



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

631-584-5454

January 21st, 2024  
The Third Sunday  
In Ordinary Time



*"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
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](http://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](mailto:cczujko@sspj.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~[bluna@sspj.org](mailto:bluna@sspj.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~[davento@sspj.org](mailto: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, January 14th, 2024:**

Collections from Weekend masses: \$10,738..

Mail Collections: \$1,515.

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

**Total Collection: \$15,627.04**

**SNOW REMOVAL COLLECTION: \$3,196.**

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT [SSPJ.ORG](http://SSPJ.ORG) CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON: USING  
SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP DEFRAY THE  
COST OF OUR SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT.**

### 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  
CAPT. MICHAEL T. DOLAN- JR. -D.O, US ARMY  
LT. COL. JOHN KAIREZ  
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON  
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY  
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN  
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY  
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC  
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS  
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY  
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-  
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF  
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF  
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC  
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC  
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN  
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL  
STEVEN CAVA-USN  
ERIC SEELIN- USMC  
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ  
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN  
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC  
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY  
KEVIN JONES-USCG  
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG  
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY  
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  
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 gospel, Jesus announces "This is the time of fulfillment." He then goes on to invite Simon and Andrew (and us) to come and follow him. Follow him where? Follow him how? Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, reflects:

Jesus, the preacher, announces a call and invites us to respond by a new way of thinking and acting. He doesn't spell out in detail to his first followers, or us, what he expects of them. He doesn't hand them a rule book explaining how they are to behave. Instead, he comes announcing a new time and invites them to follow and trust him. We don't have a roadmap into the future, but we follow Jesus who leads us there. With Christ, now is always a time of fulfillment.

Next Sunday, with parishes throughout the country, we will begin the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. The SSPJ School Community is most grateful for the support offered by our parishioners. We're very proud of our faculty, staff, families, and our students! It is a delight to experience the students and to be part of joining in shaping their religious personalities and vision at the daily Masses the individual classes join in. SSPJ School exemplifies what Pope Francis calls for, "a place of gospel joy where the living Christ is present, felt, known and worshipped". It is a place where young Apostles of Hope are readied to share God's love in our world. So, quoting Jesus in last week's gospel, "Come and see!" An open house is planned. See the bulletin for details and come check out our unique and graced difference as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

Can you believe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is just a few weeks away? We will begin collecting last year's palm to be burned for ashes next weekend. Please place your old palm in one of the baskets which will be at the doors of the church.

Ticket sales for the Dine Around begin this weekend. It looks like it's going to be a grand slam! I hope you can come. It's always been a delightful time. Tickets, however, are limited to 200 and will not be sold at the door. So please, if you plan to come, make sure you get your ticket!

Happily, Father Joe has returned and next week I will be away for a while, spending some time with family and friends.

And finally,

I'm beginning to think that for some of you, the wheels on your bus don't go round and round!

Me: (sobbing hysterically, eyes swollen, nose red) "I can't see you anymore! I will not let anyone hurt me like that again!"

Trainer: "It was a sit up. You did one sit up."

My superpower is holding on to junk for years and then throwing it out one week before I need it.

How to parallel park: 1- Park somewhere else.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

# Mass Intentions, For the week of January 21st, 2024

## **Eucharistic Adoration** **Monday** **In the Church** **1:30-7:00pm**



*We Pray for those who are ill...*

Andy  
Anna Capizzio  
Anna Maria  
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  
Betty DiSimone  
Bob DelCielo  
Rob Remhild  
Carol  
Carolyn Nehl  
Cathleen Henchey  
Chase Addonizio  
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  
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 Domizzio  
Kaitlyn Remhild  
Kathleen Draper  
Kathleen N.  
Kerry  
Karl Walz  
Kitty Cronin  
Kristin Galetta  
Laura Kennedy  
Lauretta Prague  
Laura Bode  
Leon Donach  
Lola Santangelo  
Lori Cearney  
Marjorie Fox  
Mary Monte  
Marty Rizzo  
Margaret Remhild  
Mark Hildreth  
Mark Wagner  
Mary Ryan  
Marie Feicco  
Maria Clark  
Maria Collaro  
Marie del Cielo  
Maureen Litten  
Mary Pinnatta  
Mary Ann Cesarski  
Mary Beth McGovern  
Matthew Parrella  
Michael Fisher  
Mike Lofaro  
Michael  
Nick Lella  
Patricia Acker  
Patricia Trippree  
Pasquale Savarese  
Pat McCumber  
Peter Donach  
Peter Portanova  
P.I.  
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 Lifreri  
Tom Ryan  
Tom Focone  
Vivien & John  
Cordes  
Wayne Smith Sr.

<b>Saturday</b> <b>January 20th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> <i>LoCastro</i>	<i>Presider: Father</i> <i>Lector:Merlino/Student</i> <i>EM:Calderone/Mantia/</i> <i>Anderson/Duffy/Urce</i>	<b>9:15am</b>  <b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Andrew Dunn</b>  <b>Sarah Wilder</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>January 21st</b> <b>Cantor: .</b> <i>Stefanowski</i>	<i>Presider: Father</i> <i>Lector:Halluska/Luna</i> <i>EM:Dunn/Dervan/Diaz/</i> <i>Sica/M.Tully</i>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b> <b>Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> <i>Lohmann</i>	<i>Presider: Father</i> <i>Lector:Lombardi/Regan</i> <i>EM:Rizzo/Parish/Keane/</i> <i>Czujko/Amen/McKi</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Louis Sicurella</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> <i>Lupinacci</i>	<b>Collective Mass</b> <i>Presider: Father</i> <i>Lector:O'Leary/Rubano</i> <i>EM:Margaret/</i> <i>C. Rubano/V. Rubano</i> <i>Settineri</i>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Clara Schwartz</b> <b>Claudia Chandler</b> <b>Patricia Daly</b> <b>Sheila Ferguson</b> <b>Carol Napolitano</b> <b>Ruth Marie Davila</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>January 22nd</b>	<b>Day of Prayer for the</b> <b>Legal Protection of</b> <b>Unborn Children</b>	<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Katie Farrell</b>  <b>Thomas J. Ficht</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>January 23rd</b>	<b>St. Vincent Deacon</b>	<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Mary Aiello</b>  <i>Living~Sp. Nicole A. Cannon</i> <i>&amp; SGM. Michael P. Burelli</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>January 24th</b>	<b>St. Frances deSales</b>	<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Joan &amp; John Purcell</b>  <i>Living~Peter &amp; Virginia</i> <i>Portanova</i>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>January 25th</b>	<b>The Conversion of St Paul</b> <b>Apostle</b>	<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Ralph Marciante</b> <b>Collective Mass:</b> <b>Tara Routi</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>January 26th</b>	<b>Sts. Timothy and Titus</b>	<b>7:30am</b>  <b>9:15am</b>	<b>Deacon Ron Blasius</b>  <i>Living~Capt. John Tully &amp;</i> <i>Lt. Col James Tully</i>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>January 27th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> <i>McCulloh</i>	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Grimaldi/Burke</i> <i>EM:Rapp/Damato/Sisti/</i> <i>Byrne/Toto</i>	<b>9:15am</b>  <b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Living~Joseph Saggio</b> <b>USN &amp; Capt. Paul Wilms</b>  <b>Anne Ellis</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>January 28th</b> <b>Cantor:</b> <i>Lohmann</i>	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Sehne/White</i> <i>EM:Czujko/Kenney/Koke/</i> <i>LaSerra/P. Tully</i>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b> <b>Parish</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> <i>Hill</i>	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector:Zahorodny/Koke</i> <i>EM:Rizzo/Suski/Clarke/</i> <i>Keane/Amen/Luna</i>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Brett Auletta</b>
<b>Cantor:</b> <i>Stefanowski</i>	<b>Collective Mass</b> <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: Kenton/Suski</i> <i>EM:Consenz/Chilton/</i> <i>Suski/Latino</i>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Carmela &amp; Nunzio</b> <b>Salerno</b> <b>Living~Steve &amp; Veronica</b> <b>Aghabekian</b>

**Second Collection January 28th, 2024 ~  
The Church in Need**

On January 28, 2024 a collection will be taken for "The Church in Need." The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is particular need for help:

**Church in Central and Eastern Europe** - this collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that struggle to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region.

**The Church in Latin America** For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.

**The Church in Africa** – The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports pastoral projects to build the capacity of the Church and foster lasting peace and reconciliation across a continent often marked by division and tension. Although the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Respect Life Ministry**

The Respect Life Committee invites all, in the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to "Do something beautiful for God."

This Monday Jan. 22nd, we celebrate the anniversary of the Roe V. Wade decision. Although this decision has been struck

down, we know the defense of life, in all stages, is still a major concern in our country and around the world.

We invite you

to join us this Monday, Jan. 22 @ THE 9:15 Mass, and afterwards, weather permitting, to say the rosary at the Shrine for the Unborn, located on the side of the Bethany Center as we pray for the defense of life in all its stages!

If weather is inclement, we will meet in the prayer room. All are also invited to pray at the clinic on Maple Ave. in Smithtown at whatever time they can make it on

Monday, January 22nd, to join with members of neighboring parishes in prayer..



**WORD OF GOD SUNDAY  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2024**

*The Word of God, calls for our listening and our response in silent reflection, as well as in word and song. Most important of all, the Word of God, which is living and active, calls each of us individually and all of us together for a response that moves beyond the liturgy itself and affects our daily lives, leading us to engage fully in the task of making Christ known to the world by all that we do and say.*

*"I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life"*

*All are encouraged to bring their bible to mass as we ask God's blessing.*

*Let us hear the word and become beacons of light to each other and those walking beside us.*



**9 DAYS FOR LIFE  
JANUARY 16-24**

*Pray to protect human life!*

Join Catholics nationwide in prayer for the protection of human life!  
You can download the novena or get the daily prayers and reflections by email or text message.

**9DAYSFORLIFE.COM**





# HIS WORDS. YOUR JOURNEY. TOGETHER.

*"Each one of us has had the first encounter with Jesus, as a child, as an adolescent, as a young person, as an adult... When did I encounter Jesus for the first time? Try to remember this a bit. And after this thought, this memory, to renew the joy of following Him and to ask ourselves – following Jesus means being a disciple of Jesus – what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? According to today's Gospel we can take three words: to seek Jesus, to stay with Jesus, and to proclaim Jesus. To seek, to stay, to proclaim."  
Pope Francis*

## CMSAA - Catholic Middle School Athletic Association

SSPJ Students in grades 6 - 8 are eligible to participate in Middle School Sports. The SSPJ Boy and Girl's Basketball Teams had a great opening season this past Friday, January 5th.

### Way to go OWLS!

#### 26 - 15 Win Over Holy Angels



#### 36 - 18 Win Over St. Mary's



## Let's Go Owls, Let's Go!

# Save the date!



## Dine Around Dinner

SSPJ Auditorium

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Tickets \$25 each

No tickets available at the door

Adults Only--BYOB

*Sample dishes from many local restaurants!*



...and more to come!



DIocese of ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 28, 2024  
Catholic Schools Week

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

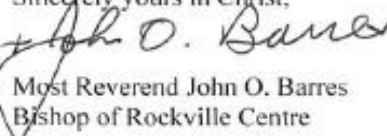
Each year, the Church throughout the United States takes the opportunity to celebrate the gift of Catholic Education during Catholic Schools Week which begins today and concludes on February 3, 2024. As Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I want to express how incredibly proud I am of our Catholic Schools in the ways that they evangelize our young Catholics here on Long Island.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis says, "Catholic schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of culture" (§134). This mission-driven approach to Catholic Education is especially fitting as the Church in the United States participates in a national Eucharistic Revival, because the mission of the national Eucharistic Revival is embedded into the mission of Catholic Education. Assisting students to know and love Jesus through the transformative power of the Mass, and equipping them to evangelize their families and communities, is an extraordinarily beautiful and achievable goal that our Catholic Schools strive to achieve each day.

As schools throughout the Diocese celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024 with Masses, open houses, and other various activities, we give thanks to the Lord for those who make these events and Catholic Education as a whole possible. To the dedicated and faithful administrators, teachers, and staff members: thank you for working tirelessly every day to advance the Church's evangelizing mission by your love for Christ and by helping his children to know the presence and power of his love in their lives. To the many parents and guardians who generously offer so much time to assist your pastors and principals in advancing the mission of Catholic Education in your parish and regional schools: your love for Christ and his Church is inspiring, and I am so grateful for your Good Samaritan charity, dedication, and perseverance. In addition, I want to express my gratitude to the Morning Star Initiative and the Department of Education staff who collaborate and work together to provide every student in our Catholic Schools with an education that is robustly Catholic, academically excellent, safe and supportive, and sustainable.

St. John Bosco, a patron saint of school children, understood the essential mission of Catholic Education in the world. He once said, "If we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our forces on the Christian education of the young." Because of the fantastic work being accomplished in our Catholic Schools, I think we can have great hope in the future of society here on Long Island: a future that is filled with young Catholics who are on fire for Jesus Christ and his Church!

Through the intercession of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the patron saint of Catholic Education, Saint John Bosco, and Mary, Star of Evangelization, may the Lord continue to bless the Morning Star Initiative, the Department of Education, our Catholic Schools, and all those involved in Catholic Education on Long Island, especially our students!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre





# STS. PHILIP AND JAMES SCHOOL

## ST. JAMES, NY

### NURSERY-8TH GRADE



At Saints Philip & James School, we are on a mission to create the leaders of tomorrow. By infusing the Gospel into every aspect of our students' development, we are confident they will be well-equipped to take on the world! Let's create a brighter future together!

**STOP BY OUR OPEN HOUSE EVENT!**

Sunday, January 28th from 11am - 1:30pm

Instagram: SSPJACADEMYANDSCHOOL

Facebook: SSPJSCHOOL

Phone: (631) 584-7896

Address: 359 CLINTON AVENUE, ST. JAMES, NY 11780



**WWW.SSPJSCHOOL.NET**

*Tuition-Assistance  
is Available*



**www.TomorrowsHopeFoundation.org**

**"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 NICENE CREED MASS  
MONDAY JANUARY 22ND AT 7PM**

**FAMILY MASS FOR  
GRADES 3 AND 4:  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2024 AT 8AM**



*FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS*

**GRADES 1 & 2 FAMILY MASS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST AT 10:00AM**

*FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS*



**CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD GATHERS  
TOGETHER AT THE 5PM MASS ON SATURDAY  
EVENING AND AT THE 10 AM MASS ON SUNDAY**



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### January's Song

By Jeanne Hunt

*Lord it is January.*

*Nights are very long and the earth is blanketed in a gray mist.  
The sweet sounds of the savior's birth fade, and we are left with  
the remnant of the feast. Like the discarded evergreens awaiting  
the trash,*

*so too are our spirits.*

*Life quiets into a sleep now, and we are forced to dream dreams  
about the warmth of the sun, the color of a burgundy rose, the  
smell of newly turned earth. Dreaming is the gift of January, and  
only those who have danced to the song of dreams can love this  
time. It is a time to spend with what might be possible. In this  
quiet, Lord, you speak to those who dream. You speak about your  
dreams for us. And because there is nothing to distract us, we  
hear.*

*Could it be, Lord, that the real gift of Christmas is the grace, the  
hope, that enable us to dream. Is the nativity the call to believe in  
something beyond us? To believe in mustard seeds becoming  
mountains...*

*To believe in walking on water...*

*Or the blind watching the sun rise. Could it be that the dream  
songs of January are the gift, the vision of things to be? Because  
the Savior dared to be born, and we dare to believe in your  
dream.*

SSPJ Guild Presents 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Night Out  
at Rinx Harborfront Port Jefferson



Please join us for a fun evening of Ice Skating and Hot Chocolate  
with SSPJ !!!

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:00pm-7:45pm

Where- The Rinx Harborfront

101 E Broadway, Port Jefferson, NY 11777

\$20 Per Person Includes Admission, Skate Rental and Hot  
Chocolate

Any questions, please contact Andrea Bodon 631-739-3224 or  
Meghan Matera 631-291-3044

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Please RSVP no later than Monday 2/5/2024

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Checks Payable to SSPJ School.

## *A Reflection from Sister Theresita*

*Dear Friends,*

*The snow has finally come to Long Island! As things are a little slower than usual, I have had some extra time to think about this week's reflection. Several factors entered into what I am going to share with you: a snowy day, memories of the Alleghany Neuman Group that came for service week each January, and a line from scripture that I can't get out of my head. Without further ado... here we go!*

*"What do you desire?" Jesus asked. Another translation read "What are you after?" These were the first words spoken by Him. No great teaching or exhortation, no sermon or declaration of who He was, just a simple question. Since those words began occupying my thoughts, I wondered what it might have meant to the Apostles then, and also to me today. Somehow, it must have challenged the Apostles, as they had to look inward and ask themselves that same question. At the time, the answers may have varied and perhaps changed in time. For me, it has been an ongoing question. Deciding to live my life as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth some 60 years ago was the answer to that question. The answer has changed as time passed and life changed with its joys, challenges, and personal growth. The good news is that the answer is always evolving and making changes to who I am. I think that is why Jesus asked the Apostles that question, so they could look inward and discover themselves. I am grateful for the opportunities that I've had to answer that question differently.*

*With that in mind, I want to share with you a memory that I came across in reading 'old reflections'. While living in Des Plaines, I had the privilege to work and be with groups of students from Alleghany College. Each January, on the last week of the vacation, they came to offer a week of service with and for us in our home and the local community. Those were grace-filled years and I am blessed to have had them. I was thinking that they may have asked themselves the question 'What do you desire?' or 'what are you after?' with the simple response 'to participate in a week of service with my friends'. I want to share with you some of their thoughts after the week.*

*The comments remain anonymous.*

*"This trip taught me about the value of going outside of my comfort zone. The entire time we were going over the schedule for the week a lot of the activities were not what I was expecting. You could say that I was a nervous wreck. I honestly was not sure how I was going to survive so far out of my comfort zone. After pushing myself, I found myself growing..."*

*"I have been reminded of how much God loves me and been able to learn a little more about myself, I am grateful for the wonderful people we have met here and cannot thank you enough for opening your home and heart to us."*

*"We all have a journey to take and the destination is only the ending – how we get there is what will define us once we reach it."*

*"I prayed that God would give me a sign that what I was doing He had planned for me. Lo and behold, while I was sorting clothing donated to Brother Michael, I found an Introductory to Biochemistry book. It just so happens that is my major. Like Sister T says "God really has a sense of humor!"*

*"Being here this week has meant more to me than I could put into words. Everything from the energy I felt when I walked through the doors to the spirits that have touched my heart. Something I heard earlier in the week is how we could turn the corner tomorrow and meet someone that changes our life forever and this is exactly what I felt happened to me this week."*

*What about you? What do you desire? What are you after? Take the time to do some soul searching and see if you have an answer, or if the answer you already had has changed over the years. You may just be surprised!*

*Till next week,  
Sister Theresita*

# Parish Social Ministry

## Our Food Pantry Needs:

Beef Chili with Beans  
Canned Chicken  
Dinty Moore Stew  
Chef Boyardee Ravioli/Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Tissues

*Thank you for your generosity*



*We remember the family and friends of,*

*Concetta Hauf*

*Safely Home in the arms of our Lord*

## **SSPJ SENIOR GROUP GATHERING**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2024 FROM 1:30PM-3:30PM**

**IN THE STS. PHILIP & JAMES ROOM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THIS AFTERNOON OF FAITH, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**

We are called, in particular, to be of service to our common home which at this time is in urgent need of repair. We could do this in any number of ways, some by planning a tree, rewilding our gardens, or cutting back on our carbon emissions.



## **Katie's Way**

Collecting new and gently used baby items and delivering them to the Life Center of Long Island. 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**

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Reflection For Grades 1-3

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday, January 21st, 2024

My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS: \_\_\_\_\_ SSPJ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and  
bring it to mass with you next weekend

Saturday, January 27th or Sunday, January 28th, 2024



### **The Gospel Message: Mark 1: 14-20**

Today's Gospel explains to us how Jesus called his first disciples to join and follow him.

The disciples must have been very excited as they stopped what they were doing and they followed Jesus!

*Dear Jesus,  
Thank you  
For the gift of  
our faith.*

*Please help me  
make good choices  
so that others will  
want to follow me  
in your loving  
footsteps.*

*Amen*



Jesus says, "Follow me."

Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11, John 1:41-42



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**My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 4-6**

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday, January 21st, 2024

My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS: \_\_\_\_\_ SSPJ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and  
bring it to mass with you next weekend**

**Saturday, January 27th or Sunday, January 28th, 2024**

**The Gospel Message: Mark 1: 14-20**



Today's Gospel explains to us how Jesus called his first disciples to join and follow him.

The disciples must have been very excited as they stopped what they were doing and they followed Jesus!

***Dear Jesus,  
Thank you  
For the gift of our  
faith.***

***Please help me  
make good choices  
so that others will  
want to follow me  
in your loving foot-  
steps.***

***Amen***



Jesus called four fishermen to become his Disciples, can you name these disciples?

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If Jesus called you to come and join him on a community service project to help others, how would you feel? What would you ask Jesus about the project?

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**My Weekly Sunday Gospel Reflection For Grades 7-8**

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday, January 21st, 2024

My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_ My Grade IS: \_\_\_\_\_ SSPJ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please share this time with Jesus, Complete your reflection from your heart, and  
bring it to mass with you next weekend**

**Saturday, January 27th or Sunday, January 28th, 2024**

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you*

*For the gift of our faith.*

*Please help me make good  
choices so that others will  
want to follow me in your  
loving footsteps.*

*Amen*

**The Gospel Message: Mark 1: 14-20**

Today's Gospel explains to us how Jesus called his first disciples to join and follow him.

The disciples must have been very excited as they stopped what they were doing and they followed Jesus!

Jesus said to the men that he met, "come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Share what you think Jesus meant by that sentence:

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If Jesus called you to come and join him on a community service project to help others, how would you feel? What would you ask Jesus about the project?

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## Good News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

#### Sunday, January 28

Dt 18:15-20  
Ps 95:1-2,6-9  
1 Cor 7:32-35  
Mk 1:21-28

#### Monday, January 29

2 Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13  
Ps 3:2-7  
Mk 5:1-20

#### Tuesday, January 30

2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,  
24-25a,30 – 19:3  
Ps 86:1-6  
Mk 5:21-43

#### Wednesday, January 31

**St. John Bosco, Priest**  
2 Sm 24:2,9-17  
Ps 32:1-2,5-7  
Mk 6:1-6

#### Thursday, February 1

1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12  
1 Chr 29:10-11b,11d-12d  
Mk 6:7-13

#### Friday, February 2

**Presentation of the Lord**  
Mal 3:1-4  
Ps 24:7-10  
Heb 2:14-18  
Lk 2:22-40

#### Saturday, February 3

1 Kgs 3:4-13  
Ps 119:9-14  
Mk 6:30-34

This Sunday's Gospel reading illustrates the authority of Jesus. If we truly accept and understand his authority over our lives, we can rejoice in the Lord even when life hands us hardships.

Why? Because we know that Christ's authority is supreme, which means that everything we've placed under his authority will produce good fruits. Even bad situations will be transformed into blessings. Tragedies will be changed into triumphs. Sorrows will be transfigured into joy. Frustrations will lay the groundwork for new growth, new knowledge, and a greater ability to minister to others.

However, if we reject Christ's authority by acting as if we're the ones in charge, deciding for ourselves how to end a problem or how and when to escape from a hardship, our problems will only get worse. This is called "moral relativism." Pope Francis wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation on the Gospel of Joy (*Evangelii Gaudium*, paragraph 64) that this leads to a feeling of disorientation instead of joy.



cross with Jesus.

There are no successful shortcuts to the triumphant victory that awaits us. There is no easy way to overcome evil. If this were not true, Jesus wouldn't have needed to die on a cross.

The good news – the reason why we can rejoice – is that the most loving, most powerful, most wise One in the universe is using his supreme authority on our behalf. The question is: Will we submit to it?

#### Reflect & Discuss:

- † In what ways are you still rejecting Christ's authority by trying to do things your own way? Which Church teachings have you been rejecting because you've decided to live by your own rules?
- † Are you willing to ask the Holy Spirit to change your mind on these matters and teach you the value of Christ's ways?
- † In what ways do Christians often reject Christ's authority in favor of defining their own rules? Why?
- † What are the apparent risks to living completely under Christ's strict authority?
- † How can we replace these risks with a sense of safety?

The path to joy has been forged by the footsteps of Jesus. To benefit from his authority over evil and over human sufferings, we have to follow his example and obey his teachings. This means choosing to trust him, realizing that his ways are the best ways even when they're unpleasant ways. It means that we're willing to reach resurrection glory by going through the

## THE LAW OF GRAVITY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

A sound theology and a sound science will both recognize that the law of gravity and the Holy Spirit are one in the same principle. There isn't a different spirit undergirding the physical than the spiritual. There's one spirit that's speaking through both the law of gravity and the Sermon on the Mount.

If we recognized that same Spirit is present in everything, in physical creation, in love, in beauty, in human creativity, and in human morality, we could hold more things together in a fruitful tension rather than putting them in opposition and having the different gifts of the God's Spirit fight each other. What does this mean?

We have too many unhealthy dichotomies in our lives. Too often we find ourselves choosing between things that should not be in opposition to each other and are in the unhappy position of having to pick between two things which are both, in themselves, good. We live in a world in which, too often, the spiritual is set against the physical, morality is set against creativity, wisdom is set against education, commitment is set against sex, conscience is set against pleasure, and personal fidelity is set against creative and professional success.

Obviously there's something wrong here. If one force, God's Spirit, is the single source that animates all these things then clearly we should not be in a position of having to choose between them. Ideally we should be choosing both because the one, same Spirit undergirds both.

Is this true? Is the Holy Spirit both the source of gravity and the source of love? Yes. At least if the Scriptures are to be believed. They tell us that the Holy Spirit is both a physical and a spiritual force, the source of all physicality and of all spirituality all at the same time.

We first meet the person of the Holy Spirit in the opening line of the Bible: *In the beginning there was a formless void and the Spirit of God hovered over the chaos.* In the early chapters of the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is presented as a physical force, a wind that comes from the very mouth of God and not only shapes and orders physical creation but is also the energy that lies at the base of everything, animate and inanimate alike: *Take away your breath, and everything returns to dust.*

The ancients believed there was a soul in everything and that soul, God's breath, held everything together and gave it meaning. They believed this even though they did not understand, as we do today, the workings of the infra-atomic world: how the tiniest particles and energy waves already possess erotic electrical charges, how hydrogen seeks out oxygen, and how at the most elemental level of physical reality energies are already attracting and repelling each other just as people do. They could not explain these things scientifically as we can, but they recognized, just as we do, that there is already some form of "love" inside all things, however inanimate. They attributed all of this to God's breath, a wind that comes from God's mouth and ultimately animates rocks, water, animals, and human beings.

They understood that the same breath that animates and orders physical creation is also the source of all wisdom, harmony, peace, creativity, morality, and fidelity. God's breath was understood to be as moral as it is physical, as unifying as it is creative, and as wise as it is daring. For them, the breath of God was one force and it did not contradict itself. The physical and the spiritual world were not set against each other. One Spirit was understood to be the source of both.

We need to understand things in the same way. We need to let the Holy Spirit, in all its fullness, animate our lives. What this means concretely is that we must not let ourselves be energized and driven too much by one part of the Spirit to the detriment of other parts of that same Spirit.

Thus, there shouldn't be creativity in the absence of morality, education in the absence of wisdom, sex in the absence of commitment, pleasure in the absence of conscience, and artistic or professional achievement in the absence of personal fidelity. Not least, there shouldn't be a good life for some in the absence of justice for everyone. Conversely, however, we need to be suspicious of ourselves when we are moral but not creative, when our wisdom fears critical education, when our spirituality has a problem with pleasure, and when our personal fidelity is over-defensive in the face of art and achievement. One Spirit is the author of all of these. Hence, we must be equally sensitive to each of them. Someone once quipped that a heresy is something that is nine-tenths true. That's our problem with the Holy Spirit. We're forever into partial truth when we don't allow for a connection between the law of gravity and the Sermon on the Mount.