

July 14, 2019 Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

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



"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers victim?" He answered, "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise.

Luke 10:37

"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

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-2 Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 3-6 Barbara Luna

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8 Dominick Avento

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Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY Lynn Sisti

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, Connor Donnelly, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Kelsey Greco, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Maureen Burke

Stewardship, A Way of Life

As we continue our journey, we share our "Time, Talents and Treasures" with our family, friends, and our parish community. Thank you for your support of Sts. Philip & James Parish

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 12:00 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 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

KEVIN JONES-USCG

PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

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, USCO KYLE J. GRUNER –US ARMY MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD

KELLI MCLAUGHLIN- 2ND LT. US ARMY NATL. GUARD

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: Weekly Collection: Sunday, July 7th, 2019 Faith Direct:

\$21,000 \$ 13,019.

\$ 2,877.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$15,896.

Thank you for your stewardship and contributions to our Parish

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

In today's first reading, Moses reminds the people that to follow God's commandments we need to look inward. "It is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out." And in today's gospel, when the scholar of the law asks Jesus "who is my neighbor?", Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, which also invites us to look inward. Reflecting on these readings, Fr. John Foley, SJ, writes:

Jesus asks him, "Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?," and the lawyer says right away, "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus answers "Go and do likewise."

Jesus says the same thing to you and me. He keeps working with us, trying to get us to see the simple answer inside us. Go help those in need. God has given you an open heart. If only you would let your heart be wide enough to receive his love and then pass it on to his other beloved people!

So, this is not too mysterious or remote. Start now. Become what you were made to be. It is written within you.

This familiar parable challenges us, yet also can inspire us — breathing into us renewed desire to reach out to others. The Apostles of Hope of SSPJ fulfill this desire in so many ways. The donations of food for the hungry, the dedication to service of the liturgical ministers, the commitment to faith formation for our children in our school and religious education program, the faithfulness to prayer, all this and more witness to a community living out its faith, hope and love as the Body of Christ. Let's continue to pray, to serve, to affirm, to explore as the Spirit inspires us, stirring up our inner goodness to be for one another in simple yet powerful ways.

Catholic Ministries Appeal is one very real way of showing our love of neighbor. Many are helped through diocesan programs aided by CMA. We are still short of our assigned parish pledge goal – but less than \$10,000 away! Might you be able to contribute something to put us "over the top"? So many have already pledged, and their support has brought us so close. If you are able (and I mean only if it is possible for you), might you put and extra \$20, or \$50, or even \$100 in an envelope marked "CMA- Over the Top" and place it in the collection basket? I plan to do this. Please consider if you might join me. And if you are not in a position to donate at this time, please keep the CMA programs, recipients and donors in your prayers.

And,

I've been to a lot of places but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito, either.

I hear nobody recognizes you there. I have however, been in Sane.

They don't have an airport. You have to be driven there. I have made several trips.

Peace.

Father Tom

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

News From Our Religious Education Ministry

"Participating in the faith formation of our children,
that is where a relationship with Jesus, is born...
It begins with loving parents
and continues in the faith filled hands of a Catechist"

Registration for the 2019-2020 Religious Education School Year will begin on June 24th, 2019:

Please visit the Parish website at: www.sspj.org and follow the instructions to enroll your child/children in our Religious Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year.

Any family registering a First <mark>Grader</mark> or a child new to our Parish, is asked to contact us via email at religioused@sspj.org or by phone at 631-584-3204

To arrange a convenient appointment date and time.

Music Ministry

Baptism Music Ministry is always in need of singers and accompanists. If you play an instrument or like to sing, this is a good opportunity to get started in church Music. Baptisms are every other Sunday at 2pm. The more people there are the less the commitment. Please consider helping. The need is great.

These people have heard the call and became Apostles of Hope and sing and play for Baptisms.

Singers

Barbara O'Donnell Grace Cazzangia Judy Contrino Carol Argentieri June Kempf Mary Peck



Accompanists:

Susan Ricci Christine Fena Jim Scully Clare Farrell Grace Cazzangia

All are welcome. If you can help in any way please contact me, Margaret Adams, at the Parish Center.

We are ALMOST, OVER THE TOP!

Any contribution is a gift...to help those in need...

If you can help us achieve our goal, no matter the amount of your sacrifice, kindly place your offering in an envelope labeled "OVER THE TOP" and put it in the weekend collection basket.

2019 SSPJ GOAL ~ \$119,700.00: SSPJ is at <u>92% of Goal</u>

Pledges received to date: \$109,474.

20 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
19 DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Supporting Dramatic Missionary Growth in Our Community



Teaching Igniting Evangelizing Forgiving Loving Helping Witnessing

You can make a difference in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal

Every Gift Counts!

A gift of \$25 may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.

A gift of \$50 from an emergency fund may help pay the electric bill in a cold winter month for a family in need.

A gift of \$100 may help care for a newborn infant in Catholic Charities Regina Residence.

A gift of \$250 may help subsidizes a home for an adult who is developmentally disabled.

A gift of \$1,000 may help support a Seminarian's education.

Because of you, every year we are able to serve more than 600,000 people in our Long Island Community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve the community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation and to be instruments of *Dramatic Missionary Growth*. 100% of all money raised is restricted to the ministries of the Appeal.

For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit Catholic Ministries Appeal.org or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Please consider wi	hat you can do to make this ca	mpaign s	uccessful.
Please make your check payable to:	Pledge:	\$	
Catholic Ministries Appeal	Down Payment:	\$	
	Balance:	\$	
Parish: #148 –Ss. Phillip and James	Church		
Name:	M	onthly	□ Quarterly
Address:	A	nnually	□ Other

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

'Laudato si' links awe before creation and reverence for Christ in the Eucharist: "The Eucharist joins Heaven and Earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to Him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist 'creation is projected toward civilization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself'. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation" (§ 236).

SUMMER FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

PAPER TOWELS

SMALL JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER

GRANOLA BARS

DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

Saints Philip and James Parish 631-584-5454



Vacation Bible Camp



(Curriculum will be the same for both weeks)

Monday - Friday from 9:30am - 12:00pm

This summer's theme is: "Bible Hero's"

Vacation Bible Camp is a one week experience where 4 -9 year olds are introduced to our faith through music, dance, arts & crafts, outside activities and daily assemblies. VBC is a place for children to sing, laugh, learn, pray and meet new friends. Special events and Surprises at the end of the program.

\$35 Tuition includes supplies, a daily healthy snack and a VBC T-Shirt.
 * Registration is for either week 1 or week 2
 Registration forms are available at the Parish Center Office
 One Carow place St. James, NY 11780

CAMPER REGISTRATION 2019
WEEK 1 JULY 22 -26 ___ (OR) WEEK 2 JUL 29-AUG 2 ____

Camper's Name						
Address						
City			State			
DOB	Age	Grade	(as of 9/	19)		
Phone #		Cell#_				
E-Mail			es			
Emergency Contact						
Contact #						
Special Needs:		- S				
T. Shirt Size (Children's)				M	T	XI.

PLEASE EXTEND A WARM SSPJ WELCOME TO BROTHER JOHN BLAZO OF MARYKNOLL FATHERS AND BROTHERS NEXT WEEKEND: JULY 20TH & 21ST, 2019



Fathers and Brothers TOGETHER IN GOD'S MISSION OF MERCY

Next weekend, Brother John Blazo of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers will speak at all the Masses. Brother Blazo has served as a missionary in Guatemala, and will invite us to take part in the vital work of bringing Christ and his Gospel to all people.

While visiting us, Brother Blazo will be happy to speak with any Parishioners who are interested in doing overseas mission work.

LOCATION, LOCATION: THANK YOU MARK STEPHEN FOR TEACHING US ALL HOW A GARDEN GROWS BY FAITH, BY HOPE, BY PATIENCE, BY LOVE...

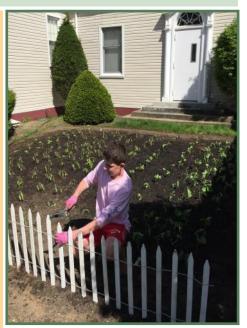


SSPJ'S VERY OWN ALUMNI, MARK STEPHEN CREATED HIS OWN **VICTORY GARDEN JUST** IN FRONT OF THE MARY **MONTE BUILDING. MARKS INTENTION WAS** TO CULTIVATE A GARDEN AND WITH THE **WONDERFUL BLESSINGS** EVERY GARDENER SEEKS FROM THE LORD, HIS HARVEST WOULD BE DONATED TO OUR PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY AS WELL AS **OUR DAILY BREAD SOUP** KITCHEN. MARK SURPRISED THE PARISH STAFF AND LYNN



SISTI, PARISH SOCIAL
MINSTRY COORDINATOR
BY DELIVERING OVER 5
POUNDS OF THE MOST
DELICIOUS
STRINGBEANS IN TOWN!
LYNN SHARED THIS
WONDERFUL HARVEST
WITH HER CLIENTS.
MARK THANKYOU FOR
TEACHING US ALL THE
VALUABLE LESSON OF
BEING AN AWESOME
SAMARITAN!

SO PROUD OF YOU!





SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of July 14th, 2019

Sunday, July 14th, 2019

7:30am CDA Raffle Ticket Sale Outside church/Lobby 11:00am Stained Glass

Stained Glass Wkshp Philip & James Room Thursday, July 18th, 2019

7:15am Camps R Us Main School Building 2:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church

Monday, July 15th, 2019:

7:15am Camps R Us

7:00pm AA Meeting

Main School Building

Friday, July 19th, 2019:

7:15am Camps R Us Main School Building 7:00pm AA Meeting Philip & James Room

Eucharistic Adoration 8:00pm Church

Tuesday, July 16th, 2019:

7:15am Camps R Us 7:00pm Stained Glass

Main School Building Stained Glass Wkshp

Saturday, July 20th, 2019

No Activities Planned

Wednesday, July 17th, 2019

7:15am Camps R Us

Main School Building

Sunday, July 21st, 2019:

11:00am Stained Glass Club Stained Glass Wkshp 7:00pm AA Meeting Sts. Philip & James Room

Our Pro Life Rose

For the Week of July 14th, 2019 Is Offered

In loving memory,

Virginia Koop 3rd Anniversary In heaven Always loved, Always missed

Love, Bob and Eillen

Catholic Daughters 2019 Labor Day 50/50 Raffle

Ticket Sales THIS weekend after all masses in the school lobby Drawing to be held on Labor Day

Thank you for your support

We Remember Those Who are resting peacefully in the loving arms of Jesus....

> Lauro Alcala Mary J. Marguardt

Prayer for The Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light

shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Our Bread & Wine for the Week of July 14th, 2019

Are Offered,

In Thanksgiving

The Family of Florence Dunn wish to thank all who kept Florence in their

Prayers, were present at her wake, and attended her funera<mark>l m</mark>ass

Her beautiful smile will continue to shine down upon us all.

Mass Intentions, For the week of July 14th, 2019

, view internation, i or the modern gang trans, 2019					
5:00pm Saturday, July 13 Eleanor Freum	${d}$	7:30am 9:15am	Thursday, July 18th, 2019 Mary & Ed Malkus (Living) Collective Mass:		
8:00am Sunday, July 14t For the Parishione 10:00am William Olsen	rs of SSPJ		Joseph Perconti		
12:00Noon <u>Collective M</u> Maria E. Ren Maria, Frank & I Thomas Lee Theresa Stram	nero Lourdes chin niello	7:30am 9:15am	<u>Friday, July 19th , 2019</u> Christina Pue Mary K. Sposato-Palamara		
Michelle Moss Charles Wulf Monday, July 15t 7:30am Ezio DiNucci	forst	9:15am 5:00pm	Saturday, July 20th, 2019 Michelle Mosscrop Peter James Hofmann		
7:30am Ezio DiNucci 9:15am Ed Sanders (1		0.00 5	Sunday, July 21st, 2019		
7:30am Peggy Kearney 9:15am Pete Tomoloni	<u>th, 2019</u>	8:00am Fo 10:00am 12:00Noon	or the Parishioners of Sts Philip & James Pete & Rosemarie Sherow Collective Mass: Roseanne Quinn Robert Grosskopf		
7:30am Donna & Rocco Ton 9:15am Joey Morda			Jamison Novello Karl Fuchs Robert Yturraspe Joseph Perconti		

I see the sunrise fill the earth with light and feel the warm breeze softly touch my face and hear the birds singing Your praises, O God.

I smell sweet roses and freshly cut grass while distant thunder echoes in my ears. I taste the first drops of Summer rain upon my tongue and see Your handiwork everywhere, my Lord.

The clouds, the sky, the stars declare Your power and glory. Mountains, rivers, forests, and fields reflect Your majesty and love. What grace is this You have given me to gaze upon Your creation and with every breath proclaim, "Amen!" Father Joseph R. Veneroso Maryknoll Missionaries

Prayer for Comfort

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless your friends who are sick. Give them the strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain.

Let them recover their health, so that, restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise your name, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

To add a name to prayers for the sick, kindly contact the Parish Center Office at 631-584-5454

Al Salerno Allison Ioli, Angela Amoroso, Angelo Peluso, Angie Carr, Anna & John Capizzio Baby Adeline, Baby Kennedy Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano, Brian R. Bob Keenan, Carole Hennessy, Charles Morgan, Dena Pollina Donalea Donach Elinor Glasser Gail Morreale Gene Morda Helen McDowell, Ian Dowling, Jeanine Esposito-Tansey J.C.

Joann Boccia John Boland, Jordan Marvelli Joseph, Joseph Keane, Karlyn Phillips, Kathleen N., Kitty Cronin Marie Sabry, Marty Caltabiano Matthew Michael LaVecchia Pat I. Patricia Fontana, Patricia Monetti, Robin Graham Denis, Tim Cavooris, Tom Sica, Vicki Archdeacon-Gibb, Vivien Cordes, Zachary Esposito-Tansey

Congratulations to Brian Willman

Brian was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his 5 years of commitment and dedication to the Ministry of Lector here at SSPJ.

We thank you Brian for sharing your time, talent and gifts with the SSPJ Parish Family.

Wishing you all the abundance of God's blessings on the journey before you.



FORMED SUMMER TIME PICKS

Don't forget to also check out the recommendations on our SSPJ community page Visit:
sspj.formed.org

Select the word: <u>COMMUNITY</u> at the top of the page

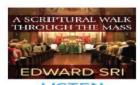
FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS



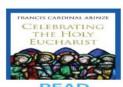
FEATURED IN JULY
THE MASS











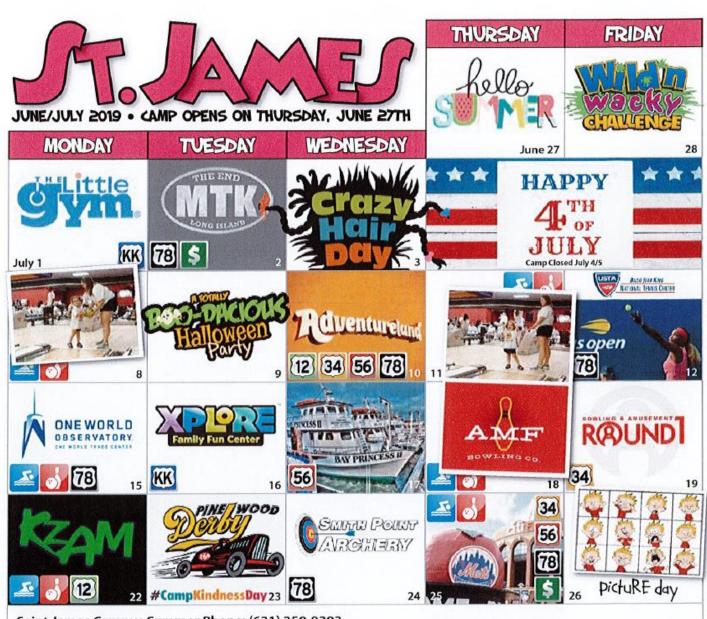




FOR CHILDREN

Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, programs, talks, audio dramas, and ebooks—just a click away!

Camps 'r' Us Summer Fun at SSPJ for July



Saint James Campus Summer Phone: (631) 250-9393

Ss. Philip & James School • 359 Clinton Avenue • Saint James, NY 11780

Camp Hours are 9 AM - 5 PM. Morning Drop-off is 8:40 - 9:10 AM. Afternoon Pickup is 4 - 5:10 PM. Extended Hours are 7:30 - 8:40 AM in the morning and 5:10 - 6 PM in the afternoon. Additional fees will apply.



Swimming and Bowling is scheduled when you see these icons. Swimming Venue: Smithtown Landing Park Pool Bowling Venue: AMF Smithtown Lanes



Added fee & consent form required for attendance.













Trips are planned for each camper division, indicated by these icons.

TT (Tiny Tots) | KK (KinderKamp) | 12 (Grades 1/2) | 34 (Grades 3/4) | 56 (Grades 5/6) | 78 (Grades 7/8) If your camper does not want to attend a trip, please ask your counselor to opt out.

This is a tentative schedule of events. The calendar is subject to change due to venue availability, transportation change and/or inclement weather. Trips, Theme Days and/or Special Events may be added, modified or removed before or during the camp season.











Camps 'R' Us • 35 Heisser Court • Farmingdale, NY 11735 • 516.935.2267 • Camps RUs.org © 2019 Camps 'R' Us, New York LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Celebrating the Liturgy-With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR July 20th & 21st, 2019

Saturday, July 20, 2019 5:00pm	Sunday, July 21, 2019 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, July 21, 2019 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, July 21, 2019 12:00 MASS
Father Maxim Rosario	Father Maxim Rosario	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty
Deacon Ron	Deacon John		Deacon Ron

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE - FOR July 20th & 21st, 2019

Saturday, July 20, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019
5:00PM	8:00 AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
G. Alfano	K. Consenz	J. Scott	M. Laub
I. Arevalo	J. Giacalone	L. Sisti	E. Sotomayer
R. Byrne	G. Beisel	J. Sweeney	C. Zito
D. Coppola	L. Beisel	J. Tafra	G. Zito
D. Doran	C. Czujko	M. Tully	M. Hoonhout
J. Duffy	R. Doda, Sr.	B. Carey	E. Law
D. Earl	M. Dunn	M. Koke	D. McCormick
H. Keenan	R. Fabian	N. Locastro	M. Napoli
L. Taurassi	C. Haff	S. McKie	T. Pace
D. Toto	W. Haff	P. Agoglia	A. Santo

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR July 20th & 21st, 2019

Saturday, July 20, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
M. Carlino	M. Russo	J. Prew	E. Zemen
V. Scarpelli	C. Morbillo	G. Cusuamano	C. D'Agostino
R. Laro	G. Morbillo	S. Ramos	P. Mazzola
M. Page			

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR July 20th & 21st, 2019

Saturday, July 20, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019	Sunday, July 21, 2019
5:00PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
L. Auleta	G. Preibe	A. Mondrone	M. Cashman
K. Smith	B. Luna	P. O'Hara	P. Wos

Preparing for Next Sunday

July 21, 2019 • 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

Not a Problem for Jesus

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ► Genesis 18:1-10a Abraham's visitors
- ► Colossians 1:24-28 The mystery: Christ in us
- ► Luke 10:38-42 Martha and Mary

Often this story of Martha and Mary is interpreted as Jesus' teaching that the life of contemplation is more important than a life of action, or at least that we must balance action with contemplation. What if instead it is a story showing Jesus' acceptance of a woman as an apostle?

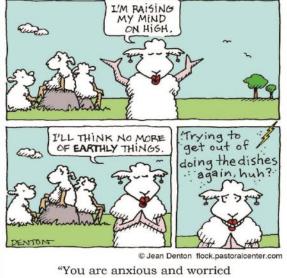
The gospels give us several stories of Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. Interestingly, Mary and Martha are always mentioned first, and their brother is mentioned in relationship to them, not the other way around. Martha and Mary are identified as "from Bethany" not identified by a husband or a father. The two women seem to be the homeowners in the story, not their brother or another male relative. All these things are noteworthy because they lived in a strictly patriarchal culture, yet they are distinguished for their individual iden-

In their culture, it was common for Jewish rabbis to gather disciples around them for training so that they could then go out to continue the rabbis' work. Rabbis would sit with their disciples at their feet, teaching them their lessons. That is the case here. Luke paints a picture of Mary in the role of a fully included disciple - and

tities, not for their relationship to men.

They have agency on their own.

Jesus has no problem with that! Martha does, however. She wants Mary to come



about many things."

Sheepish Questions:

Which earthly "duties" get in the way of my spiritual life? Which ones enhance it?

back to the traditional role of a woman in that time serving men. Jesus, in the other hand, doesn't ask her to do that. He accepts her fully in the role of student and follower, just as one of the 12 male apostles.

Questions of the Week

What do you make of the above interpretation - that Jesus is affirming the equal role of women and men in discipleship?

Are there roles in the church that you would be uncomfortable seeing women in and might find yourself protesting like Martha to Jesus. Why?

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Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Needed - Particular Kinds of Saints

Simone Weil once commented that it's not enough today to be merely a saint; rather "we must have the saintliness demanded by the present moment."

She's surely right on that second premise; we need saints whose virtues speak to the times.

What kind of saint is needed today? Someone who can show us how we can actually forgive an enemy? Someone who can help us come together across the bitter divide within our communities and churches? Someone who can show us how to reach out to the poor? Someone who can teach us how to actually pray? Someone who can show us how to find "Sabbath" inside the bombardment of ten thousand television channels, a million blogs, and a billion tweets? Someone who can show us how to sustain our childhood faith amidst the sophistication, complexity, and agnosticism of our adult lives? Someone who, like Jesus, can go into singles' bars and not sin? Someone who radiates a full-bodied humanity, even as he or she is, by faith, set apart? Someone who's a mystic, but with a robust sense of humor? Someone who can be both chaste and healthily sexual at the same time?

The list could go on. We're in pioneer territory. The saints of old didn't face our issues. They had their own demons to conquer and aren't rolling over in their graves, shaking their fingers in disgust at us in our struggles and infidelities. They know the struggle, know that ours is new territory with new demons to conquer and new virtues asked for. The saints of old remain, of course, as essential templates of Christian discipleship, living gospels, but they walked in different times.

So what kind of saints do we need today?

We need saints who can honor the goodness of the world, even as they honor God. We need women and men who can show us how to walk with a living faith inside a culture which believes that world here is enough and that the issues of God and the next life are peripheral. We need saints who can walk with a steady, adult faith in the face of the world's sophistication, its pathological restlessness, its over-stimulated grandiosity, its numbing distractions, and its overpowering temptations. We need saints who can empathize with those who have drifted away from the church, even as they themselves, without compromise, hold their own moral and religious ground. We need young saints who can romantically re-enflame the religious imagination of the world, as once did Francis and Clare. And we need old saints, who have walked the gamut and can show us how to meet all the challenges of today and yet retain our childhood faith.

As well, we need what Sarah Coakley calls "erotic saints", women and men who can bring chastity and eros together in a way that speaks of the importance of both. We need saints who can model for us the goodness of sexuality, who can delight in its human joys and honor its God-given place within the spiritual journey, even as they never denigrate it by setting it against spirituality or cheapen it by making it simply another form of recreation.

Then too we need saints today who can, with compassion, help us to see our blind complicity with systems of all kinds which victimize the vulnerable in order to safeguard our own comfort, security, and historical privilege. We need saints who can speak prophetically for the poor, for the environment, for women, for refugees, for those with inadequate access to medical care and education, and for all who are stigmatized because of race, color, or creed. We need saints, lonely prophets, who can stand as unanimity-minus one, and who can wage peace and who can point our eyes to a reality beyond our own shortsightedness.

And these saints need not be formally canonized; their lives need simply be lamps for our eyes and leaven for our lives. I don't know who your present-day saints are, but I find have found mine among a very wide range of persons, old, young, Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, liberal, conservative, religious, lay, clerical, secular, faith-filled, and agnostic. Full disclosure, the names I mention here are not persons whose lives I know in any detail. Mostly, I know what they've written, but their writings are a lamp which lights my path.

Among those of my own generation, I'm indebted to are Raymond E. Brown, Charles Taylor, Daniel Berrigan, Jean Vanier, Mary Jo Leddy, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Keating, Jim Wallis, Richard Rohr, Elizabeth Johnson, Parker Palmer, Barbara Brown Taylor, Wendy Wright, Gerhard Lohfink, Kathleen Dowling Singh, Jim Forest, John Shea, James Hillman, Thomas Moore, and Marilynne Robinson.

Among the younger voices whose lives and writings speak as well to a generation younger than mine, I would mention Shane Claiborne, Rachel Held Evans, James Martin, Kerry Weber, Trevor Herriot, Macy Halford, Robert Barron, Bryan Stevenson, Robert Ellsberg, Bieke Vandekerckhove, and Annie Riggs.

Maybe these aren't your saints, fair enough. So lean on those who help light your path.