



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

631-584-5454

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time January 14, 2018



"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10

"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 RCLIA.

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,

Here we are again in "ordinary time". We have packed away the Christmas decorations for another year. But hopefully we haven't packed away the spirit and promise and reality of Christmas. We celebrated the coming of Emmanuel - of God with us. Now we strive to live the Christmas miracle throughout the year, for Jesus remains with us - encouraging us, guiding us, and inviting us to keep the light of Christmas burning in our hearts and in our actions.

An interesting question is raised in today's gospel as we begin ordinary time: "what are you looking for?" Many of us are looking to grow in our faith, to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, notes:

The Gospel tells us about seekers who discovering a deeper call. The people in today's story already are people looking for God. John the Baptist is a mentor to his disciples and he points them to another who will be their teacher ("Rabbi"). John uses a favorite image for Jesus, "Lamb of God." It is rich in many biblical meanings, and the commentators warn us not to settle on just one.

But we too have had our titles, our names for Jesus. How do we know these titles are still valid for us? Haven't we changed, haven't our lives grown? Who is Jesus for us now and how do we call upon him? We, like the disciples of John, are being invited to follow Jesus at this time in our lives, to spend time with him and to discover who he is for us now. Like the two disciples we are seekers who want to "stay" with Jesus.

As today's seekers, still looking to stay with Jesus, how do we proceed? Perhaps we might take a clue from today's first reading, for as Eli instructed Samuel, we too make time to say, ***Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.*** This does mean that we will actually allow God to speak to our hearts - that we will make some time to be still and listen. It's a challenge in today's hectic world. Are you and I up for the challenge? As Apostles of Hope, we support one another in service, in prayer, and ***in listening.***

One of our parishioners who has been directing and acting in a local theatre company, Doctor Chuck Calabrese, has graciously offered to put on the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* for us on January 28th. Chuck is very much into the ministry of Mathew Kelly of Dynamic Catholic. All proceeds from the play will be used purchase copies one of Matthew's books. Our hope is to offer these books free of charge to all who join us on Easter Sunday. Look for more information in the bulletin. Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead, Catholic Schools week arrives at the end of this month. I encourage all with school age children and without to come and rejoice in the treasure we have in SSPJ School. We continue to outscore scholastically **ALL area schools**, have strong spiritual, academic, social and athletic offerings and enjoy a recognized history of overall excellence in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Watch the upcoming bulletins for details of the events of that week.

As I leave on vacation I ask you to welcome back not only my friend but yours -- the joy-filled Franciscan friar, Father Kevin Cronin, OFM, who is looking forward to filling in for me. I hope to bring back some warm sunshine!

Peace,

Father Tom

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

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of January 14th, 2018

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

8:00am	Wash Kit Gang Superbowl Raffle	School Lobby
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 15th, 2018

No Events Scheduled In Observance of Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018:

1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Room Church
4:30pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Loft
7:00pm	Catholic Daughter's Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:30pm	Chords of Faith Rehearsal	Choir Loft
7:00pm	REO Confirmation II Intro to Impact Sess 1	Auditorium
8:15pm	REO Confirmation II Intro to Impact Sess:2	Auditorium
8:00pm	Boy Scout Leadership Meeting	Monte Building

Wednesday, January 17th, 2018:

7:00pm	REO Communion II Parent Reconciliation Mtg	Church
7:00pm	Youth Ministry	Auditorium

Thursday, January 18th, 2018:

2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Choir Loft

Friday, January 19th, 2018:

3:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshp
6:30pm	Theatre Rehearsal	Auditorium
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, January 20th, 2018:

12:00pm	KOC Basketball Free Throw Challenge	Auditorium
5:00pm	Wash Kit Gang Superbowl Raffle	School Lobby

Weekly Collection: Sunday, January 7th, 2018



Sunday Collection: \$15,409.
Faith Direct: \$3,823.
Children's Jug: \$ 56.
Total Collection: \$18,928.

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

ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP

The March For Life will be on Friday, Jan. 19th, 2018. If you are interested in going there are buses leaving from

CHRIST THE KING IN COMMACK

Contact Marion @ 631-486-2658
Bus leaves @ 7AM

Or INFANT JESUS IN PORT
JEFFERSON Contact Mike
Schwenk @ 631-664-4817

Optional mass @4AM bus loads
@ 4:30AM and Departs @ 5AM
For further information call Pat
O'Hara@ 631-862-9370



*Our Pro Life Rose
For the week of,
January 14th, 2018*

*Is Dedicated to,
Joseph (Chickie) Martin*

*On Your First Anniversary
In Heaven*

*Love,
Your Wife, Margie
And Children,
Donna, Joseph Jr.,
Maria & Michael*

Saints Philip and James Knights of Columbus



SSPJ K of C to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship on January 20, 2018 at 11:15am

(Warm ups and registration, 11:15am – 12:00pm)

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held January 20, 2018 at 12:00pm at Saints Philip and James Church (Basement Auditorium/Recreation Room).

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through local, district, and state competitions. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. All boys and girls 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. Last year more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in over 3,600 local competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact: J. Nicastro, SSPJ K of C Council 12839 at jnicastro38@gmail.com. Easy **Pre-**

Registration Recommended in order to save you time:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E094DAEA622A5FD0-sspi

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with over 1.8 million members in 15,000 local councils. Last year, Knights donated over 70 million volunteer hours and \$170 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, and communities, culture of life, families and youth.

Saints Philip and James Church Website, www.sspi.org

SSPJ K of C Website, www.kofcsspi.org



PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY GANG SUNDAYS

"When did we see you hungry and feed you?"

What is this? A service opportunity aimed at feeding the hungry on Long Island by making sandwiches for distribution to local social service agencies.

When? Sunday – January 21, 2018

Time? 11:15 to 12:30 (Check in at 11:05)

Where? Auditorium

Who? Any person or family with a desire to make a difference in the community.



****Volunteers are asked to bring three loaves of WHOLE WHEAT bread, one jar of jelly and two jars of peanut butter.** In addition, any youth volunteers are to be picked up in front of SSPJ School on Clinton Ave. at 12:15-12:30

*****WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF BOXES TO TRANSPORT OUR SANDWICHES . WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMPUTER PAPER BOXES WITH LIDS TO BE DROPPED OFF IN THE AUDITORIUM THE MORNING OF THE PBJ SESSION. THANK YOU!!**

If you are interested in our next Peanut Butter Sunday, please complete the registration form, which can be obtained at the Pastoral Center. Any questions, please leave a message at 584-5454 and we will contact you as soon as possible.

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

Parish Social Ministry

There is much to do in 2018

*Together we can make a
difference...*

Together we can be the light...

Our Food Pantry Is In Need Of Your Generosity & Help

Items Needed and Greatly Appreciated



Corned Beef Hash
Stew
Canned Hams
Chili With Meat
Jarred Sauce (Preferably in Plastic containers)
Small Boxes of Cheerios
Brown Paper Grocery Bags



The Catholic Daughters Court Anna Theresa invites the women of the Parish to join us for our
Taize Prayer Service led by Kathleen Anderson on
Tuesday 1/16/18 at 7:00 PM
In the Philip & James Room of the Parish Center.
Afterwards please join us for coffee and cake and our monthly meeting.
All Women of the Parish are Invited to attend.



Wash Kit Gang Annual Super Bowl Raffle!

Will be held after all masses beginning **THIS** weekend:
January 13th & 14th, 2018!



Please stop by and purchase raffle tickets that support the wonderful work of the SSPJ Wash Kit Gang.

All proceeds go toward providing supplies for making wash kits and messages of hope to homeless families and individuals living at shelters on Long Island.

The Wash Kit Gang Ministry also provides teaching and service opportunities for young people in our parish to help those among us that are the most vulnerable in our society.

The tickets are \$5.00 each

1st Prize- 55" Samsung Smart TV

Donated by Baranowski, Hamilton, Karvecky, Koke, and Zito Families

2nd Prize- AMC Movie Package and O Solo Mio Gift Card

Donated by AMC Loews Stony Brook and a Generous Parishioner

3rd Prize- Super Bowl Party Pack - A \$80 Value

Donated by Seaqua Deli

Drawing on Sunday, January 28, 2018 after the 12:00noon Mass



A Happy New Year to all from the Music Ministry.

Have you made your new year resolutions ??

How about joining the Music Ministry. Just think of all the fun you will have while praising God through music.

There are many ways to serve. Some only take bite size pieces of your time. Stop by the choir loft to find out how.

A special thank you to all members of the Music ministry.

Your time, talent and dedication helped to make the Advent and Christmas seasons special.

Live Theatrical Production at SSPJ !

Sts. Philip & James Parish presents

The Long Island Repertory Company

performance of To Kill A Mockingbird



The Trial of the Century
is about to begin.

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY: SUNDAY 1/28/18 @ 3PM

**Sts. Philip & James School Auditorium
359 Clinton Avenue, Saint James, NY**

*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.*

Eucharistic Adoration at SSPJ

Thursday's 2-3pm ~ Friday 8-9pm In the Church



“Moreover, I want to encourage everyone to visit – if possible, every day – especially amid life’s difficulties, the Blessed Sacrament of the infinite love of Christ and His mercy, preserved in our churches, and often abandoned, to speak filially with Him, to listen to Him in silence, and to peacefully entrust yourself to Him.”

Pope Francis

This priest says Adoration has made Juarez a safer city By Bárbara Bustamante

Juarez, Mexico, Nov 22, 2017 / 03:09 am ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- Juarez, located in the state of Chihuahua in northern Mexico, was considered from 2008 to 2010 to be one of the most dangerous cities in the world, due to drug trafficking violence. However, the city of 1.3 million inhabitants dropped off this list thanks to a significant decrease in the number of homicides. Although this drop can be credited to an improvement in the work of local authorities, for Fr. Patricio Hileman – a priest responsible for establishing Perpetual Adoration chapels in Latin America – there is a much deeper reason: **Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**.

“When a parish adores God day and night, the city is transformed,” Fr. Hileman said.

The missionaries only took three days to establish the first Perpetual Adoration chapel in Juarez. Fr. Hileman told how one day, when the city was under a state of siege, a lady was on her way to the chapel to do her Holy Hour at 3:00 in the morning, when she was intercepted by six soldiers who asked her where she was heading. When the woman told them that she was going to “the little chapel” at that moment the lady said to the soldiers: “Do you think you’re protecting us? We’re praying for you 24 hours a day.” Two months after the chapel was opened, there has not been one death in Juarez. One of the uniformed men fell down holding his weapon, “crying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The next day at 3:00 in the morning they saw him in civilian clothes doing a Holy Hour, crying oceans of tears,” he said.

If you are generous with Jesus, he is a thousand times more generous with you,” Fr. Hileman said.

Expose your heart, surrender your burden, be free in the arms of Jesus....

Religious Education News for the Week of January 14th, 2018

No Religious Education Classes will be held on Monday, January 15th, 2018 In observance of Martin Luther King Day



Communion II Parent Reconciliation Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2018
7:00pm In the Church



Confirmation II Intro to IMPACT

Tuesday January 16th, 2018 7:00pm-7:45pm

AUDITORIUM
CLASSES OF THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS:



Amy Jo DiConza
Debbie Indelicato
Brigid Killilea



Confirmation II Intro to IMPACT

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 8:15pm-9:00pm

AUDITORIUM
CLASSES OF THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS:

Elizabeth Sheridan
Stacey Stevenson
Michele Stickle & Theresa Hampson

Mass Intentions, For the week of January 14th, 2018

Saturday, January 13th, 2018

5:00pm Albert Seeley

Wednesday, January 17th, 2018

7:30am Margaret Regina
9:15am Eva Maria Alaimo

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

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

Thursday, January 18th, 2018

7:30am Charlie Murphy (Living)
9:15am Collective Mass

Monday, January 15th, 2018

7:30am Lucy & Pete Bruno (Living)
9:15am Eva Maria Alaimo

Friday, January 19th, 2018

7:30am Mary Castiglione Anderson
9:15am Margaret Olsen

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018

7:30am Lucy & Pete Bruno (Living)
9:15am Amelia Mucaria

Saturday, January 20th, 2018

9:15am Joseph (Chickie) Martin
5:00pm Mary Castiglione Anderson

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

Sunday, January 21st, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ
10:00am Henry Toebelmann
12:00 Noon Collective Mass:
Geraldine Campbell
Henry (Hank) Buckley
Alexander Charles Renz
Eileen Frazita

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
Christopher Tallarico	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 Esposito Tansey	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...

Mary Lynn Miller
Donald Considine

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

SSPJ School January Apostles of HOPE!

Pre-K

Peter Cerullo: He is an excellent role model for his Pre-K classmates. Peter always has something to add to classroom discussions as he attends mass weekly with his family. Peter attended the mass that Bishop Barres presided over and always tries his best to follow Jesus!

Kindergarten

Michael Napolitano: He is always eager to help and encourage other students in class. Michael enjoys math and is becoming a good problem solver. He is a good friend to all of his classmates.

First Grade

Joseph Favorito: Joseph is a hardworking and kind young boy. He looks forward to helping his classmates when he completes his work. He loves learning about God and everything he created.

Second Grade

Reilly Williams: She always gives 100% on all her assignments. Reilly always offers assistance to others in the class when help may be needed.

Third Grade

Jack Hurlbert: Jesus taught us to love others through his words and deeds. Jack is always offering assistance to his classmates and is a kind boy with a loving heart.

Fourth Grade

Brendan Kieran: He is always willing to go out of his way to help around the classroom. He has signed up to be trained as a new alter server at Sts. Philip & James, and volunteers to alter serve when our class goes to Mass each week.

Fifth Grade

Alex Romero: He is an alter server and actively participates at Mass. Alex always brings a positive attitude to church, school, and community.

Sixth Grade

Torrey Miller: She has been actively involved during the Religion elective offered in the SSPJ Academy, as well as, assisting with activities in the 6th grade during the past month. Torrey also participates as an alter server at SSPJ.

Seventh Grade

Aidan Willman: He is an enthusiastic learner and always a willing participant in class. Aidan has been a long time member of both the Drama and Stained Glass clubs at SSPJ. He also involved as an alter server at SSPJ.

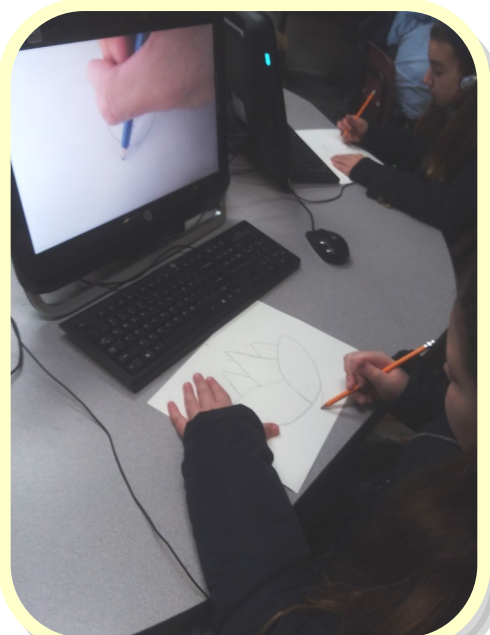
Eighth Grade

Ashley Bjorklund: She donates her time during recess to assist the Pre-k at SSPJ. Ashley has participated in Sunday and daily masses as an alter server and lector on various occasions. Ashley is preparing herself for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

6th Grade SSPJ Artists!



“Combining Art and Technology. Students in 6th grade are learning how to draw a Lotus flower by following a directed drawing tutorial.”



Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR January 20th and 21st, 2018

Saturday, January 20, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, January 21, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 21, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, January 21, 2018 12:00 MASS
Father Kevin Cronin	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Kevin Cronin	Father Patrick Osei-Poku
Deacon John	Deacon John	Deacon Ron	Deacon Ron

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR January 20th & 21st, 2018

Saturday, January 20, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018
5:00 PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
G. Alfano	K. Consenz	J. Lavan	M. Hoonhout
B. Carey	J. Giacalone	D. Mulhall	E. Law
R. Byrne	W. VanGostein	C. Napolitano	M. Peykar
P. Damato	G. Beisel	G. Patalano	P. Roman
D. Doran	L. Beisel	L. Patalano	V. Rubano
J. Duffy	C. Czujko	W. Rodriguez	C. Zito
A. Dunn	M. Dunn	J. Scott	G. Zito
D. Earl	K. Rapp	L. Sisti	D. Coppola
E. Kaleita	E. Sica	M. Spina	J. Hanrahan
G. Priebe	T. Sica	H. Orlando	A. Santo

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR January 20th & 21st, 2018

Saturday, January 20, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
A. Balocca	J. Auletta	C. Donnelly	C. Tsoumpelis
A. Bjorkland	L. Auletta	S. Donnelly	D. Sanchez-Ricon
T. Miller	B. Keese	B. Roberts	D. Sanchez-Rincon
V. Scarpelli	L. Keese		
	M. Russo		

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR January 20th & 21st 2018

Saturday, January 20, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018	Sunday, January 21, 2018
5:00 PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
A. DeVito	M. Sehne	A. Foster	S. D'Agostino
8th Grade Student	A. Kaiser	E. Nicastro	P. Geier

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

January 21st—3rd 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

Jonah 3:1-5,10 Psalm 25
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

Today's passages deal with both reception and communication of God's Word. Believers are partners with God in the joint venture of spreading the message. Believers are leaven to the world. The Word will have great impact.

In the fifth century B.C., the author of Jonah addressed an audience who demanded that God act according to human standards. To make his point, the author writes of a reluctant prophet who prefers to go west when commanded to go northeast. Jonah finally gives in and the entire populace is converted.

Convinced that the Second Coming of Jesus was imminent, Paul exhorted his Corinthian Christians not to get involved in a change of marital status. The married were becoming single, the single were marrying. Paul was wrong about the Second Coming timetable, but he is still a good example of a believer seeking to elaborate the meaning of the Word to others.

Mark's Jesus is in touch with God's plan. The expression "reign of God" connotes the royal program to provide for the needs of the people, especially the poor. Jesus calls for a radical change in thinking and acting and a trusting acceptance of the Good News. Mark then describes the call of the first four disciples and their total dedication to the Master. Their call is not a private enterprise. To hear the Word is to share the Word.

The barometer of our Christian values is our manner toward one another. If our first thought after Sunday Mass is being first out of the parking lot, then the Word has not had much impact on us. The gospel opens us to community.

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

What do you think it was that allowed James and John, Simon and Andrew to drop their nets so readily when Jesus called them?

In what ways has Jesus called you? Is there something that keeps you from readily answering Jesus' call? Can you name it? How might you work through it?

In the first reading, what was God looking for in the Ninevites? What is God looking for in you? Does God call you to conversion once or over and over again? Why?

How does our culture help us to follow Jesus? In what ways does it hinder us?



HOW CAN IT ALL HAVE A HAPPY ENDING?

There's a line in the writings of Julian of Norwich, the famous 14th century mystic and perhaps the first theologian to write in English, which is endlessly quoted by preachers, poets, and writers: *But all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.* It's her signature teaching.

We all have an intuitive grasp of what that means. It's our basis for hope. In the end, the good will triumph. But the phrase takes on added meaning when it's seen in its original context. What was Julian trying to say when she coined that phrase?

She was struggling with the problem of evil, sin, and suffering: Why does God allow them? If God is both all-loving and all-powerful what possible explanation can there be for the fact that God lets us suffer, lets us sin, and lets evil be present all over the world? Why didn't God create a world without sin, where we would all be perfectly happy from birth onwards?

Julian had heard enough sermons in church to know the standard apologetic answer for that, namely, that God allows it because God gave us the great gift of freedom. With that comes the inevitability of sin and all its sad consequences. That's a valid answer, though one that's often seen as too abstract to offer much consolation to us when we are suffering. But Julian, despite being a loyal daughter of the church and having been schooled in that answer, doesn't go there. She offers something different.

For her, God allows evil, sin, and suffering because God will use them in the end to create for everyone a deeper mode of happiness than they would have experienced if sin, evil, and suffering hadn't been there. In the end, these negatives will work towards creating some deeper positives.

Let me quote Julian in the original (the Middle English within which she wrote): *Jesus, in this vision informed me of all that I needed answered by this word and said: 'Sinne is behovely, but alle shalle be wele, and alle shalle be wele, and all manner of thing shalle be wele.'*

She shares that Jesus says that sin is "behovely". In Middle English, *behovely* has these connotations: "useful", "advantageous", "necessary". In her vision, sin, evil, and suffering are ultimately advantageous and even necessary in bringing us to deeper meaning and greater happiness. (Not unlike what we sing in our great Easter hymn: *O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam.*)

What Julian wants us to draw out from this is not the idea that sin and evil are of little consequence but rather that God, being so unimaginable in love and power, is able to draw good out of evil, happiness out of suffering, and redemption out of sin in ways that we cannot yet grasp. This is Julian's answer to the question: Why does God allow evil? She answers by not answering because, in essence, no adequate answer can ever be imagined. Rather, she sets the question into a theology of God within which, beyond what we can imagine at present and beyond what theology can really account for, God's power and love will eventually make all things well, dry every tear, redeem every evil, erase every bad memory, unfreeze every cold heart, and turn every manner of suffering into happiness. There's even a hint in this that the final triumph of God will be to empty hell itself so that, indeed, absolutely every manner of being will be well.

In a subsequent vision, Julian received a five-fold assurance from God that God may, can, will, and shall make all things well and we ourselves will see it.

All of this is predicated of course on a particular concept of God. The God that Julian of Norwich invites us to believe in is a God who is precisely beyond our imagination both in power and in love. Any God we can imagine is incapable of making all manner of being well (as many atheistic critics have already pointed out). This not just true in terms of trying to imagine God's power, it's particularly true in terms of trying to imagine God's love. It's unimaginable in our present human condition to picture anyone, God or human, who cannot be offended, is incapable of anger, holds nothing against anyone no matter what evil he or she may have perpetrated, and who (as Julian describes God) is completely relaxed and has a face like a marvelous symphony. The God of our imagination, re-enforced by certain false interpretations of scripture, does get offended, does get angry, does take vengeance, and does meet sin with wrath. Such a God is incapable of making all manner of things well. But such a God is also not the God whom Jesus revealed.

Were we to look into the eyes of God's, says Julian, what we would see there would "melt our hearts with love and break them in two with ecstasy."