



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

631-584-5454

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018



"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you."

Isaiah 60:1

*"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

Parish Center Office Hours:

*Sunday ~ Closed
Monday: 9am-8pm*

*Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm*

*Friday: 9am-12 Noon
Saturday: 10am-2pm*

Parish Center Phone ~ 631-584-5454

Parish Center Fax~ 631-862-9675

Web ~ www.sspj.org

Pastoral Team

Father Tom Haggerty		Pastor
Father Patrick Osei-Poku		Associate Pastor
Deacon Ronald Blasius		Deacon
Deacon John Keenan		Deacon
Deacon Ken Maher		Deacon
Margaret Adams		Director of Music
Virginia Portanova		Business Manager
John Cordes		Director of Facilities
Lynn Sisti		Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry
Charlotte Czujko		Religious Education Coordinator Grades 1-2
Barbara Luna		Religious Education Coordinator Grades 3-6
Dominick Avento		Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-8
Suzanne Fitzgibbon		Religious Education Administrator
Frank Brancaccio		Youth Minister

Pastoral Council

Rita Byrne, Claire DiCarlo, Chris Donnelly, Ryan Doyle, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Mary Ann Pose, Noel Rannazzisi, Tom Sica, Robert Thompson

Trustees

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

SSPJ School—Principal Ruth E. Testa

School Phone : 631-584-7896 School Fax: 631-584-3258

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 RCLA.

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

Anointing of the Sick— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 12:00mass 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

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Happy Epiphany! Once again I share with you "A Prayer for Epiphany" by Sister Joyce Rupp in her book *Out of the Ordinary*:

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

Radiant One, every day is an epiphany in which I, too, can pay you homage. Every day I can kneel before you and open the treasure chest of my life. In there, I find unending gifts of every kind to offer you. Every day I bring my gratitude for you, my desire to grow more loving, my longing to be true. Every day I reach into that treasure chest and offer my trust that you are near, my hope for all you promise, my belief in what is unseen. Every day I offer my desire to live justly, my commitment to be generous, my struggle to be whole.

Divine Light, I give these gifts and so much more. The treasure chest is boundless, Each time I reach within I see you smiling at my gesture, for you, great Giver of Gifts, have placed each treasure there. You greet my gift with welcoming pleasure when it returns back home to you.

Bestower of gifts, thank you for all that my treasure chest of life holds. I will look daily for my persistent star of recognition, May it stand boldly over the house of my heart where you dwell, so that I will be aware of your presence and pause to give you homage.

Traditionally today's Epiphany feast has been a day for the blessing of home and family. Surely all of us could benefit from pronouncing over our homes today: "Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love". It's another way to make Epiphany not simply an abstract feast we celebrate but something we experience and fulfill with our lives.

A tremendous "thank you" to all who joined in letting hope and joy shine forth in our celebrations this Christmas season – our music ministers, liturgical ministers, decorators, and all in the pews whose generosity and love continue to make Christ felt in SSPJ. Christmas and Epiphany do shine forth!

Tomorrow, Monday, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. As noted above, we return to "ordinary time", but we return having been once again reminded that Christ is our Light. Let's live our "ordinary days" sharing the Light of Christ.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of January 7th, 2018

Sunday, January 7th, 2018

8:30am	RCIA	Philip & James Room
10:00am	Children's Liturgy	Auditorium
11:00am	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshp.
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

Monday, January 8th, 2018

1:15pm	Senior Group Meeting	Philip & James Room
6:30pm	Men's Forum	Church
6:30pm	Youth Leadership Training	Cantina
7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 7 Meeting	Auditorium

Tuesday, January 9th, 2018:

1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Room Church
7:00pm	REO Communion I Parent Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	St. Monica Prayer Group	Cantina
7:30pm	Chords of Faith Rehearsal	Choir Loft
7:30pm	Respect Life Committee Meeting	Cantina
8:00pm	Boy Scout Leadership Meeting	Monte Building

Wednesday, January 10th, 2018:

7:00pm	Youth Ministry	Auditorium
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Thursday, January 11th, 2018:

10:00am	REO Communion I Parent Meeting	Philip & James Room
2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Choir Loft

Friday, January 12th, 2018:

3:00pm	Cub Scout Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Wash Kit Gang	Auditorium
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, January 13th, 2018:

5:00pm	Wash Kit Gang Superbowl Raffle	Auditorium
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Weekly Collection: Sunday, December 31, 2017



Sunday Collection: \$16,401.
 Faith Direct: \$3,823.
 Children's Jug: \$ 113.
 Total Collection: \$20,337.

Many thanks for your generous support of SSPJ!
 Sts. Philip & James Parish



Wash Kit Gang Will be Meeting:
 Friday, January 12th, 2018 at 7pm in
 the Auditorium

Donations of Trial Size soap, Trial size
 shampoo, zip lock sandwich bags,
 wash cloths, band aids, and hard candy
 are always needed and appreciated.

All are invited to attend. Children
 must be accompanied by a parent, but
 are always welcome.

Please help us to help those in need.

St. Monica Prayer Group

We welcome all to join our very friendly
 group as we pray together in petition for the
 intercession of St. Monica for our families,
 friends and all our special intentions. We meet
 in the Cantina of the rectory. on **Tues. eve**
January 9th @ 7PM. To 7:30PM

Respect Life Meeting

The Respect Life Committee first meeting of
 the New Year on **Jan. 9th @ 7:30PM in the**
Cantina of the parish center.

**"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is
 just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean
 would be less because of that missing drop."**

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Please Join us!



SSPJ Parish Fundraiser!



THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY
IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.....

DON'T MISS

*To Kill
a
Mockingbird*

*Sts. Philip & James Parish
One Carow Place
St. James, NY 11780*

*Location:
Parish Auditorium*

(631)584-5454

***Tickets to this amazing production will be available at the
Parish Center Office***

Cost: \$15.00 per ticket (cash or check)

****A limited number of tickets will be available at the door****

***Delicious Cake and Coffee will be served during Intermission
Proceeds will help defray the costs of our
Parish Easter Book distribution.***

If you feel a calling to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or a Lector, it is necessary that you first contact the Parish Center Office at 631-584-5454.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration for these most touching of ministries.

Liturgical Ministry Training

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP 516-678-5800 x504

- 1. TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. Session "A" is required of **ALL** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are required to attend Session "B" **in addition** to Session "A". **SESSION "A" MUST BE ATTENDED PRIOR TO SESSION "B"**.

TO REGISTER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING: the pastor must send a letter to Bishop Barres **at least 5 days in advance** requesting the training for each person attending.

DO NOT USE THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.

This letter must mention the date and place of the training session the person(s) will attend.

- 2. TRAINING FOR LECTORS: PLEASE USE THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.**

TIMES AND PLACES FOR MINISTRY TRAINING:

In Nassau: EM "A" Session and Lectors
April 14, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre

In Suffolk: EM "A" Session and Lectors
May 12, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

"B" session for Extraordinary Ministers
April 21, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre

"B" Session for Extraordinary Ministers
May 19, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

EVENING SESSIONS for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors at St. Elizabeth, Melville

Session "A" - Wednesday, May 16 2018; 7:00—10 PM
Session "B" - Wednesday, May 23, 2018; 7:00—10 PM

WORKSHOP FEES:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: \$30 per person
Lectors: \$20 per person

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LECTOR TRAINING ONLY

Mail this registration to the Office of Worship, PO Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023,
e-mail to worship@drvc.org, or fax to 516-764-3316.

I wish to register for Lector Training

- St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre (Saturday, April 14, 2018)
 St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays (Saturday, May 12, 2018)
 St. Elizabeth, Melville (Wednesday, May 16, 2018)

Name Phone

Parish Town

Music Ministry~ Fabulous Christmas Concert



On Sunday December 17, 2017 our Music Ministry presented its' annual Christmas concert to a gathering of about 275 people. A fun time was had by all. Our Children's Choir dazzled us with songs like Follow the Star, and We are Santa's Elves. The Chords of Faith wowed us with Feliz Navidad, Christmas Time is Here and One Small Child, among others and the Adult Choir serenaded us with a wonderful selection of Christmas songs ending with, It's the Holiday Season. We had Hand bells, our Adult Cantors, and a small group sang, Sing We Noel and our theme this year, We Need a Little Christmas.

The sing a long, with combined choirs and audience participation was fun for all. The church was alive with music what a wonderful thing.

Fr, Tony Stanganelli made a guest appearance by singing It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas. Afterward everyone was invited to the auditorium for hot cocoa and cookies. All left filled with the spirit of Christmas.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to all the members of the music ministry, my nephew James for the program cover, Fathers Tom, Patrick and our guest singer Fr Tony. And finally the Parish of SSPJ for your appreciation of the Music Ministry,

A Happy New Year to all!

Margaret Adams
Director of Music



Religious Education



Communion I Parent Meeting
Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 at 7:00pm in the SSPJ Room
 Or
Thursday, January 11th, 2018 at 10:00am in the SSPJ Room

Confirmation II Intro to IMPACT
 Tuesday January 9th, 2018 7:00pm-7:45pm
 AUDITORIUM

CLASSES OF THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS:



**Art Dunn
 Nick Albergo
 Paul Damato
 Susan Ricci & Stephanie Hergott**

Confirmation II Intro to IMPACT
 Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 8:15pm-9:00pm
 AUDITORIUM

CLASSES OF THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS:

**Nina DeLeon & Jolene DiPalo
 Anne DeNicola & Noelle Ciminiello
 Lucy Eschbach**



Mass Intentions, For the week of January 7th, 2018

Saturday, January 6th, 2018

5:00pm Mary Garguilo

Wednesday, January 10th, 2018

7:30am Maria Pap
9:15am Agnes Souza

Sunday, January 7th, 2018

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ
10:00am Margaret Castigle
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Peter, Sarah, & Mary Cole
Patrick Kelly
Emma Eveleno
Richard Mattera
George E. Williams

Thursday, January 11th, 2018

7:30am Nilda Vidal
9:15am Collective Mass
Barbara Rizzi
Eva Maria Alaimo

Monday, January 8th, 2018

9:00am Angelo Graci
12:00Noon Frederick Jaeger

Friday, January 12th, 2018

7:30am Marie Loughlin (Living)
9:15am

Tuesday, January 9th, 2018

7:30am Bolivar Rodriguez
9:15am Laura Dennis

Saturday, January 13th, 2018

9:15am Carol M. Thompson
5:00pm Albert Seeley

We Ask You to Remember Our Brothers & Sisters In your Prayers those who are ill...

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ
10:00am Margaret & Joseph Castigle
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Peter Joseph Loughlin
Margaret Regina
Naomi Koch
Anne Mannita

Anna Capizzio	Joe Alberigo
Angela Amoroso	John Capizzio
Angela Boccio McComb	John Hernandez
AnnMarie M.	Julianne
Baby Mattia Lubrano	Kathleen N.
Betty Schmidt	Kitty Cronin,
Brett Dowling	Kylie Quigley
Brennan Steinorth	Laura Andrucki & family
Bryan Van Colt	Linda Sue
Carole Hennessy	Louis Giordano
Carol Walz	Marie DelCiello,
Catherine Burseind	Marie Loughlin
Christel DeBlasio	Mary McDonough
Christopher Gerver	Nancy Fornabia
ChristopherTallarico	Pasquale Campano
Dawn Kopel	Pasquale Santoro
Dylan Lauro	Patricia Casey
Eileen Zink	Raymond Fox
Elinor Glasser	Rosemary Morgan
Faith VanGostein	Suzanne McCue
Florence Donahue	Thomas Vitale
Ginny McAuley	Terence Hobbes
Hillary Boehme	Teresa Orlik
Jeanine EspositoTansey	Vivien Cordes

We Pray for those Who Serve



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
CORPORAL DANIEL P. STEELE, USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH, USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
JOHN VINCENT KNOBLOCH, USMC
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, U.S.C.G.
RICHARD MAIER, U.S.M.C.
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN, USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-U.S. ARMY
PFC. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA
MARIO CATANIA, USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO, U.S.M.C.
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS U.S.N.
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE U.S.M.C.



Safely Home ...

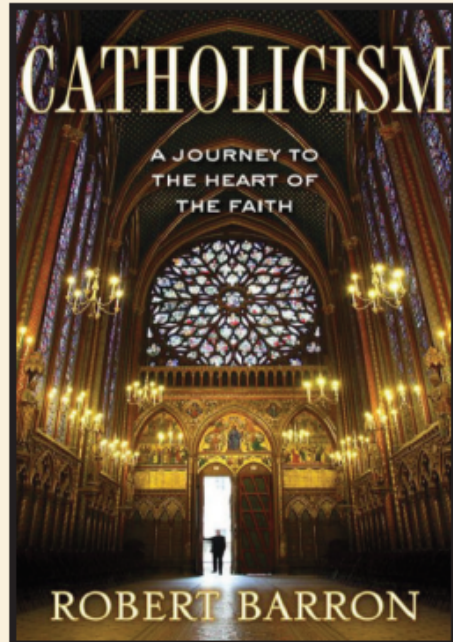
Eva Maria Alaimo
Patricia Mills
James Sangemino
Kathleen Anne Cassidy

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen*

THE MEN'S FORUM

AT THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES

A brotherhood of men dedicated to growing in their faith & discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ.



MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018

Video Presentation: Rev. Robert E. Barron

Topic: "The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church"

There is much more to the Church than meets the eye. In this video from his acclaimed *Catholicism* series, Father Barron of Word on Fire explores the Catholic Faith's unique understanding of the relation of Jesus Christ to the Church. The Church is the mystical Body of Christ whose members include all the baptized from around the world, as well as the saints in heaven and the souls in purgatory. Christ has so joined us to himself that our joys and sufferings are His own, while His life, love and glory are ours. In his own lucid and compelling style, set to powerful images and beautiful music, Fr. Barron will make these truths come alive for our spiritual benefit. Please join us Monday night.

LOCATION: Main Church: North Country Rd., Saint James, NY

6:30 PM: Adoration • 7:30 PM: Video Presentation • 8:30 PM: Coffee & Cake



Upcoming Meeting Dates

2018:

Jan. 8

Jan. 22

Feb. 5

March 5

March 19

2018:(cont.)

April 9

April 23

May 7

May 21

June 8



WE WELCOME ALL MEN TO SHARE IN THIS MISSION.

We are a brotherhood of Catholic men who meet at Saints Philip & James R.C. Church and are dedicated to growing in our faith and discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ. We gather twice a month to pray, listen

to spiritual wisdom, and draw strength from one another in fellowship. We seek to become better men of Christian virtue and witness in our families, friendships, Church, and community.

*Real Men, not without Real Struggles. With the Courage to Believe in Today's World.
Our Faith Helps us Face Life's Big Questions. Our Strength Is Following Christ Together.*

www.sspjmensforum.org



CHURCH of SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES

1 Carow Place • St. James, NY 11780 • 631-584-5454 • www.sspj.org

Come for all, or part of our evening's schedule • No membership required. Open to all men!





SSPJ SCHOOL

First Grade Christmas Tableau and Mass



The first grade students performed a beautiful tableau on the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.



Successful 2017 School Guild Christmas Tree Sale!



Thank you to our Parish Family!

All of the Christmas trees and wreaths sold.

Your support is truly appreciated!

We wish all of you many Blessings for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

SSPJ School Guild Christmas Raffle Winners



First Prize ~\$5,000

L. Scerini

Second Prize ~ \$2,000

M. Kelly

Third Prize ~\$1,500

Favorito Family

Fourth Prize ~\$1,000

M. Wong

Fifth Prize ~\$500

O. Flynn Family

Parish Social Ministry

Dear Parish Family,

“Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. Under no circumstance can this invitation be obscured!”

These words of Pope Francis certainly came to life in SSPJ during the Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Your generosity made it possible for us to serve 26 families who otherwise would have had very meager holidays, also enabling us to sustain them in the months to come. It should fill your hearts with joy, as it does mine, to know that we are assisting many people right here in our own community.

Additionally, your pick-a-star packages were delivered to Hope House, Pax Christi, Saint Christopher Otilie (Madonna Heights), The Learning Connection, Echo Arms, as well as to our own SSPJ Children's Liturgy. May God's peace and blessings shower your lives with abundance and, as Apostles of Hope, may we never stop living the Gospel message!

Thank you.

Lynn Sisti

Coordinator

Parish Social Ministry

Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR January 13th & 14th, 2018

Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, January 14, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 12:00 MASS
Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Patrick Osei-Poku
Deacon Ron		Deacon Ron	

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR January 13th & 14th, 2018

Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:00 PM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 12:00 NOON MASS
M. Fox	M. Dunn	J. Alternative	P. Roman
P. Kaleita	R. Fabian	G. Amen	D. Coppola
A. Keenan	C. Haff	D. Bleggi	B. Chandler
H. Keenan	W. Haff	T. Boboris	J. Hanrahan
T. Laiz	J. Harvey	M. Dolce	M. Lebrun
R. Piazza	M. Kenney	A. Giordano	J. Linder
L. Taurassi	A. Mantia	A. Henchel	M. Loughlin
L. Tepedino	P. Martin	L. Keane	M. Napoli
D. Toto	W. Ramos	O. Laiz	T. Pace
R. Willms	M. Koke	J. Lavan	V. Rubano

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR January 13th & 14th, 2018

Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:00PM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 8:00AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 12:00 NOON MASS
C. Nigro	K. Illari	S. Cheeseman	P. Mazzola
S. Nigro	T. Illari	E. Anderson	C. D'Agostino
M. Page	J. Tobin	M. Stephens	A. Peykar
S. Page	E. Nicastro	G. Lombardi	
R. Green	K. Nicastro	J. Lombardi	

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR January 13th & 14th, 2018

Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:00 PM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 10:00AM MASS	Sunday, January 14, 2018 12:00 NOON MASS
G. Priebe	B. Luna	T. Cafaro	B. O'Leary
8th Grade Student	P. Kanuika	M. D'Amelia	D. Sanchez-Rincon

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

January 14th—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time—Cycle B

Scripture Readings ONLINE

The website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the text of the Scripture Readings. Go to: www.usccb.org . Click on the date.

Reflections on Next Sunday's Celebration

1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19

Psalm 40

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20

John 1:35-42

We appreciate interpreters of languages who tear down the walls of isolation that keep people apart. How rarely, however, do we think of ourselves as believers who interpret, not a different language but a particular dimension of our neighbor's relationship with God. Today's readings show us people searching for meaning in life and "faith interpreters" unlocking the answers to their questions.

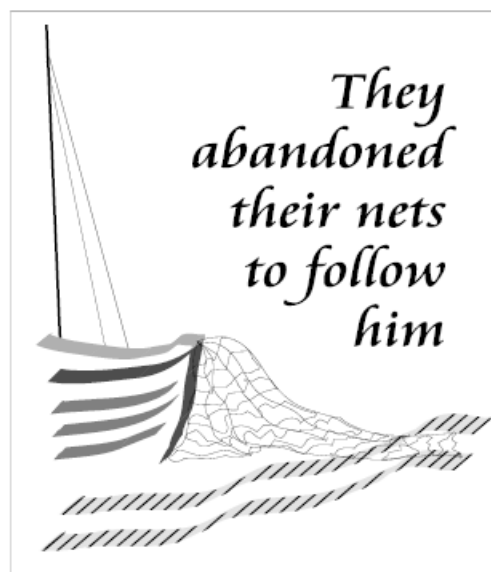
The first reading is a scene from the eleventh century B.C. in which the power of the priest Eli passes to Samuel. The scene requires a skilled interpreter. Eli interprets for Samuel that it is the Lord who calls, and thus Eli launches Samuel on one of Israel's most significant careers.

Paul deals with Christians for whom casual sex with a prostitute poses no moral problem. For the Corinthians the body was morally irrelevant since at death it was destroyed. Thus sin existed only outside the body, in one's motive and intention. Paul had to interpret the moral consequences of Christian faith. The bodies of Christians continue Jesus' saving mission, thus we must be committed to his service.

The gospel is John's account of the call of the first disciples. In the company of two of his disciples, the Baptist interprets the person of Jesus: "Look! Here is the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36). As a result, the two disciples decide to stay, to follow Jesus; the same happens with all the rest.

Sometimes we meet people who may not be aware of their gifts. At other times, they may be too shy to use their talents. In these circumstances believers can translate the presence of gifts as an indication of their use on behalf of the community and encourage the talented to step forward. Believers are more than the reciters of doctrines and formulas. Believers are interpreters.

- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.
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For reflection...

Jesus asked, "What are you looking for?" He could have said, "What is most important to you?" How would you answer that question?

The second question: "Where are you staying?" could be restated, "Where can we spend time with you?" Do you spend time in the presence of God? Did the disciples find what they were looking for when they spent time with Jesus? Do you?

Is there confusion sometimes when God calls in your life? It took Samuel four times to get it right. Has there ever been a time when you have missed God's call? Explain.

Do you call on the Holy Spirit for guidance when you need it? Do you get it? Explain. What can stand in the way of the Spirit's presence in you?

Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

MY TOP TEN BOOKS FOR 2017

Taste is subjective. Keep that in mind as I share with you the ten books that most touched me this past year. That isn't necessarily a recommendation that you read them. They may leave you cold, or angry at me that I praised them. Be your own critic here and one who isn't afraid to be critical of my taste. Nobody buys everything that's advertised in a store.

So, what ten books most touched me this year?

First, I single out some wonderful religious biographies:

- *Kate Hennessey's, Dorothy Day, The World Will be Saved by Beauty.* To my mind, this book is a treasure. As Dorothy Day's granddaughter, Kate Hennessey had a privileged, intimate relationship with Dorothy, but that relationship also had its headaches and heartaches. Dorothy was a complex person who when called a saint, reacted by saying: "I don't want to be dismissed that lightly!" This book captures both the saint and the woman resistant to that label.
- *Jim Forest, At Play in the Lion's Den – A Biography and Memoir of Daniel Berrigan.* A great insight as to who Daniel Berrigan was as a man, as Jesuit, as a friend, and as a prophet. There will be numerous biographies still written on Berrigan, but none, I venture to say, will surpass this one. Forest knows his subject well.
- *Suzanne M. Wolfe, The Confessions of X, A Novel.* This is fictional biography, a story of St. Augustine's mistress, Augustine's love for her, their child, and St. Monica's role in breaking up that relationship. Not historical, but researched well-enough to make it credible.

Next, some religious autobiographies:

- *Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Coach Wooden and Me, Our 50-Year Friendship On and Off the Court.* You may wonder why I list this book as religious autobiography, but it only needs to be read to answer that question. This isn't a sports book, but a book that reflects deeply on life, meaning, friendship, race, and religion. Raised a Roman Catholic, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar shares very candidly on what prompted his religious move to Islam. There are lessons to be learned here. This is a wonderfully warm story amidst all the pain it shares.
- *Macy Halford, My Utmost, A Devotional Memoir.* As an Evangelical Christian, Halford grew up with a deep faith, but one that wasn't strongly challenged in her youth. As a young woman she moved to New York and then later to Paris to become a writer. Surrounded now mostly by friends and colleagues who consider faith a naiveté, she struggled to root her childhood faith more deeply so as to withstand the challenge of the new world she lives in. Her struggle and her eventual solid landing within the faith of her childhood can be a help to all us, regardless of denomination, as we struggle to keep our faith in an overly-adult world.
- *Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy, A Story of Justice and Redemption.* Bryan Stevenson is a Harvard-educated lawyer who has chosen to put his talents to work in helping the poor, in this case, prisoners on death row who don't have any means of helping themselves. The issues of racism, poverty, inequality, and how we blind ourselves to them, are front and center in this powerful book.

Nina Riggs, The Bright Hour – A Memoir of Living and Dying. Nina Riggs died in February and this book shares her blogs as she, a young mother with two preteen children, journeys through terminal cancer, alongside her best friend, also a young mother, who is dying of cancer as well. They died a week apart. While Riggs doesn't write out of an explicit faith, she faces both life and death with a courage, buoyancy, and wit that will make a saint envious. A delightful, deep book: you'll laugh, you'll cry – and you'll learn how death can be faced.

A fine book in the area of Existentialism:

Sarah Blackwell, At the Existentialist Café, Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails. This is one of the best books written on Existentialism that's accessible to a non-professional reader. It will introduce you to the giants of Existential philosophy: Sartre, Heidegger, Simone de Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty, Camus, Husserl, and Jaspers. Blackwell believes you will understand a thinker's philosophy much more accurately if you also have a picture of his or her life: "Ideas are interesting, but people are vastly more so." Those without a background in philosophy will get lost occasionally but if you continue reading you will soon find yourselves again fascinated by the lives of these famous, colorful thinkers.

Finally, two books in spirituality, where the author's pedigree is sufficient recommendation:

- *Tomas Halik, I Want You to Be – On The God of Love.* Halik, a Czechoslovakian priest, is a renowned spiritual writer, winner of the Templeton Prize. This is a book of rare insight and depth.
- *Henri Nouwen, Beyond the Mirror, Reflections on Death and Life.* Nouwen needs no introduction, though this is a unique book within his corpus, chronicling his near-death experience after a serious accident.

Taste may be subjective, but these *are* good books!