



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

631-584-5454

March 29th, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent



And Jesus raised his eyes and said,
“Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me;
but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may
believe you sent me”

John 11:41

“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, March 15th, 2020

Faith Direct:

\$ 9,679.

\$ 2,877.

\$17,800.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$12,556.

****Unfortunately, these are the last weekly collection figures****

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Today's gospel is powerful on many levels. It speaks of friendship, of death, of grief, of questioning where God is in the midst of hard times. And, it speaks of new life. According to Fr. Ron Rolheiser, in this passage of the raising of Lazarus, Jesus reveals *"God is not so much a rescuing God as a redeeming one. God does not protect us from pain, but instead enters it and ultimately redeems it..."*

What meaningful thoughts in the midst of today's covid-19 epidemic. People throughout the world have experienced many kinds of pain – the pain of illness, the pain of economic worries, the pain of social distancing, the pain of so much unknown. On this 5th Sunday of Lent, though we are not able to physically gather together at Mass, let us pray together with great faith and hope, trusting that God enters our pain and ultimately redeems it – in ways we may not suspect. Like Lazarus, we are being called to new life. Let's continue to allow the church bells to call us to prayer and to a new mindfulness of one another! Each time I hear them, you dear friends, are brought to mind and heart. Father Patrick and I are honored to remember all of you at daily Mass and we long for the day you will be back in church with us.

I read a moving reflection this morning in Give Us This Day. It's by Kathy McGovern.

"Lo, I am about to create new heavens and new earth," God says. A new earth sounds wonderful right now, doesn't it? A more peaceful earth, a clean earth, a place of peace and healing.

I recently read The Mission Walker, an astonishing travel diary written by Edie Littlefield Sunby. She walked the entire 1600 mile El Camino Real de las Californias, the old Mission Trail from the Lorero, Mexico to Sonoma, California. She did it with one lung, after surviving widespread metastasis of stage IV gallbladder cancer and 79 rounds of aggressive chemotherapy. She'd been given three months to live.

What is the point of it all, one might ask, a dying woman forcing herself through often desolate and harsh landscapes in order to reach another mission, some of them decrepit and long abandoned? We might see Sunby's journey as an excruciating exercise in nostalgia. Yet unseen is what God is doing in her tormented body. As she pushes herself on to every single mission site (some still in use, most in ruins), she is being healed. She lives today, twelve years after her diagnosis and six years after setting out on her hero's journey. Of this stunning pilgrimage, Sunby says: "If I was walking, I was alive."

Might that be what the Spirit is saying to us as church, the people of God? Even the Notre Dame cathedral is under construction again. We are all. God is doing something new. ***Keep walking, Church.*** It just might be that God is healing us too.

Apostles of Hope, let's walk together toward God's new beginning. Like the signs of spring, may there be a rebirthing of kindness, tenderness, loving speech and mercy recognizable in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, church and workplaces. Let's hear Jesus say today not to Lazarus but to the Christ within each of us... ***"be untied and go free."***

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Our Challenge this Lent

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Sts. Philip & James Religious Education Program has been suspended for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Religious Ed will update everyone as quickly as possible as information is changing rapidly. Our religious education department will be sending out grade specific e-mails within the next week.
- ◆ 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.**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This is a time of difficulty for all of us but even more for those who rely on Parish Social Ministry to meet some of their needs on a regular basis. They are local, they are our neighbors, and they are hurting more than most.

If you are able to assist us, our pantry is still in need of the following:

TOILET PAPER
BARS OF SOAP
GALLON JUGS OF WATER
SMALL CONTAINERS LAUNDRY
DETERGENT
BOXED MILK
SAMPLE SIZE SHAMPOO
GAS 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.

Thank you for your continued generosity especially today.



Walking the Lenten Journey of Faith Lenten Suggestions

Lenten Gospel Reflections Bishop Barron's Word on Fire
Visit: wordonfire.org
To receive daily Lenten reflections

Best Lent Ever~ It's not what you give up~
It's who you become
To receive daily video reflections visit:
DynamicCatholic.com/Amazing

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of March 29th, 2020

Monday, March 30, 2020
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, March 31, 2020:
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

Thursday, April 2, 2020:
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

Friday, April 3, 2020
7:00pm AA Meeting
Philip & James Room

Saturday, April 4, 2020
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

Sunday, April 5, 2020
7:00pm AA Meeting
Philip & James Room

Lenten Regulations 2020

Traditionally, the Lenten Season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent):

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

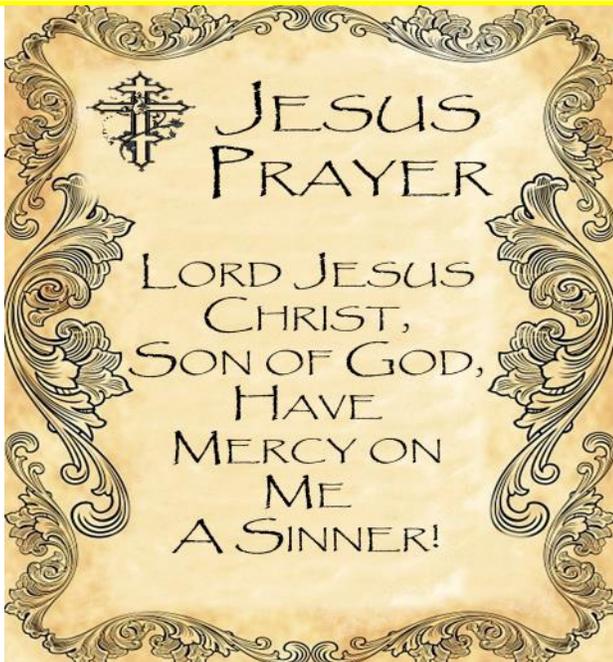
Mass Intentions, For the week of March 29th, 2020

5:00pm	<u>Saturday, March 28th, 2020</u> Rosalie Cortopassi	7:30am	<u>Thursday, April 2nd, 2020</u> Gerald Gilson
8:00am	<u>Sunday, March 29th 2020</u> For the Parishioners of SSPJ	9:15am	<u>Collective Mass:</u> Karen Naclerio-Negrin Thomas J. Norris
10:00am	Robert Dorgan		<u>Friday, April 3rd, 2020</u>
12:00Noon	<u>Collective Mass:</u> Thomas W. Waterman Edward Hart Richard J. Blake Sheila & Raymond Gilroy	7:30am	Dr. Colene Young
		9:15am	John Lettau
	<u>Monday, March 30th, 2020</u>		<u>Saturday, April 4th, 2020</u>
7:30am	Michael V. Mastrogineomo	9:15am	John Keane
9:15am	Ralph & Theresa Guzzo	5:00pm	Carmela Massaro
	<u>Tuesday, Wednesday, March 31st, 2020</u>		<u>Sunday, April 5th, 2020</u>
7:30am	Alan Cerny	8:00am	For the Parishioners of Sts. Philip & James
9:15am	Robert Remhild	10:00am	Edward Byrnes
	<u>Wednesday, April 1st, 2020</u>	12:00Noon	<u>Collective Mass:</u> Bob Remhild & The Hearney Family Michael J. Hayden Ann Cancellieri & Jill Pirozzi
7:30am	Michael Kaplon		
9:15am	Patricia Henrich		



Remembering in Our Prayers~
Those who are ill

**Our Bread and Wine
For the Week of
March 29th 2020
Are Offered for,
Our Beloved
Michael Kaplon
We love and miss you.
Mom & Dad**



Adrian Erias
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.

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

And for all the prayers
intentions offered in our
Prayer baskets
For our Nation in time of crisis

If you wish to include a name
on our prayer listing, kindly
contact the Parish Center
Office at 631-584-5454



**2020
CMA
Goal**

\$111,000

"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: _____

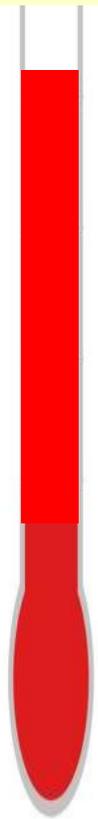
Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit drvc.org/CMA
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296
Thank You!

**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**





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES COUNCIL
COUNCIL #12839

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020



Smithtown Landing Country Club
495 Landing Avenue • Smithtown, NY 11787

REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM
SHOTGUN TEE OFF: 10 AM



MAY THE COURSE BE WITH YOU

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

of Players: _____ @ \$190.00 per person
(includes Golf Cart, Lunch, Cocktail Hour, Dinner)

Dinner Only: _____ @ \$90.00 per person

Total: \$ _____

Attending: _____

SPONSORSHIP:

_____ Dinner Sponsorship @ \$1000
(2 Available)

_____ Lunch Sponsorship @ \$500
(2 Available)

_____ Driving Range Sponsorship @ \$500
(2 Available)

_____ Cart Sponsorship @ \$300
(1 Available)

_____ Putting Green Sponsorship @ \$250
(4 Available)

_____ Pin Flag Sponsorship (18) @ \$125
(18 Available)

_____ Tee Signs Sponsorship @ \$100

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:

Sts. Philip & James K of C Council #12839
P.O. Box 201
St. James, NY 11780

For Credit Card or Paypal:
Please visit our Home Page / Website:

WWW.KOFCSSPJ.ORG

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact: Thomas Sica (631) 521-4771

sikachu45@hotmail.com

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION:



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 1, 2, & 3
**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REFLECTION AND KEEP AS A REMINDER
 OF THE LESSON THIS WEEKS GOSPEL TEACHES US**



MARCH 29th, 2020
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Gospel of: John 11:1-45

My Name Is: _____

I Am In Grade: _____

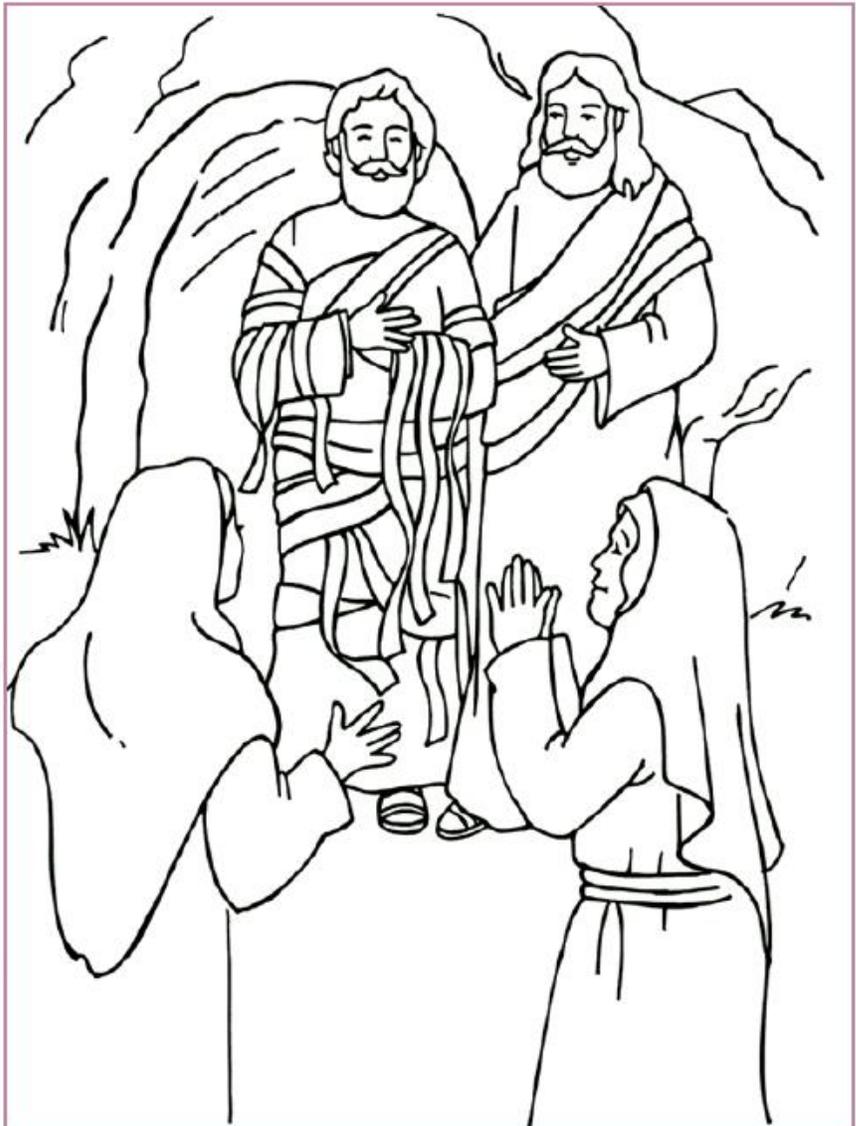
My Catechist "Teacher's" Name Is: _____

Gospel Message: John 11:1-45

Jesus raises his friend Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, from the dead.

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who became very sick. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus and asked Him to come and heal Lazarus, but when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already died. The Bible tells us that when Jesus saw Mary weeping because her brother had died, He cried too. Jesus went with Mary and Martha and some others to visit the grave where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a large stone across the entrance. When they arrived at the tomb, Jesus said to some of the men who were with them, "Take away the stone." Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus walked out of the grave. I imagine that when she saw that, Mary's tears of sadness turned to tears of joy.

How about coloring this picture of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.



My Prayer for this week:

Dear Jesus,

When things make us scared, sad, or feel worried, please remind us that you are always by our side. Please encourage us to call your name and help us feel your loving arms around us.

Amen



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 4,5 & 6
 Please complete this reflection and **KEEP IT**
 As a reminder of the lesson this weeks Gospel teaches us



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 29th, 2020

My Name Is: _____

I Am In Grade: _____

My Catechist Name Is: _____

Gospel Message: The Gospel of JOHN 11:1-45

Jesus raises his friend Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, from the dead.

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who became very sick. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus and asked Him to come and heal Lazarus, but when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already died. The Bible tells us that when Jesus saw Mary weeping because her brother had died, He cried too. Jesus went with Mary and Martha and some others to visit the grave where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a large stone across the entrance. When they arrived at the tomb, Jesus said to some of the men who were with them, "Take away the stone." Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus walked out of the grave.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
 John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



L A Z A R U S E S L E E P M P
 Q E N T R A N C E B D F L Y U
 L J O A S O W D Y L I F E V L
 F N I K T W E I X L G T O M B
 X Y K S C Q E S F O E D Z N R
 P R A Y E D P C F V R E E E D
 B K Q W E S I I A E C A H V X
 G L F K K N N P O A V T C V R
 R L A Z U K G L G T O H G A E
 I W O H F E E E Z R R H H V R
 S F C R X J W S B J T T E S A
 E H W Y Y N Y B N S R I U W A
 L W B P O M A R Y A L S H M K
 G C Q L W H J S M E E R A X G
 B H A E U U Q H B J S I C K V

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEEPING	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP

Dear Jesus,

The difficulties in our life seem small when compared to what others may be facing. Help us not to grumble and complain, but to praise and glorify you in every situation. Amen



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 7 & 8 Confirmation I & II
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REFLECTION AND KEEP IT
AS A REMINDER OF THE LESSON THIS WEEKS GOSPEL TEACHES US



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 29TH, 2020

Mass Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14, Psalm 130:1-8, 1 Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45

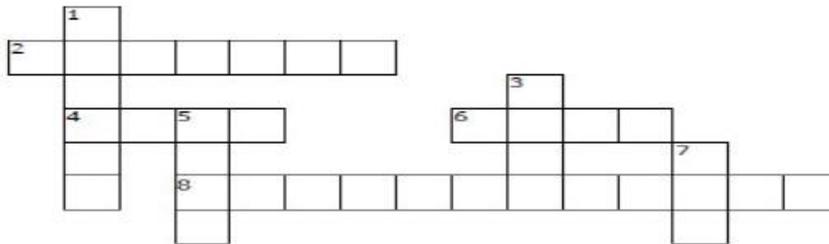
Student's Name : _____

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who became very sick. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus and asked Him to come and heal Lazarus, but when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already died. The Bible tells us that when Jesus saw Mary weeping because her brother had died, He cried too. Jesus went with Mary and Martha and some others to visit the grave where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a large stone across the entrance. When they arrived at the tomb, Jesus said to some of the men who were with them, "Take away the stone." Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus walked out of the grave.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
 John 11:25 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
- 4. A place where someone is buried
- 6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
- 8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

DOWN

- 1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
- 3. To be alive or have life
- 5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
- 7. To stop living

TOMB	MARTHA	DIE	MARY
LIVE	RESURRECTION	LAZARUS	SICK

Dear Lord, the difficulties in our life seem small when compared to what others may be facing. Help us not to grumble and complain, but to praise and glorify you in every situation.

Amen.

March Apostles of Hope 2020

Nursery A

Emma Campbell is an Apostle of Hope. Emma loves to lend a helping hand to her classmates and teachers. Emma's consideration for others and bright smile makes her a wonderful disciple of Jesus.

Juliana Raffanello is an Apostle of Hope. She plays so nicely with her classmates and loves to share with others. Juliana spreads God's love through her kindness and loving heart.

Nursery B

Tessa Fields is an Apostle of Hope. Tessa comes into the classroom everyday with a big smile on and is always ready to take on the day. She loves learning and is always there to help a friend in need. She is a great friend and you can always count on her to brighten up your day.

Joey Capolino is an Apostle of Hope. Joey is a kind friend and loves to learn all about Jesus. He and his family are very involved with the church and you can always spot them at Mass on Sunday.

Pre-Kindergarten

Viviana Danza is an Apostle of Hope. Viviana always has a smile on her face and makes a room light up when she laughs. She is kind to her friends and always tries to make people happy around her. Viviana's kindness and love make her a wonderful disciple of Jesus.

Antonia Fremeditis is an Apostle of Hope. Antonia came into our classroom later in the school year and has been able to make the transition seem so easy. She comes in ready for the day and is always ready for the next activity. Antonia is a great follower of Jesus.

Nicholas Ramunni is an Apostle of Hope. Nicholas has come a long way this school year. He is always trying his hardest to get his work done and does it with a smile on his face. He looks forward to playing with his friends and wants to be friends with everybody. Nicholas continues to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Kindergarten

Aaron Stramiello is an Apostle of Hope. Aaron loves to learn new and exciting things. He comes in every day with a big smile on his face ready to greet his teacher and friends as he starts the day. He is one of the first ones to offer a helping hand and demonstrate to his teacher and friends what Jesus would do.

Grade 1

Donovan Dilorio is an Apostles of Hope. Donovan not only loves to learn and apply all concepts learned into his daily life, but also has so much love for God. Donovan loves to help people who are homeless and enjoys sharing his knowledge of God to the rest of his classmates. Donovan understands the sacrifice that God made for us, and wants to give up something during this lenten season the way God gave up his life for us.

Grade 2

John Gramer is an Apostle of Hope. John is friendly, cooperative and fair when he plays games with his friends. He treats others the way Jesus has asked us to treat others. John shows great sportsmanship when playing competitive games. He is eager to help whenever he sees an opportunity. John is trying his best to say yes to Jesus as he prepares for Easter and his First Holy Communion.

Grade 3

Shane Donegan is an Apostle of Hope. Shane has been working very hard. He pushes himself to complete all assignments and spends extra time strengthening his multiplication facts. He shows his love for Jesus by making good choices and by being a friend to all the children in the class.

Grade 4

Reilly Williams is an Apostle of Hope. Reilly is a hard working student who strives to achieve academic excellence. Reilly shows goodness, patience and gentleness towards others. Reilly enjoys helping others in need. She displays acts of kindness as she helps to fill other students' buckets.

Shane Waldmann is an Apostle of Hope. Shane is always willing to help others. He enjoys greeting and walking the Nursery and Pre-K students to their classrooms in the mornings. Shane works hard to complete tasks and to perform well in school.

SSPJ APOSTLES OF HOPE ~ MARCH 2020

Grade 5

Kaitlyn D'Amelia is an Apostle of Hope. Kate always says "yes my Lord," in the classroom, whether it's participating in class, being a friend to all, or assisting her teachers when needed. Kate is an active participant in Mass every week and an experienced member of our school band.

Joseph Nigro is an Apostle of Hope. Joey is an active participant in Mass and submits his Mass reflections every week. Joey is always ready for his classes and is always willing to help his friends in need. He is kind to his classmates and his teachers. Joey is also an experienced member of our band.

Grade 6

Madeline Bennett is an Apostle of Hope. Madeline is kind and friendly to all students and a super friend to her Nursery buddy. She is involved in many SSPJ activities such as Stained Glass and Drama club. Madeline serves the Lord by singing in the school choir and cantering in church.

Grade 7

Samuel Rennie is an Apostle of Hope. Sam is a go-getter in every aspect of the word. Sam constantly pushes himself, and others around him, to do his/her best. He brings an ambitious energy into the classroom that helps to create a healthy learning environment. His questions are thought out, and his answers are always supported with critical thinking and concrete evidence. On top of being an active participant during school Mass, Sam has recently helped put the Odyssey of the Mind Balsa team in first place moving them to the state championship.

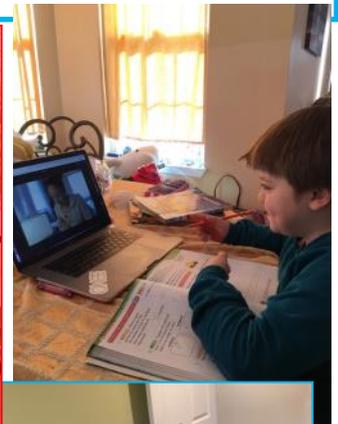
Dakayris Sanchez-Rincon is an Apostle of Hope. Dakayris' positive, fun-loving energy creates a space that everyone wants to be a part of. Dakayris not only creates a healthy working environment, but also works hard to help add to classroom conversation with her analysis and input regarding the novel at hand. Dakayris helps to make her Pre-K buddies feel loved and follow God's word. Dakayris has also recently helped put the Odyssey of the Mind Longshot team in first place moving them to the state championship.

Grade 8

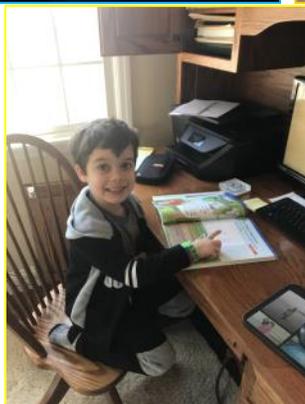
Christopher Fioto is an Apostle of Hope. Christopher is a hard working student who tries his best, he asks questions and always participates in class. Christopher was a member of the SSPJ Odyssey of the Mind team. Christopher is also a monitor for the younger students during lunch and recess.

Faculty

Mrs. Falco is an Apostle of Hope. Mrs. Falco made our home instruction possible by making sure every student had a school email account. She also gave instruction to students and professional development to faculty members to assure Google Classroom would be a success.



**SCHOOL
LESSONS
CONTINUE
ON LINE FOR
SSPJ SCHOOL
STUDENTS
THANK YOU
TO ALL THE
TEACHERS
THAT MAKE
THIS
POSSIBLE!**



April 5, 2020 • Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord • Year A

Escaping from Pain

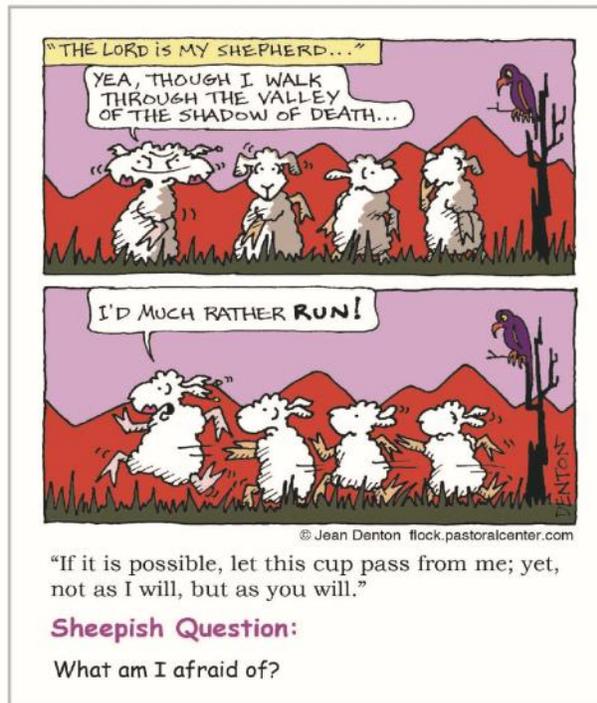
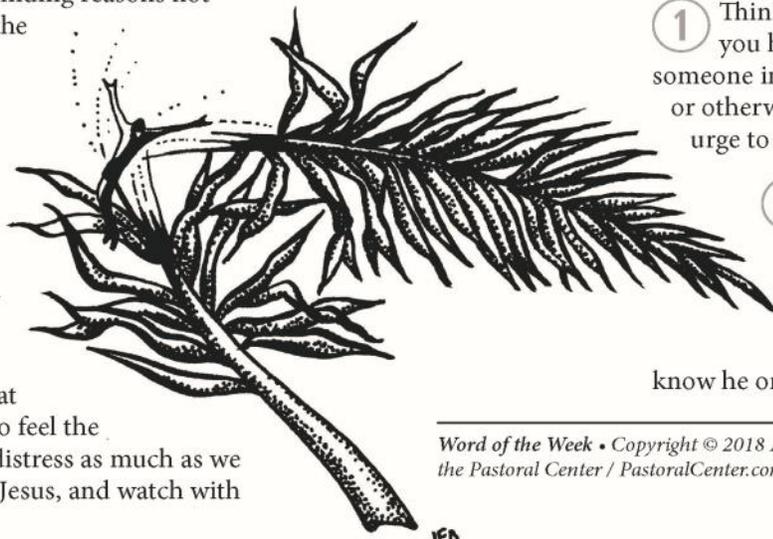
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Matthew 21:1-11 - Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- ▶ Isaiah 50:4-7 - Salvation only through the Lord's servant
- ▶ Philippians 2:6-11 - Jesus, compassionate high priest
- ▶ Matthew 26:14-27:66 - The passion of Jesus

On Palm Sunday, we hear two Gospel readings. The first tells us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The second is the full Passion account. In between are readings from Isaiah and Philippians, reminding us of Jesus' humility and willingness to be the suffering servant of God. The combination of scriptures moves us from rejoicing and praising Jesus along with the people waving their palms on the roadside to the disturbing events that lead to his arrest, trial, and death. These scripture passages are an emotional roller coaster ride.

The entire Passion story is difficult to read and hear because it is challenging to be with people who are in pain, especially when they are people we know and love. Even if we have the desire to stay present and remain loyal, Peter, James, and John remind us that sometimes the pain is just too great and we escape from it. Jesus' three friends escaped the discomfort of being with Jesus in his agony by sleeping. Others of us avoid pain in other ways, perhaps with food, alcohol or drugs, exercise, forms of entertainment or technology use, overworking, etc. Sometimes our escape is simply by finding reasons not to spend time with the person in pain.

St. Ignatius wrote a program of prayer called *The Spiritual Exercises*. He urges all those who are praying the Exercises to stay present to Jesus during his Passion. He suggests that we allow ourselves to feel the agony, sorrow, and distress as much as we can, to remain with Jesus, and watch with



him as he asked his friends to do in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We cannot be physically present to Jesus in his suffering now, but surely there are people in our lives who are suffering with whom we can remain awake. It might be a form of agony for us to watch and to share in another's pain, but when we do it for others, we do it for Jesus.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Think about an experience you have had of being with someone in their pain: physical or otherwise. Did you have any urge to run away or escape it?
- 2 Think of someone in your life now who is suffering. How might you make yourself available so that person will know he or she is not alone?

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Love In The Time of Covid 19

In 1985, Nobel Prize winning author, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, published a novel entitled, *Love in the Time of Cholera*. It tells a colorful story of how life can still be generative, despite an epidemic.

Well what's besetting our world right now is not cholera but the *coronavirus, Covid 19*. Nothing in my lifetime has ever affected the whole world as radically as this virus. Whole countries have shut down, virtually all schools and colleges have sent their students home and are offering classes online, we're discouraged from going out of our houses and from inviting others into them, and we've been asked not to touch each other and to practice "social distancing". Ordinary, normal, time has stopped. We're in a season that no generation, perhaps since the flu of 1918, has had to undergo. Furthermore, we don't foresee an end soon to this situation. No one, neither our government leaders nor our doctors, have an exit strategy. No one knows when this will end or how. Hence, like the inhabitants on *Noah's Arc*, we're locked in and don't know when the flood waters will recede and let us return to our normal lives.

How should we live in this extraordinary time? Well, I had a private tutorial on this some nine years ago. In the summer of 2011, I was diagnosed with colon cancer, underwent surgery for a resection, and then was subjected to twenty-four weeks of chemotherapy. Facing the uncertainty of what the chemotherapy would be doing to my body I was understandably scared. Moreover, twenty-four weeks is basically half a year and contemplating the length of time that I would be undergoing this "abnormal" season in my life, I was also impatient. I wanted this over with, quickly. So I faced it like I face most setbacks in my life, stoically, with the attitude: "*I'll get through this! I'll endure it!*"

I keep what might euphemistically be termed a journal, though it's really more a *Daybook* that simply chronicles what I do each day and who and what enters my life on a given day. Well, when I stoically began my first chemotherapy session I began checking off days in my journal: *Day one*, followed the next day by: *Day two*. I had done the math and knew that it would take 168 days to get through the twelve chemo sessions, spaced two weeks apart. It went on like this for the first seventy days or so, with me checking off a number each day, holding my life and my breath, everything on hold until I could finally write, *Day 168*.

Then one day, about half way through the twenty-four weeks, I had an awakening. I don't know what specifically triggered it, a grace from above, a gesture of friendship from someone, the feel of the sun on my body, the wonderful feel of a cold drink, perhaps all of these things, but I woke up, I woke up to the fact that I was putting my life on hold, that I wasn't really living but only enduring each day in order check it off and eventually reach that magical 168th day when I could start living again. I realized that I was wasting a season of my life. Moreover, I realized that what I was living through was sometimes rich precisely because of the impact of chemotherapy in my life. That realization remains one of the special graces in my life. My spirits lifted radically even as the chemotherapy continued to do the same brutal things to my body.

I began to welcome each day for its freshness, its richness, for what it brought into my life. I look back on that now and see those three last months (before day 168) as one of richest seasons of my life. I made some lifelong friends, I learned some lessons in patience that I still try to cling to, and, not least, I learned some long-overdue lessons in gratitude and appreciation, in not taking life, health, friendship, and work for granted. It was a special joy to return to a normal life after those 168 days of conscripted "sabbatical"; but those "sabbatical" days were special too, albeit in a very different way.

The coronavirus has put us all, in effect, on a conscripted sabbatical and it's subjecting those who have contracted it to their own type of chemotherapy. And the danger is that we will put our lives on hold as we go through this extraordinary time and will just endure rather than let ourselves be graced by what lies within this uninvited season.

Yes, there will be frustration and pain in living this through, but that's not incompatible with happiness. Paul Tournier, after he'd lost his wife, did some deep grieving but then integrated that grief into a new life in a way that allowed him to write: "I can truly say that I have a great grief and that I am a happy man." Words to ponder as we struggle with this coronavirus.