

The Parish of Saints Philip and James 1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

May 16th, 2021 Seventh Sunday of Easter



"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel

to every creature"

Mark 16:15

"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

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

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890.

Weekly Collection: Sunday May 9th, 2021: \$10,102. Faith Direct: (126Participants) *3,253*. **Total Collections:** \$ 13,355.

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON: USING SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

scrolling down the page https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc

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— Monday1:30pm -7pm



<u>PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS</u> 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-USI ERIC SEELIN- USMC **CW2 CHRIS MUNZ** CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY KEVIN JONES-USCG PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA- US ARMY IAFF SG1. ANTHONY SCIAME 11A- US ARWITMARIO 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 MILMOLOLISM

PAUL MUMOLO-USN VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD KELLI MCLAUGHLIN- LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

As you probably know, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has declared Bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

In order to be as helpful as possible to the parties that may be affected by this bankruptcy, we will be publishing the following note regarding "proof of claim forms" for the next few months: Information regarding the deadlines for filing proofs of claim in the Diocese's chapter 11 case and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese's bankruptcy website and

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Next weekend we celebrate Pentecost, the great feast of the beginnings of the church. Yes, it's time for the wearing of the **RED**, a traditional color for the Holy Spirit, to mark the feast of Pentecost. Jesus promised to send the Spirit as our Advocate, our Helper, One who deepens in us the gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, courage, right judgment, reverence and wonder and awe. So as we take down our Paschal Lambs and we extinguish the light on our Paschal Candle which has been lit at every Mass this Easter season, we allow the Spirit to lead us as Apostles of Hope to love and to serve. We ask for the grace begin to recreate ourselves as we discover together a new normal. As Apostles of Hope, may we reflect the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We are the Church together!

The following directives were issued by the diocese on Friday, May 6th:

Beginning May 19, 2021, 100% of your church's capacity may be occupied. However, some social distancing should remain in place as best as possible. There is a great deal of debate within the scientific community about the effectiveness of social distancing, and regulations vary from state to state. Schools are encouraged to remain at 3 feet, while business is at 6 feet. Currently, the New York State regulation is still 6 feet. However, many of our parishes are quickly reaching capacity, making this very challenging. Therefore, we can only do our best.

- Encourage people to be reasonable, to continue to wear masks and to maintain some distance. 6 feet is not a "magic number" for protection, and we do not need to be exact.
- Those who do not belong to the same household/family should try to maintain some distance.
- -Tape/rope/pew dividers can be removed completely while the above points are observed.

Many thanks to the members of our "Dream Team" for so graciously providing for our first "re-gathering" following Sunday's 10am Mass and May Crowning. The Dream Team will meet this week and hopefully I'll have more news for you next week.

Our young ones continue to receive First Holy Communion at the Saturday 9:15 Mass. Let's be sure to congratulate them and welcome them to the Lord's table.

Please help to spread the word that registration for Religious Education begins June 1st. Early registration enables us to order sufficient books for all our children. Thanks!

And,

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time.

While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today."

After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

Peace,



Mass Intentions, For the week of May 16th, 2021



Eucharistic Adoration Monday's from 1:30pm-7pm

In the Church

Banns of Marriage <u>Second</u>

Sean Patrick Kelly (Infant Jesus) to Emily Mae Guerra(SSPJ)

Kevin Theofield (St. Anthony of Padua) to Victoria Lettieri (SSPJ)

Remembering in Our Prayers~

Angie Mingione Angela Amoroso Anna Ormsby Avery Akhogba Arthur Gureck Baby Ben Barbara Bombace Barbara Ruland Mattia Rose Lubrano Belinda Groneman Belinda Vega Brianna Florio **Bob Keenan** Carol Carolyn Nehl Charles Figliosi Claudia Chandler Daniel Radice Deirdre W. **Dolores North** Donna Patrissi Dorothy Mitchell Dylan Beach Ed Hildebrandt Ella Ellie Walsh Ginny & John Rief Gladys Blake Gregory Parker Helen Ida Wehman Joanna Jack Donohue John Cronin John DeStefano

Joseph S.

Luis Anthony Antonette Sabatino James Macchiano John Harney Jim Hanrahan Judy Rampola Joseph Costa Kathleen N. Kitty Cronin Leon Donach Lynn McDonnell Mark Geld Mark Hildreth Mary Fresi Maryann Kevlin Maria Clark Marie del Ciello Marilyn Suli Matthew Parrella Marie & Frank Fiecco Michael Fisher Mike Lofaro Monsignor Ĭocavacci Pasquale Savarese Paul Bertrand Peter Donach Ricardo Buffit Riordan Cavooris Sara Jean Andersen Stephen Dolce Tara Cesarski Tom Kiernan Vivien Cordes Vicki Archdeacon Veronica Broderick

	Saturday	May 15th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe	9:15am	Mother's Day Novena
		Lector: M. Dreschler EM: D. Anderson	5:00pm	Angelina Gargano
	Sunday	May 16th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Auletta EM: C. Czujko	8am	For the People of SSPJ
		Presider: Father Tom Lector: R. Donegan EM: K. Consenz	10:00am	Mother's Day Novena
000000000000000000000000000000000000000		Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector: L. Kenton EM: B. Luna	12:00рт	Maria & Nicola Stallone Frances Dara Ann Fisher Brennan M. Blum Donald Rizzi Carolyn Barathy Living-Pasquale Savarese
	Monday	May 17th 2021	7:30am	Mother's Day Novena
000	•		9:15am	Sophia Cyganowski
00	Tuesday	May 18th, 2021	7:30am	Joseph Cangeleri
00		St. John Paul I, Pope	9:15am	Salvatore Meringolo
	Wednesday	May 19th, 2021	7:30am	Living-Peter Castellotti, Jr
***			9:15am	Living– John Hearney
	Thursday	May 20th, 2021 St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest	7:30am 9:15am	Joseph Clarke <u>Collective Mass:</u> Jose Colon Frank Saladino Rachel Walsh Genee Hartnett
	Friday	May 21st, 2021 St. Christopher Magallanes	7:30am 9:15am	Living-Peter Castellotti, Jr. Sophia & Daniel Cyganowski
	Saturday	May 22nd, 2021 St. Rita of Cascia Presider: Father Tom	9:15am	John "Jack" Powers
		Lector: B. Thompson EM: A. Mantia	5:00pm	John Barra
	Sunday	May 23rd, 2021 Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Willman EM: M. Koke	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
		Presider: Father Joe Lector: E. Burke EM: H. Orlando	10:00am	Steve Rannazzisi
		Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: E. Nicastro EM: P. Parish	12:00рт	Thomas A. Hamilton, Jr. Cecile Masi-Hayes Rev. Clarence Murphy Laura Hawryluk Michael Joseph Arcurio Living-Pasquale Savarese

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND MAY 15TH & 16TH FOR CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Next week our special collection supports the Catholic Communications Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc



GREAT NEWS!

Registration for Our 2021-2022 Religious Education Program will begin in JUNE!

Please look on our website sspj.org under the Religious Education tab, for online registration forms.

Also, plant the seeds of faith, and share this information with any families that may have children entering first grade!

Together, we will grow a bountiful garden of faith! Questions, please contact the Religious Ed Office at 631-584-3204

May Crowning







We want to thank Angelo Cuccia from Alpine Bakery for supply all the cookies and Larry and Nicole Northorn for the flowers and chocolate roses. A big thank you.

FAITH BEGINS WITH THE TINIEST OF SEEDS.... WELCOME TO SSPJ SCHOOL...

NURSERY SCHOOL PROGRAM!

SSPJ Nursery School Program 2021-2022





A safe, fun loving program, (taught by certified teachers) where children will engage in age-appropriate activities designed to help them learn and grow socially, academically and spiritually.

Half Day Program 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

- 2 Days Tuesday/Thursday
- 3 Days Monday/Wednesday/Friday
- 5 Days Monday Friday

Full Day Program 8:30 am - 2:50 pm

- 2 Days Tuesday/Thursday
- 3 Days Monday/Wednesday/Friday
- 5 Days Monday Friday



Before Care available Monday - Friday from 7:30 am - 8:30 am

After Care available Monday - Friday from 2:50 pm - 5:45 pm

Children must turn 3 on or before Dec. 1st 2021 and be totally potty trained to participate in the Nursery Program

For more information or to schedule a tour Email Ms. Anderson danderson@sspjschool.net



The totals are rising....can we reach GOAL by Pentecost Sunday?

2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300. Status as of May 11th, 2021 Pledges: \$68,820. Payments Received: \$47,760. We are at 65% of GOAL!! Thank you!



Pathways to Evangelizing our Young People

"Dear young people, you are not the future but the now of God and he invites you and calls you ... to speak out and realize the dream that the Lord has dreamed for you."

Pope Francis

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports diocesan ministries that continue the formation of our young people and strengthen their faith and love of God.

As long as she can remember, Ali and her five siblings attended church every day with their Mom.

"Mom taught me prayers when I was three – and helped me to learn more and more about my faith every day. I find so much joy and peace in Christ," shared Ali.

Today, as a participant in Catholic campus ministry at Stony Brook University, Ali reaches out to students and cheerfully evangelizes with authentic friendship, showing others that you can still have fun and love Jesus.



"I've been working with Ali for a few years now. She is part of our John Paul II initiative which is a group of college age and young adults around the Diocese who have a heart for evangelization. She has so much joy – a joy that is infectious and makes people approach her to see how she got that way."

Nolan Reynolds, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Nolan Reynolds: nreynolds@drvc.org

Name:	Parish:148: Saints Philip & James, St. James
Address:	/s 2000
City, State and Zip Code:	
Telephone number: Home	Cell:
Signature:	

2021 CMA GOAL

\$105,300

Thermometer represents
Payments received at 05/11/21

GOAL: \$105,300					
		_			
Plec 5/1 \$68	lges at 11/21 3,820				
	l	Payments at 05/11/21 \$47,760.			
	h	947,700.			
		-			

Parish Social Ministry



Food...it nourishes us, it sustains us, it supports our lives....

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

QUAKER OATMEAL IN CONTAINER CANNED FRUIT

The book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work.

The Respect Life Committee will have a Drive By Baby Shower next weekend, May 22nd and 23rd. All donations should be dropped off in the parking area on the side of the rectory office building. Please drive east on Clinton Ave. Make the first left onto Remsen Street and turn left into the priests parking turning left onto Carow Place. As in the past, items needed are baby clothes up to age 4 new and used in good condition, diapers, wipes, baby bathing items, including baby bath tubs and personal care items for



Remembering in Our Prayers

Giacomo J. Consenz.

Safely home in the arms of Jesus



All are invited to join their fellow parishioners by praying the ROSARY FOR AMERICA on Thursday evenings @ 7PM at Our Lady's grotto.

Beginning June 3rd, 2021-July 1st, 2021

In case of rain, we will meet in the church. We pray in thanksgiving for our gift of this nation and to remember those who gave livelihoods and lives for our freedoms. Please bring your family and friends.



The NY State Legislature is trying to fast track a bill #A05499 which would intimidate, silence and shut down prolife pregnancy services. Please call your NY State Senators and Assemblymen to tell them to oppose this legislation. Please pray for the babies, their moms and all involved in protecting human life. If more information is needed, call 631-862-9370.





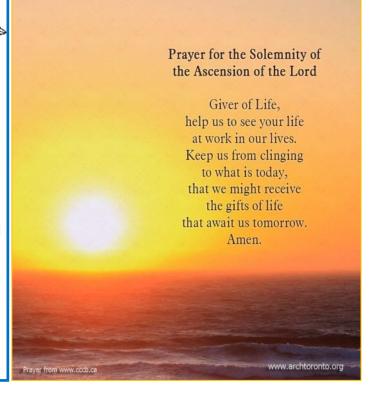
Registration is OPEN fo the SSPJ CYO Track and Field Team!!!

All boys and girls in grades 1 to 8 are invited to join.

You DO NOT need to be a member of the school or the parish in order to join.

Please visit www.sspitrack.org for information about the 2021 season as well as registration forms and

Any question/comments, please contact April Noon (631) 716-5442 sspitrack2021@gmail.com



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

As we reflect on Mary this month our last Mary hymn is, On This Day O Beautiful Mother. A wonderful way to continue our celebration of mothers. A little history about this hymn. It was written by Louis Lambillotte a Belgian Jesuit. Born March 1796 and died in Paris 1855. He spent 30 years of his life writing church music and studying Gregorian Chant. He composed quite a lot of music that was used for religious services. Among them, On This Day Oh Beautiful Mother. A beautiful hymn to reflect and pray upon. A tribute to our Blessed Mother.



A Reflection from Sister T

Dear Friends,

Depending on where you live, you will have celebrated the feast of the Ascension according to your diocesan regulations. One thing is for certain: the Apostles who thought they 'lost' Jesus on Good Friday, then reunited with him on Easter only to have to say goodbye again at the time of the Ascension, must have been a roller coaster ride of emotions. How were they to go on? Jesus did promise to send the Spirit and yet these were challenging times.

That brings me to this past Sunday's readings, where Jesus 'commanded' us to 'love one another', and as our pastor said, it was not a suggestion, leaving us the option to pick and choose whom we love. How do you learn that? I think that during the three years Jesus was with the Apostles, he was teaching them how to love one another. You must admit they were a motley crew. Jesus taught them how to be good Christians by his example. Jesus did not train them how to be theologians but showed them how to live as Christians.

Sometimes we can place heavy emphasis on knowing the doctrine of faith. There is nothing wrong with that, but it should lead us to live compassionate lives, Christian lives, following the command to love one another. Therefore, he could say to them, "Go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." They experienced Jesus and slowly he began to transform them. We know the story and so know that with the coming of the Holy Spirit the Apostles became fearless in proclaiming the Gospel. They did not know all the answers and had to look at some difficult times as they spread the Gospel. One thing is for certain, and that is that Jesus modeled the way for them. One only needed to have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts that were willing to be open.

What about us? Do we follow or even lead by example? There is that adage "practice what you preach." Perhaps we need to practice more than we preach! This is a tough one, and then throw in 'love one another.' For me I know I would much rather see someone living an exemplary life and follow their ways, rather than have lots of words thrown at me and not see it happening. Loving one another, spreading the Kingdom of God and living the Gospel are all possible. So, let's ask ourselves: where am I at this point in my spiritual journey?

I hope these questions lead to some thought-provoking reflections. Have a great week and God is always with us.

Till next week, Sister Theresita





SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES COUNCIL #12839

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

SMITHTOWN LANDING COUNTRY CLUB

495 LANDING AVENUE SMITHTOWN, NY 11780





This Year's Honoree Deacon Kenneth J. Maher



Registration: 12:30pm

(Hotdogs/Beverages at check

in)

Shotgun Tee Off: 2:00pm

Open Bar, Full Dinner, Carving

Station, Dessert



Proceeds to benefit Sts.
Philip & James Knights
of Columbus Charity
Outreach Efforts.





Name:		SI
Address:		
Phone:		_
E-Mail:		_
Number of Players: _	#190.00 per person	_
(includes Cart, Cockta	il Hour, Dinner)	-
Dinner only: \$90	pe <mark>r person</mark>	_
Number attending:	Total: \$	S

SPONSORSHIPS

Dinner Sponsorship @ \$1,000 (2 Available)

Driving Range Sponsor @ \$500 (2 Available)

_Tee Signs Sponsorship @ \$100 each

_Cart Sponsorship (1) \$300

Putting Green Sponsorship (4) @ \$250 each

_Pin Flag Sponsorship (18) @ \$125

Sponsor Information



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT: TOM SICA-(631)521-4771

SIKACHU45@HOTMAIL.COM



Click on "News and Announcements" or scan above

Sts. Philip & James K of C Council #12839

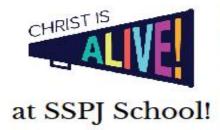
Credit Card/PayPal: www.kofcsspj.org

PO Box 201 St. James, NY 11780

Due to circumstances that are beyond our control, unforeseen obstacles may arise that prohibit our ability to communicate our "live stream events" on the parish website's: Facebook page: SSPJ Church

We appreciate your understanding

THE GREAT NEWS AT SSPJ SCHOOL!

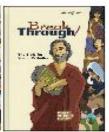


Congratulations to Vincenza Franco, Grade 5 whose essay was selected out of over 650 entries from students across the country who have encountered the Lord in very personal and unique ways. The judges were especially moved by the faith evidenced in the sentence, "I stood still and stared at the fog on the water. I felt so close to God."

The essay contest judges expressed having moments like that, experiencing God in creation, and we are so happy to know that Vincenza does too.

Vincenza will receive a \$100 check and a new Bible. She has also earned copies of the book Everyone Belongs for her 5th grade classmates. Vicenza's classroom teacher, Mrs. Cacciani, will receive a \$100 check and a \$100 voucher for religion resources for the class and SSPJ School will receive a check for \$200 and a \$200 voucher for religion resources for the school.





Vincenza selecting her new Bible!



A great big heartfelt congratulations to Vincenza!



Vicenza Franco

A time I felt close to God was in the summer at Maine. I woke up early in the morning and only me and my dad were up. He was making himself a coffee. We went outside and looked at the lake outside the house. I was surprised to see a foggy mist out on the water. It was so beautiful.

I stood still and stared at the fog on the water. I looked hard and long at the water. I felt so close to God. I loved to watch the fog floating across the lake. I was grateful for all of the beautiful things God has created. I think my dad felt that way too. I thought about all of the amazing things I have seen in my life. But when I looked back at the fog, most of it had floated away. Then the sun came out and we went back inside.

I kept thinking about it the rest of the day. I thought about how amazing and great God is. I felt happy and close to God.

In first grade we have been reading all different types of books. We have taken our love of reading and brought it outside to enjoy the beautiful weather. We are **THANKFUL** that God has given us this opportunity to enjoy sunshine and reading.





God Bless SSPJ YOUTH MINISTRY

Calling ALL YOUNG PEOPLE from Grades 8 through 12



Living the Gospel by Our Actions

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

FRESH AIR & BREATHE

SATURDAY SOCIALS

MAY 29th, JUNE 5th, JUNE 12th, JUNE 19th & JUNE 26th

Immediately following the 5PM Mass By SSPJ school's parking lot.

2021-2022 SSPJ YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
If you're interested in re-joining, or becoming a new member
of SSPJ Youth Group, please go to www.sspj.org/youth
to download and fill out
Registration Form for the 2021 – 2022 Season.

Reflecting and Preparing for Next Weeks Gospel~May 23rd, 2021 Pentecost Sunday

God News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11
Ps 104:1,24,29-31,34
1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13
or Galatians 5:16-25
John 20:19-23 or
John 15:26-27;16:12-15

Monday May 24 Mary, Mother of Church Genesis 3:9-15,20 or Acts 1:12-14 Ps 87:1-3,5-7 John 19:25-34

> Tuesday May 25 Sirach 35:1-12 Ps 50:5-8,14,23 Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday May 26 St. Philip Neri Sirach 36:1,4-5a,10-17 Ps 79:8,9,11,13 Mark 10:32-45

> Thursday May 27 Sirach 42:15-25 Ps 33:2-9 Mark 10:46-52

Friday May 28 Sirach 44:1,9-13 Ps 149:1b-6a,9b Mark 11:11-26

Saturday May 29 Sirach 51:12cd-20 Ps 19:8-11 Mark 11:27-33 The Holy Spirit is Christ's Spirit generously given to us so that we can be holy and to continue the ministry that Christ began.

On our own, we cannot be like Jesus, but if his Spirit is alive and active within us, we have Christ's holiness, his faith, his supernatural love and peace, confidence and endurance, and everything else that we see in Jesus.

You received the Holy Spirit during your baptism. The reality of this was confirmed and strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Ever since the first out-pouring of the Spirit on Pentecost, God has been transforming the world by working through those who serve his Kingdom. He generously fills us with his Spirit so that we will succeed at whatever he asks us to do. But how well his holiness and power exudes from us is up to us.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Dear Jesus, stir up within me the fullness of Your Spirit.

Help me to live in Your holy power. Open my mind to understand Your truths and my heart to accept Your truths even before I gain right understanding. O Holy Spirit, help me to seek, more than anything, the kingdom of God. Help me to recognize what I am attached to that is not of You, and give me the determination and the strength to let go. I want only You.



O Holy Spirit, help me to face my sins and feel genuine sorrow for the damage that I have caused. Comfort me as I mourn my need for forgiveness, and give me Your spirit of rejoicing over this new growth. Then, help me to share this healing mercy with all those around me.

Jesus commanded, "Go into all the world and preach the good news." Use my gifts and talents to make a difference. I have my own expectations about what I should and should not do. I now surrender to You my ideas, my limitations, my preferences, and my goals. I want to be useful to You. I want to go where You lead me. Holy Spirit, send me forth gifted and empowered to spread the holy and victorious love of Jesus Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit; renew me. Amen!

Reflect & Discuss:

- Does the Holy Spirit seem like a Person to you, as real as Jesus? Why or why not?
- 2. What effect does the "Prayer to the Holy Spirit" (above) have on you? What in it is most helpful to your spiritual growth?
- 3. How do you know when the Holy Spirit is being manifested in you?
- 4. Give an example from your life. How did this experience help you grow in holiness?

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Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

A SAINT FOR OUR TIME

It is not enough today to be merely a saint; we must have a saintliness demanded by the present moment.

Simone Weil wrote that, and she is right. We need saints demanded by the present moment and I would like to propose someone whom, I believe, fits that description, Henri Nouwen, the priest and popular spiritual writer who died in 1996. What was his saintliness and why is it particularly apropos in terms of the present moment?

Henri Nouwen is arguably the most influential spirituality writer of our generation. However, his spirituality was not born out of an easy temperament nor an untested faith. As Michael Higgins writes in his biography of Nouwen, his was a "genius born of anguish". Nouwen was a saint wracked with anxiety, an ideal patron for a generation awash with it.

He was a complex, anguished, anxious person with a hypersensitive personality. He was prone to obsessiveness in his intimate relationships, occasionally manifested a neediness that was more childish than childlike and was forever haunted by the sense that (despite all the love, acceptance, and success he experienced) he was not really loved, and no place was home for him. As well, he nursed a wound inside that he could never explain to others nor make peace with himself. Coupled with all this, he had an artistic temperament (with both its gifts and its burdens) and, like many artists, had to struggle to remain robust, normal, and balanced in the creative process, enjoy a down-to-earth sanity, and keep his sexuality within the bounds of his vows. Thus, he could go out on a stage, radiate a powerful energy, and then step off the stage and within minutes break down in tears and beg someone to console him. In terms of his sexuality, though he was a vowed celibate who remained faithful to his vows, occasionally he would fall in love so obsessively with someone that he was able to keep his vows and his sanity only by checking himself into a clinic for professional help.

This isn't the stuff you normally read in the lives of saints, at least of those who are officially canonized and held up as models of sanctity; but that is in fact the stuff of saintliness. Soren Kierkegaard, whom Henri idealized, defined a saint this way: a saint is someone who can will the one thing. Not an easy task. Not because the right thing is hard to will, but because we also will many other things. Thomas Aquinas affirmed that every choice is a renunciation. That's an understatement. Every choice is a series of renunciations, and that makes both choosing and saintliness difficult.

Writing his diaries, Nouwen describes his struggle in this way: I want to be a great saint, but I also want to experience all the sensations that sinners experience. I want to withdraw into the silence of prayer, but I don't want to miss anything happening in the world. I want to bury myself in anonymity among the poor, but I also want to write books, be known by others, see places, meet people, and do interesting things. That's what he wrestled with, just as we all do, but he managed, in the end, to will the one thing.

How did he do it, how did he become a saint despite it all? He did it through a humble honesty that never denied his struggles. He did it by accepting his own complexity, by falling to his knees in prayers of helplessness when his own strength wasn't enough, and by letting the poor love him. And he did it by sharing his wounds with the world, by seeking professional help whenever he broke down, and by learning from all the pain, obsessiveness, and heartache that, in the end, our hearts are stronger than our wounds; because of that we can keep our commitments and ultimately find peace inside of complexity, temptation, and struggle.

The saints of old, no doubt, had their own struggles in trying to will the one thing, to healthily channel their wild energies and give themselves over to God. However, the stories we hear of their lives tend to highlight more their virtue than their struggle. For example, Mother Teresa is also a saint from our generation, and a very inspirational one at that. For many of us, her life and her virtue seem so far removed from our own earthy and messy struggles that we look at her as a saint we can admire but not quite imitate. That's unfair of course. She also had her struggles, mammoth ones. Still, it is not her struggles that are generally highlighted when her story is told.

Henri Nouwen's story and his writings highlight his struggles, not just his virtue and wisdom. Knowing the earthiness of his struggles can give the impression that there is less in him to admire than in someone like Mother Teresa. Perhaps. But, in Nouwen we see someone we can more easily imitate.