

December 10th, 2023 The Second Sunday of Advent

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



"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths"

Mark 1:3

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

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

STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675 Website—www.sspj.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm Open Thursday 9am-6pm Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY

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

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 631-584-3204

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko~cczujko@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~bluna@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~davento@sspj.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson School Phone-631-584-7896 School Fax: 631-584-3258

TRUSTEES

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato Lisa Keane, Maureen Burke, Nancy Sanders, Peter Suski, Sheila Cavooris

Collections: ~Thanking you for your generosity Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$16,700

Weekly Collection: Sunday, December 3rd, 2023:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$12,391.

Mail Collections: 2,713.50

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

Total Collection: \$18,478.54

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

SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

Sacraments

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

<u>Marriage-</u>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.

<u>Confirmation</u>-Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

<u>Reconciliation</u>— 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.

<u>R.C.I.A</u>— 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— Monday1:30pm -7pm

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN CAPT. MICHAEL T. DOLAN- JR. -D.O, US ARMY LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES



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. JACKSONSTAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
STEVEN CAVA-USN
ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS –USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF

DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC PAUL MUMOLO-USN VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG
KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY
MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD
KELLI MCLAUGHLIN-LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD
1 LT MICHAEL J BANG-MILITARY INTELLIGENCE US ARMY
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY
LT. COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER SHANK MD

MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USN. MAJ. BRENDAN JOHNSTON-USAF CHRISTOPHER A. HIONIDIS-USAF EMMETT MOLONEY –USN HANK MOLONEY –USAF

LIVE-STREAMING THE 8:00AM SUNDAY MASS

The Sunday mass at 8:am is available to view on our SSPJ Church Facebook page, while it is live at the 8am mass, it can be recalled at any time.

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends.

In today's readings we hear from both Isaiah and John the Baptist. Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, writes:

Like Isaiah and John, the Baptist we are called to bring comfort and good news to others. We try to stay focused as we share the true meaning of this season with those nearest to us and with others, we meet on the way that God has opened for us. With John we can feel like voices crying out in the wilderness as we call our world to reform and prepare for the coming of God and God's ways.

Isaiah's call to *comfort* and John's call to *prepare* both require patience. Have you ever tried to comfort a squirming child, or find words to offer solace to a hurting adult? Have you ever tried to help someone prepare for a major event – an exam, a wedding, a birth? In doing any of these activities, has your patience ever been put to the test? During this season of Advent, as we anticipate the feast of Christmas, is it ever hard to be patient? In our time of fast action and immediate response, we hear the words, "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day"? What??!!

How do we cultivate patience? An image from nature (and Scripture) can be helpful. If you've ever planted seeds in a garden, you know that cultivation includes nurturing with food and water, placement in an area with both sufficient light and warmth, watching for and removing weeds which may try to encroach, and – loving. It might be a caring eye, a tender touch or even an encouraging word. All these can help the plant to bloom, but in God's time. We can't rush the bloom. Patience - and care - are essential.

So, can any of this apply to cultivating patience in ourselves? I think so. During Advent we can nurture our hopes and desires for Jesus bringing new birth to our lives. How? Try taking some quiet time for prayer -- even five minutes a day. Light a candle. Perhaps one day you might spend your time repeating, *Come, Lord Jesus*. Or you might take a day to speak with an Advent person from Scripture. John the Baptist (how did you deal with those who wouldn't listen to you?) Or Isaiah (how might I offer comfort to others this year?) Or Mary (how did you nurture your faith in the midst of so many unknowns?). Perhaps you can spread comfort to others by choosing a "star" in our "Pick-a-Star". (Info is in this bulletin.) And we can patiently be watchful for "weeds" which can overtake us this holiday season, trying to make us lose patience.

But most of all, patience calls us to view life with a loving eye – recognizing while all may not be perfect (including ourselves), God's love is always present to patiently guide, forgive and encourage us. During these days of Advent, let's *comfort* and *prepare* as God does – with great *patience*.

Please give yourself a Christmas treat and plan on attending our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 17th. It's always a heartwarming experience and it also provides us the opportunity to thank all those involved in our Music Ministry for the blessing they provide us with every week.

Another way to make ready for Christmas is our parish communal Reconciliation Service on Monday, December 18th. We first pray together, and then are offered the opportunity for individual confessions.

And finally, reminisce with me....

1978
Long hair
8 tracks
KEGs
Acid rock
Going to a new hip joint
Disco

Rock and roll all night

Longing for hair
Cataracts
EKGs
Acid reflux
Getting a new hip joint
Costco
Sleep through the night

Peace,

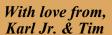
Father Tom

Mass Intentions, For the week of December 10th, 2023

The Altar Candles are burning

In honor of, Karl Walz~living & Carol Walz,

"Happy 55th Anniversary in heaven Mom, and Dad





We Pray for those who are ill...

Andy Anna Capizzio Alfred Fox Antonette Sabatino Angie Mingione Angela Amoroso Arthur Gureck Austin Rocky Baby Ben Baby Penny Grace Candela Barbara Bombace Brian Mattia Rose Lubrano Barbara Sammarco Belinda Groneman **Bob DelCiello** Rob Remhild Carol Carolyn Nehl Cathleen Henchey Chase Addonisio Christella Stewart David Beleck David McCue Deirdre W. Diane LaPorte Donna Patrissi Dorothy Mitchell Eleanor Bayley Elizabeth Martin Elizabeth Smith Eileen Emily Schiaratta Emily Souders
Flo Donohue Gail Lumley George Fitzpatrick Gloria Montesano Ginny & John Rief Gregory Parker Helen Harold Scott Jack Donohue

Jackie & Christine

Duffy

Jakob King

Jamie Accardi

Jean Saladino

Jenny Bonanno

Jerry Joelle Nicholas Joni Deleo

John Capizzio

John Cronin

John DeStefano

John Maynes

John Mattia

Joseph

Joe Benaburger

Joseph Domizzio

Judy Rampola Joe Dorrian Joseph Costa Joseph Domizzio Kaitlyn Remhild Kathleen Draper Kathleen Ñ. Kerry Karl Walz Kitty Cronin Kristin Galetta Laura Bode Leon Donach Lola Santangelo Lori Cearney Mary Monte Marty Rizzo Margaret Remhild Mark Wagner Mary Ryan Marie Feicco Maria Clark Maria Collaro Marie del Ciello Maureen Litten Mary Ann Cesarski Mary Beth McGovern Matthew Parrella Michael Fisher Mike Lofaro Michael Nick Lella Patricia Acker Patricia Tripptree Pasauale Savarese Pat McCumber Peter Donach Peter Portanova Ricardo Buffit Rob Remhild Riordan Cavooris Rogelio Martinez Rose Ryan Duffy Sara Jean Andersen Stanley Stura Stephen Dolce Susanne Smith Tonia Perdue Tara Cesarski Teresa Mattera Tina Cafaro Tiffany Lochan Thomas Lifrieri Tom Rvan Tom Focone

Vivien & John

Cordes

Wayne Smith Sr.

Saturday December 9th Cantor: K. Murtha St. Juan Diego	Presider: Father Tom Lector:Schor/Student EM:Licari/Sisti/Anderson/ Damato/Drechsler	9:15am 5:00pm	Paul DeWeerdt Vincent Danese
Sunday December 10th Cantor: L. Lupinacci	Presider: Father Tom Lector:Dervan/Marino EM:Calderone/Rapp/Czujko/ Sehne/M. Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: B. Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector:Dobres/Tomasino EM:Amen/Rizzo/Parish/ Orlando/Sotomayer/ Mulhall	10:00am	Carol Walz & Living~ Karl Walz
Cantor: J. Lohmann	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector:Just/Rubano EM:Consenz/Samson/ Stack	12:00рт	Claudia Chandler Nick Giannantonio Angelo Tiseo
Monday	Adoration	7:30am	
December 11th St. Damasus I, Pope	1:30-7pm In the church	9:15am	Matthew Caruana
Tuesday	Our Lady of Guadalupe	7:30am	Agnes Kingston
December 12th		9:15am	Marie Roberts
Wednesday	St. Lucy	7:30am	
December 13th		9:15am	Patrice DeLissa
Thursday December 14th	St. John of the Cross	7:30am 9:15am	<u>Collective Mass</u> Philip Spina
Friday December 15th		7:30am	Living~Jental Marie and Christopher Michael Thomas
		9:15am	Ettore Orlando
Saturday	Presider: Father Joe	9:15am	Rick Dorso
December 16th Cantor: K. Murtha	Lector:Healy/Student EM:Conti/Mantia/Sisti/ Drechsler/Urce	5:00pm	Charlie Reynolds
Sunday December 17th Cantor: B. Meringolo	Presider: Father Joe Lector:Mantia/Koke EM:Koke/Portanova/Ramos/ Sehne/P. Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: J. Hill	Presider: Father Tom Lector:Zahorody/Piliero EM:Licari/Luna/McKie/ Mulhall/Orlando	10:00am	Michael Kaplon
Cantor: J. Hill	Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector: Suski/Regan EM: Bleggi/Rubano/ Margaret	12:00рт	Evelyn Eustace Claudia Chandler Marilyn Mooney Walter Larosa Michael Zausin Living~Rob &Kailyn Remhild



SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH FOR RELIGIOUS RETIREMEND FUND

The continued goal of this collection is to provide financial assistance for the challenges that our religious face because of the rising cost of healthcare. This collection helps to fund daily essentials like prescription medications and nursing care.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY 5:30-8:30PM

> SATURDAY 8:30AM-8:00PM

SUNDAY 8:30AM-6:00PM



Heavenly Father, Lord of All, come and fill this world with your peace. May there be an end to hatred and division among your people. Cease all the fighting and war in this world. Heal the bitterness and hurt in my own heart. In this season of Advent, prepare my heart for the coming of Jesus, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Fill my heart with your peace which passes all understanding. For of the greatness of his government and peace, there shall be no end. Amen.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are so grateful for your Dedication , time and

The sign up sheets for our Christmas and New Year masses is Available in the prayer room

Your assistance during these masses is very much appreciated.

Thank you!



We Welcome Our Newly Baptized

Welcome Baby Benjamin And the Euring Family

Welcome Baby Liam And the Balsamo family

Welcome Baby Leonardo and the Tedesco Family





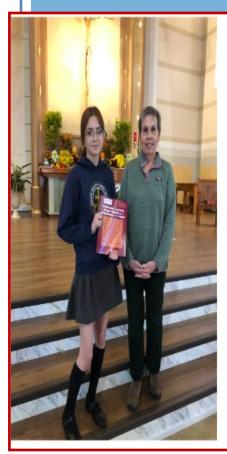


One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

(Ephesians 4:5)







Congratulations
and God bless
Sarah Franco on
being the 2nd
member of the
SSPJ 2024
graduating class to
join the
Lector Ministry.
A great big
THANK YOU to
Miss Rita for
preparing our
students so well.

Cleaning Out Your Closet?

We need your shoes!

Group Name: SSPJ School



Drop-Off Location:

359 Clinton Ave. St. James, NY 11780

Dates:

Now- Until December 18th 2023

Contact:

Mrs. Jessica Leahy (631)-413-9455 jessicaguest@ymail.com Help us raise funds just by donating gently worn, used and new shoes! Be sure to ask, friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to donate too!

Collected shoes not only help support us, but they will be reused and given a second life by those in need through #microenterprise. It's a WIN-WIN!

052022F

With just 22 days left in this year of 2023; we remain \$20,565 away from our Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$102,000

OUR LAST DAY TO MEET OUR GOAL IS DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

SSPJ Parish stands as a valiant cornerstone of FAITH...it welcomes the joy filled...the hopeless...the newly baptized...the grieving...

The ill and most importantly...its families of deeply rooted faith...

It stands by your generosity and during these turbulent financial times, It relies upon reaching its CMA goal..

This GOAL affords SSPJ to maintain its structures and well, to keep the lights on , welcoming all in need..

If you haven't done so already...might you share any amount you could spare?

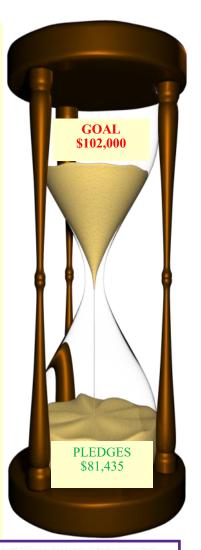
YOU ARE NOT JUST HELPING SSPJ PARISH, YOU ARE HELPING OUR BROTHERS,
SISTERS AND CHILDREN
SUFFERING THE LOSS OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS
WHO WALK
SILENTLY BESIDE US.

Truly I tell **you**, **whatever you** did for one of the **least** of these brothers and sisters of mine, **you** did for me.'.

Mathew 25:40

Won't you prayerfully consider giving a gift?

Wishing our Parish family Peace of mind Peace of heart this second Sunday of Advent



How does the Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God's People? It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation! It's fast and secure.

Go to the following link to find your parish's keyword: bit.ly/3VFrMCE

TEXT your parish's Keyword To: (516) 271-3338

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries	Appeal	
Parish	Pledge:	\$
Name	Down payment:	\$
Address		
City, State, Zip:		
Phone:Sig	nature:	Date:
	, you can also visit <u>CatholicMin</u> call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 29	100000
01	Thank You!	

"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM BECAUSE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE." Matthew 19:14



CONFIRMATION II 8TH GRADE:

CHANGE OF DATE FOR NICENE CREED MASS

The Nicene Creed Mass scheduled for December 11th has been changed to January 8th, 2024

CONFIRMATION II ~ 8TH GRADE RETREAT! IT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2024 IN THE AUDITORIUM

2 SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AND FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL.

"Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire."

Religious Education classes are all back in session.
Classes will not be held from December 17thDecember 30th.
Classes will resume the week of Dec. 31!
Wishing all our families
A blessed Christmas!



SAVE THIS DATE!!! 2/5/2024 THE SSPJ DINE AROUND RETURNS!!!



SAVE THE DATE FOR

THE DINE AROUND DINNER

FEBRUARY 5TH IN THE AUDITORIUM FROM 6:00-8:00 PM TICKETS ARE \$25 (ADULTS ONLY)

No tickets will be sold at the door.

"O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How lovely are thy Branches"

SSPJ Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Lights of Love Celebration



















SSPJ FAMILY ADVENT RETREAT WAS FILLED WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND MOST OF ALL LOVE! Advent lessons, prayer, games and SERVICE...what an awesome way to begin this Advent Season.

Many thanks to the "Advent Angels for their love, dedication and hard work! Barbara Meringolo, Ellen Sotomayer, Barbara Luna and Miss Charlotte!!





The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Jesus, I need you...

Celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Advent is a powerful way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. This sacrament celebrates God's love for us, and God's desire that we relish that love and allow it to overflow into our lives.

The sacrament of Reconciliation has a long and varied history. As with all our sacraments, it has a personal and communal dimension. The revision in the ritual following the Second Vatican Council reminds us of the importance of both dimensions.

We're called to:

Gather-Reflect on God's word-Reflect on our response-Confess our sins, our sorrow, and our desire to respond more generously to God's love-Receive God's mercy and go forth to live that love.

On Monday evening, December 18th, 2023 There will be a Communal Reconciliation Service in The Church at 7:00pm.

We will gather in song as the candles of the Advent Wreath are lit, reminding us that Christ our Light overcomes any and all darkness.

We will listen and respond to the Word of God proclaimed.

The homily will invite us to reflect on God's love for us and God's invitation to deepen our experience of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

As a community, we will be led in a simple examination of conscience, and allowing God to gently reveal to us the sinfulness we need to admit.

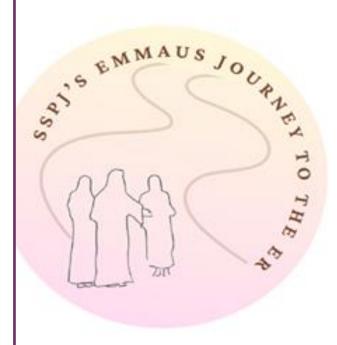
As a community, will be given an act of penance to help us heal our relationships with God, others and ourselves and will pray an Act of Contrition together.

As music plays we are invited to approach the priests stationed around the church, confessing the sin revealed and receiving individual absolution.

We continue on our almost concluded Advent journey, praying that all of us feel and nurture Emmanuel, God-with-us, this Christmas and throughout our lives.



Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



June 2023 — July 2024

Our Year of the Eucharistic Revival

This is the Path

When Jesus saw the crowds, his compassion for them led him to multiply the loaves for them; he does the same for us with the Eucharist.

Continuing this reflection on the story of the loaves and fishes, Pope Francis reminds us that this miracle happens every time we come to Mass. We are the crowds on the hillside looking for nourishment after our tiring and often frustrationg days. We are the crowds hungry for a word of grace, a chance to gather new strength in hopes of being better disciples in the week ahead. And sometimes we are clueless and just hoping to hear and receive something that will help us make sense of our lives. Jesus listens and responds to us; he heals and feeds us. The miracle continues.

Ponder:

What do I hope to receive from Mass?

Pray:

God of mystery and wonder, let me hear you, let me see you, and help me witness to your love.

(Taken from What Pope Francis Says About Eucharist)

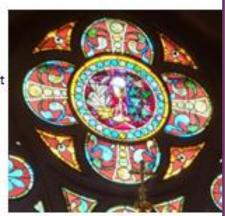
Sister T

(Window from St.

John the Evangelist

Church, Center

Moriches)



THIS WEEKS REFLECTION FROM SISTER T~

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday, December 6th we celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas. May you be blessed by your giftedness and that of all those you meet along the way. Although this is the season we try and concentrate on waiting, I couldn't wait to share with you a card I received from a friend. It reads on the front,

Advice from a GLACIER!
Carve your own path,
Go Slow
Channel your strengths
Smooth the way for others,
Keep moving forward,
Avoid meltdowns,
Be cool!

Actually, great advice from nature and especially during this season of Advent. Do you have a plan for this Advent? Only You can carve out how you are preparing for Christmas. What paths do you need to clear so that this Christmas can be the best ever? With the Hustle and bustle of the holiday season will you slow down and spend more time in prayer? How can you use your gifts and talents to smooth the way for others? No matter how many times we may fail, are you willing to keep moving forward? God loves you, keep on growing in His love. Don't let the stress of the season cause undue anxiety, spending some extra time in prayer can be helpful. And lastly remail calm and cool, all things are passing. A good friend of mine used to say, "Don't worry you can't see it from an airplane!"

May your advent be blessed, and I hope you take the time to listen to the advice from Nature, The Glacier. I think it will help you to have the best Advent ever, leading to a joyous Christmas. God bless.

Till next week, Sister Theresita



MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

"Let us not forget: God some to love all. This horizon of universality. The Gospel is not only for me, it is for everyone; let us not forget this."

Pope Francis

Parish Social Ministry



We remember the family and friends of,

Lawrence J. McGinn, Jr. Anthony J. Raia

Safely Home in the arms of our Lord

Our Food Pantry Needs:

Dinty Moore Beef Stew
Canned Fruit
Jelly
Thank you for your generosity



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Respect Life Committee wishes all of you a Blessed and Holy Advent.

As we prepare for the coming of Our Savior as a babe in Bethlehem, we ask you to remember in your prayers all life, especially expectant mothers and those praying for new life in their families.

Please join the prayer group in the prayer room @8AM each weekday morning Please join us to pray for all life, especially the unborn and their families..

Katie's Way

Collecting new and gently used baby items and delivering them to the <u>Life Center of Long Island</u>. These items benefit mothers, children, and expectant mothers in need. Your donations build a community that supports mothers who choose life for their unborn children under difficult circumstances. **Suggested donation items:** Diapers, wipes, bottles. Gently used baby and toddler items such as car seats, high chairs, strollers, clothing, toys, etc. New baby and toddler items, including diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, clothing, etc.

PLEASE DROP OFF AT: 56 TILLOTSON AVENUE, ST.JAMES, NY

SSPJ SENIORS

The next meeting of the SSPJ Seniors will be on Monday, December 11th, 2023

from 1:30 to 3:30
in the Sts. Philip & James Room.
All Seniors are welcome to join for an
afternoon of
faith, friendship, and fun.



We have a unique opportunity to renew our vocation to become stewards of God's creation.

Our commitment to the care of our common home is not some kind of add-on to our faith or optional extra. Instead, as Pope Francis continually reminds us, the care of God's creation should be at the center of our call as Christians.

Helpful Phone Numbers~ YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Dept. of Social Services: 631-854-2300

Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124

Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827 Alzheimer's Disease: 631-954-2323 American Red Cross L.I.: 516-747-3500

Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-

4900

Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800 Brookhaven Youth Counseling: 631-451-8011

Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546

Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480 Children's Community: 631-585-2020, 631-476-9698

www.childrenscommunityhs.org

Domestic Violence Hotline (Vibes): 631-360-3607

Elder Abuse: 631-761-7470

Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547

Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542 Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758

Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030 In Home Care- Home Instead: 631-724-2273

LI Against Domestic Violence: 631-666-8833 LI Head Start:631-732-7100

L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833

Memory Care in NY: www.memorycare.com Mental Health Emergency: 631-952-3333 Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262 Nassau/Suffolk Law: 631-232-2400

National Aging in place-L.I. Chapter: 631-383-4341 National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-784-2433

Office for the Aging: 631-853-8200

Overeaters Anonymous 631-260-6615 www.SuffolkOA.org

Rachel's Hope (Post Abortion): 888-456-4673

Response Crisis Center: (Suicide Hotline): 631-751-7500 The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200

My Weekly Sunday Gospel FOR ALL GRADES

The Second Sunday of Advent~ SUNDAY December 3rd, 2023

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

This reflection is due next weekend

The Second week of Advent: December 16th or December 17th, 2023

The Gospel Message: Mark 1:1-8



In todays gospel reading we learn of John the Baptist . He wanted all to be prepared for the coming of Jesus, who would Baptize us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We use this
Advent season to renew
our lives so
that we, like
John the
Baptist,
might
prepare the
way for
Jesus.

It is the second week of Advent...

It is never too late to prepare your heart.

To prepare yourself for Christmas by serving others...

This week name two things you will do, two acts of love...for someone in need...

Remember when you do for others it is the greatest gift for YOU!

Reflecting and Preparing for Next Sunday December 17th, 2023 The Third Sunday of Advent

Good News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17 Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11 Luke 1:46-50.53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8.19-28

Monday, December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Ps 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17 Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-4b,5-6 Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21 Luke 1:39-45

Friday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8d Luke 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24 Ps 25:4-5b,8-10,14 Luke 1:57-66 John the Baptist came to "testify to the light." What does this mean?

We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth shining in the darkness to draw us to eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth so that we can be saved from the destructive forces of our sins and

follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony of John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this affect our lives today?

John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in the desert." His testimony brings us to the Light of

Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him. He is coming to you!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems unavailable when we need him. What has opened your

eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship with the Lord.

We all have the same testimony and the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain, heartache, and despair, not to mention sin.

What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice.

Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the

light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the truth, the louder and clearer is our message.

What people choose to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it so that they're given that choice.



Reflect & Discuss:

- + How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome?
- † How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you?
- † What gifts do you have that enable you to give to the poor (the financially poor or the emotionally starving or the spiritually hungry) or to heal broken hearts?
- + How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners?
- † How are these a testimony that teach others about Jesus?

Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

OUR OVER-COMPLEX, TORTURED SELVES

When all is said and done, our lives are not all that serene and peaceful. In a manner of speaking, we are always somewhat pathetic. That shouldn't scare us. Pathetic is not a pejorative term. The word comes from the Greek, *pathos*, which means pain. To be pathetic is to live in pain, and we all do because of the very way we are made.

You might say that doesn't sound right. Aren't we made in the image and likeness of God so that each of us, no matter how messed up our lives might be, carry a special dignity and a certain godliness within us? We do carry that special dignity. However, despite that and largely because of it, our lives tend to be so complex as to be pain filled. Why?

Godliness isn't easy to carry. The infinite inside us doesn't easily fit itself into the finite. We carry too much divine fire inside to find much peace in this life.

That struggle begins early in life. To create a self-identity as a very young child, we need to make a series of mental contractions which ultimately limit our awareness. First, we need to differentiate ourselves from others (*That's mom – I'm me*); then, we need to differentiate between what is living and what is not (*the puppy is alive – my doll isn't*); next, we need to differentiate between what is physical and what is mental (*this is my body – but I think with my mind*). Finally, and critically, as we are doing all this, we need split off as much of our luminosity we can consciously handle from what is too much to consciously handle. With that we create a self-identity – but *we also create a shadow*, namely, an area inside us which is split off from our consciousness.

Notice that our shadow is not first of all a looming darkness. Rather, it's all the light and energy inside us that we cannot consciously handle. Most of us, I suspect, are familiar with the words of Marianne Williamson made famous by Nelson Mandela in his inauguration speech: *Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.*

Our light frightens us because it is not easy to carry. It gives us great dignity and infinite depth, but it also makes us pathologically complex and restless. Ruth Burrows, one of the foremost spiritual writers of our time, begins her autobiography with these words: *I was born into this world with a tortured sensitivity and my life has not been an easy one.* You wouldn't expect those words from a mystic, from someone who has been a faithful nun for more than seventy-five years. You wouldn't expect that her struggle in life was as much with the light within herself as with the darkness within and around her. That's also true for each of us.

There's a famous passage in the Book of Qoheleth where the sacred writer tells us that God has made everything beautiful in its own time. However, the passage doesn't end on a peaceful note. It ends by telling us that, while God has made everything beautiful in its own time, God has put *timelessness* into the human heart so that we are congenitally out of sync with time and the seasons from beginning to end. Both our special dignity and our pathological complexity take their origins in that anomaly in our nature. We are overcharged for life on this planet.

St. Augustine gave this classic expression in his famous line: *You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.* There is an entire anthropology and spirituality in that single line. Our dignity and our perpetual restlessness have one and the same source.

Thus, you need to give yourself sacred permission for being wild of heart, restless of heart, insatiable of heart, complex of heart, and driven of heart. Too often, where both psychology and spirituality have failed you is in giving you the impression that you should be living without chaos and restlessness in your life. Admittedly, these can beset you more acutely because of moral inadequacy, but they will beset you no matter how good a life you are living. Indeed, if you are a deeply sensitive person, you will probably feel your complexity more acutely than if you are less sensitive or are deadening your sensitivity with distractions.

Karl Rahner once wrote to a friend who had written to him complaining that he wasn't finding the fulfillment he longed for in life. His friend expressed disappointment with himself, his marriage, and his job. Rahner gave him this counsel: *In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable, we ultimately learn that in this life there is no finished symphony.* There can be no finished symphony in this life – not because our souls are defective, but because they carry godliness.