



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

June 28th, 2020 Thirteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time



*Whoever receives you receives me,
and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”
Matthew 10:40*

*“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

TEXT TO GIVE PROGRAM:

ONLINE OFFERTORY

GIVING

TEXT:

148parishssphilipandjames
TO: 516-271-3338

FAITH DIRECT:

GO TO SSPJ.ORG

CLICK ON THE FAITH

DIRECT ICON

Parish of Saints Philip and
James account code
NY232 when signing up

Sacraments

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

Marriage— Couples are asked to contact the Pastoral Center before visiting the reception hall. The Marriage Preparation process is nine months before your proposed wedding date.

Confirmation— Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

Reconciliation— Available Saturdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Church or by contacting the Parish Center for an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 8:00am mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

R.C.I.A.— Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (non-Catholic adults desiring to become Catholic) are asked to contact the Parish Center Office.

Eucharistic Adoration In The Church— 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 June 21st, 2020

Live Streaming

Parish Social Ministry food pantry donation

Faith Direct :

Total Weekly Collection:

\$17,800.

\$12,934.

1,550.

800.

3,035.

\$18,319.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

*For the homeless it is a shelter.
For the lonely it's just a visit.
For the hungry it's a meal
For one who stumbles it is helping hands.
For the thirsty, just a drop water. O God, you ask little of us.
You bless us, when we give and also when we receive.
Please let us have a cup of cold water.
And let us not ignore those souls that thirst for you. Amen. (by Anne Osdieck)*

A cup of water... This image from today's gospel used in the above prayer reminds us that just the smallest actions done out of love for others make us disciples of Jesus - Apostles of Hope. That small gesture, that cup of water, that "bite-size" piece takes many forms.

It is so wonderful to be able to celebrate Mass with a congregation present! As we gather we are following the requirements of the Diocese and the Center for Disease Control to do our best to keep one another safe. **A heartfelt thank you to all who so graciously have cooperated during these unusual times!** Wearing a mask, sitting in marked places, following the necessary guidelines for receiving Holy Communion – all these connect to the "cup of water" spoken of in today's gospel. While these actions at times may seem a little unusual or inconvenient, they are small, caring gestures which unite us as Apostles of Hope and allow us to once again come together as community. Thank you!

As we continue to gather we are in need of more Apostles of Hope to assist us as we gather! Might you be willing to help guide people to seats and assist with forming Communion lines? It may seem like a small task, but it's one which benefits the whole community. There will be one very brief instructional session. Please call the Parish Office and leave your name and phone number.

These have been and continue to be challenging times. There's a beautiful line in this week's Fr. Ron Rolheiser column - ***Among yourselves, charity, charity, charity.*** Thank you for the charitable love witnessed in the bountiful donations to Parish Outreach, in the graciousness of caring for others by wearing masks and social distancing, in kind words spoken and in continuing prayers prayed. Thank you for the many "cups of water" shared. Yes, *Among yourselves, charity, charity, charity.* Amen!

A Joke: Marriage is Sharing

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink.

He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife .

He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering.

Obviously they were thinking, 'That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.'

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady had not eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.'

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked 'What is it you are waiting for?'

She answered (- This is good) 'THE TEETH'

Peace,

Father Tom

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



We are so grateful that we are able to celebrate mass together once again, albeit, with new safety precautions in place!

We want to remind you that the Sunday obligation to attend mass, AT THIS TIME, is suspended per Bishop Barres.

Therefore, if you are feeling ill or have been exposed to someone who has the virus, kindly stay home and view the Mass on line via our website directions.

We also ask that you consider receiving Holy Communion, during this time, in the hand. This in an effort to protect the elderly and most vulnerable among us.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion in the hand, we ask that you notify the Usher upon entering mass so that we may to seat you in an area from which we can safely escort you to communion.

Thank you so very much for your cooperation and understanding.

Parish Social Ministry

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

GRANOLA BARS

CANNED CHICKEN

BABY WIPES

**GIFT CARDS: KING KULLEN/STOP & SHOP
GAS GIFT CARDS**

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



We must protect creation for it is a gift which the Lord has given us, it is God's present to us; we are the guardians of creation. When we exploit creation, we destroy that sign of God's love. To destroy creation is to say to God: "I don't care". And this is not good: this is sin.



When we haven't made faith our top priority, we miss the miracles God wants to provide.



Good News Ministries: gnm.org



MASS RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AT THIS TIME
(For Saturday 5pm mass and Sunday 8am, 10am & 12noon)

WHY?

- ♦ TO PROTECT YOURSELF
- ♦ TO PROTECT YOUR PARISH FAMILY
- ♦ TO MAINTAIN PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING

AND: FOR TRACING PURPOSES:

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR PARISHIONERS IN THE
EVENT SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION FOR SUNDAY MASS?

VISIT SSPJ.ORG
SELECT TAB AT TOP: MASS RESERVATION
SELECT THE MASS TIME

REGISTER YOURSELF
AND:
REGISTER THE NAMES OF ANY
ADDITIONAL FAMILY OR FRIENDS
YOU MAY BE BRINGING



PRINT OUT THE EMAIL
CONFIRMATION PAGE AND BRING
IT WITH YOU TO MASS OR:
HAVE THE CONFIRMATION READY ON
YOUR PHONE

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER?

CONTACT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE AT:
631-584-5454
WE ARE HAPPY TO SCHEDULE YOUR REQUEST

ALSO:

PLEASE REGISTER FOR FLOCKNOTE

WHY?

SO THAT WE CAN IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY YOU OF ANY IMPORTANT,
URGENT ISSUES IN A FAST, EFFICIENT MANNER

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

TEXT: SSPJ PARISH
TO: 84576
THEN FOLLOW THE PROMPTS.

A Reflection from Sister T~ “Speak Life”

Dear Parishioners,

Well good things are happening. YEAH! During this time, I noticed something very familiar. Do you remember back when you were a teenager (I had to go way back!) and you wanted your way? I remember saying, “But Nancy’s mother said she could go.” Or, “Why do we have to do it this way? Joey’s mom does it like this.” Ring a bell? And if you didn’t say those words, you probably thought them! I know I did. Lately, I’ve been noticing a lot of adults who remind me of my teenage self. Sometimes I just don’t get it, but no judgement here. Back in my teenage years, mothers knew best and they did what they did to show their care and love for us. Today, I think the Church and the state officials are also trying to do the same. So for me, I need to stop being a teenager and start listening and appreciating what is going on. And while I am doing this, I hope I can do it with some respect for myself and others.

With all of this in mind and on my heart, I wrote the following reflection for my community’s “Wednesday Reflection” for June 17th. Enjoy and I hope it speaks life to you.

before you speak
THINK
T ... Is it true?
H ... Is it helpful?
I ... Is it inspiring?
N ... Is it necessary?
K ... Is it kind?



Wednesday Reflection – June 17: Speak Life

Surely, a good number of you out there love plants and planting in the garden. Somewhere I heard that it is great to talk to your plants as it helps them grow faster. In researching it, I learned one theory was that the vibrations of the voice helped and that a woman’s voice had a larger range and so helped significantly more. **Words, sounds...** They not only have an effect on plants but also on people.

There is a song by Toby Mac, a Christian singer, entitled “Speak Life.” Here are just a few of the words: *“Speak life in the deepest darkest hours...Speak life...Sometimes the tongue gets twisted...Well it’s crazy to imagine words from my lips as arms of compassion...Speak life.”*

I share these words at a time that is very challenging in our world. We are slowly coming out of our sheltering-in-place mode and re-entering the world we thought we knew. On top of that, we have seen some awful displays of violence. Don’t you think that speaking words of kindness and life would help to heal all that is going on? That would mean that we all would have to start to think of the other as well as ourselves. All of us have been challenged in some way during the past few months. How do we find a new, and hopefully better, normal?

I would suggest that speaking words of life would work much better than angry, bitter words. Don’t you think so? This is not an easy task and it will take a lot of practice, but the time to “speak life” is now! When you are having a tough day, isn’t it uplifting to hear someone give a kind remark or smile or just be thoughtful? It can make a day seem so much brighter.

Are you willing and able to “speak life” to those you begin to interact with as you emerge from your shelter? Are you willing to retool your brain to speak words of encouragement and compliment, keeping the criticism to yourself? Are you willing to be sensitive to what others may be going through and “speak life” into their day?

My challenge for you this week is to listen to Toby Mac’s song on YouTube (you can find the video at <https://bit.ly/SpeakLifeVideo>) and really take the words to heart. Speaking words of life at this time and place may be just what the world needs to grow up strong and healthy like the plants we love.

Till next week as we continue to speak life,
Sister Theresita

Photo of the innovative garden our sisters in Elmhurst, NY planted this spring

Live Streaming Mass~

Twelve weeks ago - due to Covid-19 and regulations mandated by our government and health agencies - to reduce the number of lives lost to Corona Virus... churches were required to stop holding public Mass and the distribution of Holy Communion.

This was an extremely sad day for everyone in our parish. We immediately turned to our cell phones and started live-streaming our daily and weekend Mass on March 22. Though very unsophisticated, we were happy to be able to not skip a week and bring Mass to you in the safety of your homes. We attempted to reach out to those with far more knowledge in streaming Mass than we had. This was at the height of personal distancing and businesses had their doors closed and were unable to inspect our church for what we needed - and even if we knew what was needed...we were not able to hire anyone to set-up the equipment. Amazon was no longer guaranteeing fast delivery and audio/visual equipment was now on backorder. We were using a five-foot ladder with a wooden crate atop as our tripod. We were using a plate/frame holder to steady the cell phone.

As you can understand there were many hurdles and we did the best we possibly could to continue live-streaming...yet we heard your frustration about the quality of the audio and the visual and we shared that frustration.

Fast forward - we did get a "real" tripod and invested in a lavalier system specifically for the I-Phone and we are learning how to work with the church sound system and the I-phone lavalier simultaneously. A lavalier is a headset/sound speaker - currently our priest are using two - one that is directly connected to the church system so Congregants can hear the Mass and another connected to the cell phone so those at home can hear the Mass without the echo or feedback from the vast area.

This has been a major learning adjustment for all of us involved. We would like to have the ability to continue live-streaming Mass for those who are still uncomfortable attending in person and in light of the fact that due to socially acceptable distancing we are only permitted 90 parishioners at any given Mass.

To do this properly we would like to look into a system whereby the camera is not a personal cell phone, but one permanently mounted and connected directly to our Facebook streaming and hopefully onto our website as well. Preferably hard-wired to avoid any interruptions in service as is known to happen dependent on Wi-Fi. This would eliminate the need for any one person to have to physically be in church to live-stream Masses 7 days a week.

Unfortunately, as the Business Manager, you can understand my hesitation to spend the \$5,000 to complete this project. With weekly collections not coming anywhere near needed funds to meet budget...spending \$5,000 is a major consideration.

We are not debating whether there is a need for live streaming to continue as that has already been determined.

I hate to come to our parishioners, especially during these financially difficult times, to ask for funding specifically for live-streaming equipment - yet, I find myself doing so and pray that you understand the need and if you are able to help financially, it would be greatly appreciated. Please mark Live streaming on your donation.

I would be happy to discuss anything with you personally and always appreciative of your generosity and support.

Virginia Portanova
vportanova@sspj.org
631-584-5454 x202

***How do we contact our "flock" without ~FLOCK NOTE?
PLEASE SIGN UP YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED***

We ask that ALL PARISHIONERS SIGN UP FOR FLOCK NOTE~

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE.

***FLOCKNOTE ENABLES US, AT THE CURRENT TIME, TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY
PARISHIONERS OF ANY IMPORTANT ISSUES IN A VERY EFFICIENT AND TIMELY FASHION.***



***Please text "SSPJParish" to 84576 - you will
automatically be as an SSPJ parishioner - please
follow the prompts to complete the sign-up.***

Welcome RCIA Candidates



*Pictured:
Paul Scimeme*

Finally the day has come. No one knew back in September when the RCIA journey began, that the world would change as it has.... Through it all, Eric Muller and Paul Scimeme have kept their eyes on the prize! They both remained steadfast in their RCIA studies and finally will be fully welcomed into the Church on Sunday, June 28th, 2020 at the 10am mass.

Both will complete their sacraments after receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

We are happy for them and their families. Congratulations and may God bless you as you traverse this wonderful journey.

*Pictured:
Eric Muller*



Sacrament of Baptism

We congratulate and welcome into the SSPJ Parish Family,

Dayana Mayorga

Dayana just graduated SSPJ School and will be attending St. John the Baptist High School in the fall.

Dayana was mentored by Sister T while completing the RCIA process.

Pictured Left with SSPJ School Principal, Diane Anderson, and SSPJ 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Calandra

Pictured Right Dayana is with her Mom and Godfather

Congratulations to Dayana and her family!



At Home Retreat Corner with Sister T~A few words from Sister T's Song of the Seed Retreatants

"I'm so happy to be participating in a retreat based on the book, "Song of the Seed" because it has brought me into a deeper sense of my spirituality. Each new spiritually reflective experience keeps the growth of my spirituality and my relationship with Jesus spiraling deeper. I find myself at a different sacred space with each experience."

"I am so happy to be part of this retreat, because I am always wanting more, more understanding of my God, more understanding of my humanness, more love, more peace, and always more light on my path."

"I am so happy I am reading this book for several reasons.

- 1. It made me slow down.*
- 2. Made me stop and look for signs.*
- 3. Brings me closer to my faith on a daily basis.*

"I'm so happy to be participating in the Song of the Seed retreat. I've had the chance to meet and interact with amazing people of faith. The journey had as a huge impact on my spiritual growth."

**So blessed we are to say,
WE ARE AT 80% OF OUR CMA GOAL...**
**As of June 23rd, 2020, we have received \$89,705. toward our
2020 CMA Goal of \$111,000.**

**During this very difficult time, it is with great appreciation and gratitude
for your sacrifices and generosity.**

If you wish to donate to the Catholic Ministries Appeal:
Diocese of Rockville Centre| Catholic Ministries Appeal | 516-678-5800 ext. 296
<http://www.drvc.org/CMA>



"No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35)?

--Pope Francis

Your Appeal donation supports vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese. It ensures that our seminarians have the time, resources and guidance they need to discern their vocation, begin their human and spiritual formation and embark on a life-time commitment of holy service as priests.

On June 20th, our Diocese received a double blessing when Bishop Barres ordained two more men to serve God's people in this time and place as members of Christ's priesthood. With great generosity of mind, heart, and spirit, Fr. John Crozier and Fr. Rafal Borowiejski have willingly dedicated their lives to Christ and have become wonderful role models for all of us, by placing their trust in Jesus and answering the call to follow Him more closely.



"Catholic priests are contemplative and missionary instruments of the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ expressed in the Word of God, the Catholic Mass and all the Sacraments."

- Bishop Barres

Please consider donating to the Appeal and support Vocations in our Diocese.

Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Parish _____

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit

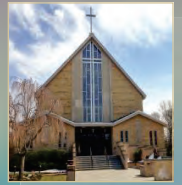
<https://www.drvc.org/CMA/>

or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296. Thank You!



Religious Education News

Registration for the 2020~2021
Religious Education Year will begin *SHORTLY!*



We ask all families to look at the SSPJ.org website as well as your email for important updates.

We welcome New Families to our Religious Education Program! If you should have any questions, please contact the religious education department at 631-584-3204.

Below, please find the letter from Father Tom sent to all families on May 27th, 2020

Dear Parents of Children in Religious Education,

God's own peace be with you! I've been praying for you at our daily and Sunday Masses during these difficult days. I have also been praying for the success of what I invite you to commit to this coming school year as we re-imagine Religious Education for next year.

I begin by asking for ten minutes of your time. I ask you to use those ten minutes to watch a video with Father Casey Cole, OFM. Father Casey is a Franciscan priest and author who has his own blog and YouTube channel entitled "Breaking the Habit". The particular video I'm asking you to watch is called, "Saving a Dying, Shrinking Church". In it, Fr. Casey captures the mission of our Religious Education Program. The link for the video is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8veA2XQDd_E. As Father Casey puts it: we want to "create mystics". To do so, we need you, the parents. He reminds us that for us and for our children, "Faith must be made personal."

The Religious Education Team has redesigned our parish program with an understanding of your new reality and ours, recognizing time demands and the many uncertainties we face as we approach the next school year. Following are the main points for our new Religious Education Program:

- 1) Parents will be asked to view the Casey Cole video, "Saving a Dying Shrinking Church", YouTube video, April 15, 2020. We will be focusing our Religious Ed Program more on the importance of Family in catechesis.
- 2) All classes this year will be online. We will use Google Classroom and Google Meets. No classes will be held at Church/School.
- 3) All Classes will be prepared and taught by the Coordinators. When registering, Parents will not choose a day and time for class, or a Catechist. All students in a certain grade will be in the same class.
- 4) Students will have a week to complete a lesson. They will be required to answer a question/questions following each lesson. Attendance will be monitored through Google.
- 5) At the start of the year, all Parent Meetings, Class Masses and events will be virtual. Grade level events will be offered for students/families on campus as permitted, especially during Advent and Lent.
- 6) There will be a Family Parish Contribution instead of a Religious Ed Fee. Everything will be included in this contribution, there will be no additional fees for First Communion or Confirmation.
- 7) Registration will be online again this year.
- 8) Classes will begin in October.

We have worked hard to create something doable, engaging, realistic and exciting which we believe can "create mystics". I am asking you to commit to working with us and your children as we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus and Apostles of Hope.

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

*Religious Education ~ Planting seeds, for growing~
Apostles of Hope*

Mass Intentions, For the week of June 28th, 2020

Saturday, June 27th, 2020

5:00pm Theresa Stramiello

Sunday, June 28th, 2020

8:00am Father's Day Novena
10:00am For the People of SSPJ
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Thomas Kovacic
Father Dennis McNally, S.J.

Monday, June 29th, 2020~Sts. Peter & Paul

7:30am Father's Day Novena
9:15am Anthony Carduano

Tuesday, Wednesday June 30th, 2020

7:30am
9:15am Dr. Peter Scelfo

Wednesday, July 1, 2020~Saint Junipero Serra

7:30am Marie & Bob Merz
9:15am Edith Kiernan

Our Sincere Sympathy...

We mourn the passing of

James Klouda



**Our Pro Life Rose
For the Week of
June 28th, 2020**

Is Offered for

"Dedicated Birthday Memories"

Loving Father~ Jerome R. Lotarski ~ July 2nd

Loving Husband ~ Leon Peter Heffron ~ July 3rd

Until we meet again...

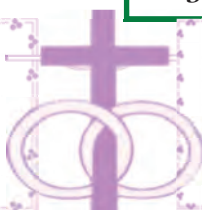
Love,

Chris & Carol

Wedding Banns

Second

**Eric Muller ~ SSPJ To
Catherine Montesano ~ SSPJ**



Thursday, July 2nd, 2020

7:30am Caroline Pizzorusso
9:15am Collective Mass:
Living~ Elizabeth & Paul Napoli ~60th Anniversary

Friday, July 3rd, 2020

7:30am Patricia McNeely
9:15am Living~Theresa & Alex Kassay~60th Anniversary

Saturday, July 4th, 2020

9:15am Sara Murray
5:00pm George Yassopoulos

Sunday, July 5th, 2020

8:00am Father's Day Novena
10:00am Michael Stephen McDermott
12:00Noon Collective Mass
Reverend William Duhigg
John Schlee

Remembering in Our Prayers~

Adrian Erias
Angela Amoroso
Baby Ben
Barbara Bombace
Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano
Belinda Groneman
Belinda Vega
Bob Keenan
Claudia Chandler
Daniel Radice
Deirdre W.
Dottie Nunziata
Donalea Donach
Dylan Beach
Ellie Walsh
Gladys Blake
Gregory Parker
Ida Wehman
John DeStefano
J.C.
Joseph S.
And for all the prayers
intentions in our hearts

Judy Contrino
Kathleen N.
Kitty Cronin
Leon Donach
Maria Clark
Marie del Cielo
Matthew Parrella
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Monsignor Iocavacci
Peter Donach
P.I.
Ricardo Buffit
Sara Jean Andersen
Tara C.
Tom Focone
Tim Cavooris
Vivien Cordes
Victoria Zubrycky
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

Third

**Kevin Scally ~ SSPJ To
Kelly Schneider ~ St. Patricks, Smithtown**

SSPJ School Apostle Always Filled With HOPE....

Apostle of Hope Ms. Diane Anderson, Principal SSPJ School

Ms. Anderson is the ultimate Apostle of Hope!

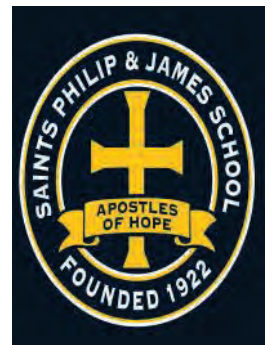
Since becoming principal, she has exemplified leadership, faith and love!

She always wants her faculty, staff and students to live their best lives. She strives to uplift, honor and praise all she comes in contact with. She works hard at making SSPJ a school that can be looked at with pride especially in its faith. God comes first and all good follows!

Ms. Anderson took the reins with online learning. She found ways on a daily basis to interact with, showcase and make online learning go as smoothly as possible for teachers, students and parents.

She has made clear by example that her faith, her smile and love are authentic.

Congratulations and Thank You!



Our Deep Failure in Charity

Saint Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the *Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*, the Religious Congregation to which I belong, left us with these last words as he lay dying: *"Among yourselves, charity, charity, charity"*. I don't always live that, though I wish I could, especially today.

We are in a bitter time. Everywhere there is anger, condemnation of others, and bitter disagreement; so much so that today we are simply unable to have a reasonable discussion on any sensitive political, moral, or doctrinal issue. We demonize each other to the point where any attempt to actually reason with each other (let alone to reach agreement or compromise) mostly just deepens the hostility. If you doubt this, simply watch the newscasts any evening, read any newspaper, or follow the discussion on most moral and religious questions.

The first thing that is evident is the naked hatred inside our energy and how we tend to justify it on moral and religious grounds. This is our protest: *we're fighting for truth, decency, justice, God, family, church, right dogma, right practice, for Christ himself, so our anger and hatred are justified*. Anger is justified, but hatred is an infallible sign that we are acting in a manner contrary to truth, decency, justice, God, family, church, right dogma, right practice, and Christ. It would be hard to argue that this kind of energy issues forth from God's spirit and does not source itself elsewhere.

Looking at Jesus we see that all his energies were directed towards unity. Jesus never preached hatred, as is clear from the Sermon on the Mount, as is illustrated in his great priestly prayer for unity in John's Gospel, and as is evident in his frequent warnings to us to be patient with each other, to not judge each other and to forgive each other.

But one might object: what about Jesus' own (seemingly) bitter judgments? What about him speaking harshly of others? What about him losing his temper and using whips to drive the money-changers out of the temple? Indeed, what about his statement: *I have come to bring fire to this earth*?

These statements are perennially misinterpreted and used falsely to rationalize our lack of genuine Christian love. When Jesus says that he has come to bring fire to this earth and wishes it were already blazing, the fire he is referring to is not the fire of division but the fire of love. Jesus made a vow of love, not of alienation. His message provoked hateful opposition, but he did not self-define as a cultural or ecclesial warrior. He preached and incarnated only love, and that sometimes sparked its antithesis. (It still does.) He sometimes triggered hatred in people, but he never hated in return. Instead, he wept in empathy, understanding that sometimes the message of love and inclusivity triggers hatred inside of those who for whatever reason at that time cannot fully bear the word love. As well, the incident of him driving the money-changers out of the temple, forever falsely cited to justify our anger and judgment of others, has a very different emphasis and meaning. His action as he cleanses the temple of the people who were (legitimately) exchanging Jewish currency for foreign money in order let foreigners buy what they needed to offer sacrifice, has to do with him clearing away an obstacle in the way of universal access to God, not with anger at some particular people.

We frequently ignore the Gospel. Factionalism, tribalism, racism, economic self-interest, historical difference, historical privilege, and fear perennially cause bitter polarization and trigger a hatred that eats away at the very fabric of community; and that hatred perennially justifies itself by appealing to some high moral or religious ground. But the Gospel never allows for that. It never lets us bracket charity and it refuses us permission to justify our bitterness on moral and religious grounds. It calls us to a love, an empathy and a forgiveness that reach across every divide so as to wish good and do good precisely to those who hate us. And it categorically forbids rationalizing hatred in its name or in the name of truth, justice, or right dogma.

The late Michael J. Buckley, looking at the bitter polarization in our churches, suggests that nothing justifies our current bitterness: "The sad fact stands, however, that it is frequently no great trick to get religious men and women to turn on one another in some terrible form of condemnation. Wars, even personal wars, are terrible realities, and the most horrible of these are often self-righteously religious. For deceived or split off under the guise of good, under the rubrics of orthodoxy or liberality, of community or of personal freedom, even of holiness itself, factions of men and women can slowly disintegrate into pettiness or cynicism or hostility or bitterness. In this way the Christian church becomes divided."

We need to be careful inside our cultural and religious wars. There is never an excuse for lack of fundamental charity.

July 5, 2020 • 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

A Lighter Burden

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Zechariah 9:9-10 - Restoration under the Messiah
- Romans 8:9, 11-13 - Indwelling of the Spirit
- Matthew 11:25-30 - Jesus and his Father

For the past several weeks, Jesus gave instructions and warnings about how challenging it is to follow him. Yet today's reading gives the opposite impression: "come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest ... for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Jesus' listeners were familiar with the image of a yoke because they were used to harnessing animals to do work in the field or to pull humans in carriages or cargo on wagons. In Judaism, the yoke was also a metaphor for the religious laws spelled out in the Old Testament.

Over time, religious leaders (mostly the Pharisees) added to the 613 official written laws, creating an oppressive burden for an ordinary Jewish citizen. Several times in Matthew's Gospel Jesus, lashed out at the Pharisees for making it almost impossible (especially for poor people, who were the majority of the population) to live by all the rules, and for not lifting a finger to help them.



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"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Sheepish Question:

Whose burden can I relieve this week? Why is he or she so valuable?

In contrast, Jesus simplifies all of his religion's laws into two: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. For people struggling to keep track of hundreds of rules about how to wash your cups and utensils perfectly, what foods can and can't be on a plate together, what kinds of clothing fiber you could or couldn't wear, or what you could and couldn't do on the Sabbath, having only those two laws to follow was easy and light in comparison. Instead of having to worry about whether they were breaking any rules, Jesus' disciples could judge any decision with the measure of whether an action expressed love for God, self, and neighbor. *That* was the yoke Jesus was inviting them to carry—not the yoke of the Pharisees who cared more about the letter of the law than the spirit of the law.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What religious rules or laws feel unnecessarily burdensome to you? Why?
- 2 Does the idea of judging all of your actions and decisions by the yoke of Jesus bring you relief? Please explain.

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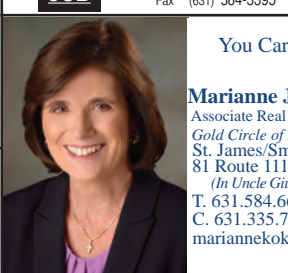
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