

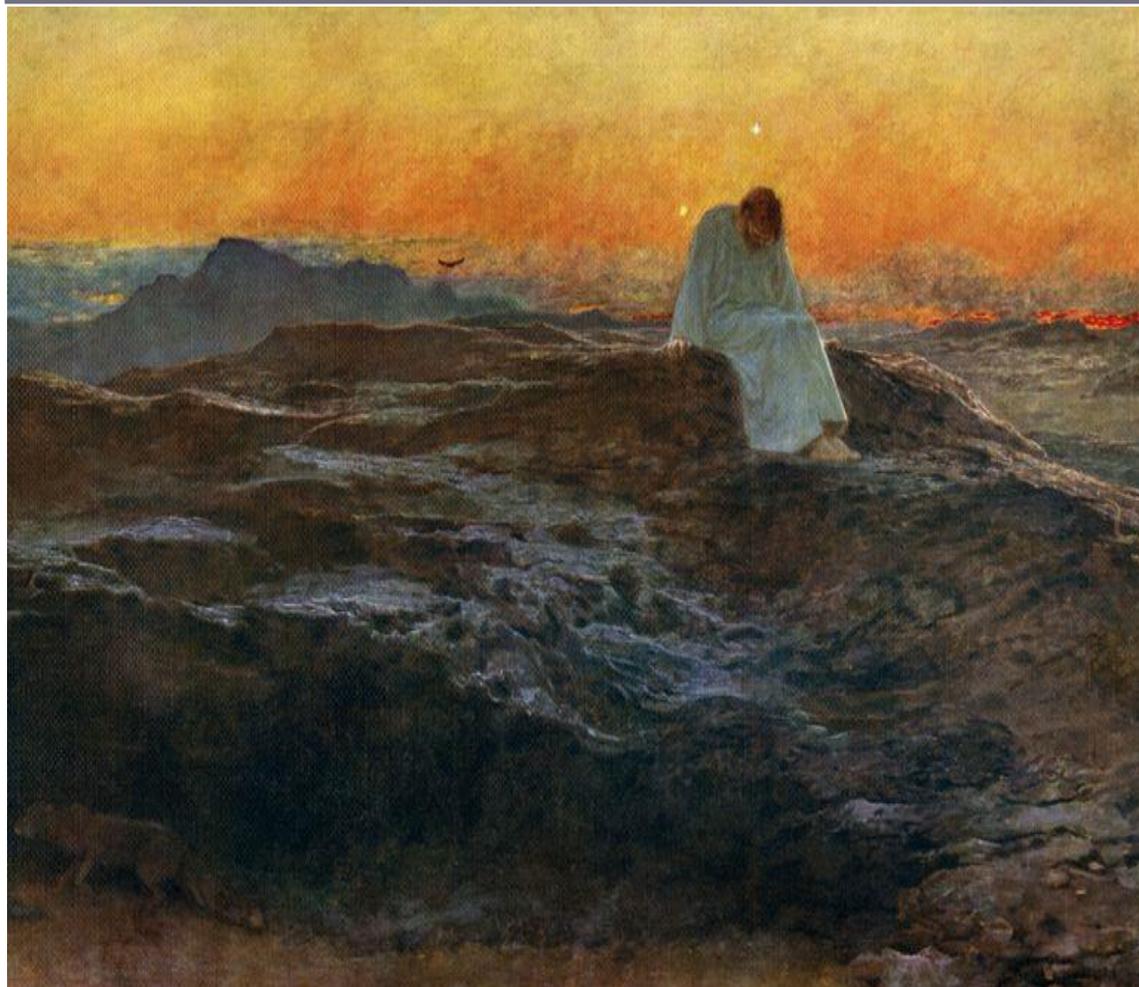


The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

February 21st, 2021
First Sunday of Lent



“Repent, and believe in the gospel”

Mark 1:15

“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 February 14th, 2021

\$ 5,713.

Faith Direct : (126Participants)

3,253.

Total Collections:

\$8,966.

Thank you for your generosity

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Lent began Wednesday. This year, what is Lent? As always, Lent is the season of preparation for the celebration of Easter – the feast of the resurrection of Jesus, bringing new life and new hope to all. We know the word “lent” means springtime – a season which in our geographic area brings new life and new hope. This year – these past 12 months – has been very different. We’ve endured much isolation due to the pandemic. We’ve experienced liturgy with some modifications and with much smaller numbers. We’ve experienced Mass in our own homes via livestreaming. These past weeks we’ve experienced cold, snow and ice, often bringing more isolation. So many days are bleak. We are in great need of springtime, of new life, of hope. We are in great need of Lent.

As ashes were sprinkled on our heads in silence on Ash Wednesday, (or we observed ashes distributed via livestreaming) we entered into this season of renewal. This first Sunday of Lent heralds the temptation of Jesus in the desert. Mark’s account is brief and to the point. Jesus dealt with demons in the desert and was aided by angels ministering to him. In some ways we may feel we’ve been in a desert this whole past year, battling demons. Yet angels have also been ministering to us – or trying to. How do we journey through these 40 days of Lenten desert in the midst of our present “desert” environment? We do so with Jesus and with one another.

“Jesus is the key.” This is our theme for Lent – and for life. Jesus is the One who can open up pathways of hope in many varied ways. As times of praying alone and together, times of fasting from distractions, times of sharing our time and our blessings guide us through this season, we need to be on the lookout for Jesus – who reveals himself through people, events, dreams, and insights. Jesus can unlock our hearts and minds, guiding us through all kinds of challenges and possibilities to Easter joy.

How has Jesus been the key in your life experience? How might Jesus be the key for you this Lent? Different members of the parish will be sharing reflections on what the phrase and the reality mean to them. If you would like to share your reflection, please send it to the rectory. What a wonderful way to bless one another on the Lenten journey!

Each Monday, the final hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, from 6-7pm, will be live streamed and will include a petition praying for a deepening of respect for human life and for courage as we show respect for one another.

Please consider trying one of the many Lenten offerings found in today’s bulletin. As the pandemic continues, these offerings are available online.

And,

- *If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.*
- *Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let her sleep.*
- *If tomatoes are technically a fruit, is ketchup a smoothie?*
- *Money is the root of all wealth.*
- *No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.*

Peace,

Father Tom

Mass Intentions, For the week of February 21st, 2021

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday's
From 1:30-7:00pm
In the Church
The closing hour of
Eucharistic Adoration,
(6pm-7pm), will be live
streamed on the SSPJ
facebook page
Www.sspj.org

*The Altar Candles
 Are Burning
 This week
 In loving memory of,
Virginia Koop
 Loved so much and
 deeply missed.
 Love,
 Your Family*

Remembering in Our Prayers~

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

Saturday	February 20th, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: L. Halluska</i> <i>EM: L. Sisti</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Sean McDermott</i> <i>Karen Jerzenbeck</i>
	Sunday	February 21st, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: B. Luna</i> <i>EM:M. Kenney</i>	8am <i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
	<i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: E. Nicastro</i> <i>EM: M. Latino</i>	10:00am	<i>Donalea Donach</i>
	Collective Mass <i>Presider: Father Kevin</i> <i>Lector: A. Latino</i> <i>EM: B. Luna</i>	12:00pm	<i>Patricia Doyle</i> <i>John O'Brian</i> <i>Joseph Winters</i> <i>Bruce Ogilvie</i> <i>Richard Cembrale</i> <i>Margaret Mary Rice</i>
Monday	February 22nd, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Thomas A. McGrath</i> <i>Deacon Ken Maher</i>
Tuesday	February 23rd, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>George Beckett</i> <i>Marie Csorny</i>
Wednesday	February 24th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Barbara Chase Chiesa</i> <i>Patricia Henrich</i>
Thursday	February 25th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>The Faculty & Staff of SSPJ</i> <i>School</i> <u><i>Collective Mass:</i></u>
Friday	February 26th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Living-Pasquale Savarese</i>
Saturday	February 27th, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: C. Lombardi</i> <i>EM: D. Anderson</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Evelyn Parisi</i> <i>Nelzi Kucich</i>
Sunday	February 28th, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: P. O'Hara</i> <i>EM:C. Czujko</i>	8:00am	<i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: V. Rubano</i> <i>EM: K. Consenz</i>	10:00am	<i>Patricia McNeely</i>
	Collective Mass <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: M. Cashman</i> <i>EM: B. Luna</i>	12:00pm	<i>Tom Oneta</i> <i>Melvin Yee</i> <i>Ann & Bob Bates</i> <i>Ryan Michael Jack Birbiglia</i> <i>Living-Pasquale Savarese</i>

Jesus is the Key

Jesus is the Key-

We welcome all to submit to us your thoughts about wearing the SSPJ Lenten bracelet inscribed with the words,

“Jesus is the key”

Sharing your heartfelt thoughts about how “Jesus Is The Key “ that has opened possibilities, doors, interests, knowledge or our eyes to the community around us and in our lives.....

You can drop off your reflection in an enveloped marked “Jesus is the Key” to the Parish center, or email us at info@sspj.org

Jesus is the key...

Rose G. Bruno

“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” John 10:10 Jesus is the key to my life - life to the full - real life not fluff that the world would have us believe is being alive. Jesus unlocked my heart and opened it to love and be loved. I have found many joyful surprises when I stepped into my opened heart: “spiritual eyes” that I may see God at work in my physical life; “spiritual ears” that I may hear God tell me I am loved unconditionally and that I’m a Child of God; “wisdom” to direct my ways; “light” to illuminate my path; and many other spiritual “surprises” which are too numerous to explain in this short reflection. All of this and more is what it means for me to be “fully alive.” Jesus is the “key” to abundant life. He releases the spiritual energy within me to be open to Him which in turn releases the energy of His Holy Spirit within me to serve others with compassion.

Pat and Mike Tully

When Sister Theresita called and asked us to write something on “Jesus is the Key,” my immediate thought was , “I’m not devout enough, I’m not religious enough, I’m not holy enough to write on this topic.” Of course, I didn’t say that out loud. And I agreed to try to write something because I cannot say “No” to Sister T. I have never been terribly introspective, so I tried to search online to get some ideas, and I dusted off my bible and tried to find something scriptural to help get us started. Nothing we found was truly us. The Church has always been a part of our lives. Even when we were dating in college, we went to Sunday mass together. So, I thought that maybe Jesus is the key to our marriage. But how does the key work. How did Jesus get in there? I was reading Fr. Rolheiser’s message in our Sunday bulletin when it hit me. Jesus has always been in our marriage and in our hearts. We don’t have to look for Jesus to find him, because he is a part of our love for each other and our children. He is there in our friendships and in our careers. He is there in every achievement, every fulfillment, every happiness we experience. He is in everything. Jesus is not the key to get into our marriage. He is already there. The Key is used to unlock our hearts from the inside to recognize His presence.

Lisa Stephen

As my 7-pound baby boy was placed in my arms, all these thoughts came flooding through my mind. Where are the instructions, the rules and guidelines for ‘new parents’? It was overwhelming. It was during these early years of parenting that I realized, for me Jesus would always be the key to my questions and doubts. The teachings of Jesus, teach with love, be compassionate, open your heart to be generous and loving, learn to be patient and have the strength to forgive, were my rules and guidelines. I treasured my beautiful baby as I tried to be the parent that would follow the footsteps of Jesus. Now my beautiful son is a young man who is paving his own way, following the footsteps of Jesus and I could not be more proud. Jesus is and always will be the key in my life’s journey.

Tina Cafaro

Jesus is the key to all life! The source, and the power, the hope, and the Light within us. Someone asked “How does one bear the unbearable?” For me, the answer is clear. The mystery of His indwelling Presence is the resource flowing within us. It sustained my life after the death of my son. His life- giving Light embraced me. Yes, there was something else with me in the darkness, holding me. We are never alone. “Even the darkness is held by the Light “

Sharon Gill

Jesus is the Key!
Always present in our lives.
Jesus, always near to share our most wonderful and difficult times.
Jesus, we look to your strength during challenging times so we may persevere.
Jesus, we share our most wonderful joys with you
and give thanks for our blessings.

Lenten Offerings



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GIVE UP
It's Who You Become
A Life-Changing Lenten Experience

Embrace a deeper, more spiritually rewarding life, and lose yourself in God this Lent.

Visit BestLentEver.com to take the first step toward unlocking your God-given potential.

BEST LENT EVER This Lent, join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST LENT EVER - a free series of emails and video reflections that will help you to discover or rediscover God through prayer.

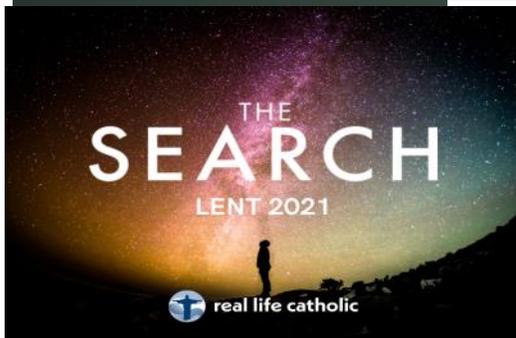


Lent with St. Francis

As we enter Lent, we are reminded that we are "dust to dust" and "ashes to ashes." After a year full of sorrows, we should ready ourselves for a season of somber humility. Lent offers an invitation to pray, to say I am sorry, and to look inward. The season of Lent was one of sacrifice and introspection for St. Francis. As our guide through this holy season, he is inviting us to do the same.

To subscribe visit:
www.franciscanmedia.org

Our journey begins **Ash Wednesday, February 17**



THE SEARCH

LENT 2021

 real life catholic

The Search is a beautifully produced journey through the big questions we all share. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to *The Search with your own small group. And if you don't have a small group yet...we encourage you to start one! It's easy, and The Search is a great resource to start with. In fact, each week Chris Stefanick from Real Life Catholic will be guiding us throughout Lent on how to use The Search in your own small group during his weekly show The Life You Were Made For.*

To sign up for this seven-week series, visit reallifecatholic.com/thesearch and get ready to experience your most meaningful Lent, ever.



LED BY THE SPIRIT

This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for Daily Lenten Reflections. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your life.

To Sign Up Visit: formed.org/lent

Excerpt of Pope Francis Ash Wednesday Reflection:
Visit www.vaticannews.va to view in its entirety.

The desert of Lent leads us to them, he continued. It is a journey of charity towards those who are weak and in need.

Pope Francis concluded his catechesis reiterating that the path through the Lenten desert is made up of "prayer, fasting, works of mercy", so that it may lead us "from death to life".

"If we enter the desert with Jesus, we will leave it at Easter when the power of God's love renews life," he said, and just like those deserts that bloom in spring with buds and plants suddenly sprouting from the sand, if we follow Jesus, our deserts will also bloom.

Lenten Offerings

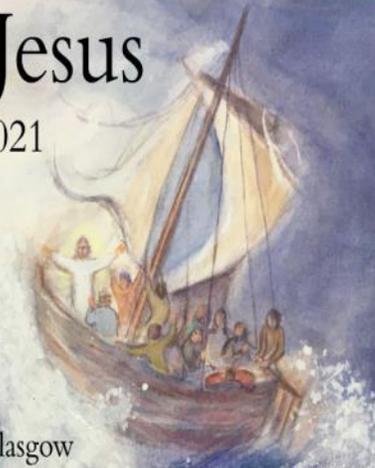
Knowing Jesus

Lent Online Retreat 2021

An amazing Daily Lenten Journey – please review and consider.
VISIT:
www.onlineprayer.net



Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow



Stations of the Cross: In the Church

Friday February 26th 1pm

Friday March 5th 7pm

Friday March 12th 1pm

Friday March 19th 7pm

Friday March 26th 1pm

We will also be live streaming stations to be viewed at sspj.org



Loyola on the Potomac

A Jesuit Retreat House
Faulkner, Maryland

presents:

A Virtual Lenten
Evening of Prayer Series:
Hope in the Cross

Join us each Tuesday evenings in Lent for this hour long prayer series on ZOOM. Each evening will begin at 7:00 pm and end by 8:00 pm. There will be an opening prayer, an Invitation to Prayer, a period of personal prayer time, a time for sharing of graces and discussion and then a closing prayer.

To register, send an email to: Reservations@loyolaretreat.org You will receive an email link to the ZOOM prayer series on Monday of each week.

Tuesday, February 23

“The Spirit Drove Jesus Into the Desert’...Why?”

Father Paul McCarren, SJ

Tuesday, March 2

“A Deepening Friendship”

Kathleen Maguire-Zeiss

Tuesday, March 9

“The Magis of God”

Father Thomas Gavin, SJ

Tuesday, March 16

“The Cross as Waiting”

Sister Pat Mensing, SSJ

Tuesday, March 23

“The Glory of God present in the Passion of Christ”

Father Bill Rakowicz, SJ

Tuesday, March 30

“Letting Jesus Wash Your Feet”

Elaine Ireland



BBC AND JESUITS IN BRITAIN BRING YOU A SPECIAL LENT RETREAT

[Lent 2021 | Jesuits in Britain](http://www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021) : VISIT: www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021

Do you need some therapy for the soul? St Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), has inspired millions to dig deeper, connect more closely with the world, and find God in all things. It is a spirituality which appeals to people of all religions and none. In these uncertain times, Ignatius reaches across the centuries and asks: What moves you? What brings you life? What do you want to give yourself to? What do you desire most deeply? What holds you when you...

Parish Social Ministry



We Remember In Our Hearts the families holding precious memories in their hearts from the loss of,

*Jacqueline A. Jackmore
Helen Purcaro
Anne M. Childs*

Safely home in the loving arms of Jesus.

FOOD PANTRY HELP

Kleenex



Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

All across our country, Catholics are taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor and joining the Catholic Climate Covenant. The St. Francis Pledge is a promise and a commitment by Catholic individuals, families, parishes, organizations and institutions to live our faith by protecting God's Creation and advocating on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. To join the Covenant, you commit to act on each of the five elements of the St. Francis Pledge.



TAKE THE **ST. FRANCIS** PLEDGE

YOUR FIRST STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO CARE FOR CREATION AND THE POOR

St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor

I/We Pledge to:

- PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations- contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
- ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 29

HELP SAVE LIVES

9,699
Babies saved from abortion
... so far

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies

From February 18 - March 29, our community will join with hundreds of other cities and towns participating in *40 Days for Life*, a life-saving campaign made up of three components:



PRAYER & FASTING



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PEACEFUL VIGIL

40 Days for Life is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, involving more than 650,000 volunteers in 559 cities across 27 nations.

Remembering Mothers, Children and all Life through prayer, fasting peaceful vigils and community outreach.

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 Planned Parenthood building in Smithtown.

Fasting and Sacrifice

Eucharistic Adoration Monday's from 1:30pm-7pm. The closing hour from 6-7pm praying for respect for human life.

Please call 631-862-9370 for further information .



2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF
ROCKVILLE CENTRE

One Family in Mission

Creating Pathways to Faith



Please consider making a gift to the
2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal.



For more information, to watch our video
or to make a donation,
visit www.drvc.org/CMA
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296



Extraordinary reach.
Unconditional care.
Life-changing results.

January 25, 2021

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Lee Vance

Vice Chairs
Brian T. Edwards
H. Craig Treiber
Stephen J. Tyree

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Jessica Taylor O'Mary
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Michelle Yanche
Demetrius P. Yatrakis

President & CEO
Keith M. Little

Lynn Sisti
Sts. Philip & James Parish Social Ministry
One Carow Pl.
St. James, NY 11780

Dear Friends:

On behalf of SCO Family of Services, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of wonderful gifts this holiday season. During this difficult year, your support helped brighten the holiday season for those we serve. Because of you, we provided new gifts to almost 5,300 individuals in our care.

SCO is the largest human services organization in the New York metropolitan area, providing a wide range of early childhood, youth development, family support, housing support, and foster care programs, as well as programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. SCO has provided vital human services throughout New York City and Long Island for 125 years.

We greatly appreciate your support. If you would like additional information about SCO Family of Services or our giving program, please do not hesitate to contact us at 631-213-0155 / mkatzman@sco.org (Marnie) or 631-213-0175 / lforjgone@sco.org (Lisa).

Thank you once again for making the holidays special for the men, women, children, and families of SCO Family of Services.

Sincerely,

Marnie
Marnie Katzman
Development Officer

Lisa
Lisa Forjgone
Program Support Center Associate

Thank you!

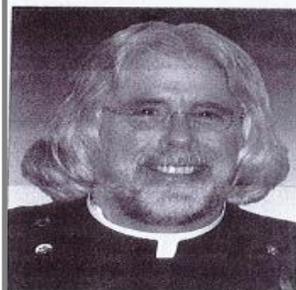
*Amazing as
always*

1 Alexander Place, Glen Cove, NY 11542 | 516.671.1253 | 154 Lawrence Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 | 718.895.2555 | www.sco.org



HOPE HOUSE MINISTRIES MINISTRY FOR HOPE, INC.

A Ministry Supported by the Montfort Missionaries



Dear Contributor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Hope House Ministries family, I would like to express my deep appreciation for your contribution to our ministry.

As always, the challenge for our ministry is to provide compassionate, comprehensive and competent care for the poor, the marginal and wounded among us. Thanks to the many hearts and hands of so many generous people, those who were broken, wounded and discarded have been given a second chance to get back on their feet again. Over the years, many miracles have been performed and no matter what the problem or burden, every person leaves a little richer and able to build a solid foundation for their emotional and intellectual growth.

Be assured that you will be remembered in my prayers.

With heartfelt thanks,

Fr. Francis Pizzarelli

Fr. Francis Pizzarelli, SMM, LCSW-R, ACSW, DCSW
Executive Director-Founder/CEO



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR CRAFTING OVER 300 VALENTINES DAY CARDS!!! YOUR CARDS WERE SO GREATLY ACCEPTED AT MORGAN STANLEY CHILDRENS HOSPITAL, GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPICE, ST. JAMES REHABILITATION, AND WERE SENT TO 3 BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN AND THEIR DAD WHO IS FIGHTING TERMINAL BRAIN CANCER. WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU! THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR LIGHT AND REMINDING EVERYONE:

"JESUS IS THE KEY"



Our Communion II Students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on February 6th and 13th, 2021

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus comforts us. He strengthens us on our journey. We are reconciled with God, with the Church, and with the people we have hurt. Through this sacrament the Church celebrates Jesus' gift of forgiveness and the beautiful smiles behind their masks says, "I am forgiven, Jesus Loves Me"



Small Acts of Kindness Go A Very Long Way...
See how some of our children are serving others....

Religious Ed Student, Tim Siri wrote a prayer for a family member that is living with a cancer and shared the Advent Service Project HOPE ornament with his prayer for a Valentines surprise. Way to Go Tim- what a beautiful gesture of love and faith!

**Confirmation II- 8th Grade
Presentation of the Nicene Creed Mass**

Tuesday February 23, 2021

At 5pm and 7pm in the church

Parents were emailed the session to attend.

Any questions,
Please call the religious ed office at
631-584-3204.



MARCH ACTS OF SERVICE...

HINT....YOU NEED IT EVERYDAY!

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
IN NEXT WEEKS BULLETIN!**



Music Notes: Digo "Si," Señor

Here we are, the first Sunday of Lent. Time for reflection. Our Presentation song for Lent is "I say Yes, Lord" by Donna Pena.

We have been singing the song for a few years now so the refrain should be quite familiar. The song reminds us of our willingness to say "yes" to what God needs us to do.

You can listen to the song on-line as well and print out the words so it's easier to follow along. To add a little twist, we will be singing the echo parts of the song in Spanish as we have done in previous years. No matter what the language, we are all one body in the Lord.

A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday already! And, we get to celebrate Lent for a second time during this Pandemic. This time, knowing what I know and have experienced, I think I have to look at Lent with different eyes.

I think that each time Lent rolls around we can go into automatic pilot and do the same things we always do: give up something, perhaps go to Mass during the week, and participate in Rice Bowl or some other charitable organization. We know the drill: fast, pray, and almsgiving. But what does Lent 2021 hold in store for you, for me.

I think there is great opportunity here to be creative and envision a Lent filled with gratitude. This past year we definitely have not been operating on automatic pilot. There have been so many changes that have caused many of us to move out of our comfort zones. And I think we may have to agree that more than usual complaining and negativity have been experienced during this past year. Why not look at fasting, praying, and almsgiving in a different creative way? We all are quite capable of this although it may take a little time to reflect on the ideas. Below are a few things I've been thinking about.

I need to broaden my circle of prayer to include all those in government who are responsible for making the rules while trying to keep all safe. For all those caretakers who spend so many hours away from their own families to help others. For all those who have been so generous in supporting nurses, doctors, EMS workers, police, and firefighters by giving them food. For the researchers who continue to develop vaccines to help end this pandemic. For those who are alone and continue to worry about what will happen to them.

We can fast from being selfish especially when we buy more than we need thus leaving others with out. Fast from being critical when leaders ask us to keep masks on and social distance, doing these things knowing we are helping others. Fast from being just grouchy! There has to be something in your day you are grateful for. Let's fast from being unkind to someone we don't particularly like. Fast from negative talk -- no one wants to spend time with a negative Nellie or Nathan. Fast from looking at what you don't have and concentrate on what you do!

Giving of alms, can mean different things. It may be easy to put money in the collection basket if you are present at Mass. But, if you don't attend church, do you mail in your envelope? If money is tight in your family, can you do errands for some elderly folks who can't get out? In some areas shoveling snow for a neighbor could be worth a million dollars! Time is money, so spending time caring for someone or calling shut-ins amounts to a lot.

All the things that I've mentioned are really what we should be doing even if we didn't have a pandemic. How responsible am I in building up in trust this Kingdom of God? Pandemic or not, there is a lot to be grateful for and appreciated. What will your Lent 2021 look like? I pray you challenge yourself, move out of your comfort zone and live this Lent to the fullest.

Till next week,

Sister Theresita



Giving of Oneself—It's a great thing!

Pre-K IS COOKING AT SSPJ SCHOOL!

What's going on in Pre-K?

Students in Pre-K A and Pre-K B have been learning so much this year! Pre-K celebrated the 100th day of school during Catholic Schools Week! Pre-K practiced counting to 100 and the students participated in lots of fun counting activities!



Pre-K students have been learning lots about counting and numbers. They love to practice their Math skills by making a Winter Stew. Students count out the ingredients and mix it in their stew bowls. Yummy!

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

2nd Sunday of Lent

Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18
Ps 116:10,15-19
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

Monday March 1

Daniel 9:4b-10
Ps 79:8,9,11,13
Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday March 2

Isaiah 1:10,16-20
Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday March 3

Jeremiah 18:18-20
Ps 31:5-6,14-16
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday March 4

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 16:19-31

Friday March 5

Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a
Ps 105:16-21
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

Saturday March 6

Micah 7:14-15,18-20
Ps 103:1-4,9-12
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Think of a "mountaintop experience" you've had. What generated it? Did it change your life forever or was it just a momentary high?

In Biblical symbolism, a mountain represents getting close to God. Did your mountaintop experience bring you closer to God?

It was at the top of Mount Tabor where Jesus revealed the glory of his Godliness to his closest friends. Called a "high mountain" in scripture, Mount Tabor is, in reality, not huge. What was huge is the event that took place there – and why.

The three disciples who witnessed Christ's transfiguration greatly benefited from seeing his glory revealed, because someday they would be commissioned to take over his earthly ministry.

The Father told them, "This is my beloved Son; *listen to him.*" As we listen to Jesus, it is we who are now transfigured.

Lent is meant to be a mountaintop experience for each of us. If we follow Jesus up the mountain, his light will consume any darkness within us. The more we listen to his teachings and apply them to our daily lives and ministries, the more we become like him. And the more we become like Jesus, the more our lives are transfigured by his light, and the more our lives then transfigure the world around us.



As the first reading tells us, Abraham did not withhold his son from the Lord; God the Father did not withhold *his* Son from us.

Likewise, we must not withhold the Son from the people we encounter. Whether it's by an evangelizing word or a helping hand,

or a compassionate and attentive ear, or the generous giving of mercy and forgiveness or money or time, we are Christ's hands and feet and voice in the world today. We are his earthly body. We are the answers to people's prayers.

We have been empowered through our baptisms to shine with the glory of Christ's love. We have all been commissioned to continue his earthly ministry. May the experience of Lent take us to new heights of union with Christ and his mission!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Identify one area of your life that you would like Jesus to transfigure. What do you need to do to repent of it? How do you need to change (with God's help) so that others see more of Jesus?
2. Share the story of a time when you let Jesus change you. How difficult was it to be transfigured? Why did you want to make the change?
3. How did it impact others?

A N H O N E S T P R A Y E R

Recently I received a letter from a woman whose life, in effect, had imploded. Within the course of a few months, her husband divorced her, she lost her job, was forced to move from the house she had lived in for many years, was locked down in her new place by Covid restrictions, and was diagnosed with a cancer which might be untreatable. It was all too much. At a point, she broke down in anger and resignation. She turned to Jesus and with bitterness, said: *If you're there, and I doubt it, what do you know about any of this? You were never this alone!* I suspect that we all have moments like this. What did Jesus know of any of this?

Well, if we can believe the Gospels, Jesus did know all of this, not because he had a divine consciousness, but because like the woman in the story he knew right from the beginning what it meant to be the one standing alone, outside the normal human circle.

This is evident right from his birth. The Gospels tell us that Mary was forced to give birth to Jesus in a stable because there was no room for them at the inn. That heartless innkeeper! The poor man has had to endure centuries of censure. However, that thought misses the point of the story and misconstrues its meaning. The moral of this story is not that some heartless cruelty took place or that the world was too preoccupied with itself to take notice of Jesus' birth, though this latter implication is true. Rather the real point is that Jesus, the Christ, was born an outsider, as one of the poor, as someone who, right from the beginning, was not given a place in the mainstream. As Gil Bailie puts it, Jesus was *unanimity-minus-one*. How could it be otherwise?

Given who Jesus was, given that his central message was good news for the poor, and given that he entered into human life precisely to experience all it contains, including its pains and humiliations, he could hardly have been born in a palace, enjoyed every kind of support, and been the center of love and attention. To be in real solidarity with the poor, as Merton once put it, he had to be born "outside the city"; and whether that was the case historically or not, it is a rich, far-reaching metaphor. Right from the beginning, Jesus knew both the pain and the shame of one who is excluded, who has no place in the mainstream.

When we look closely at the Gospels, we see that there was no human pain, emotional or physical, from which Jesus was spared. It is safe to say, I submit, that no one, irrespective of his or her pain, can say to Jesus: *You didn't have to undergo what I had to undergo!* He underwent it all.

During his ministry, he faced constant rejection, ridicule, and threat, sometimes having to hide away like a criminal on the run. He was also a celibate, one who slept alone, one deprived of normal human intimacy, one with no family of his own. Then in his passion and death, he experienced the extremes of both emotional and physical pain. Emotionally, he literally "sweated blood", and physically, in his crucifixion, he endured the most extreme and humiliating pain possible for a human being to undergo.

As we know, crucifixion was designed by the Romans with more than only capital punishment in mind. It was designed as well to inflict the maximum amount of pain and humiliation possible for a person to endure. That was one of the reasons they sometimes gave morphine to the one being crucified, not to ease his pain, but to keep him from passing out and escaping the pain. Crucifixion was also designed to utterly humiliate the one being put to death. Hence, they stripped the person naked, so that his genitals were exposed and that in his dying convulsions the loosening of his bowels would be his final shame. As well, some scholars speculate that during the night leading up his death on Good Friday, he may also have been sexually abused by the soldiers. Truly there was not a pain or humiliation he did not endure.

An old, classic definition of prayer tells us this: *Prayer is lifting mind and heart to God.* Well, there will be low points in our lives when our circumstances will force us to lift our minds and hearts to God in a way that seems antithetical to prayer. Sometimes we will be brought to a breaking point where in brokenness, anger, shame, and in the despairing thought that nobody, including God, cares and that we are all alone in this, consciously or otherwise, we will confront Jesus with the words: *And what do you know about that!* And Jesus will hear those words as a prayer, as a sincere sigh of the heart, rather than as some kind of irreverence.