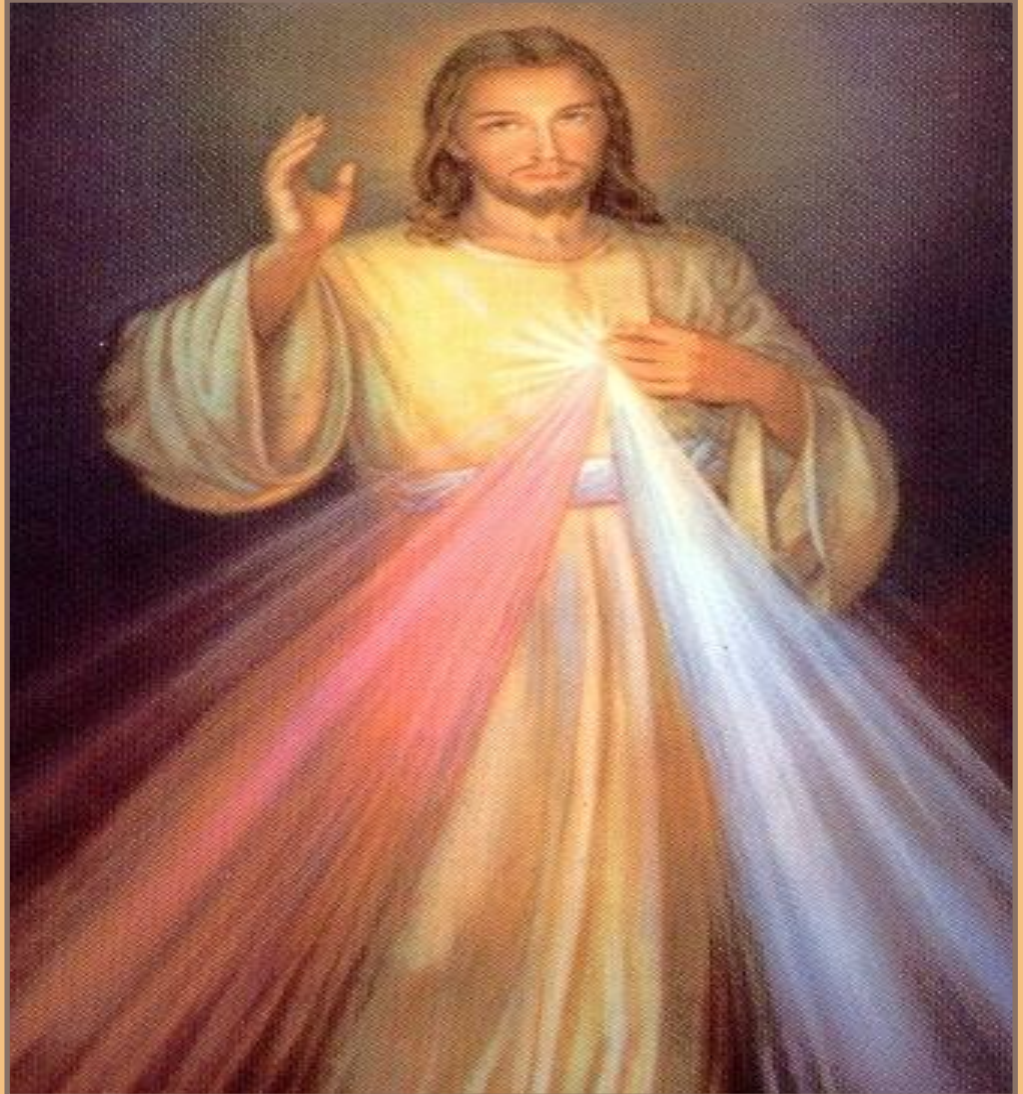




The Parish of Saints Philip and James
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780
631-584-5454

April 19th, 2020

Sunday of Divine Mercy



*"Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
John 20:21*

*"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-8pm

Open Thursday 9am-5pm

Open Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Friday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

Father Patrick Osei-Poku-Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Darrow

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-2

Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 3-6

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



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— Thursday 2-4pm
Friday 8-9pm

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
GREGORY DEVANEY- 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— 2ND LT. US ARMY NATL. GUARD
STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

Weekly Collection: Sunday, April 12th, 2020

Easter Collection

\$ 10,796.

\$ 9,136.

\$17,800.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$19,392.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

"Peace be with you!" Jesus, coming through bolted doors, greets his community, – his confused, fearful followers. A week later, he returns, again not letting blocked doors get in his way. Once more, that greeting, "Peace be with you!" Now Jesus is preparing them for what he wants them - and us - to do. He has unlocked our doors and commissions us to go into the world reaching out, serving, healing, reconciling---as he has done for us. He calls us to be Apostles of Hope.

How do we do this in the midst of this pandemic? Relating to the fear and confusion comes easily, but reaching out? Serving? Healing? Reconciling? Yes, we are still called to these actions, though these days, how we do them may be quite different. Some of us who were never much into technology are now grateful to be learning about virtual connections. Offers to help still abound, but six feet apart. I think the image of Jesus not letting blocked doors get in his way can help us through these challenging times. He's still offering his peace - and still calling us to be Apostles of Hope.

Please join me in praying this prayer by Anne Osdieck:

*Christ, come right through our fear-shut doors;
breathe your Holy Spirit into us.
Give us please your peace that comes from perfect love, to us,
not to hoard such treasure,
but to give it out to all who would believe.
Make us instruments of the power of your resurrection!*

This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, reminding us of the call to each of us to be so touched by God's mercy that we will extend that mercy to all. Pope John Paul II designated Divine Mercy Sunday in April of 2000, when he canonized St. Faustina, a Polish nun whose great devotion to Jesus and his divine mercy has spread throughout the world. Jesus instructs us to be merciful, to enter into the often painful, messy, confusing situations of others to offer help in whatever ways we can. Let's remember to pray for one another, and for all our world as we fight the covid-19 virus.

Many thanks to all who are sending in their envelopes, moving to Faith Direct and utilizing the new form of giving which enables us to give by phone. If you aren't familiar with this new possibility, please look a little further on in the bulletin. I'm embarrassed to be asking during these hard times. But I must. If your means allow, please help us at SSPJ. We really need the financial support as well as your prayerful support. Many thanks.

And,

*Stepped on my scale this morning and it said,
"Please use social distancing. One person at a time!"*

Father Tom

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



Divine Mercy Sunday Letter

from Most Rev. John O. Barres on April 19, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Twenty years ago, on April 30, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska, the humble messenger of Divine Mercy. During his homily at the Mass of her canonization, while reflecting on the timeliness of the message of mercy for the twentieth century, the Polish pontiff pondered what humanity's future might be like. He answered plainly. "We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences."¹

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted families, parishes, and communities across Long Island and beyond, stands today as one of those painful experiences. What Pope Saint John Paul II knew vaguely to be on the horizon then is sadly ours to experience firsthand now. The devastating effects of the coronavirus – death, illness, fear, uncertainty, isolation, unemployment, financial distress – have invaded our lives. The weight of this Cross has fallen on our shoulders.

Although Pope Saint John Paul II could not have foreseen the particularities of the pain we are enduring, he knew the soothing balm that would bring us peace. He understood what would "illumine

the way" during this time, namely, "the light of divine mercy," the supernatural gift that uplifts every generation.² What he proposed to humanity in his homily two decades ago, he still proposes from "the window of the Father's house"³ today: A radical receptivity of God's "great and unfathomable mercy."⁴



This Divine Mercy Sunday 2020, encouraged by Pope Saint John Paul II who points to merciful light in the midst of darkness, the Diocese of Rockville Centre receives anew the message of mercy entrusted to Saint Faustina. Together, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we look upon the Image of the Divine Mercy. In contemplating this serene painting of Our Lord, we discover again three aids for these days of crisis: Christ's gaze, His action, and a timely prayer.

First, beginning at the top of the Image, we encounter the gaze of mercy. There, the Lord's eyes look upon us. How good this is to hear and know

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Homily at the Mass for the Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska*, April 30, 2000.

² *Ibid.*

³ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Homily at the Funeral Mass of the Roman*

⁴ Pontiff John Paul II, April 8, 2005.

Faustina Kowalska, *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul* (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2007) no. 570.

again! Jesus looks at us. He sees us as we are, laden, especially now, with the anxieties, burdens, and challenges of life. He sees us just as he saw those Gospel figures whom we met this Lent - the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and Martha and Mary, the grieving sisters of Lazarus. He loves us as He loved them. When feelings of loneliness or discouragement arise, when questions pervade our hearts or perplexities disturb our peace, the Image reminds us that we can look to the Lord and always find Him looking at us. In his eyes, we can discover "the look of love which [we] crave."⁵ There, we can meet mercy, "the greatest attribute of God," which "no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."⁶

Second, in contemplating the Image of the Divine Mercy, we note the two rays emanating from Our Lord's breast, one red and one pale. As the Lord told Saint Faustina, "The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls."⁷ With the Church through centuries, we see in them the sacraments, Baptism and Eucharist, and we trace these gifts of life back to their source, His pierced side (cf. Jn. 19:34). These glorious rays flow from woundedness. Their origin is in the victory of the Cross. They highlight an act of love, a total gift of self. This pale ray and red ray remind us that the Lord has acted for us. Undeserving though we were, he loved us to the end (cf. Jn. 13:1) and laid down his life for us. "God is love, and Mercy is His deed."⁸ And we are the beneficiaries of that mercy. In these weeks, when God might seem unmoved or distant, these rays proclaim again the tender mercy shown from the Cross. They profess that God has acted and that He still acts with a mercy that sustains the world.

Third, we read the "signature" at the bottom of the Image, "Jesus, I trust in you."⁹ On this year's Feast

of the Divine Mercy, the familiar line is more striking. Its five words formulate perfectly a prayer in the midst of so much uncertainty. How good is the Lord! He still teaches his disciples how to pray (cf. Lk. 11:1), and He invites us to make these words the signature of our lives. This prayer is not offered blindly. It is said after having met the Lord's gaze and having been vivified in His life-giving rays. Our bold placing of trust arises from "the ocean of mercy" He has shown to us and from which we have received.¹⁰

Through our contemplation of the Image, we recall that God has moved towards us, that He has loved us, and that He has shown mercy to us, and therefore, we know it is reasonable to say, "Jesus, I trust in you."

The Lord's look, His love, and that brief prayer are special gifts this year. They offer consolation. They provide peace.

The Image of the Divine Mercy also serves as "a reminder of the demands of [His] mercy."¹¹ As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia* (*Rich in Mercy*), "Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God,

but that he is also called 'to practice mercy' towards others."¹² In short, we who have received mercy are called to give mercy.

In these weeks, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are being lived radiantly. Witnesses of mercy are in our midst, and our gratitude flows to the many who are sharing what they have received.



⁵ See Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, 18.

⁶ Kowalska, *Diary*, nos. 301 and 699.

⁷ *Ibid.*, no. 299.

⁸ *Ibid.*, no. 651.

⁹ *Ibid.*, no. 47.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, no. 1319.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, no. 742.

¹² Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Dives in Misericordia*, 14.

We call to mind the heroic virtue and tender mercy alive in our families and among our neighbors. With Pope Francis, we think, too, of those women and men who are "writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others."¹³ In this challenging time, mercy is on display.

Divine Mercy Sunday falls this year between two notable anniversaries in the life and pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II. Both of which provide insight and wisdom for our present situation.

The first anniversary occurred on March 25th, when we marked twenty-five years since the release of Pope Saint John Paul II's encyclical letter on the Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*). That letter shone the light of the Divine Mercy on threats against life. It articulated the good news of life, a gift from God that leads to eternal life with God, and it called every person to "respect,

protect, love and serve life."¹⁴ The truth and beauty of the encyclical is underscored in these days when our fragility is before us and society is united in its concern for life.

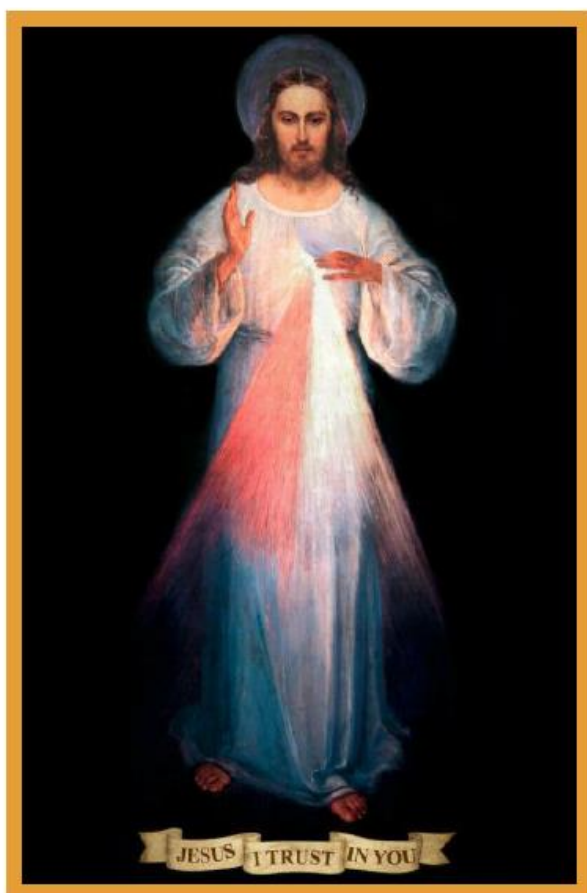
The second anniversary falls on May 18th, when we will celebrate the centenary of Pope Saint John Paul II's birth. Spending time with this indefatigable preacher of mercy, it is good to remember that his life was not immune to crisis and turmoil. He witnessed and experienced much that could have weighed him down. However, throughout his journey, he turned to the Lord and sought to know His mercy. May he help us invite the Divine Mercy into our lives, especially in these days.

Together with Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina, let us implore Almighty God:

*I fly to Your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great, and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and, from time immemorial, it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed.*¹⁵

Let us pray for the souls of those who have died from the coronavirus and for the solace of their families. We entrust them to the Divine Mercy.

And whatever may come, let us never fail to say, *Jesus, I trust in you.*



Sincerely in Christ,

+ John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹³ Pope Francis, *Extraordinary Moment of Prayer*, March 27, 2020.

¹⁴ Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Evangelium Vitae*, March 25, 1995, 5.

¹⁵ Kowalska, *Diary*, no. 1730.

SSPJ Collections During COVID 19:



3/15 -	\$8,701.
3/22 -	\$2,401.
3/29 -	\$2,357.
4/5 -	\$10,907.
4/12 -	\$19,932.

(Includes Easter offerings \$9,136.) \$10,796.

Total collections 5 weeks- \$ 35,162.

Average Collections: \$ 7,032.

Easter Offering \$ 9,136.

Total including Easter \$ 44,298.

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Appreciating the anxieties and significant challenges that you are facing, we urge you, if you can, to please make a special Easter offering to your local parish and to continue supporting the weekly offertory donations. These funds are critical for the continued operation of your parish and for our ability to emerge from this crisis. Every day, your parish provides for the pastoral and spiritual care of its parishioners. It is our source of nourishment and life through the sacraments. It is our place of comfort during the most sorrowful moments of our lives. The Church provides senior services, food pantries, youth ministries, Catholic schools, religious education and Faith formation. We depend upon the generosity of all of the Faithful to sustain these shared missions.

One easy way to help is through your parish's online giving provider. Your parish may have an online giving account that can be accessed through your parish's website. We have also developed a "Text to Give" option for each of our parishes enabling you to make a weekly donation on your smart phone. To access information regarding this innovative form of giving, please visit the following website: <https://www.drvcmissionarygrowth.org/text2give>.

Your parish is where we go to practice our faith and celebrate the gospel. It is where we gather in fellowship, both in times of joy and sorrow.

Now that our Masses have been cancelled and during these uncertain and challenging times, know that our Lord God is always present to you and your family. All Long Island parishioners are in a spiritual communion.

As we follow community guidelines to keep you safe at home, we have created an alternative way for you to give to your parish, via Text-to-Give.

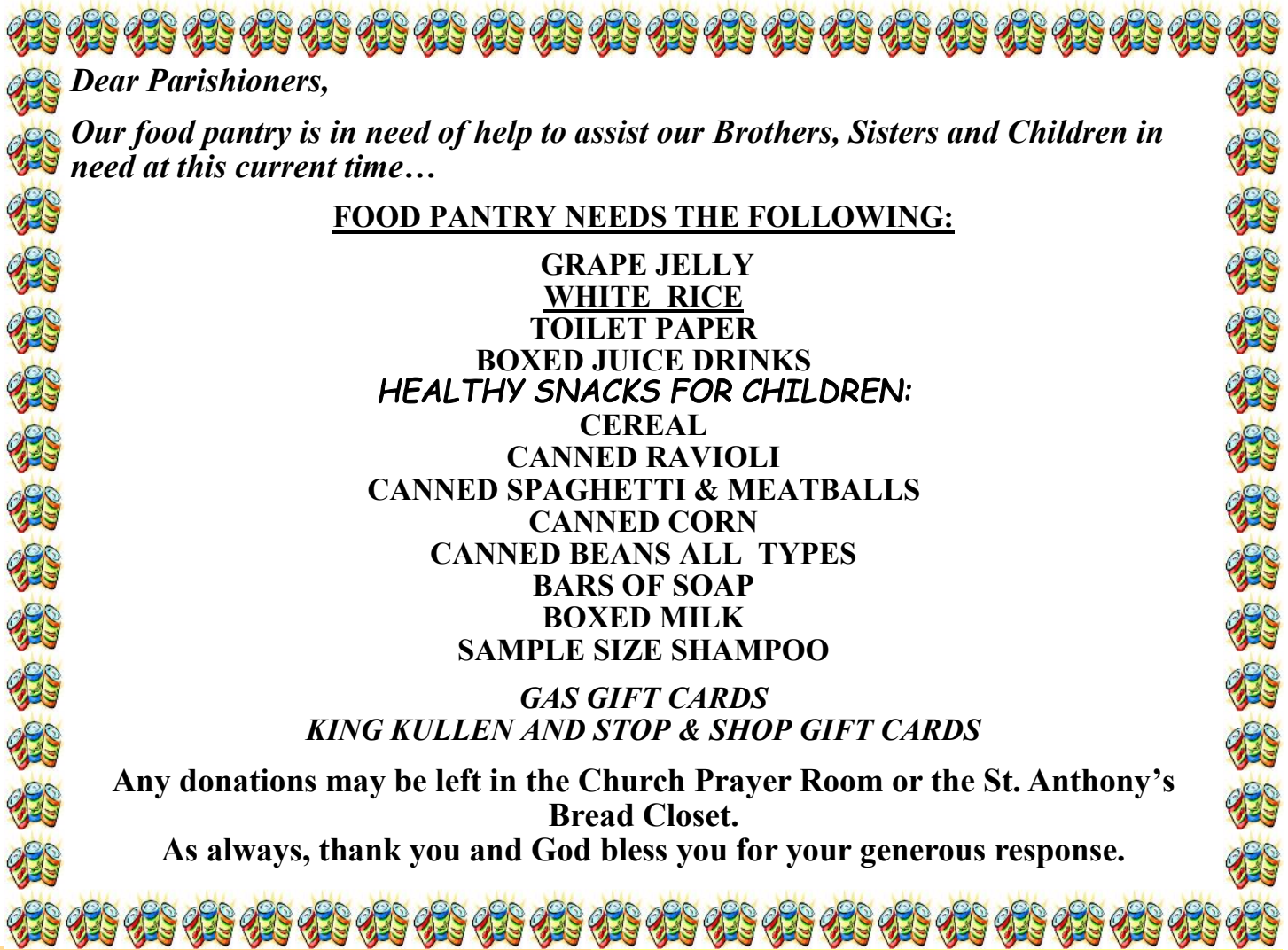
You can text your parish keyword to 1(516) 271-3338.

Simply download the PDF<https://7606c2bf-d5ab-42ec-af8c-35d93dba7a05.filesusr.com/ugd/bb76b6_4c0733e5aa34418d95198b9983ec3823.pdf> to find your parish keyword. OUR PARISH CODE IS 148 Thank you for your support of our parish and please stay well –together we will get through this crisis.

Faith Direct is also available and that option is available on our Parish website: SSPJ.ORG home page: Faith Direct Information Section.

YOU CAN STILL REQUEST MASS CARDS, AND ALTAR MEMORIALS BY LEAVING A MESSAGE AT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE AT 631-584-5454.

Thank you for your understanding and generosity.



Dear Parishioners,

Our food pantry is in need of help to assist our Brothers, Sisters and Children in need at this current time...

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

**GRAPE JELLY
WHITE RICE
TOILET PAPER
BOXED JUICE DRINKS
HEALTHY SNACKS FOR CHILDREN:
CEREAL
CANNED RAVIOLI
CANNED SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
CANNED CORN
CANNED BEANS ALL TYPES
BARS OF SOAP
BOXED MILK
SAMPLE SIZE SHAMPOO
GAS GIFT CARDS
KING KULLEN AND STOP & SHOP GIFT CARDS**

Any donations may be left in the Church Prayer Room or the St. Anthony's Bread Closet.

As always, thank you and God bless you for your generous response.

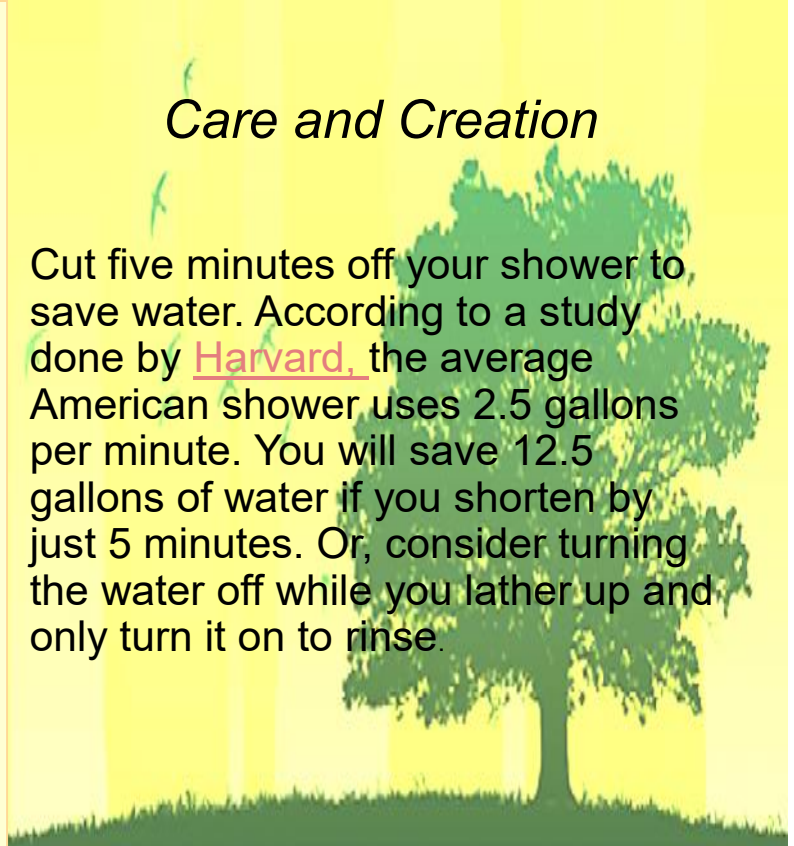
Our Challenges at this time of Crisis

- ♦ Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 at 3:00pm, all Masses (weekday & weekend), liturgies, devotions, meetings, and non-essential activities in our parish are suspended or postponed through April 13, 2020, *subject to change*. This will include all Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. However, these will be televised on the Catholic Faith Network (CFN) Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon channel 296, Spectrum channel 162/471.
- ♦ We are "Livestreaming Mass at SSPJ" at 9:15am Monday through Sunday. To access the livestream mass, visit sspj.org, select sign up to our Facebook Page to view.
- ♦ We have celebrated daily Masses honoring the intentions of those who requested the Mass as well as for all our parishioners and our world.
- ♦ Our Church is open 7am-7pm weekdays for private prayer and will be open Saturday from 7am-3pm and Sundays from 7am-3noon.
- ♦ If there is an emergency, contact our Parish Center Office at 631-584-5454 Select Option: 0 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.
- ♦ **PLEASE CONTINUE TO REFER TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE: SSPJ.ORG FOR UPDATES AND IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION.**

Remember, God holds us all in the palm of his hand.

Care and Creation

Cut five minutes off your shower to save water. According to a study done by Harvard, the average American shower uses 2.5 gallons per minute. You will save 12.5 gallons of water if you shorten by just 5 minutes. Or, consider turning the water off while you lather up and only turn it on to rinse.



Mass Intentions, For the week of April 19th, 2020

5:00pm	<u>Saturday, April 18th, 2020</u> John Doran
8:00am 10:00am 12:00Noon	<u>Sunday, April 19th 2020</u> Easter Novena For the Parishioners of SSPJ <u>Collective Mass:</u> Donald Donaudy Andrew Krauer Kathryn Peter Alice Buthmann Frank Cotoia
7:30am 9:15am	<u>Monday, April 20th, 2020</u> Easter Novena Nancy Kammerer Heley
7:30am 9:15am	<u>Tuesday, Wednesday, April 21st, 2020-St. Anslem</u> Dennis Davidson Regina M. Allen
7:30am 9:15am	<u>Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020</u> Evelyn & Peter McGreevey Jakob M. Sehne

7:30am 9:15am	<u>Thursday, April 23rd, 2020~St. George</u> Donald Tierney <u>Collective Mass:</u> Mariann Starke
7:30am 9:15am	<u>Friday, April 24th, 2020~St. Fidelis</u> Stanley Dalton, Jr.
9:15am 5:00pm	<u>Saturday, April 25th, 2020~Saint Mark</u> Lisa Bravo Theresa Stramiello
8:00am 10:00am 12:00Noon	<u>Sunday, April 26th, 2020</u> Easter Novena Paul J. Czujko <u>Collective Mass:</u> Maria Suski Kathy Toomey John DeSorbo Eileen Frazita

Remembering in Our Prayers~



We remember...

Esther Rutigliano
Elda Nada Pagliai
Marie Spikoski
Josephine Panics
Joanne Ruf

Safely Home...

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself

wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Adrian Elias
Angela Amoroso
Arthur Gureck
Anna Capizzio
Barbara Bombace
Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano
Belinda Groneman
Belinda Vega
Bob Keenan
Claudia Chandler
Daniel Radice
Deirdre W.
Diana C.
Dorothy E. Mitchell
Donalea Donach
Ellie Walsh
Frank Cotoia
Gladys Blake
Gregory Parker
Joan Kranz
Jim McLean
John DeStefano
J.C.

*And for all the prayers
intentions offered in our
Prayer baskets*

Joseph S.
Joseph G.
Joyce Wiggins
Judy Contrino
Kathleen N.
Kitty Cronin
Leon Donach
Maria Clark
Matthew Parrella
Melissa C.
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Patricia Acker
Peter Donach
P.I.
Philip G
Ricardo Buffit
Richard Cembrale
Sara Jean Andersen
Steve Rannazzisi
Tim Cavooris
Vivien Cordes
Vicki Archdeacon
William Quinn

*For our Nation in time of
crisis*

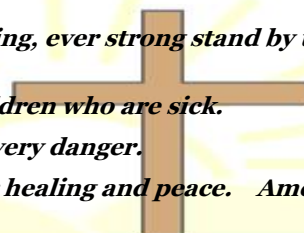
Prayer for the Sick

*God of love, ever caring, ever strong stand by us in our
time of need.*

Watch over your children who are sick.

Look after them in every danger.

And grant them your healing and peace. Amen



Our Family Prayer Intentions

*We Pray To You Dear Jesus, in thanksgiving and with hearts filled with
HOPE....*

Student Name:	Grade	Teacher
	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	
	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	
	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	
	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for all the blessings we have received by your grace and love. We pray that you will continually remind us that we are never alone, and that you are always by our side.

Jesus we offer you the following prayer intentions, knowing that you hear us. Let your will be done.

Amen

Together as a family we offer our prayers.....

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

SSPJ SCHOOL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

to the SSPJ Faculty

for participating in the 2020 *Virtual Tomorrow's Hope 5K Run!*

Thank you to all who support Catholic Education
so the good news of our savior Jesus Christ can be taught to
children around the world!



RUN FOR
TOMORROW'S
FOUNDATION
HOPE
5K
A FUN RUN





"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day."

- Pope Francis

Dear Friends:

During the special Lenten season, please allow me to share a special request with you. If you have never contributed to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, or if you haven't contributed in a number of years, please consider making this the year that you join with me and other members of our Parish family to make a donation to the 2020 Appeal.

As you may already be aware, 100% of all the money raised is used to support the ministries of the Appeal that serve more than 600,000 people each year, and our parish shares in the money raised to use for our own local needs.

These programs include services to people in need; affordable housing for senior citizens; people with disabilities and our veterans; respect life initiatives; and formation of our priests, deacons, lay leaders, and young people. These are just a few of the programs that help make our church and this Island a vibrant and wonderful place to live.

But to help ensure that we can always serve those who come to us for aid, support and spiritual guidance, we need help from you!

If 100 of our parishioners who have not supported us in the recent past made a \$25 contribution this year – think about how many more people we could help! If that amount is more than you can manage, consider \$5 or \$10.

Every gift counts and makes a difference in the lives of others! THANK YOU!!

Make checks payable to:

Catholic Ministries Appeal

STS. PHILIP & JAMES #148

Parish _____

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit drv.c.org/CMA
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296

Thank You!

**2020
CMA
Goal**

\$111,000

**DUE TO
OFFICE
CLOSURES
UPDATED
#S WERE
NOT
RECEIVED
AS OF 3/17/20**

**Pledges at
3/10/2020**

\$58,605

**Payments
At
3/10/2020
\$30,495**

Preparing for the Second Sunday of Easter (next week)

April 26, 2020 • 3rd Sunday of Easter • Year A

Burning Heart Moments

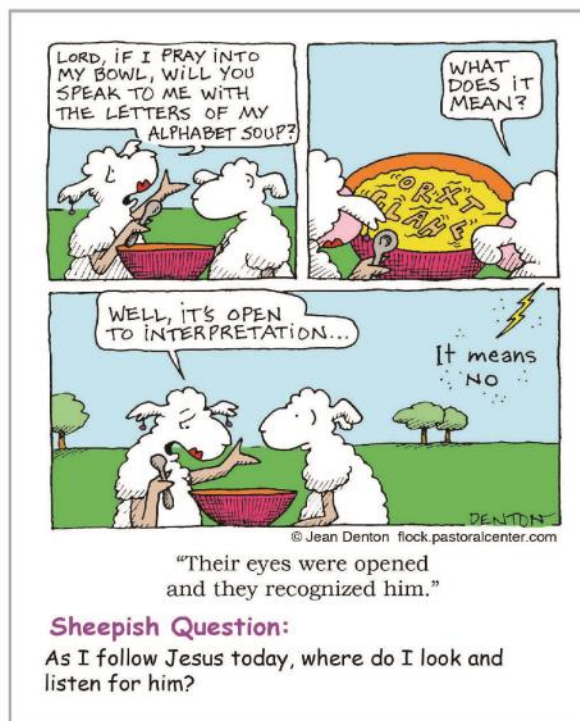
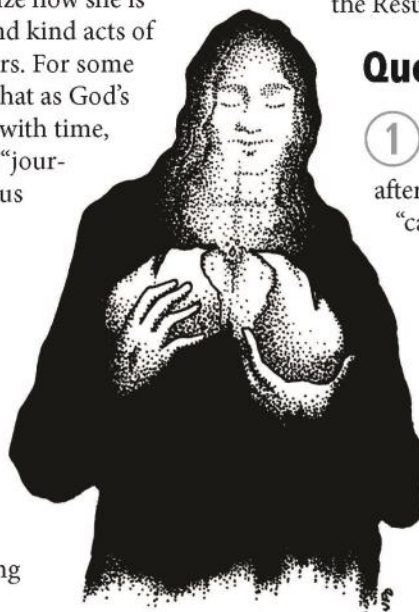
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Acts 2:14, 22-33 - Peter's discourse
- 1 Peter 1:17-21 - Filial obedience
- Luke 24:13-35 - The Road to Emmaus

The chosen readings continue to follow a pattern through this Easter season. The first reading is a speech given by Peter in the Acts of the Apostles soon after the Resurrection. He is speaking to a crowd of Jews, connecting the dots for them between King David and Jesus. He explains that David's statement of faith—"you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption"—was a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection. The Gospel tells the story of another appearance of the risen Jesus to his friends.

Luke gives us a beautiful story of a common Christian shared experience: having Jesus present with us in a time sadness or distress but not recognizing him at the moment. We might wonder why "their eyes were kept from recognizing him." We have probably also had experiences where Jesus' presence was clear to us even if it wasn't clear to others. For example, we might know someone whose spouse has died. In her grief she might feel entirely abandoned by God. From the outside, though, we can see how lovingly God is still caring for her. We can recognize how she is surrounded by the compassionate and kind acts of her friends and other family members. For some reason, she simply can't experience that as God's presence at the moment. Hopefully, with time, she will be able to look back on that "journey to Emmaus" and realize how Jesus was present with her.

The experience of not recognizing Jesus at the moment happens in good times too. Unfortunately, we don't always associate our "burning heart moments" with Jesus. St. Ignatius taught that the more we can pay attention to the movements of our hearts, the more we can discern how God is present to us and what God is inviting



Sheepish Question:

As I follow Jesus today, where do I look and listen for him?

us to in the moment. For example, when considering a job change, or deepening a relationship, or taking up some new endeavor, if we feel "our hearts burning within us" that is a sign of Jesus' presence. Ignatius taught that, as in Luke's story, it helps to share these burning heart moments with someone else rather than keep them to ourselves. Another person can strengthen and validate our experience, share in our joy, and accompany us on the road *back* toward the Resurrection, not away from it.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share about a time when you realized Jesus' presence with you after the fact, even though you didn't "catch" it at the time.
- 2 When have you had a burning heart moment that clued you in to something important in your life?

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Huge Stones and Locked Doors

Soren Kierkegaard once wrote that the Gospel text he strongly identified with is the account of the disciples, after the death of Jesus, locking themselves into an upper room in fear and then experiencing Jesus coming through the locked doors to bestow peace on them. Kierkegaard wanted Jesus to do that for him, to come through his locked doors, his resistance, and breathe peace inside him.

That image of locked doors is one of two particularly interesting images inside the story of the first Easter. The other is the image of the “large stone” that entombed the buried Jesus. These images remind us of what often separates us from the grace of the resurrection. Sometimes for that grace to find us, someone must “roll away the stone” that entombs us and sometimes the resurrection must come to us “through locked doors”.

First, about the “stone”:

The Gospels tell us that early on Easter morning three women were on their way to the tomb of Jesus intending to embalm his body with spices but they were anxious about how they would remove the large stone that sealed the entrance of his tomb. They were asking each other: “Who will roll away the stone?”

Well, as we know, the stone had already been rolled away. How? We don’t know. Jesus’ resurrection happened with no one there. Nobody knows exactly how that stone was rolled away. But what Scripture does make clear is this: Jesus didn’t resurrect himself. God raised him. Jesus didn’t roll away the stone, though that’s what we generally assume. However, and for good reason, both scripture and Christian tradition strongly affirm that Jesus didn’t raise himself from the dead, his Father raised him. This might seem like unnecessary point to emphasize; after all, what difference does it make?

It makes a huge difference. Jesus didn’t raise himself from the dead and neither can we. That’s the point. For the power of the resurrection to enter us something from beyond us has to remove the huge, immovable rock of our resistance. This is not to deny that we, ourselves, have goodwill and personal strength; but these, though important, are more a precondition for receiving the grace of the resurrection than the power of the resurrection itself, which always comes to us from beyond. We never roll back the stone ourselves!

Who can roll back the stone? Perhaps that isn’t a question we’re particularly anxious about, but we should be. Jesus was entombed and helpless to raise himself up, all the more so for us. Like the women at that first Easter, we need to be anxious: “Who will roll back the stone?” We can’t open our own tombs.

Second, our “locked doors”:

It’s interesting how the believers at that first Easter experienced the resurrected Christ in their lives. The Gospels tell us that they were huddled in fear and paranoia behind locked doors, wanting only to protect themselves, when Christ came through their locked doors, the doors of their fear and self-protection, and breathed peace into them. Their huddling in fear wasn’t because of ill-will or bad faith. In their hearts they sincerely wished that they weren’t afraid, but that good will still didn’t unlock their doors. Christ entered and breathed peace into them in spite of their resistance, their fear, and their locked doors.

Things haven’t changed much in two thousand years. As a Christian community and as individuals we are still mostly huddling in fear, anxious about ourselves, distrustful, not at peace, our doors locked, even as our hearts desire peace and trust. Perhaps, like Kierkegaard, we might want to privilege that scripture passage where the resurrected Christ comes through the locked doors of human resistance and breathes out peace.

Moreover, this year, given this extraordinary time when the coronavirus, *Covid 19*, has our cities and communities locked down and we are inside our individual houses, dealing with the various combinations of frustration, impatience, fear, panic, and boredom that assail us there. Right now we need a little extra something to experience the resurrection, a stone needs to be rolled away so that resurrected life can come through our locked doors and breathe peace into us.

At the end of the day, these two images, “the stone that needs to be rolled away” and the “locked doors of our fear”, contain within themselves perhaps the most consoling truth in all religion because they reveal this about God’s grace: *When we cannot help ourselves we can still be helped and when we are powerless to reach out, grace can still come through the walls of our resistance and breathe peace into us.* We need to cling to this whenever we experience irretrievable brokenness in our lives, when we feel helpless inside our wounds and fears, when we feel spiritually inept, and when we grieve loved ones lost to addictions or suicide. The resurrected Christ can come through locked doors and roll back any stone that entombs us, no matter how hopeless the task is for us.