

# THE GABRIEL

FALL

2017



## THE APOSTLES OF HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Apostles of Hope Campaign has accomplished many of its goals. Much is done; much is in progress; some enhancements have yet to begin.

Read about the progress made and see pictures of the project in action.

It's not too late to help...see how.

## IN THIS ISSUE



Pray the Windows-Vol. II



Apostles of Hope  
Capital Campaign



Memories of SSPJ



**PLUS A LETTER FROM FATHER TOM**

## **A LETTER FROM FATHER TOM**

Dear Friends,

As I write this I'm looking out the window at the old church wondering – if this were Paris, and we were redoing Notre Dame Cathedral, just how many light years we would be talking about until project completion? Seriously, thank you so much for your patience and generosity with this endeavor. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be readying the new space for dedication receptions!

What will this renovated space afford us? Among some of the many graced opportunities are:

- space to finally offer a moms/dads/tots group for our young families to come to know and support one another;
- next year the opportunity to offer Grade One Parents the possibility to have children learn about God not only at home but also here at SSPJ with the other Religious Education and School children;
- the opportunity to offer additional spiritual enhancement sessions;
- having a place where our Youth Group can gather as one, rather than being scattered throughout the parish facilities;
- a place to offer adult faith formation courses;
- and the list goes on and on.

A delightful "problem" is ours – we have lots and lots going on in SSPJ, but finding space has been a challenge. Now we'll have more space and, God willing, we will continue to grow. There's a saying that "it's easy to build or rebuild a building, while it's far harder to rebuild a people". Clearly, we are committed to both, and God remains faithful and prompts us as Apostles of Hope to do as our patrons Philip and James did so many years ago – take the Gospel of Jesus, en flesh it and birth new hope in others.

Thanks to your participation in our Apostles of Hope Today Campaign, this issue of The Gabriel is flooded with pictures of what we together have thus far accomplished. What you perhaps don't necessarily see is that we were also able to bring all of our school buildings up to code by addressing major needs and repairs. We have heeded Pope Francis' wisdom in Laudato Si and have conserved and saved on energy costs by replacing all parish fixtures with LED lighting.

Naturally, as with your own home, there is still much to do and with your constant generosity we will continue to address what needs attention. If you haven't yet joined in the Today's Apostles of Hope Campaign and are able to participate in the effort, there still is time!

Again, many thanks and may God's own peace be yours!

# THE APOSTLES OF HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## WHERE THE MONEY WENT

A Discussion with Virginia Portanova  
By Bill Martin

You are driving along, stuck in traffic and suddenly come across an illuminated sign that says, **“Your Tax Dollars at Work”**. At last...visible proof! This issue of the Gabriel is devoted to explaining where the dollars you donated to SSPJ's Apostles of Hope Capital Campaign have gone and where they will go.

Our goal was set at \$1.5 million. To date, \$1,280,000. has been pledged with \$890,000 paid to date. The following report consists of specific projects being addressed, past, present and future. We all know that our homes are wood and brick structures that require care and maintenance. The same is true of our church. This detailed list will show you exactly where the dollars went!

### SO WHERE DID ALL THE \$\$\$\$ GO?



#### Church and Auditorium:

- Complete replacement of the church's HVAC system
- New larger slab of cement to house the new HVAC system installed
- Fencing and landscaping around perimeter of new area for HVAC
- Sound blankets installed on fenced area to comply with town sound decibel level
- All duct work in auditorium removed, replaced & painted
- Windows in auditorium kitchen replaced after removal of old duct work
- Kitchen in auditorium refurbished, repainted
- Air conditioning is NOW on separate zones for auditorium and church

- Heating system is NOW on 3 separate zones - church, auditorium, school
- All dry wells & drains around church (especially pits) enlarged & made deeper to prevent flooding
- All duct work, radiators, vents in church and auditorium - vacuumed and cleaned
- Every lighting fixture (interior and exterior) in the church has been upgraded, replaced & retrofitted with LED bulbs



- Through PSEG, installed new LED outdoor lighting at various locations around the parking lot

#### **Main School:**

- Two classroom floors (asbestos) encapsulated
- Classrooms - windows replaced and drop ceilings installed
- All classrooms retro-fitted or replaced--all old lighting replaced with LED fixtures
- Front entrance doors replaced and made handicapped accessible
- Parking lot around the main school building repaired & repaved
- Digital thermostats placed in all classrooms in main school



- Four large sections of sidewalk areas around the campus replaced
- New storage area built in auditorium to house tables and chairs (replace movable divider wall)

**Old Church:**

- New cesspool moved and installed on side of old church
- Original oil tanks tested (soil contamination) and removed outside of old church & old schoolhouse
- Conversion to gas in both locations

**Mary Monte Building/Old Schoolhouse:**

- Cupola on old schoolhouse removed, rebuilt, installed
- New heating system installed in attic of old schoolhouse

- Old, original radiators removed from classrooms and hallway
- Entrance porticos outside 6th and 7th grade classrooms repaired & rebuilt
- Front entrance on 25A repaired & repainted



- Gutters repaired & replaced where needed
- Cracks in foundation repaired to prevent water intrusion
- Sprinkler system installed and new lawn planted
- Hexagon windows installed
- Old signage removed & new signage installed
- Shutters installed on windows
- New LED lighting retro-fitted & installed in classrooms
- Hallway drop ceiling repaired after collapse
- New LED lighting installed in hallway
- Drains & dry-wells addressed
- Base for Mother Seton statue constructed

#### **Bethany Center/Old Church:**

- Entire roof shingles replaced New plywood installed where needed
- New gutters installed
- Tower water intrusion addressed, windows repaired & sealed to prevent further damage
- Louvers repaired & replaced & lighting installed in tower
- Copper cones constructed and installed on tower roof

- New copper cross constructed replacing the old wooden cross on tower
- New copper cross and rooster installed
- Asbestos testing and removal of shingles on gable area
- New stucco replaced old shingles
- Egress windows installed in gable
- Chimney repointed
- Rear portico shingles removed & hexagon windows installed
- Steps repaired to code
- Entrance door refinished
- Trim work and lighting added
- Stucco replaced old shingles
- Duct work removed from basement ceiling to allow higher drop ceiling, allowing more headroom
- All new drop ceilings in 4 new rooms and new LED lighting
- All old framework and sheetrock removed, brick walls washed and sealed
- New ductless heat/AC units installed in each room
- Old bathroom reconfigured to allow more space
- Egress windows installed on both sides of old church (basement)
- Lighting, rails along with proper drainage installed in wells
- Basement now within town code
- All exterior doors sanded, repaired & re-stained
- Front entrance steps repointed & repaired
- All exterior stucco cracks repaired
- Exterior stucco repainted
- All trim work repaired & repainted
- All dry wells cleared and enlarged
- Interior completely gutted – all work in progress
- New 2-stall ladies' room
- New men's room and a utility room
- Two new meeting rooms being constructed
- All upgraded LED high hats installed
- New heating & AC installed plus new audio and visual installed
- New flooring
- New ceilings
- Fire/carbon monoxide/security systems installed

#### **Residence:**

- Basement meeting room refurbished
- Outside drains cleared and enlarged
- New drainage installed at top of outside entrance



**Rectory office:**

- Exterior doors sanded, repaired & repainted
- All lighting retrofitted & replaced with LED upgrades

**SO, WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE LEFT?**

- Main parking lot--we are currently in negotiations with the Town of Smithtown regarding their responsibility for repair, replacement & repaving of the area containing a town drainage system. All work will commence in early spring as it is too late in the season to blacktop the lot.
- We are exploring the possibility of beautifying & adding greenery within the parking lot area.

Although so much work has already been completed (and even with this extensive list, there are probably some items we've missed) much more is in the process of completion. If we can reach our goal of \$1.5 million, we would also be able to:

- Benefit from an upgrade to the sound system in our church
- A complete overhaul of our communication infrastructure throughout the parish is needed.
- We need to update our WiFi capability and bring our phone system into the 21st century. The phone system is incredibly outdated and almost beyond repair.

Let us not forget that we baptize our babies here, watch them grow up to receive their First Penance and First Holy Communion here, delight in their Confirmation Day, joyfully watch them marry and ultimately say our last farewell in this wonderful place called the church of Saints Philip and James.

Our thanks to you and the committee for all you do on behalf of our beloved parish. Thanks to all who have already contributed and thanks to all whose contributions are yet to come. **Please know the smallest donation helps.**

*Interspersed on these pages you will find photos that will hopefully give you a sense of progress and change. In addition, lifelong parishioners have expressed their feelings for SSPJ as their spiritual home.*

## **Meet the Members of the Team**

### **John Primavera, Co-chair of the Capital Fund Committee**

John has been a parishioner at Saints Philip and James since 1972. He is a retired dentist and has been married to Dr. Pamela Combs for 17 years. Dr. Combs also serves in the military. John belongs to The Knights of Columbus and is a distinguished member of The Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. His hobbies are golf and tennis but his passions lie in photography, travel, gardening and reading. John has worked incredibly hard on our Apostles of Hope Renovation Campaign and would like all of us to know that any gift helps, including a one-time donation. He has been an inspiration to many. By virtue of his commitment, hard work and loyalty we continue to make progress every day. We all thank you, John.

### **Jerry Linder, Parish Trustee**

Jerry has been in our parish since 1969. He is a widower with 9 children and 18 grandchildren. That in and of itself is a marvelous accomplishment. His family resides near and far--some live close by while others live in Myrtle Beach, Latham, Saratoga, Rochester and Texas. Jerry is a devoted family man but still makes time for our beloved parish. He has a Master of Public Administration degree, was the COO of The Department of Social Services and has also served as Deputy Commissioner. Jerry wants us to know that, upon its completion, we will be overwhelmed by the beauty of the old church. The building has had a major face lift and he likes to say "name it and it will have been done". There is a long list of projects that have been completed, but some of the major renovations include making the church handicap accessible under ADA, installation of new plumbing, electric, oak floors and lighting. Additionally, everything is now updated to code. Jerry's hobbies include woodworking and writing poetry. I'm not sure how Jerry does it all! He's an inspiration and a joy to speak with. We all thank you, Jerry.

### **Editor's note:**

**Virginia Portanova and her husband, Peter**, have been parishioners at SSPJ for 25 years. You can often see Virginia running to help anyone in need. Her contributions are too long to list. Suffice to say she and Peter are pillars of SSPJ. They have 2 grown sons, Thomas and Peter. Both boys went to SSPJ followed by St. John the Baptist High School, and college at Fordham and Scranton. Virginia enjoys crafts and gardening in her free time.

**Bill Martin and his wife, Patricia**, have been in the parish for 46 years. Both are retired after long and rewarding careers in Hauppauge schools. Patricia serves our parish as a consolation minister, as well as a Eucharist Minister. Bill and Patricia love the arts and Bill is an incredibly accomplished music aficionado and often lectures in the Hauppauge Library and has also lectured in the VA hospital. Bill and Patricia have two daughters, Catherine and Mary, and both attended SSPJ and St. Anthony's High School. They are blessed with 2 grandsons, Kevin and John.

## APOSTLES OF HOPE CAPITAL PROJECT IN ACTION



# **REMEMBERING THE PARISH WE LOVE**

## **MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILLIP AND JAMES THROUGH THE YEARS**

**By Maria and Mike Fazio**

We have memories of moving to St. James in 1969 and joining SSPJ so we have seen multiple changes to the physical plant and campus. This means we have participated in and supported multiple fundraisers to pay for those changes. The main church, old church, old school as well as the main school, parish center and rectory have never looked better. That's right! There are six buildings and all six buildings on this campus have either been renovated or built from the ground up!

We chose to be participants in these endeavors because it, SSPJ, has become part of us, part of our identity. Long ago, in the early 1970's we were happy enough attending weekly Mass with our two little girls. Then our spiritual and community life began to change. Fr. Murphy, our pastor at the time, brought a program into the parish that involved small groups getting together in the home to share thoughts on spiritual topics in a prayerful manner. We became a group of nine--seven of whom we had not known before meeting regularly (monthly we believe) in our home. We still see some of them around town or in church especially Jackie Harvey, currently a Eucharistic Minister. She is special to us for a reason she would humbly downplay. Unbeknownst to us, she suggested to one of the Associate Pastors, Fr. Jeff, that the Fazio's might be a good couple to invite to do Pre-Cana. We accepted the invitation and it altered our life. Eventually we became the ministry's coordinators, which we did for about 15 years.

We made many memories and shared various experiences. In the process, we got to help hundreds of engaged couples prepare for a marriage and not merely a wedding. Back then nearly 100 couples a year were cycled through the SSPJ Pre-Cana program and married at our church. However, the real gift and grace of the opportunity to serve is what we received: a truer sense of being members of a living spiritual community; a chance to participate more deeply in the various ritual activities as well as social ones within the Parish; and a lasting, indeed lifetime, relationship with dear friends and great acquaintances who are very much a part us today.

So much has come to us from an invitation to work! How could we not be a part of all the efforts to keep our entire SSPJ physical campus in a healthy state? Likewise, we continue to pray for and support all those who work to keep up the spiritual health of Sts. Philip and James Parish!

## **MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILLP AND JAMES**

**By Loretta & Henry Vigliante**

When we think of Saints Philip & James, we think of joyous moments in our lives shared by a faith-filled community of wonderful families. Together we worked hard to bring an active social life to the parish and we had fun doing it. Our six children graduated from SSPJ over the course of 25 years. Through the years, a true Christian spirit has always been evident in all our religious celebrations--from receiving the sacraments to our beautiful holiday celebrations of the Eucharist. Thank you, SSPJ, for all the memories and the cherished friendships made.

## **MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES**

**By Lin and Dick Halluska**

We have been parishioners at Sts. Philip and James since 1976 when we were first welcomed into the parish community following our move to Stony Brook. Over the last 40+ years it has become our spiritual home. Through the invitation of others, we have participated in many parish ministries, including Pre-Cana, CCD (now known as Religious Education), lectoring and the Consolation Ministry. We have been spiritually and psychologically nourished in this home that is both a refuge and platform for good. We were welcomed without pretense, and only asked to share part of ourselves with others, to "pay forward" a portion of the abundant love and good fortune we have experienced as part of the SSPJ community.

Over the years we have met like-minded parishioners who have become our closest and most enduring friends. While we have come to realize that the "church" for us is more than a building, the physical structures where we gather require our stewardship, so the welcome invitation we experienced will be available to future members of our spiritual community. We saw the Apostles of Hope Campaign as another invitation--an invitation to "pay it forward" and to preserve for future generations a welcome and safe place to grow in faith and love.

## **MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES**

**By Pat & Larry Ayers**

As a parishioner of Saints Philip and James for over 40 years, I can say that we are part of a large faith family. The families who are part of both the parish and the parish school have always been supportive, compassionate and kind to one another. We found many of our friendships revolved around Saints Philip and James School. We watched our children grow up and become well-rounded, independent adults. We found families with shared interests, values and dreams. Saints Philip and James Parish is a wonderful place to worship and has many faith-filled parishioners.

## **MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES**

**By Patricia Martin**

My husband, Bill, and I have been parishioners at SSPJ for over 40 years. Our two daughters were baptized there, went to school there and our oldest daughter, Catherine, was married there. Like all of you, we have had our ups and downs and through it all the one constant has been the support of our beloved church and its community.

No time was more difficult than those horrible numbing days following 9/11. People instantly turned to the church and we remember the shared pain and also the comfort of Christ's presence seeing us all through the worst of times.

We have made life-long friends and have seen generations come and go. We feel truly blessed to continue as members of the SSPJ family.

## **WHAT SSPJ MEANS TO ME**

**By Margaret Dunn**

I go to Mass to hear, learn and receive my Lord in community ("whenever two or more are gathered in his name"). I like knowing who sits in my pew area or "mini community" as there's no need to reintroduce myself to them weekly—we just give a smile and a wave! I like our chats afterward (sshhh-we're still in the church!) to catch up on how their week is going. I enjoy a homily that leaves me with a phrase or a thought I can carry home with me. I like to discuss with friends how their priests dealt with a tricky gospel.

I enjoy bible studies and adult learning classes that are made available. The men's forum topics always look interesting. I prefer to start my week with early Mass on Sundays and love it when the singing is done without musical accompaniment—just our voices supporting each other so we feel we are participating.

I am honored to be a Eucharistic Minister and feel a thrill serving our Lord in that capacity. I take joy in seeing the young boys and girls of our parish grow up and serve as EM's. I am so pleased to see the youth of SSPJ become altar servers. I love to see students serve as lectors. Their participation in the Mass is appreciated and they give me hope for the blessed continuity of the Church.

I am blessed to work in a Catholic hospital where I'm afforded the opportunity each morning to stop in the chapel and chat with God. I love the fact that my family is continuing a beloved tradition—that of receiving their sacraments at our church, Saints Philip and James.

## **WHAT SAINTS PHILLIP AND JAMES MEANS TO ME**

**BY Charlotte Czujko**

What does Saints Phillip and James parish mean to me? Well, from the very beginning 47 years ago, the church has been a place to come to in my darkest and happiest days to pray and feel the presence of Jesus. The community in this parish has become my “family” away from home! I have met, become friends with, and been encompassed with love by so many people.

Religious Education is my heart. Forty-five years ago I heard a “call” from the pulpit and what a wonderful blessing it has been for me to meet and work with beautiful children and their parents.

Thank you Sts. Phillip and James for being a welcoming community.

## **MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES**

**By Jane and Nick Gargiulo**

We have lived in this parish for 35 years. Our three children attended SSPJ School, received their sacraments and were married in Sts. Philip and James Church. We made lifelong friends and together we have watched our children grow up. The school families shared the same interests and had the same values. School and church activities were very much a part of our lives at SSPJ. Through the years we have worked, laughed, cried, prayed and worshiped together, and together we have grown in our faith. We are blessed and grateful to be members of this parish. Although we travel more now in our retirement and attend Mass in other parishes, Sts. Philip and James will always be home.



## MEMORIES OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES

By Elena Mingione

I came to SSPJ in 1980. I was a young, happily-married mother of 3 children. We moved from Middle Island where we lived in a 1-bathroom, 2-bedroom ranch with no basement. We loved St. James. We attended Mass every Sunday and after living here for a very short time, we enrolled our children in SSPJ School. Quite honestly, that was a result of my exhaustion, which was a direct result of a daily argument with my first-grade daughter who wanted to go to school every day in some disastrous, dreadful, form of clothing which she thought was fabulous! We're talking about first grade here and a little strong-willed girl who wanted to battle with her mother every morning. It was the perfect plaid dress vs a version of something you might pull out for Halloween. High school at St. Anthony's followed and I was thrilled when they shifted to uniforms in that little girl's freshman year. God is good! Catholic school was an incredibly expensive proposition but it was worth every penny. It was a sacrifice that paled in comparison to the reward.

As years passed, I found myself raising my children alone. I think you'd call that a single divorced mom. Divorce was a word my mother only whispered because it was foreign, an ill thought of concept and one which had never effected our family. I helped change that much to my mother's chagrin. My mother will be 91 this month and still whispers the word "divorce". Years passed, the economy shifted and there were unforeseen job changes. More years passed and in 2006 I was diagnosed with gall bladder cancer. Yes, it is extremely rare.

During my saddest days, the people of Sts. Philip and James carried me with their actions, love, prayers, kind words and support. They made me laugh. They gave me hope. They dragged me out. They showed me the way. The support of so many reached deep into my heart and fed my soul. All those trying times were outshined by 37 glorious years in our church. We had 3 magnificent weddings at SSPJ and even my two sons wanted to be married in SSPJ, "their parish". And, so it was!

The people of SSPJ don't give up on you. They stand with you and hold you. Unfortunately, as life unfolds, it often seems everyone has a turn to be held up. I will always dig deep into my pockets for this church because God has blessed me with a parish family whose light shines far, far brighter and longer than most.  
Amen.

**PRAY THE WINDOWS**  
**VOLUME II – By Peter J. Rooney**

**THE PRODIGAL SON**



**THE PRODIGAL SON - SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND**

The parable of the Prodigal Son is told in the Gospel of Luke. It is generally considered as part of a trilogy of parables reflecting on loss and redemption, the others being the parable of the Lost Sheep and the parable of the Lost Coin.

*“And he said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to the father, ‘Father, give me the portion of your estate which*

would go to me.' And he divided the estate between them. And after not many days, the younger son, gathering it all together, set out on a long journey to a distant region. And there, he dissipated his substance, living in luxury. And after he had consumed it all, a great famine occurred in that region, and he began to be in need. And he went and attached himself to one of the citizens of that region. And he sent him to his farm, in order to feed the swine. And he wanted to fill his belly with the scraps that the swine ate. But no one would give it to him. And returning to his senses, he said: 'How many hired hands in my father's house have abundant bread, while I perish here in famine! I shall rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me one of your hired hands.' And rising up, he went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him, and he was moved with compassion, and running to him, he fell upon his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. Now I am not worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants: 'Quickly! Bring out the best robe, and clothe him with it. And put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here, and kill it. And let us eat and hold a feast. For this son of mine was dead, and has revived; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to feast. But his elder son was in the field. And when he returned and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and he questioned him as to what these things meant. And he said to him: 'Your brother has returned, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safely.' Then he became indignant, and he was unwilling to enter. Therefore, his father, going out, began to plead with him. And in response, he said to his father: 'Behold, I have been serving you for so many years. And I have never transgressed your commandment. And yet, you have never given me even a young goat, so that I might feast with my friends. Yet after this son of yours returned, who has devoured his substance with loose women, you have killed the fatted calf for him.' But he said to him: 'Son, you are with me always, and all that I have is yours. But it was necessary to feast and to rejoice. For this brother of yours was dead, and has revived; he was lost, and is found.'

Luke 15:11-32

## THE PRODIGAL SON - THE WINDOW

The window presents a beautiful portrayal of mother, father and son. The son is seen kneeling at the feet of his father. He is wrapped in a red, but tattered, robe and carrying a staff with a bag hanging from it. He has returned to his home with virtually nothing, save the staff he used for walking and the bag where he kept his few belongings. He is staring off in the distance, no doubt reflecting on what he had abandoned, unable to look his father in the eye.

His father on the other hand, is staring directly at his son. His arm is draped over his son's shoulder in a gesture of forgiveness. The father is adorned with a golden robe, a symbol of wealth, contrasting the worn robe of his son, the robe of a poor vagabond. In the background, patiently awaiting the reconciliation of father and son, we see the mother. She is holding a new red robe with no tatters or worn spots, and a pair of shoes. Both are clear symbols of welcome and forgiveness.

The bottom panel of the window is of particular interest. We see a stream flowing outward from this beautiful image of forgiveness. I like to think that Ms. Nicolas included the stream as a symbol of the need for forgiveness and reconciliation to be spread throughout the world for all who have experienced loss or betrayal.

Conspicuous by its absence is a portrayal of the second loyal son who stayed home while his brother, the prodigal, abandoned the family. The absence is, I believe, a positive statement. By focusing on father, mother, and son, the parable's message of forgiveness is magnified and clear to all.

## THE PRODIGAL SON - REFLECT AND PRAY

*Who of us has not experienced some form of betrayal? The pain, the hurt...it is something we have all felt.*

*Who of us has not been the source of disappointment to others in our life?*

*Who of us has not, at times, betrayed God by our actions?*

*God's message of infinite forgiveness is powerfully demonstrated in the parable of the prodigal son.*

*Thank God for His forgiveness. Pray for the strength to forgive others. Reflect on our own actions, and seek God's grace to live our daily lives as Christians.*

*A few years ago, the parish distributed bracelets for Lent with a quote from Pope Francis. Reflect on his powerful but simple message which read, "Who am I to judge?"*

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN



### THE GOOD SAMARITAN - SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.*

*"Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

*"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"*

*He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "*

*"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

*In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.*

*A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.*

*So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

*But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.*

*He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.*

*The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

*"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

*The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

*Luke 10: 25-37*

The parable begins with a lawyer questioning Jesus. He asks about gaining eternal life. Jesus avoids answering and employs the Socratic method by answering a question with a question, "What is written in the law?". The lawyer responds correctly quoting from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. (Interestingly, Jesus had given this exact same response when questions were posed to Him in Matthew 22:37-39 and Mark 12:30-31.)

The lawyer was not satisfied with Jesus' statement that he had been correct. He pushed Jesus further by asking, "Who is my neighbor?" prompting Jesus to relate the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus tells the story of a man who had fallen among thieves, was beaten, and was lying on the side of the road. Two travelers, a priest and a Levite, had passed the man by before the Samaritan stopped to help him. "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man...?" asked Jesus. "The one who had mercy on him..." replied the lawyer.

Both the priest and the Levite, being officials of the temple, would have been familiar with the biblical texts directing them to assist someone in need. The Samaritan, on the other hand, was someone reviled by the Jews in Jesus' audience. Choosing this hated figure as the hero of the parable sent a strong message to the assembled crowd.

### **THE GOOD SAMARITAN - THE WINDOW**

This window is elegant in its simplicity. Portraying only two of the six persons mentioned in the parable gives it a poignancy that emphasizes the parable's message.

We see the Samaritan kneeling aside the injured man. Look closely at the face of the Samaritan. His concern and caring look are brilliantly depicted. The Samaritans were a mixed group of people living in the Samaria region. The Samaritan portrayed here appears to be wealthy. He is garbed in gold and royal blue. He is wearing a hat that was common while traveling, and is accompanied by a regal-looking horse; all signs of wealth.

He is wrapping a bandage around the arm of the man. Next to him on the ground we see the vials of oil and wine used in his ministrations.

The man injured by the thieves is lying on the ground. His eyes are shut; perhaps he is unconscious. His robes are disheveled. His legs look almost skeletal.

Sylvia Nicolas, the artist who created the Saints Philip and James windows, has a genius for creating beautiful art that also tells a story. One of her real strengths is making a point by what is NOT included in the window as well as by what IS included. By eliminating the priest and the Levite from the portrayal, she allows us to focus on the essence of the parable's message: my neighbor is anyone in need.

By portraying the Samaritan as a wealthy person and the set-upon traveler as skeletal and in rags, she is making a statement. Our neighbor is anyone in need. Anyone. The Samaritan knows nothing of the injured man. Is he Jewish? Is he a Samaritan himself? Neither? It makes no difference as he is a person in need...he is my neighbor.

One other aspect of the window may be a simple adornment, or it may be a subtle commentary. Behind the horse to the left is a fig tree. Figs and fig trees have played symbolic roles in the bible from the very beginning. A fig tree is often considered to be a symbol of Israel itself.

Is Ms. Nicolas slyly portraying the two officials of Israel, the priest and the Levite, standing by while the Samaritan ministers to the injured? Perhaps not. Perhaps it's just a fig tree but the beautiful thing about art, is that sometimes the observer gets to decide.

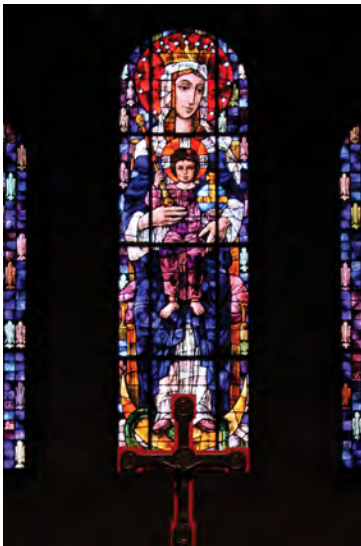
## THE GOOD SAMARITAN - REFLECT AND PRAY

*The traveler in the parable is physically injured. He has been beaten and his clothes ripped to rags. He is in need of assistance.*

*There are people in our lives who are not physically injured but are in need of assistance. There are people in our families, our community, our workplace who are dealing with grief, addiction, financial problems, depression...the list goes on.*

*All these people are our “neighbors”.*

*Pray for all those in need. Reflect on how we can live as apostles of hope in our daily lives providing what we can, when we can for our “neighbors” in need.*



### DID YOU KNOW?

**\* OUR FORMER PASTOR, MSGR. GUARINO, WAS INSPIRED TO BRING STAINED GLASS WINDOWS TO SSPJ AFTER SEEING A WINDOW OF THE MADONNA WHILE ON RETREAT AT A TRAPPIST MONASTERY.**

**\*THE ARTIST WHO CREATED OUR WINDOWS, SYLVIA NICOLAS, IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN WHO CREATED THE WINDOWS AT THE MONASTERY.**

**\*IT WAS THIS WINDOW OF THE MADONNA THAT INSPIRED MSGR. GUARINO. SYLVIA NICOLAS POSED AS THE MODEL FOR THIS WINDOW!**

## JESUS CALLS THE APOSTLES



### SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND - JESUS CALLS THE APOSTLES

The story of Jesus calling the apostles is told in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. As always when there are multiple sources of a particular event, the narratives tend to differ from each other. Both Matthew and Mark mention Peter, Andrew, James and John having been called at this time. Luke mentions only Peter, James and John. (NOTE: throughout the Gospels, Peter is referred to by various names. Sometimes he is Peter; sometimes

Simon; and sometimes Simon-Peter. For the sake of simplicity, I will always refer to him as Peter.)

The portrayal in this window most closely resembles the narrative provided by Luke, who is the only one to mention the miraculous catch of fish that accompanied this event.

*"One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.*

*He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*

*Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."*

*When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.*

*So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*

*When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"*

*For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.*

*Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. "*

Luke 5: 1-11

## JESUS CALLS THE APOSTLES - THE WINDOW

This window is a very straight-forward portrayal of the passage you just read from the Gospel of Luke.

The sails are furled around the mast since the boat was stationary, having been used by Christ to speak to the crowds on shore. Jesus himself is sitting in the bow, presumably the spot he used while addressing the crowd.

Jesus' arm is outstretched, a gesture indicating that he is delivering a message. Peter is seen garbed in blue sitting on the opposite side of the boat. Look closely at his face. He is clearly in distress. He seems to be pondering what this miraculous catch of fish must mean. As Luke explains: *"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'"*

Both James and John can be seen over the side of the boat dealing with the large number of fish being caught. Concentrating on the task at hand, they don't seem to have Peter's reaction to the event. In fact, both James and John have grasped fish firmly in their hands, symbolic of the mission they are about to take as "fishers of men".

Each of the windows in SSPJ church has two side panels. In all but three of the windows, the side panels are unrelated to the window's content. This is one of the three where the side panels have a meaningful relationship to the main window.

The left side panel portrays Peter. He is holding keys in his hand, a reference to the keys of the kingdom mentioned in the gospel of Matthew:

*"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"*

*They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

*Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.*

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

*Matthew 16: 13-20*

He is also holding an "upside-down" cross. Tradition holds that Peter had been crucified head down.

Look closely at Peter's face here. This is not the face of the young frightened Peter seen in the main window. It is not the face of the Peter who denied Christ three times during the Passion. This is the face of the older, confident Peter; the man who Christ entrusted to build his church on earth.

The right-side panel portrays Saint Andrew, Peter's brother. According to the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, he was called to be an apostle at the same time as Peter, James, and John. The main panel, portraying the event as narrated by Luke, does not include Andrew--hence, his portrayal here in the side panel.

The most notable part of this portrayal is the two cloths draped over Andrew's shoulder and crossed in the form of an "X". It is believed that Andrew was crucified by being tied to an X-shaped cross, apparently at his own request as he did not think he was worthy of being crucified in the same manner as Christ.

To this day, that "X" shape is often referred to as a St. Andrew's cross. It is used in many places where St. Andrew is revered, including on the flags of Scotland and Great Britain.

### **JESUS CALLS THE APOSTLES - REFLECT AND PRAY**

*We have all been called to be Apostles of Hope.*

*We can all be Apostles of Hope by the way we live our daily lives. We are not asked to perform daily heroic tasks. We are simply called to live our daily life as a follower of Christ.*

*A kind word here, lending a helpful hand to someone in distress, supporting those who need us...you can make your own list of these types of actions.*

*The word "apostle" means messenger. How can you be a messenger of Christ's word?*

*Pray for the strength and wisdom to live your life as Christ's messenger.*

## INTRODUCING DR. AUGUSTUS (GUS) MANTIA

by Pat Ayers



“Charity is born of the call of a God who continues to knock on our door, the door of all people to invite us to love, to compassion, to service of one another.”-Pope Francis

Dr. Augustus (Gus) Mantia and his wife, Ann Marie, have been parishioners at Saints Philip & James Parish for 43 years. They have 5 children who went through the Religious Education Program at SSPJ and his wife volunteered in that program for 11 years. Dr. Mantia has been an usher for 20 years and for the last 5-6 years has been a eucharistic minister, lector, and adult altar server. He is the organizer of the White Coat Mass for Healers. Gus was asked by Fr. Tom to be on the Finance Committee and was made committee chairman at the first meeting! The committee is responsible for helping the parish and school maintain a healthy financial stability.

At one time, SSPJ ministries were working independently but Dr. Mantia now sees SSPJ as a unified parish. Each ministry realizes the needs of the parish as a whole rather than seeing themselves as an individual group.

Gus says the parishioners came through in a great way with the Apostles of Hope Campaign. His vision is for growth in the parish and being able to minister to the elderly as well as the young people in our parish and school. The old church is a work in progress but there is a clear vision of what it will be while he hopes that its history will stay intact. He feels that Fr. Tom “floats the boat” and has changed the face of Sts. Philip & James. Dr. Mantia believes Fr. Tom is trying to encourage and continue to improve our numerous programs and make our church a joyful place to come and worship.

Hats off to Dr. Gus Mantia who continues to work hard at Sts. Philip & James. He is a man of class and action, with the biggest heart of gold you could find! I am amazed at the amount of energy Dr. Mantia has on a daily basis and bless him for putting so much of that energy into our wonderful parish! He is a man who believes in making a difference and does so in such a professional manner.

On top of all he does for our parish, Dr. Mantia volunteers his time to serve his community as Fire Surgeon at the Hauppauge Fire Department and the District Medical Director at the St. James Fire Department, where he oversees all medical responses and protocols for emergency medical teams and defibrillator programs. In July of 2008, Dr. Mantia was appointed as a Deputy Fire Coordinator-Medical Doctor for the County of Suffolk. Also, in 2008, he was selected for appointment to the position of Critical Incident Police Surgeon for the Suffolk County Police Department. He has been acknowledged as a "Hometown Humanitarian" by the Suffolk County Legislature and in 2012 was named Physician of Excellence by the Suffolk Regional Emergency Medical Services Council. Dr. Mantia also serves as Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission and in addition, chairs the Health Committee.

My goal for this article was to get to the root of Dr. Mantia's personality through his passion for service to his parish, Sts. Philip & James. It's easy to see how he reaches out and even with his busy schedule he attends daily Mass and helps in the various ministries in this parish and the community.

Dr. Gus Mantia, we thank you! We also extend a special thank you to his wife, Ann Marie, and his family for sharing him with Sts. Philip & James Parish!

## **A QUIET PLACE**

By Maura Kenney

Father James Maltese served our Lord as a priest for 51 years. As an Apostle of Hope, Father James shared his love for Jesus with us through his homilies at Mass, his healing services and retreats and through Eucharistic Adoration. He expressed a strong commitment and desire to dedicate a space set aside for quiet time with Jesus.

With the aid of John Garvey, an SSPJ parishioner for 28 years, along with a volunteer board of advisors, a corporation as well as a charity called "A Quiet Place" were developed and approved. Mr. Garvey shared Father James' devotion for Eucharistic Adoration. Father James passed on October 12, 2016, and since that time, the board of advisors has been seeking the right location for A Quiet Place.

From the start of his tenure at Saints Philip and James, Father Tom Haggerty realized the need for a quiet place within our church. This would be a place where parishioners could sit and pray in the silence of the Lord and hear his answer, hear his call. It would be a place where children could gather during Liturgy and not have to leave the church. The Men's

Forum and Circle of Women could gather there. It would also be a place set aside for prayer, retreats, Eucharistic Adoration and so much more.

At a meeting, approximately 3 months ago, Father Tom shared his vision for a quiet place with John and the advisory group. He expressed his dream of converting the altar servers' sacristy into a quiet prayer room. And so, two desires became one! The conversion is in the planning stage and we look forward to attaining architectural plans, drawings and photos as this dream becomes a reality!

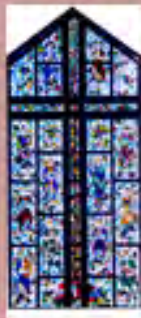


**FATHER MALTESE**

**COMING IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE GABRIEL**

**The next time you are leaving the church, look up. Did you ever wonder what that large stained glass window is?**

**It is called a "Jesse Tree" and you can find out all about it in the December issue of the Gabriel.**



## **ASK FATHER TOM...**

**THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU MAY HAVE A QUESTION. IT MAY BE A MATTER OF FAITH, OR JUST SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE PARISH.**

**WHY NOT TAKE A MINUTE AND ASK FATHER TOM?  
JUST WRITE TO:**



**FATHER TOM-THE GABRIEL  
SSPJ RECTORY  
1 CAROW PLACE  
SAINT JAMES, NY 11780**



## **THE GABRIEL**

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# SSPJ PARISH CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
<u>WEDNESDAY, 11/22</u>	7:30 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Mass	Church
<u>THURSDAY, 11/23</u>	9:15 AM	Thanksgiving Day Mass	Church
<u>SATURDAY, 12/2</u>	6:00 PM	Tree Lighting (After the 5:00 Mass)	Near Waterfall
<u>SUNDAY, 12/3</u>	8:00 AM	Breakfast with Santa	Auditorium
<u>THURSDAY, 12/7</u>	5:00 PM	Feast Day Eve Mass	Church
<u>FRIDAY, 12/8</u>	7:30 AM 9:15 AM 7:30 PM	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Church
<u>FRIDAY, 12/8</u>	9:00 PM	All Night Adoration	Church
<u>TUESDAY, 12/12</u>	7:00 PM	School Christmas Concert	Church
<u>SUNDAY, 12/17</u>	6:30 PM	Church Christmas Concert	Church



Happy  
Thanksgiving



# SSPJ PARISH CALENDAR



<b><u>MONDAY, 12/18</u></b>	7:30 PM	Communal Penance Service	Church
<b><u>SATURDAY, 12/23</u></b>	5:00 PM	Regular Saturday Evening Mass	Church
<b><u>SUNDAY, 12/24</u></b>	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Regular Sunday Mass Schedule	Church
<b><u>SUNDAY, 12/24</u></b>	4:00 PM 6:00 PM 10:00 PM	Christmas Eve Masses	Church & Auditorium Church Church
<b><u>MONDAY, 12/25</u></b>	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Christmas Day Masses	Church Church Church
<b><u>SATURDAY, 12/30</u></b>	5:00 PM	Regular Saturday Evening Mass	Church
<b><u>SUNDAY, 12/31</u></b>	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM	New Year's Eve Masses	Church
<b><u>MONDAY, 1/1/18</u></b>	9:00 AM 12:00 PM	New Year's Day Masses	Church