdom 6:1-11  
Ps 82:3-4,6-7  
Luke 17:11-19

**Thursday November 11**  
**St. Martin of Tours**  
Wisdom 7:22b – 8:1  
Ps 119:89-91,130,135,175  
Luke 17:20-25

**Friday November 12**  
**St. Josaphat**  
Wisdom 13:1-9  
Ps 19:2-5ab  
Luke 17:26-37

**Saturday November 13**  
**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**  
Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9  
Ps 105:2-3,36-37,42-43  
Luke 18:1-8

Following Jesus requires a tremendous amount of trust, because he often takes us to unexpected places that require new growth, sacrifices, and moving beyond the boundaries of what's familiar and comfortable.

Consider the two widows in this Sunday's first reading and the Gospel reading. How could they give what common sense says they could not afford? Did they know with total certainty that God would take care of their needs? No. So they gave all they had because they were so in love with God that they trusted his love for them.

Trust is a sign of genuine love – especially when the one we trust is God. We can love others more freely and generously if we trust God to help us through the difficulties that occur when people prove themselves untrustworthy. Our freedom to love others unconditionally is not based upon how safe we are with them; it's based on how safe we are with God.

Each widow gave what she could not afford to lose. We

cannot afford to love those who will cause us grief and disappointment and feelings of rejection, and yet Jesus tells us to forgive them and do good to them and go the extra mile for them.

Sometimes doing good to those who are difficult to love must include "tough love", which asserts boundaries



that they are not allowed to cross. Remember what Jesus did: Until Good Friday, Jesus always walked away from his persecutors. Did he stop loving them? Not at all. And sometimes it means enabling them to reap what they sow so that they begin to understand their need to repent. Instead of cleaning up their messes, we have to let them suffer from it. Think about it: Does God clean up our messes before we repent? Usually he won't even do that after we repent. What would we learn if someone else does the damage control?

Loving others always includes sacrificing ourselves and relying on God to comfort us, heal us, restore us, and bless us. We can trust God for this. Our jar of whatever we pour out to others for the sake of love will never go empty.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What needs healing or correction in your thinking so you can feel secure and fully loved by God?
2. Describe a time when you gave more than you thought you could give: more money, more love, more time, more patience – more of anything. What motivated you to be so generous?
3. What were the end results? What did you learn?

## BEWARE OF YOUR INNER CIRCLES

*No man is an island.* John Donne wrote those words four centuries ago and they are as true now as they were then, except we don't believe them anymore.

Today more and more of us are beginning to define our nuclear families and our carefully chosen circle of friends precisely as a self-sufficient *island* and are becoming increasingly selective as to who is allowed on our island, into our circle of friends, and into the circle of those we deem worthy of respect. We define and protect our idiosyncratic islands by a particular ideology, view of politics, view of morality, view of gender, and view of religion. Anyone who doesn't share our view is unwelcome and not worthy of our time and respect.

Moreover, contemporary media plays into this. Beyond the hundreds of mainstream television channels we have to choose from, each with its own agenda, we have social media wherein each of us can find the exact ideology, politics, and moral and religious perspective that fosters, protects, and isolates our island and makes our little nuclear clique, one of self-sufficiency, exclusivity, and intolerance. Today we all have the tools to plumb the media until we find exactly the "truth" we like. We have come a long way from the old days of a Walter Cronkite delivering a truth we all could trust.

The effects of this are everywhere, not least in the increasingly bitter polarization we are experiencing vis-a-vis virtually every political, moral, economic, and religious issue in our world. We find ourselves today on separate islands, not open to listen, respect, or dialogue with anyone not of our own kind. Anyone who disagrees with me is not worthy of my time, my ear, and my respect; this seems to be the popular attitude today.

We see some of this in certain strident forms of *Cancel Culture* and we see much of it in the increasing hard, inward-turned face of nationalism in so many countries today. What's foreign is unwelcome, pure and simple. We will not deal with anything that challenges our ethos.

What's wrong with that? Almost everything. Irrespective of whether we are looking at this from a biblical and Christian perspective or whether we are looking at it from the point of view of human health and maturity, this is just wrong.

Biblically, it's clear. God breaks into our lives in important ways, mainly through "the stranger", through what's foreign, through what's other, and through what sabotages our thinking and blows apart our calculated expectations. Revelation normally comes to us in the surprise, namely, in a form that turns our thinking upside down. Take for example the incarnation itself. For centuries people looked forward to the coming of a messiah, a god in human flesh, who would overpower and humiliate all their enemies and offer them, those faithfully praying for this, honor and glory. They prayed for and anticipated a superman, and what did they get? A helpless baby lying in the straw. Revelation works like that. This is why St. Paul tells us to always welcome a stranger because it could in fact be an angel in disguise.

All of us, I am sure, at some point in our lives have personally had that experience of meeting an angel in disguise inside a stranger whom we perhaps welcomed only with some reluctance and fear. I know in my own life, there have been times when I didn't want to welcome a certain person or situation into my life. I live in a religious community where you do not get to choose who you will live with. You are assigned your "immediate family" and (but for a few exceptions when there is clinical dysfunction) like-mindedness is not a criterion as to who is assigned to live with each other in our religious houses. Not infrequently, I have had to live in community with someone who I would not, by choice, have taken for a friend, a colleague, a neighbor, or a member of my family. To my surprise, it has often been the person whom I would have least chosen to live with who has been a vehicle of grace and transformation in my life.

Moreover, this has been true for my life in general. I have often found myself graced by the most unlikely, unexpected, initially unwelcome sources. Admittedly, this has not always been without pain. What's foreign, what's other, can be upsetting and painful for a long time before grace and revelation are recognized, but it's what carries grace.

That is our challenge always, though particularly today when so many of us are retreating to our own islands, imagining this as maturity, and then rationalizing it by a false faith, a false nationalism, and a false idea of what constitutes maturity. This is both wrong and dangerous. Engaging with what is other enlarges us. God is in the stranger, and so we are cutting ourselves off from a major avenue of grace whenever we will not let the foreign into our lives.