



The Parish of Saints Philip and James  
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780  
631-584-5454

# November 15th, 2020

## Thirty Third Sunday

### In Ordinary Time

*Your talent is God's gift to you  
What you do with it  
Is your gift back to God*



“Well done, my good and faithful servant”

Matthew 25: 23

“With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be  
Apostles of Hope”

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am  
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

## STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675

Website—www.sspj.org

### PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

### CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

### COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

### DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

### DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

### SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

### TRUSTEES

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato  
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro



**FAITH DIRECT:  
GO TO SSPJ.ORG  
CLICK ON THE FAITH  
DIRECT ICON**

Parish of Saints Philip and  
James account code  
**NY232** when signing up

### Sacraments

**Baptism**— Celebrated twice per month. Parents are asked to register at the Pastoral Center for Pre-Baptism Program.

**Marriage**— Couples are asked to contact the Pastoral Center before visiting the reception hall. The Marriage Preparation process is nine months before your proposed wedding date.

**Confirmation**— Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.


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

**Anointing of the Sick**— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 8:00am mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

**R.C.I.A.**— Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (non-Catholic adults desiring to become Catholic) are asked to contact the Parish Center Office.

**Eucharistic Adoration In The Church**— Monday 1:30pm -7pm

### PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN  
CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN  
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.  
LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES  
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON  
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY  
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN  
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY  
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC  
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS  
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY  
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-  
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF  
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF  
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC  
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC  
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN  
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL  
STEVEN CAVA-USN  
ERIC SEELIN- USMC  
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ  
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN  
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC  
GREGORY DEVANEY- USMC  
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY  
KEVIN JONES-USCG  
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG  
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY  
STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA- US ARMY  
MARIO CATANIA-USMC  
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC  
KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY  
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN  
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC  
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF  
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC  
PAUL MUMOLO-USN  
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG  
KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY  
MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD  
KELLI MCLAUGHLIN- 2ND LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD  
STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY  
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER

**Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:**  
**Weekly Collection: Sunday November 8th, 2020**

**\$17,890.**

**\$ 11,099.**

**Faith Direct : (121 Participants)**

**3,044.**

**Total Weekly Collection:**

**\$14,143.**

*Your continued support of SSPJ is very much appreciated.*

# Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Today we hear the familiar parable of the talents. There are many ways to consider this parable. That's how it is with parables. They get us thinking, wondering, exploring, praying...

Here's part of a reflection I came across by Fr. John Foley, SJ. He was thinking about the third servant who hid his talent out of fear. Fr. Foley reflects:

*In the realm of spirituality, there is one thing I know of that will go away if it is buried, but which gets greater if you use it. Love.*

*If fear closes the door tightly against love, guess where the loveless one will be. In the darkness outside the door, wailing and gnashing those teeth. Without love.*

*Get this: We are all frightened, and God always has compassion upon us. God waits for ages to see if we will not accept just a bit of the love he offers, and if we will even find just enough courage to invest some of it in other people. God is often disappointed in this risk he takes, and I'm sure he says, "oh no, not again" when we fail.*

*But this is the disappointment of someone who loves us very well.  
Let love in. Love casts out fear.*

We are so, so close to reaching our CMA goal!!! If you are able to help us reach it, please do so this week. The rebate is really needed this year to help us catch up -- as is the raffle -- which thanks to you is also going very well. Many thanks for your much needed and appreciated support.

Thanks, too, for your attentiveness to last weekend's explanation of our Pandemic Procedures. As you heard, we are trying to come up with a plan for Christmas and appreciate your input and cooperation. I think we all have favorite seats, yet as you heard, as we try to "make more room in the inn" by moving into the middle of a pew as opposed to the end, by sitting in sections, e.g. sections for families, allows us to accommodate more people while at the same time following social distancing protocols. The procedures are explained again in today's bulletin. Many thanks for your help!

How comfortable are you with change? As we note changes around us -- including the approach of winter and colder temperatures -- consider:

*Change is the very nature of life, welcome it.*

*No glass ever became sand again.*

*No bread ever became wheat.*

*No ripened fruit ever became a flower.*

*Welcome change, and choose what kind of glass you create,  
what kind of bread you bake, what kind of fruit you harvest.*

And, one of my "older" friends sent me these:

*I guess I'm officially old. I just spent 10 minutes chasing an eye floater with a fly swatter.*

*The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone".*

*You know you're getting old when a recliner and heating pad is your idea of a "hot date".*

Peace,

*Father Tom*

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

# Mass Intentions, For the week of November 15th, 2020

**The Bread & Wine  
For the Week of  
November 15th, 2020**

**Is Offered**

**In Memory of  
John Schlee**

**With love,  
Lou Pascalli**

**And  
Gail Pascalli(deceased)**

*We remember....*

**Christopher Stabile**

*Resting in the arms of Jesus*



**Eucharistic Adoration  
-In Church**

**Monday's from 1:30-7pm**

**Remembering in Our Prayers~**

Angie Mingione	Antonette Sabatino
Angela Amoroso	Jeff Posé
Anna Ormsby	Joseph Galletta
Antoinette Fisher	Judy Cunniss
Arthur Gureck	Joe Napolitano
Baby Ben	Judy Rampola
Barbara Bombace	Kathleen N.
Mattia Rose Lubrano	Kitty Cronin
Belinda Groneman	Leon Donach
Belinda Vega	Mary Fresi
Bob Keenan	Maria Clark
Brendan	Marie del Cielo
Claudia Chandler	Matthew Parrella
Daniel Radice	Michael Fisher
Deirdre W.	Mike Lofaro
Dolores North	Monsignor Iocavacci
Donna Patrissi	Pasquale Savarese
Dorothy Mitchell	Peter Donach
Dylan Beach	P.I.
Ellie Walsh	Ricardo Buffit
Ginny & John Rief	Richard Cembrale
Gladys Blake	Riordan Cavooris
Gregory Parker	Sara Jean Andersen
Ida Wehman	Stephen Dolce
Jack Donohue	Theresa Kassay
John Cronin	Tara Cesarski
John DeStefano	Vivien Cordes
J.C.	Victoria Zubrycky
Joseph S.	Vicki Archdeacon
Luis Anthony	William Quinn

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 14th, 2020</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Cazalet EM: L. Sisti	<b>9:15am</b>  <b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Steve Rannazzisi</b>  <b>Joann Ruf</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 15th, 2020</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: S. Cavooris EM: K. Consenz	<b>8am</b>	<b>For The People of SSPJ</b>
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: E. Dobres EM: H. Orlando	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Filomena Fiorelli</b>
	<b>Collective Mass</b> Presider: Father Joe Lector: P. Geier EM: P. Parish	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Bernard Erias Cathy Schock Lieselotte Jones Oskar A. Flach, Jr Lucy Flach Rivelle Virginia Carper</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>November 16th, 2020~</b> St. Margaret of Scotland	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Joseph Intrabartolo</b>
		<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Frank Romanelli</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 17th, 2020~</b> St. Elizabeth of Hungary	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Judith Frampton</b>
		<b>9:15am</b>	<b>MaryAnne Cooke</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 18th, 2020~</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Catherine Cesa</b>
		<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Joseph Molloy</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>November 19th, 2020~</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>Living-Pasquale Savarese</b>
	<b>Collective Mass</b>	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Eileen Frazita</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>November 20th, 2020~</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	
		<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Julius Varricchio</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 21st, 2020~</b> Presentation of the Virgin Mary Presider: Father Joe Lector: R. Donegan EM: D. Anderson	<b>9:15am</b>  <b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Joyce Gibson</b>  <b>Vincenza Colantropo</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 22nd, 2020</b> Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Auletta EM: C. Czujko	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>For the People of SSPJ</b>
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Kaiser EM: L. Sisti	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Edward H.L. Smith</b>
	<b>Collective Mass</b> Presider: Father Tom Lector: L. Just EM: P. Parish	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Noel Gaines Anna Ormsby Kenneth Rathjen Donna DiIorio</b>



Shout  
joyfully  
to the  
LORD,  
all the  
earth;



Break  
forth  
and sing  
for joy  
and sing  
praises.

Psalms 98:1

Join us for an afternoon of Praise and Worship in  
Thanksgiving for our many Blessings

Sunday – November 22, 2020

Sts. Philip & James Church

3 – 5 pm.

Scripture Readings ~ Reflections and Meditation ~

Songs of Praise and Worship

Due to Covid distancing – seating is limited to 125 guest

Call 631-584-5454 to make a reservation or email:

[vportanova@sspj.org](mailto:vportanova@sspj.org)

Free will offering at door

Call the Parish Office For additional information

### News from the SSPJ Religious Education Team~

With a great many blessings from above, our religious education program is well underway bringing lessons and instruction directly into the homes and lives of our Religious Ed Students and Families. Our online google classrooms came to life on October 4<sup>th</sup> - delivering "one -on -one" instruction to our students in grades 1-8.



Google Classroom

Though there were a few technical obstacles in the beginning, the response has been positive and welcoming. The ease of transitioning into the homes of our families has afforded the Religious Education Coordinators the ability to reach out to each student with positive encouragement and rapid response to questions.

As we enter the Christmas season, Google Classroom will begin to deliver Advent messages and "acts of service" suggestions for our students and families. More details will follow in next weeks bulletin.



### SPECIAL NEEDS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:

The special needs religious education program has begun a new year.

This extraordinary program was always held on Saturdays within the school building. Due to Covid concerns the program is home based this year. All lesson materials are provided for parents to teach at home. Additional support is being offered to meet the needs of our students and families and we are looking forward to another wonderful year.

If you have any questions regarding this program or may be considering this program for your family, please contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-5454 x215. or email: [msehne@sspj.org](mailto:msehne@sspj.org)

Thank you, The SSPJ Special Needs Religious Education Team

## *A Note to Our Parishioners and Visitors...*

Hello and welcome to Saint Philip and James Parish We understand the hesitation and uncertainty some feel about returning to indoor events including church. We hope to clarify some of your concerns by reviewing our church attendance with you. At the forefront of our procedures is always the reverence of our Holy place and the safety and well-being of our parish family while adhering to all guidelines given by the Department of Health (DOH), the Center for Disease Controls (CDC), the Diocese of Rockville Centre (DRVC) and local government agencies

Our church has been open every day since the start of this pandemic. Since mid-March our doors have been open for personal prayer from 7 am -7 pm daily and 7 am - 5 pm on Sunday. We have offered live-streaming Mass every day and have added live-streaming events and Mass times as needed. We are joy-filled to see our Parishioners once again seated in our pews and to hear your voices fill the hollow echo of empty space. It is our prayer to welcome you all back into our church walls to congregate as a loving and faith-filled parish community.

We ask you to bear in mind that while we are many parishes under the direction of DRVC, we are each individual and what works for one parish may not necessarily work for another. We respect the efforts each parish is making to welcome home their parishioners especially during the Christmas Season.

We are going to try and explain to you what works in our parish - policies, procedures and protocols that have been instructed by the DOH, CDC, and DRVC.

We ask that you MAKE a RESERVATION to attend Mass - contact tracing importance. Knowing attendance beforehand allows for strategic seating to accommodate all wishing to attend Mass

ALL MUST wear a MASK in church. You may remove the mask only to consume Holy Communion and replace while returning to your seat. Communion is not permitted to be distributed or received with gloved hands.

There is a SANITIZING STATION in the church lobby as well as in the church body. All are asked to sanitize upon entering and leaving church. Entrance to church is through THE CENTER DOORS ONLY.

An USHER GREETER will welcome you and guide you to your seat. This seat may not be where you May have sat for the past 5+ years and we ask you to understand these difficult times and our desire to fill the pews allowing as many fellow parishioners in our church as safely possible. Our church and stained glass windows are beautiful - take this time to enjoy a new view and appreciate the beauty of our church from a different view.

SEATING is limited and spaced allowing 6 ft recommendations. Every other pew is available for seating. X's marked on the open pew - denotes the 6 ft of distancing. These restrictions control the number allowable in our church body. While we can normally accommodate 700-800 that is now reduce to 400 due to pew elimination alone and reduced even further 130-150 allowing 6 ft distancing between neighbors. Families / couples may sit next to each other and need not distance the 6 feet between each other but must follow 6 ft distancing between pew neighbor.

## *A Note to Our Parishioners and Visitors, continued....*

TRAFFIC PATTERNS are in place to reduce cross contamination between cohorts (groups). We are advised NOT to ask someone to "move over" after they have sat in a seat. We should not "climb over" or "pass in front of" others. One way traffic patterns are marked on the flooring as well as 6 ft space markers.

BOOKLETS, missals, and papers are not permitted in church. BULLETINS, limited in print, are available on the back pews but will not be handed out. Bulletins are available on line for your convenience. You may follow along with the reading using personal booklets or by following the link on our website to USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops). If using your cell phone be sure to shut off volume and sounds.

You will notice only ONE LECTOR during Mass for the readings. The CANTOR will remain at the lectern throughout Mass. To maintain safety precautions movement and people in the sanctuary is limited.

DISTRIBUTION of HOLY COMMUNION is followed most reverently and prayerfully. Our Presider will Don a mask and sanitize his hands. He will be assisted by one Extraordinary Minister who will distribute Communion to the back half of our church. PLEASE follow the DIRECTION of the USHERS. Cohorts will be directed to receive Communion separately. Cohorts will not criss-cross the center aisle. Careful measure has been taken to assure safe distancing between cohorts crossing each other when walking to and from Communion distribution. You are to remove you mask when you are receiving Communion - step to the side - consume Communion - replace your mask and continue back to your seat.

At the END of MASS traffic Patterns will flow from the SIDE AISLES to EXIT church. The side doors will be open and you are to exit from those doors.

Once again an usher will direct the movement of pews exiting. Please maintain distancing between neighbor when exiting, giving careful consideration to our elderly who may move a little slower.

You may remain in church after mass to pray or light a candle, however, we ask that you exit as soon as possible as we have staff that comes in AFTER EVERY MASS to CLEAN and SANITIZE the pews, door handles, restrooms and more before the next Mass begins.

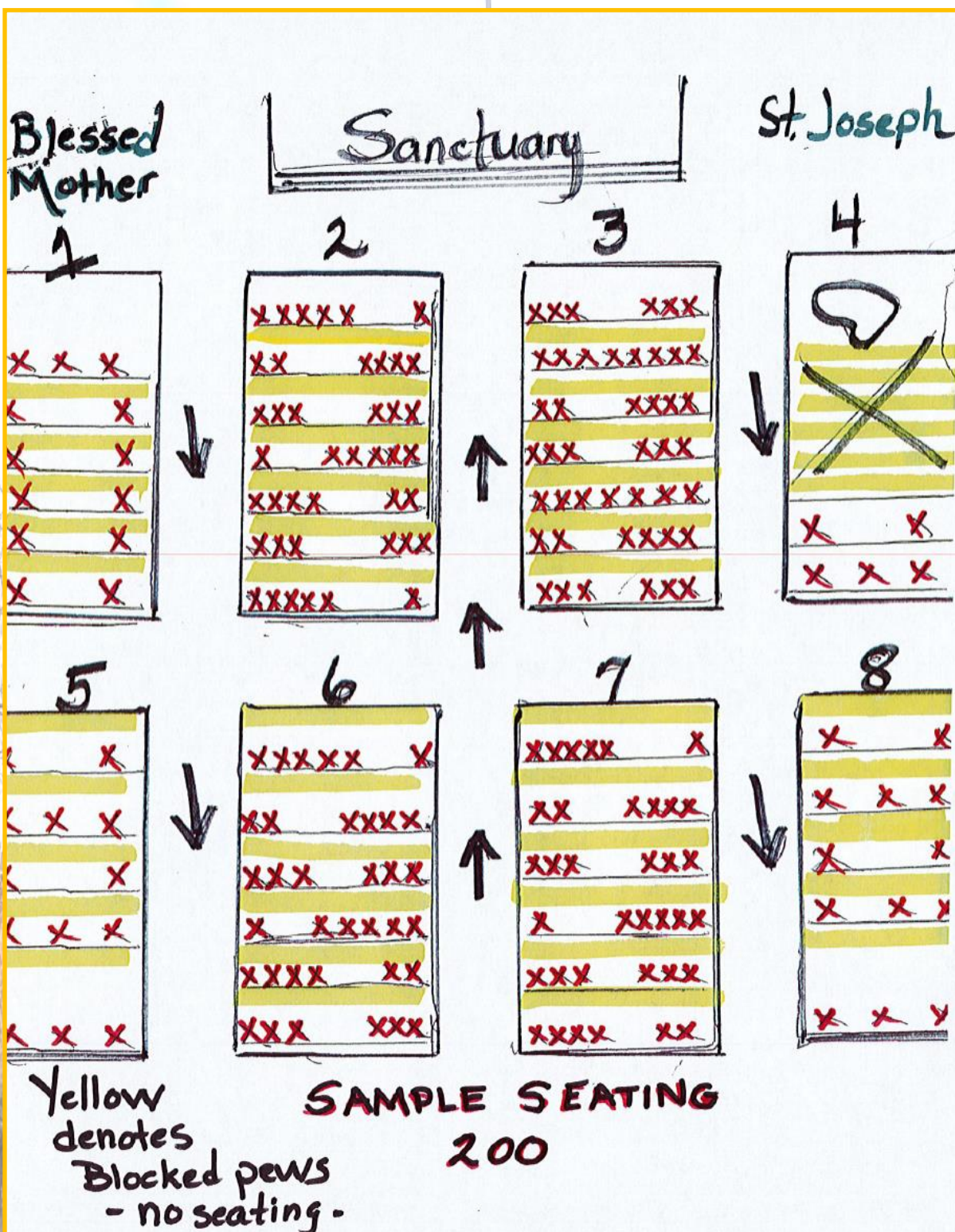
COLLECTION BASKETS are in the CHURCH LOBBY during Mass. We appreciate everyone's continued generosity and certainly understand the hardships during these times. We are not permitted to pass a collection basket, however, contributions may be dropped into the baskets at church, mailed or delivered to the Parish Center

We are making every effort to keep all within our church healthy and safe. We welcome your return with us and look forward to the day we can remove restrictions and join together in full. Until then we hold you and your family and friends circle in our daily prayer at Mass. We miss you all.

We pray for you in Thanksgiving and hope you see you during the Christmas Season.



**Seating Flow Inside SSPJ Church  
During COVID~2020**



**THIS DRAWING ACCOMODATES APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE  
2 FEET PER PERSON WITH 6 FEET OF SPACE BETWEEN GROUPS  
CENTER PEWS ARE 18 FOOT IN LENGTH**



## ~Thanksgiving 2020~

*To promote the independence of our service users and to better respect their dignity, we would like to empower them to make their own choices for a holiday dinner.*

*Therefore, again this year, we would appreciate more supermarket gift cards or monetary contributions and less in the way of food items.*

*Your donations may either be placed in the basket in an envelope clearly marked PSM or be brought to the parish office during the day.*

*Distribution to our clients will be on Thursday, November 19th to allow them shopping time.*

*As ever, thank you for your heartfelt generosity.*

The crisis in creation is real. People, animals and plants are dying because we human beings have abused God's world. It must be addressed by everyone in society, including the Church.



### Filling A Families Home with Needed Items



CANNED CHICKEN

PAPER TOWELS

SIZE 6 DIAPERS

KING KULLEN & STOP & SHOP  
GIFT CARDS

GAS GIFT CARDS

*Thank you for sharing your treasure.*

### THE GABRIEL SEEKS SUBMISSIONS

The editors of our parish magazine, The Gabriel, are preparing a Christmas edition. The staff is soliciting articles to be included in this edition. Guidelines for submission are as follows:

- Articles should be prepared in Microsoft Word using Arial 12 point font, single spaced, and should not exceed 500 words.
- The deadline for submission is Wed., Nov. 25, 2020.
- While there is no specific theme for this edition, it will be distributed on Christmas. Topics appropriate to the season are welcome.

Articles may be submitted by email to Elena Mingione at [emingione55@yahoo.com](mailto:emingione55@yahoo.com). You may also get additional information about The Gabriel by contacting Elena at this same address.

*"God has placed people around you who need what you can give."*

A photograph showing a group of people's hands clasped together in a circle, suggesting a community or prayer group. The text 'Holiness is... sharing our strengths and giftedness' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters.

**Holiness is...**  
**sharing our**  
**strengths and**  
**giftedness**

Good News Ministries : [gnm.org](http://gnm.org)

# **CHRISTMAS ~ 2020**

**We are asking your help...**

***We are planning a Christmas Mass schedule to accommodate room at the Inn for all who wish to celebrate this beautiful day.***

***Appreciating your help always, we ask that you complete this survey and submit your response to SSPJ.org Or call the Parish Center at 631-584-5454.***

***PLEASE NOTE: AT THIS TIME NO MASS TIMES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR CHRISTMAS***

***(Circle which applies)***

***A. I PLAN TO ATTEND MASS THIS CHRISTMAS IN CHURCH(APPROX. FAMILY CNT: \_\_\_\_\_)***

***B. I REMAIN UNCOMFORTABLE AND WOULD PREFER LIVE STREAMED MASS***

***C. I AM NOT QUITE SURE YET HOW I WILL ATTEND-EITHER IN PERSON OR LIVE  
STREAMED  
I AM LEANING TOWARD LIVE STREAM.***

***D. I AM CONSIDERING ATTENDING MASS IN OUR CHURCH.***

***Please reply by November 11th, 2020.***

***The safety and well-being of all in our Parish Family is of the utmost importance. Every safety measure by the CDC, DOH, DRVC is being followed in our church.***

***RESERVATIONS will be required to plan for the maximum allowable attendance and, more importantly, for contact tracing.***

***All are required to wear a Mask while in church –ONLY TO BE REMOVED WHEN CONSUMING HOLY COMMUNION.***

***Six feet social distancing between neighbors will be adhered to.***

***FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO SIT WITH EACH OTHER-NO NEED TO SOCIAL DISTANCE WITHIN FAMILY GROUPS.***

***Hand sanitizing is recommended upon entering the Church at the designated station, as well as when leaving the Church.***

***OUR CHURCH IS CLEANED AND SANITIZED AFTER EVERY MASS.***

***It is our desire to offer as many Masses needed to accommodate our Parishioners and all those who visit our Church during this Christmas season and always.***

***If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Office at 631-584-5454x202.***

***Thank you, be well, be safe, be grateful....***



# HELP SSPJ

## GET BACK ON TRACK

**\$25  
Each**



**3 for  
\$50**

Help us recoup lost revenue so we may continue good works as Apostles of Hope to those in our parish, neighboring communities and in our world.

Raffle tickets will not be sold after Mass  
and will only be available through this mailing.

We will have a few additional raffles at the Rectory Office for those interested.

Please consider purchasing a ticket to help us off-set the additional unexpected cost associated with maintenance and cleaning during this pandemic time.

Tickets may be returned in the collection baskets in the church lobby or dropped off at the rectory office.

If you have any questions, please contact Virginia at the rectory office 631-584-5454.

In the event of less than 1000 tickets sold – prizes will be adjusted accordingly.

**\$25 each or 3 for \$50**

**\$5,000 • GRAND PRIZE**

**\$2,500 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

**\$1,500 • 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize •**

**\$500 • 4<sup>th</sup> Prize**



**Drawing November 22<sup>nd</sup>**





## Reflecting with Sister T

November 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

*Being in a curious mode, I checked one of my resources, the book **Lights, Camera, Faith...! A Movie Lectionary** to see which movie went with this coming week's readings. The movie was **October Sky**. I have never seen it, but the description was very intriguing. So, I will share some insights.*

*According to the book, "The film contrasts two world views, showing the limitations of underground mining and the limitless frontiers of space." It is about the relationship of a father and son. Like the servants in the Gospel reading, the young son Homer is gifted with many talents but must struggle with his father (who thinks he should be a miner) to use them well. During these past few months, I have come to know many gifted people who are struggling to use their talents. I have also observed some behaviors that are tough to deal with. Entitlement, the need to be right, selfishness, and disregard for the opinions of others. "Don't tell me what to do" seems to be the new mantra.*

*In the movie, young Homer, who is very talented in science, is at constant odds with his father. Homer has and does use his equivalent of the ten talents given by the master in the Gospel reading. Eventually, he teams up with another student who is also scientifically gifted. Because Homer has been faithful to his calling, he gets to "join in the master's happiness" when he is hired by NASA to train astronauts for shuttle missions.*

*In this situation, working together and being persistent has paid off. I am wondering if we took the time to listen to one another and perhaps just changed our perspective on some things, this world might be a more peaceful place. During this pandemic, we are sort of stuck in the "limitations of underground mining" as opposed to the "limitless frontiers of space." Change is hard, but without it there is no growth. I just read this quote by Trina Paulus: "To become a butterfly, you must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar."*

*My prayer for you this week is for you to have that desire to fly. Let us also keep in prayer all those talented people who struggle to use their talents. May they be surrounded by friends who will cheer them on to serve the Father's Kingdom.*

*Till next week,*

*Sister Theresita*

*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength ; they will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ~TEAM RCIA EDUCATION SERIES

This educational series is brought to us by the RCIA Team, utilizing Zoom sessions. For more information or to join in, kindly email Michael Hoonhout at [michael.hoonhout@gmail.com](mailto:michael.hoonhout@gmail.com)

November 15	33rd Sunday	God the Father
November 22nd	Christ The King	Jesus Christ

*"Shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life" Phil 2:15*

## *We Welcome All to Participate in Our 2020 Tree Lighting Ceremony*

*Saturday, November 28th, 2020 after the 5:00mass*

*This event offers a wonderful opportunity to remember in your hearts  
"the lights of your loved ones" during this holiday season.*

*Our Christmas tree located on the front lawn of the rectory  
will be lit as the names of our loved ones are read aloud...*

*Hot cocoa and Cookie reception immediately follows.*

*Those who wish to remember their loved ones with this special tribute, are asked to  
complete the form below and return it to the Parish center office by the following  
dates:*

*Wednesday, November 25th ~ For name to be announced at the tree lighting  
ceremony*

*Tuesday, December 8th ~ For names to be published in our Christmas bulletin  
All names received by December 8th will be printed in our Christmas bulletin*

### *Annual Tree Lighting Memorial*

*Let the Light  
of:*

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*Illuminate the SSPJ Christmas Tree this Christmas season and in my heart.  
Remembered by:*

*Contact#:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount Paid:    Number of Names \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 per name = Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*Please place this form in an envelope with payment and return to Parish center office by: November 25th for  
name to be read at Tree lighting ceremony or December 8th to be included in the Christmas bulletin*

## WE ARE ALMOST AT OUR 2020 CMA GOAL OF \$111,000.!

Dear Parish Family,

For several months we have shared our movement forward, ever so slowly, toward reaching Sts. Philip & James 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$111,000.

We never lose that wonderful feeling of gratitude for the generosity of all who have assisted us on our journey upward.

As the seasons change and we approach a new year, let us be grateful for each day we rise and each day we think of those struggling before us.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal does just that, and only because of people like us, Apostles who HOPE, who think of and remain open to opportunities to serve.

Your contributions to the CMA Appeal feed, warm, care, support and touch so many different lives afflicted with hardship.

For SSPJ Parish, reaching our goal for the Catholic Ministries appeal means continued assistance to warm, care, support and touch all who extend to us the opportunity to serve.

As we near the end of a challenging year, won't you, if able, make a donation to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal?



As we enter the final months of 2020, it is important to take a look back and see how the Catholic Ministries Appeal was present in our Church and community. In June and September, the DRVC celebrated the ordinations of 2 men to the priesthood and 9 men to the Permanent Diaconate. Throughout the lockdown, our youth and young adult ministries were virtually and spiritually connected thanks to the efforts of our DRVC ministries. Catholic Charities along with local parish outreach offices provided care and resources to individuals in need.



It is thanks to people like YOU who make the sacrifice to give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal so that the Good News of Christ can be spread across Long Island. If you have not made a gift yet for this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal, it is not too late! Every gift makes a difference because every gift is restricted to the ministries the Appeal serves. On behalf of everyone who is touched by your gift, thank you so much.

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO THE 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal! Every Gift Makes a Difference in the Lives of Others.**

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
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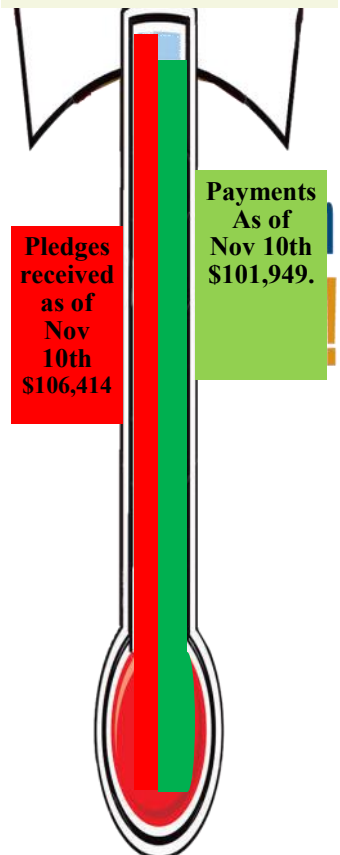
To make an online donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA>

**THANK YOU!!**

Catholic Ministries Appeal, Diocese of Rockville Centre, P.O. Box 4000, Rockville Centre, New York 11571

**Payments increased by: \$1,450 which is 92% of goal. Pledges increased by: \$1,300. which brings us to 96% of goal!**

**2020 CMA GOAL \$111,000**





## CONGRATULATIONS SSPT SCHOOL- OCTOBER APOSTLES OF HOPE!

### Apostles of Hope October 2020

#### Pre-K A

**Gerard Apoe** is an Apostle of Hope. Gerard comes into school every day with a smile on his face and ready to learn. He is always willing to help his friends in the classroom with their learning and loves to talk about Jesus. He is very patient with all his friends and always follows directions just like Jesus.

#### Pre-K B

**Antonio Spampinato** is an Apostle of Hope. Antonio works hard and always shows his best work. There was even a week that homework was not assigned and he still wanted to work, so he handed in work he did from home. Antonio is excited about learning new things and always participates. Antonio's hardwork and participation make him an excellent follower of Jesus.

#### Kindergarten

**Kyle Prew** is an Apostle of Hope. Kyle comes in every day ready to learn. He has an excitement for learning that is contagious!!! He loves to learn about Math and Science especially. He is a hard worker and sets a wonderful example to his classmates. He also loves to sing about God's love every day.

**Daniel Wille** is an Apostle of Hope. Daniel is a sweet boy with excellent manners. He works hard and tries his best every day. He is a talented artist and loves to add artistic elements to his work whenever he has the chance. He is very respectful to his teacher and classmates. He is a wonderful example of what Jesus would do.

#### Grade 1

**Emanuella DosSantos** is an Apostle of Hope. Ella is new to our school this year and has been a great addition to our class. Ella has such beautiful manners from the second she walks into our classroom until the end of the day at dismissal. Ella is always willing to participate in class, and help her classmates if they need help. Ella strives to work to her fullest potential, and continues to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

**Devin Kelly** is an Apostle of Hope. Devin comes into class everyday greeting his teacher and classmates. Devin works very hard in all subject areas, and strives to practice his reading and writing skills. Devin enjoys assisting his teacher throughout the day when assistance is needed. Devin continues to show great sportsmanship to his classmates and cheers them on with every achievement. Devin is a wonderful follower of Jesus.



#### Grade 2

**Olivia Matera** is an Apostle of Hope. Olivia comes to school every day with a smile on her face. Olivia works hard each day and is always ready for a challenge. Olivia shows she is a follower of Jesus by her actions. She is a good friend to her classmates and treats everyone with respect. Olivia likes to share a smile with her brother and cousin when she sees them in school. Olivia is a great role model!

**Sebastian Martinez** is an Apostle of Hope. Sebastian is a great addition to our school this year. He is a wonderful role model to all. Sebastian is a follower of Jesus each day in our class. He comes to school each day ready to do his best work. He is polite and friendly to his peers throughout the day. Sebastian treats others the way Jesus would treat us.

#### Grade 3

**Antonella Franco** is an Apostle of Hope. She comes to school each day ready to learn. Antonella is kind and considerate to all her classmates. She loves to write and share her stories with the class. Antonella is a best friend to everyone in the class.

#### Grade 4

**Samantha DosSantos** is an Apostle of Hope. She has made a wonderful transition to her new school. She works hard every day and always tries her best. Samantha is eager to practice and participate in the new prayers at her school each morning. She is friendly to all of her classmates and she enjoys making friends. She is a wonderful role model to her peers.

**Lucas Hoffmann** is an Apostle of Hope. Lucas works hard each day. He continuously puts effort into all of his assignments. He enjoys reading and participating to read aloud in class. Lucas is kind to all of his peers and he shows compassion for others. Lucas always strives to do his very best!





## Apostles of Hope October 2020

### Grade 5

**Jack Carey** is an Apostle of Hope. Jack has adjusted really well to the new school atmosphere and new way of learning. He is always saying "yes my Lord," being a positive role model to his classmates and being polite to all he comes in contact with. Jack is an active participant in class and is kind to his friends.

### Grade 6

**Alexandra Paredes** is an Apostle of Hope. Alexandra has been such a wonderful addition to our school this year. She has been so kind and friendly to her new classmates. She is engaged during Daily Mass and has been working very hard on her Saints Presentation. Alexandra is a beautiful disciple of Jesus because she is always so kind and does what is right. We are so happy that she is now a part of the SSPJ family!

### Grade 7

**Brendan Kieran** is an Apostle of Hope. Brendan comes to school prepared to conquer each day as it comes. Brendan is enthusiastic about learning and has a thirst for knowledge. He helps to bring classroom conversations to a new level, participating and adding a thoughtful point of view. Brendan is kind and inclusive to all; he walks in every morning with a smile on his face.

### Grade 8

**Nicholas Fazzini** is an Apostle of Hope. Nick is outgoing and a good friend to all the students in the class. Nick is trying his best in class and always asks questions when he does not understand a concept. Nick has a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning. He always seems happy and spreads his happiness to the class.



### Faculty

**Miss Kelly** is an Apostle of Hope. Rain or shine Miss Kelly can always be found in the recess yard taking temperatures as students get off the bus. She graciously transitioned from Nursery assistant to Grade 5 and 6 assistant. Miss Kelly's big heart and kindness is a gift to all.

**Mrs. Falco** is an Apostle of Hope. Mrs. Falco has been on double duty and she continues to take on new challenges daily. Mrs. Falco always says "Yes" and can be found going in and out of the classrooms helping our faculty, staff and students with technical assistance.

**Mrs. Gallagher** is an Apostle of Hope. Mrs. Gallagher comes in on her days off and helps out taking temperatures of all the staff members and Pre-K students. Even though her Library is closed due to Covid-19 she brings her special books and love of reading into all of the classrooms. God Bless you Mrs. Gallagher.



## Music Ministry

Remember to check the website for the music for the following week.

It's easy. Go to the Parish website, [sspj.org](http://sspj.org), click on Prayers and Reflections from Fr. Tom and scroll down. Once you have the music titles you go to google to find the words and print for you own use. If you have a 2019 Music Issue, I also have the numbers.

You are ready to praise God through music.

Just soft in church loud at home.

There are fun things happening in the music ministry.  
Stay tuned and find out.

## THE LAW OF GRAVITY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

*God is erotically charged and the world is achingly amorous, hence they caress each other in mutual attraction and filiation.*

Jewish philosopher Martin Buber made that assertion, and while it seems to perfectly echo the opening line of St. Augustine's autobiography (*"You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."*) it hints at something more. St. Augustine was talking about an insatiable ache inside the human heart which keeps us restless and forever aware that everything we experience is not enough because the finite unceasingly aches for the infinite, and the infinite unceasingly lures the finite. But St. Augustine was speaking of the human heart, about the restlessness and pull towards God that's felt there.

Martin Buber is talking about that too, but he's also talking about a restlessness, an incurable pull towards God, that's inside all of nature, inside the universe itself. It isn't just people who are achingly amorous, it's the whole world, all of nature, the universe itself.

What's being said here? In essence, Buber is saying that what's felt inside the human heart is also present inside every element within nature itself, in atoms, molecules, stones, plants, insects, and animals. There's the same ache for God inside everything that exists, from a dead planet, to a black hole, to a redwood tree, to our pet dogs and cats, to the heart of a saint. And in that there's no distinction between the spiritual and the physical. The one God who made both is drawing them both in the same way.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who was both a scientist and a mystic, believed this interplay between the energy flowing from an erotically charged God and that flowing back from an amorous world, is the energy that undergirds the very structure of the universe, physical and spiritual. For Teilhard, the law of gravity, atomic activity, photosynthesis, ecosystems, electromagnetic fields, animal instinct, sexuality, human friendship, creativity, and altruism, all draw on and manifest one and the same energy, an energy that is forever drawing all things towards each other. If that is true, and it is, then ultimately the law of gravity and the Holy Spirit are part of one and the same energy, one and the same law, one and the same interplay of eros and response.

At first glance it may seem rather unorthodox theologically to put people and physical nature on the same plane. Perhaps too, it some might find it offensive to speak of God as "erotically charged". So let me address those concerns.

In terms of God relating to physical nature, orthodox Christian theology and our scriptures affirm that God's coming to us in Christ in the incarnation is an event not just for people, but also for physical creation itself. When Jesus says he has come to save the world he is, in fact, talking about the world and not just the people in the world. Physical creation, no less than humanity, is God's child and God intends to redeem all of his children. Christian theology has never taught that the world will be destroyed at the end of time, but rather (as St. Paul says) physical creation will be transformed and enter into the glorious liberty of the children of God. How will the physical world go to heaven? We don't know; though we can't conceptualize how we will go there either. But we know this: the Christ who took on flesh in the incarnation is also the Cosmic Christ, that is, the Christ through whom all things were made and who binds all creation together. Hence theologians speak of "deep incarnation", namely, of the Christ-event as going deeper than simply saving human beings, as saving physical creation itself.

I can appreciate too that there will be some dis-ease in my speaking of God as "erotic", given that today we generally identify that word with sex. But that's not the meaning of the word. For the Greek philosophers, from whom we took this word, *eros* was identified with love, and with love in all its aspects. Eros did mean sexual attraction and emotional obsession, but it also meant friendship, playfulness, creativity, common sense, and altruism. Eros, properly understood, includes all of those elements, so even if we identify eros with sexuality, there still should be no discomfort in applying this to God. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and thus our sexuality reflects something inside the nature of God. A God who is generative enough to create billions of galaxies and is continually creating billions of people, clearly is sexual and fertile in ways beyond our conception. Moreover, the relentless ache inside of every element and person in the universe for unity with something beyond itself has one and the same thing in mind, consummation in love with God who is Love.

So, in reality, the law of gravity and the gifts of the Holy Spirit have one and the same aim.



November 22, 2020 • Christ, King of the Universe • Year A

## Longing for a Leader

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

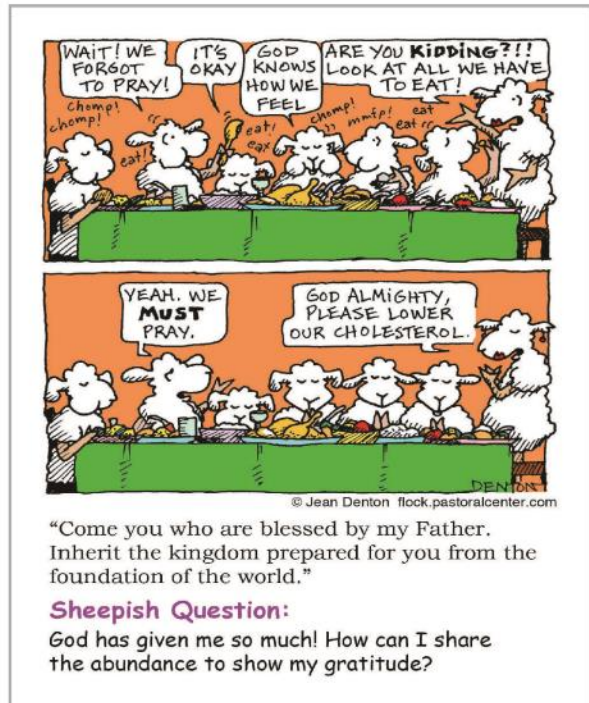
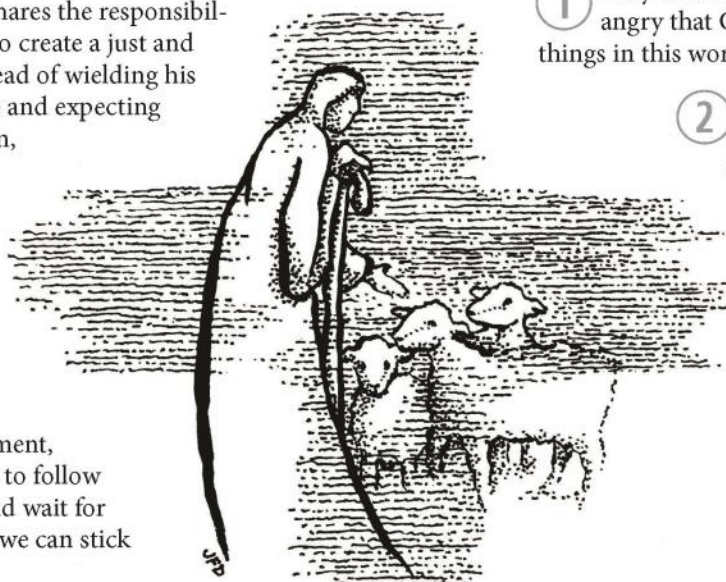
- Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 The Lord as Shepherd
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 - The last enemy to be destroyed
- Matthew 25:31-46 - The sheep and the goats

At the heart of the celebration of Christ the King (which always falls on the last Sunday of the year before Advent begins) is an understanding of Jesus as a king who was very different from the king whom the Jews expected would come to save them. They were awaiting a leader who would liberate their nation from their worldly oppressors. The modern-day equivalent for American Christians might be a longing for a leader to unify Republican, Democrats, and independents, a leader who can usher in understanding and peace between natives and immigrants, equality between men and women, reconciliation and unity between whites and people of color.

It is a mystery why Jesus didn't come to the Jews in the form they expected, nor does he come to us today making sweeping changes from the top down. Maybe there are times when we are disappointed and confused—like Jesus' contemporary Jews—because he didn't "fix" the world for them, and he won't "fix" it for us.

Instead of overriding humanity's free will, this king of ours shares the responsibility with *everyone* to create a just and loving world. Instead of wielding his power over people and expecting others to serve him, our king equates himself with the lowly: the hungry, naked, sick, and imprisoned, and he asks us to help *them*.

In our disappointment, we can choose *not* to follow Christ the King and wait for another leader, or we can stick



"Come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

### Sheepish Question:

God has given me so much! How can I share the abundance to show my gratitude?

with Jesus and get busy serving the least among us. We may never understand in this lifetime why Jesus works the way he does, but if we believe him and trust in him, we will want to serve him by serving others so that ultimately we can share in his Kingdom.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 Do you ever feel disappointed or even angry that God doesn't come and fix things in this world? In what way?
- 2 How are you being invited to serve Jesus better by serving the least of your brothers and sister?

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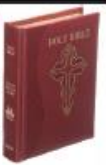
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