

SS. PHILIP & JAMES

CATHOLIC PARISH

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

(631) 584-5454

July 20, 2025

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Francis in the Desert, Giovanni Bellini, Around 1480. The Frick Collection, New York, United States.

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." - John 14:8

MASS TIMES

Weekday	7:30 AM, 9:15 AM
Saturday	9:15 AM, 5 PM (Vigil)
Sunday	8 AM (Live-streaming via Facebook), 10 AM, 12 NOON

RECONCILIATION

Saturday	4 – 5 PM
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EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday	1:30 – 7 PM
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The Parish Directory

Parish Information



GENERAL INFORMATION

Phone Number (631) 584-5454
Parish Fax (631) 862-9675
Website www.sspj.org
Address 1 Carow Place
St. James, NY 11780

Office Hours Mon. & Thu. 9:30 AM - 5 PM
Tue. & Wed. 9:30 AM - 8 PM
Fri. 9:30 AM - 1 PM

CLERGY

Pastor Rev. Sean Magaldi
Associate Pastor Rev. Dennis Gannon
Associate Pastor Rev. Martin Adu Gyamfi
Deacon John Keenan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Phone Number (631) 584-3204

GRADE LEVEL COORDINATORS

Grades 1-3 Charlotte Czujko
cczujko@sspj.org
Grades 4-6 Barbara Luna
bluna@sspj.org
Grades 7-8 Dominick Avento
davento@sspj.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Sandra Rago

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL

Principal Diane M. Anderson
Phone Number (631) 584-7896
School Fax (631) 584-3258

TRUSTEES

Brendan McGovern
Jennine Cullen

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey Lou Guerra
Cynthia Lombardi Paul Damato
Lisa Keane Maureen Burke
Nancy Sanders Matthew Carey
Sheila Cavooris

*Thank you for your generosity
Financial Support Needed Weekly
to meet Parish budget: \$16,700*

Weekly Collection - Sunday, July 13, 2025:

Collections from Weekend Masses: \$11,876.54

Faith Direct
(126 Participants Weekly): \$ 3,374.00

Total Collection: \$15,250.54

Addl. Peter's Pence: \$106.05

Faith Direct:

*Visit sspj.org and click on the Faith Direct icon.
Use SSPJ Parish code: NY232*

Sacraments and Sacramentals

SACRAMENTAL RECORDS

To request a copy of your certificate of Baptism, Marriage, First Holy Communion, or Confirmation please call the rectory.

OCIA

For adults looking to become Catholic or receive Confirmation, please call the rectory to ask about our OCIA program.



BAPTISM

Celebrated twice per month. Parents are asked to contact the rectory for a Pre-Baptism Program.

RECONCILIATION

Available Saturdays from 4 - 5 pm in the Church or by contacting the rectory for an appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the rectory to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

For First Holy Communion, second grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. For Confirmation, seventh and eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare for both sacraments through OCIA.

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.

Please Remember Those Who Serve For Us In Your Prayers



LCDR Megan M. Shutka-Vik -USN | CAPT Wilson Marks -USN | CPT Michael T. Dolan Jr. -D.O, ARMY
 Sgt Cory O'hara -USMC | Lt Col John Kaires | SGM Michael P. Borrelli -ARMY
 CAPT John Tully -USN | LTC James Tully - ARMY | Joseph Saggio -USNC | Richard Sotomayer -USAF
 SSgt Michael Longhenry | Lt Col Paul T. Jackson | SSgt Alexander Parrella -USAF
 Christopher A. Hionidis -USAF | Michael Hionidis -USMC | PFC Charles Christopher Howell
 Hank Moloney -USAF | Steven Cava -USN | Emmett Moloney -USN | CW2 Natasha Wortman
 LTJG Kyle Melvin -USN | LTJG Jillian Melvin -USN | Cpl James T. Casey -USMC | Glen Crima -ARMY
 SGT Joshua Mahoney -ARMY | Spc Nicole A. Cannon | 2LT Dillon Reynolds -USAF
 Private Joshua Olsen -USARNG | Mario Catania -USMC | Cpl Larissa Dorrian -USMC
 Ryan Anthony Nascimento -USMC | Kyle Anthony Nascimento -ARMY | ENS Ryan M. Shows -USN
 SSgt. Ryan Rexrode -USMC | Dr. Kara Vandekieft, Col -USAF | Sgt Stephen D. Outcault -USMC
 Paul Mumolo -USN | Victoria Zeman -USCG | Kyle J. Gruner -ARMY | Mark Giordano -USCG
 Lt Kelli Mclaughlin -USANG | 1LT Michael J Bang -Military Intelligence ARMY | Captain Paul Willms
 Kevin Jones -USCG | Sgt Connor F. Scott -USMC | Elizabeth C. Oliver -QM 2ND Class SW USN
 CW2 Chris Munz | Carl Josephson -USAF | Daniel Josephson -USAF | Samantha Josephson -USAF
 MIDN Erin Nicastro -USNA | MLDN Kate Nicastro -USNA | Justene Patch -2ND Class USN
 Matthew Patrick Gallagher -ARMY | LT Commander Christopher Shank MD | Eric Seelin -USMC
 2LT James A Koester -ARMY | Maj Brendan Johnston -USAF | Lt Connor Toomey -USMC
 Dakota Barnett -2ND Class USN | Erin Morpheo -2ND Class USN | Richard Wulforst, III -USA ANG

Altar Memorials, Prayer Intentions, Mass Intentions and Schedule

Please contact the rectory at (631) 584-5454 to request a memorial.



WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please contact the Office of Parish Social Ministry, (631) 584-5454, to include the name of a brother or sister in need of prayer.

Louis Fabiano, Maria Lee, Margaret Remhild, Samya Salama, Barbara Hobbes, Michael Mattia, Michael Scorca, Grayson Danielski, Ann Marie, Amanda Rose Critella, Amanda Cacoperdo, Carmela Montesano, Donna Fabrizio, David Beleck, Brittany Lundberg, Ed Ceraso, Edward Luna, Jessie Lokai, John V Leone, Kathleen Martin, Kerry Larry, Mia Mednick, Patrice Henry, Rob Remhild, Ronnie Reichert, Stephanie Seban, Tonia Perdue, Joan Cooper, Tim Tippet, Madeline Kelley, Diane Toto, Phillip Giarrupeto, Judy Hanrahan, Patricia Schecher, Nora Danko, Joanna Szymanski, Luke Salvatore Montesano, Anthony D'Angelis, Katie Hobbes, Leon Donach, Paul Robertelli, Donna Belulloovich, Theresa Quinn, Janet Ocasio, Stephanie Eagle, Baby Brooks, Anna Marie, Matthew Cooke, Brian Stewart, Samantha Misurda, John Vincent Leone, Roger, Thomas Brick, Mariella Rooney, Sheila Eith, Bella Rigogliosi, Sheila Eith

<i>Saturday, July 19th</i>	Reconciliation 4:00-5:00pm	9:15am	Mary Sposato Palamara
	Cantor: McCulloh Lector: Healy/Scott EMs: Lombardi/Mantia/Taurassi/Damato/La Serra	5:00pm	Joey Morda
<i>Sunday, July 20th</i>	Cantor: Hill Lector: Farrell/Luna EMs: Czujko/Dervan/Diaz/Sica/Tully	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	Cantor: Meringolo Lector: Zahdorodny/Dias EMs: Amen/Parish/Clarke/Rizzo/Licari/Calderone	10:00am	Valerie Linder
	Cantor: Lohmann Lector: Cullen/Kieran EMs: Sisti/Rubano/Rubano/Margaret	12:00pm	<u>Collective Mass</u> Michael Colletta, Timothy Gozloff, Derrick Fichera, Mary DiCarlo, Steven Catelli and Virginia Aiello
<i>Monday, July 21st</i>	Adoration 1:30-7:00pm In the Church	7:30am	For the Pope
		9:15am	Edward J. Chlanda
<i>Tuesday, July 22nd</i>		7:30am	Joan Arnao
		9:15am	James Klouda
<i>Wednesday, July 23rd</i>		7:30am	Maximo Collado
		9:15am	Gregory Mattia
<i>Thursday, July 24th</i>		7:30am	Sheila Murphy
		9:15am	Dorothy Survilla
<i>Friday, July 25th</i>		7:30am	Elizabeth McSweeney
		9:15am	Harrison Thrasher Jr.
<i>Saturday, July 26th</i>	Reconciliation 4:00-5:00pm	9:15am	Edwin Reichert
	Cantor: Murtha Lector: Drechsler/Pilero EMs: Rapp/Lombardi/Sisti/Byrne/Toto	5:00pm	Peter Portanova
<i>Sunday, July 27th</i>	Cantor: Meringolo Lector: Czujko/Marino EMs: Czujko/Kenney/Koke/La Serra/Tully	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	Cantor: Meringolo Lector: Doran/Kollmer EMs: Luna/Rapp/Clarke/Kean/Amen/Sotomayer	10:00am	Carol Walz
	Cantor: Hill Lector: Geier/O'Connor EMs: Craine/Latino/Stack/Bleggi	12:00pm	<u>Collective Mass</u> Michael Colletta, Larry Collorafi, Derrick Fichera

The Pastoral Letter from Rev. Sean Magaldi

My Dear Friends in Jesus Christ and Our Blessed Mother,

I hope summer is treating you well. Tuesday, 7/22, is the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene. In 2016, Pope Francis elevated the Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene to a Feast. A Feast is a higher liturgical celebration than a Memorial. Pope Francis did this during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which aimed to emphasize the profound mercy Mary experienced at the hands of Jesus.

We know that she was a close disciple of Jesus and a key person in the Resurrection. Jesus appeared to Mary first. St. Mary Magdalene has often been called the Apostle to the Apostles because she was the first to announce the Resurrection. The gift of being able to see the Risen Lord first probably has to do with the fact that she was at the foot of the cross with Jesus. Mary accompanied Jesus to Calvary along with the Blessed Mother and others. She was still with Jesus when Joseph of Arimathea placed Him in the sepulcher.

In John's Gospel, Jesus appears to her, but she confuses Him with the gardener. Jesus calls her "woman" several times, but she doesn't recognize Him. It isn't until He calls her by name and says, 'Mary,' that she realizes it's Jesus (Jn 20:16). I love this passage because it's a reminder that Jesus calls each of us by name.

The power of Christ healed Mary by casting out seven demons; remember, He wants to heal us as well. He invites us to encounter Him in His Resurrection, but that often means He calls us to be with Him during His crucifixion as well. When we follow Jesus, and never stay far away, He won't stop inviting us to be with Him, He won't stop calling us by name. I would like you to take some time this week to listen to Jesus call you by name. If you haven't experienced this before, then ask St. Mary Magdalene to pray for you.

In Christ,
Fr. Sean

Parish Social Ministry

WE REMEMBER, ALL THOSE WHO ARE SAFELY HOME IN THE ARMS OF JESUS

Madeline Peterford

Charles Pumilia

BOOK KIOSK NEWS

The publisher has promised to have the book **“The Precious Gift of Old Age”** available by the end of the month. Check the kiosk in the lobby for new books as they arrive!

PRAYER BLANKETS

Prayer Blankets will be blessed on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at the 5 PM Mass. If you have a family member or friend in need of the prayers and support of our SSPJ Family, please feel free to take one for them.

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Respect Life Committee invites all to join us in praying the Rosary at 8 AM, M-F, in the prayer room of the Church.

Next Weekend is the Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus! Won't you join us as we pray for Grandparents and all those who help pass on the faith. So many youngsters rely on relatives to bring Jesus into their lives. Pray the rosary with us 8AM in the prayer room, Monday through Friday.



Katie's Way

Collecting new and gently used baby items and delivering them to the Life Center of Long Island. These items benefit mothers, children, and expectant mothers in need. Your donations build a community that supports mothers who choose life for their unborn children under difficult circumstances. Suggested donation items: diapers, wipes, bottles. Gently used baby and toddler items such as car seats, high chairs, strollers, clothing, toys, etc. New baby and toddler items, including diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, clothing, etc.

PLEASE DROP OFF AT:

56 TILLOTSON AVENUE, ST. JAMES, NY

OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Bathroom Tissue Paper

Small Jars Grape Jelly

LAUDATO SI

We must pursue a God-centered response to environmental challenges that bring glory to the Creator, advances the cause of Christ, and leads to the transformation of the people and the land that sustains them.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Once again, it is time for our school supplies collection. We have children in our community in need of teacher mandated items. If you can help, kindly take a school supply card from the baskets in the back of the church. You may return your **UNWRAPPED** donation, along with the card to the parish office during the week, or place in the St. Anthony's Bread closet in the back of the church. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. As always, thank you for all you do!

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS: You are never alone

AA 24 Hour Hotline	(631) 669-1124
Al-Anon	(631) 669-2827
Birthingright	(631) 821-9727
Child Abuse	(800) 342-3720
Dept. of Social Services	(631) 854-2300
Domestic Violence	
-Brighter Tomorrow	(631) 395-1800
-Vibes	(631) 360-3607
-The Retreat	(631) 329-2200
LI Against Domestic Violence	(631) 666-8833
Elder Abuse	(631) 761-7470
Food Stamps	(631) 789-9546
Gamblers Anonymous	(855) 222-5542
Good Shepherd Hospice	(631) 376-3758
Mental Health Emergency	(631) 952-3333
Narcotics Anonymous	(631) 689-6262
Nassau/Suffolk Law	(631) 232-2400
Poison Control	(516) 542-2323
Hope House	(631) 473-6030
Office for the Aging	(631) 853-8200
Overeaters Anonymous	(631) 260-6615
Rachel's Hope-Post Abortion	(888) 456-4673
	(631) 751-7500
Suicide Hotline (Services in English and Spanish)	
Catholic Charities Mental Health Clinics:	
Medford	(631) 654-1919
Bay Shore	(631) 665-6707

NYS Catholic Conference



Stop Physician-Assisted Suicide in New York

New York is on the brink of legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Bill A136 has already passed the Senate and Assembly. The only thing standing in its way is Governor Hochul's veto – and she needs to hear from you.

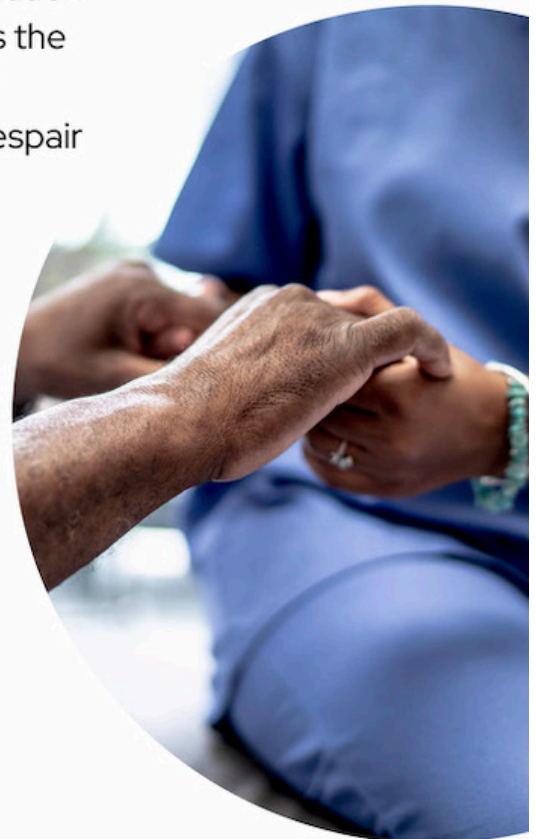
This bill would allow doctors to prescribe lethal medication with the sole purpose of ending a patient's life. It puts the most vulnerable among us – the elderly, people with disabilities, and those facing emotional or financial despair – at even greater risk. **Suicide is not healthcare.**

We must speak out to protect the dignity of every human life. Assisted suicide is a dangerous and deadly path – one we must not go down.

Take Action!



Contact the Governor's office now to oppose this deadly practice! Visit bit.ly/veto-pas or use the QR code.



The New York State Catholic Conference represents the Bishops of New York State in public policy matters.
www.nyscatholic.org • 518-434-6195 • info@nyscatholic.org

Music Ministry

WEEKLY REFLECTION FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR MARGARET ADAMS

Followers of Jesus,

We all have different gifts or abilities that, when we use them, we can make the world a better, more welcoming place. We serve others and listen to Jesus.

“There is a Longing in Our Hearts” we only find with you, our Presentation hymn, and “You Are Near”, the Communion, God is always near to us. He guides us from the foe and leads us in ways everlasting.

It is Good to Give Thanks

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
To sing praises to your name,
O Most high:
To declare your steadfast love in the morning,
And your faithfulness by night,
To the music of the lute and harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you O Lord,
Have made me glad by your work;
At the work of your hands I sing for joy.
Psalm 92:2-4

Let us sing our praise to God!!

Calling All Pilgrims!

Msgr. Brian McNamara, along with Fr. Louis Cona, is hosting a pilgrimage to Rome/Loreto/Cascia/Orvieto and Assisi from November 3 to November 12, 2025, during the Jubilee year. We will see Pope Leo XIV at the General Audience and visit the main shrines and basilicas, with daily Masses at the shrines and basilicas as well. For more information, check the St. Patrick (Smithtown) bulletin OR check the pilgrimage website: www.206tours.com/msgmcmnamara/jubilee.



SSPJ Youth Group Summer Series

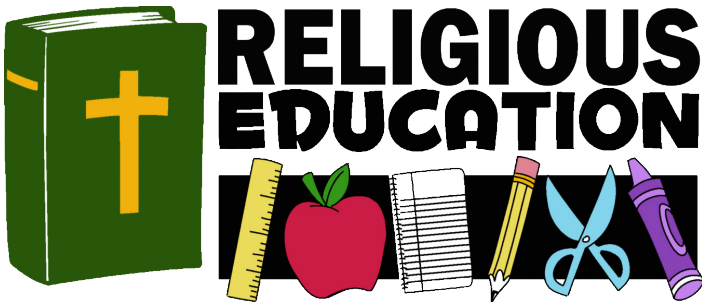
Join us for Eucharistic Adoration
followed by a Sports and Games Night



Wednesday, July 16th
7:00pm–8:30pm

Wednesday, August 20th
7:00pm–8:30pm

NO RSVP NEEDED. Please contact Sandy at
srago@sspj.org with any questions.



PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!!

Registration is now open for the
2025-2026 Religious Education year!

In order to register please go to our website – www.sspj.org and look for Religious Education on the top bar. Click on that and “Registration” will be the first choice. Please read the “Registration Checklist” first as it lists all the forms that must be filled out. For payment, there is a direct link to Faith Direct.



No One's Alone

**Our Community Commitment To You Is
That No One Feels That They Are Alone**

If you are an individual who lives alone without local family or friends to support your well being, we would like to hear from you!

Our New Ministry is all about sharing our Christian love by making a weekly phone call to reach out to you and check on your well-being. Life Alert Systems are greatly encouraged. However, loneliness, not feeling needed adds to accidents. A friendly weekly call will give you something to look forward to, and we want to do just that!

Sign up now by filling out the attached form, and place it in the collection basket, bring the completed form to our office, or call Parish Social Ministry. It's as simple as that, and you will receive a weekly call to brighten your day!

Release Form

No One's Alone Ministry:

In signing this form, I am asking for a member of my church community to call me to check on my well-being and/or visit me with a house call either to check on my well-being and/or bring me communion.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Number: _____

Signature for phone call or house visit: _____

Date: _____



SS. PHILIP
& JAMES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Why Choose

SS. PHILIP & JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

At SSPJ, God is at the center of all we do. Whether it is in the Eucharist at School Mass, daily religion classes, a special prayer service, or service to the community, students are invited to grow in their relationship with God and the Church.

Learn more about the
Catholic School Difference!



VISIT WWW.SSPJSCHOOL.NET TO LEARN MORE

SS. PHILIP & JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL • 359 CLINTON AVENUE, STREET JAMES, NY 11780 • (631) 584-7896

Congratulations to our Honor Roll Students!

Chaminade High School Final Honor Roll

Freshman

Jack R. Carey
Matthew R. Dwyer
Luchryso Kenton

Sophomore

Shane L. Stephen

Junior

Robert A. Albinski

"We pledge to persevere in prayer,
fasting and witnessing to the
sacredness of every human life."

- Bishop Barres' statement regarding the
U.S. Supreme Court Decision in
Dobbs v. Jackson, June 24, 2022



Rosary for Life



JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

Every Friday - 3:00 PM

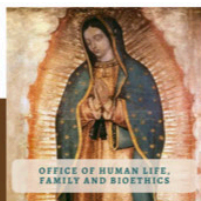
Scan for Zoom link:



Email lhonkanen@drvclife.org

if you would like the link sent
to you each week.

Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923



www.drvclife.org





SACRED VOICES CONCERT

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE WITH THE SISTINE CHAPEL CHOIR REPERTOIRE AND THE POPE'S ORGANIST



JOIN US AS WE CAPTIVATE NEW YORK WITH THE EXQUISITE REPERTOIRE OF THE SISTINE CHAPEL CHOIR. DON'T MISS OUT!

WHERE ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY
175 WOLF HILL RD
MELVILLE, NY 11747

WHEN SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH
TIME 7PM



FEATURING
JOSEP SOLÉ COLL
FIRST ORGANIST
OF THE PAPAL
BASILICA OF ST.
PETER'S (VATICAN)



ADRIANO CAROLETTI
CONDUCTOR OF
SACRED VOICES WITH
H.E. CARDINAL
DOMINIQUE MAMBERTI

TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND LEARN MORE VISIT
[RECLAIMINGCHRISTENDOM.COM](https://reclaimingchristendom.com) OR SCAN QR CODE



ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY PRESENTS,
"SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX
*on the Night of Faith
and Dawn of Hope*"

AUGUST 1, 5:00 pm to
AUGUST 3, 2:00 pm

**SEMINARY
OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

For more information and sponsorship opportunities,
contact 914-367-8201 or SJS.Events@dunwoodie.edu

www.dominicanhouseofprayer.com or
www.dunwoodie.edu.

GUESTROOMS AVAILABLE - SPACE IS LIMITED



Bishop John
O. Barres



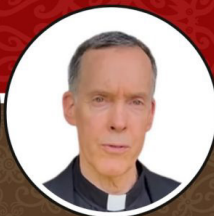
Cardinal Anders
Arborelius, OCD



Bishop James
Massa



Sr. Talitha, OCD



Fr. Donald
Haggerty



Fr. Ignatius John
Schweitzer, OP



Dr. Anthony
Lilles



Fr. Boniface
Hicks, OSB



Sr. Armelle
Fauvette



SAINT JOSEPH'S
— SEMINARY AND COLLEGE —



AVILA INSTITUTE
FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Contacting Your Elected Officials

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops urge all Catholics to make their voices heard in the public square. Part of making our voices heard is through direct communication to our elected officials, and asking them to stand with people who are vulnerable, poor, or who face injustice. You can communicate with your elected officials by writing (letters or emails), making phone calls, and visiting them in person. Visit house.gov and senate.gov to find your elected officials and then follow the tips below.

Writing

A **thoughtful, personal** letter that provides a clear and forceful argument can be a powerful form of communication with your elected officials. Follow these tips when writing letters:

- Include a **clear title** that summarizes the exact action you are requesting. For example: “Protect Victims of Trafficking: Support S. 1301!”
- In the first paragraph, **state your request** and **summarize the reasons** in 2-3 sentences.
- In the second and third paragraphs:
 - **Provide support** for your arguments.
 - State **why you personally care** about this issue. For example, are you involved in your parish’s pro-life or anti-poverty ministries?
- Conclude your letter by **re-stating** what you want your elected officials to do and **thanking** them for their time.

Mailed letters may take several weeks to arrive to Congress, so you may consider using e-mail when the issue is time sensitive. With e-mails, however, it is suggested that you personalize your communication in a similar manner as a personal letter. Most Congressional web sites include

“Contact Us” forms which you can also use in time sensitive situations.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops makes it easy for Catholics to make their voices heard by providing a [web form with suggestions](#) that Catholics can send to their elected officials. Visit the “Issues and Action” section of www.usccb.org to take action and for more tips on letter-writing.

Contact your diocesan social action office, pro-life office, or State Catholic Conference for additional letter writing or online advocacy opportunities.

Making Phone Calls

Another important way to make your voice heard is to **call your elected officials**.

Normally the best time to telephone members of Congress or state legislators is when you want them to take immediate action—for example, when there is an upcoming vote and there isn't enough time for an e-mail or a visit. **Here are some tips on what to say on the phone.**

- Ask to **speak to the legislative aide** who handles your particular issue. Write down his/her name.
- **Identify yourself**, your zip code, and phone number so that the legislator can be sure you are a constituent and can get back to you.
- Discuss how this particular issue is connected to your community
- Mention the **number and/or name of the bill** (if applicable) and how you want your legislator to act.
- **Be concise**—don't expect to get into an in-depth discussion. Address the key issue with a few brief supporting points.
- At the end of the call, ask for a commitment to a course of action, and ask the legislative aid to **repeat your request** back to you.

Making a Visit

Taking the time to visit your elected officials **can send a powerful message** about what you care about as a constituent. Your legislator has offices in both your district/state and in D.C. Both are good places to visit your representative. Here are some tips for your visit:

Before the Visit

- **Research** your legislator's voting records, committee assignments, and positions. You can access the legislation they have introduced and cosponsored at the Library of Congress' legislative database, at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). You can also read the statements they have made in the Congressional Record at [congress.gov/congressional-record](https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record)
- Consider searching local media outlets and online for articles and news reports that mention their local initiatives or votes they have taken on issues.
- Visit your elected official's website for information about how to **schedule** your visit. The scheduler will likely want to know what issue(s) you want to talk about so you can meet with the appropriate staff member. If the senator or representative is unavailable, ask for the Legislative Director or the Legislative Assistant who focuses on your issue(s).
- Prepare **background information** about the issue(s) on which you are advocating. Plan to talk about no more than three issues per visit.

During the Visit

- First **introduce** yourself and your role in the community, then give an **overview** of what you want to discuss.
- Next, **present the issues**, discussing each one separately. Provide background information and human interest stories to give a face to the issues.
- If you are asked questions for which you do not know the answers, tell the member or aide that you will get back to him or her—and then do it.
- Conclude by asking the member or aide to **take some concrete action**: cosponsor specific legislation; talk to legislators on the

relevant committee(s); etc. Ask for his or her commitment to your specific request.

After the Visit

- Write a **thank you letter or email** in which you summarize the discussion.
- Finally, don't forget to **follow-up on any commitments** you made during the visit.



Contact your diocesan social action office or State Catholic Conference to see if a Catholic lobby day is being organized where you live!

Issues for Advocacy

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful*

Citizenship, the U.S. bishops lift up various issues of different moral weight and urgency. Read nos. 64-92 to learn more about issues that affect human life and dignity. For example:

- Address abortion and other threats to life and dignity, such as euthanasia, the use of the death penalty, and imprudent resort to war;
- Protect marriage as the basic cell of human society, and children's right to a family with a mother and a father;
- Advocate for unaccompanied immigrant children, refugees and asylum-seekers, and those unnecessarily detained;
- Care for our common home;
- Help families and children overcome poverty;
- Provide healthcare while respecting human life, human dignity and religious freedom; and
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of military force.



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Gospel Reflection

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

July 27, 2025

Gospel - Luke 11: 1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:
 Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.
 Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins
 for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.'
 I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
 For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
 What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?
 Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?
 If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reflection Process

- ◆ **Pray** a simple prayer to the Holy Spirit: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."
- ◆ **Read** the passage slowly. As you listen, ask in silence, "Lord, what are you saying to me in this passage?"
- ◆ **Listen** for a word or phrase that calls your attention or touches your heart.
- ◆ **Share** a brief story or experience of how the word or phrase connects to your life at this moment.
- ◆ **Ask** in silence, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Share what Jesus is inviting you to do.