



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

March 7th, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

John 2:19, 22

"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
(With Sympathy) 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

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

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—LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY

MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

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

Weekly Collection: Sunday February 28th, 2021 : \$ 13,938.

Easter Remembrance/flowers: 470.

Faith Direct : (126Participants) 3,253.

Total Collections: \$ 17,661.

PSM: \$100.

Thank you for your generosity and support

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

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

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

"Back to basics". Ever hear that phrase? It's used in reference to many things – education, sports, business, etc. Sometimes we get off course, lose our way, find ourselves in situations where we're not sure what to do. When we reach that point, it's a definite "comma" time – time to pause and regroup, so that we can continue on. Lent is about that process. We're called to pause and regroup – not so we can remain where we are, but rather so we can go deeper into God's heart. Today's first reading brings us "back to basics" as it reminds us of the Ten Commandments. Do you remember when you first learned them?

Anne Osdiesk offers a Lenten comma with a brief reflection on the Ten Commandments. Let's take a few moments to read, pause, reflect, and continue on.

*Carve them here, O God, on our stony hearts.
Rules to guide us every day, every way, in all we do and in all we say.
Command us to love you and to love our neighbor as ourselves, just as you do.*

Many thanks for listening to Father Kevin and me last weekend as we called us once again to journey together as we respond to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. I am most grateful for your support and pray that together we can assist many Long Islanders in need while additionally providing our parish with help for some of the necessary campus repairs. Please prayerfully consider your participation in this annual effort.

I hope you've had a chance to check out one of the Lenten suggestions found in the bulletin. I'm still a big fan of Matthew Kelly's and find his Best Lent Ever always very insightful. Thanks to those who have been sharing their reflections on our theme "Jesus is the Key". They have been great! Why not contribute one yourself? Just send it to the rectory.

Also a special thank you to Gina Amen who has donated 200 copies of Matthew Kelly's book...I Heard God Laugh. "Are you taking care of your soul? Are you feeding it and nurturing it? This book is sure to remind you how important it is to care for your soul. Copies of this book are in the prayer room. We ask that you only take one copy if you are interested.

And,

If by crunches, you mean the sound of chewing potato chips, then, yes, I do crunches.

You know you're old when you go to bed at the time you used to go out.

I just had a physical. The doctor said, "Don't eat anything fatty." I said, "Like burgers and fries?" He replied, "No fatty! Don't eat anything!"

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of March 7th, 2021

Lenten Regulations 2021

Traditionally, the Lenten Season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church.

Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence: (All Fridays in Lent):

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday's

From 1:30-7:00pm

In the Church

The closing hour of Eucharistic Adoration, (6pm-7pm), will be live streamed on the SSPJ facebook page
www.sspj.org

Remembering in Our Prayers~

Angie Mingione	Luis Anthony
Angela Amoroso	Antonette Sabatino
Anna Ormsby	James Macchiano
Arthur Gureck	Judy Rampola
Baby Ben	Kathleen N.
Barbara Bombace	Kitty Cronin
Barbara Ruland	Leon Donach
Mattia Rose Lubrano	Mark Hildreth
Belinda Groneman	Mary Fresi
Belinda Vega	Maryann Kevlin
Brianna Florio	Maria Clark
Bob Keenan	Marie del Cielo
Carol	Marilyn Suli
Claudia Chandler	Matthew Parrella
Daniel Radice	Michael Fisher
Deirdre W.	Mike Lofaro
Dolores North	Monsignor Iocavacci
Donna Patrissi	Pasquale Savarese
Donnie Spence	Peter Bertrand
Dorothy Mitchell	Peter Donach
Dylan Beach	P.I.
Ella	Ricardo Buffit
Ellie Walsh	Riordan Cavoris
Ginny & John Rief	Sara Jean Andersen
Gladys Blake	Sheila Ginty
Gregory Parker	Stephen Dolce
Helen	Steven Iglio
Ida Wehman	Theresa Kassay
Joanna	Tara Cesarski
Jack Donohue	Tom Kiernan
John Cronin	Vivien Cordes
John DeStefano	Victoria Zubrycky
J.C.	Vicki Archdeacon
Joseph S.	Veronica Broderick

Saturday	March 6th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: J. Auletta EM: D. Anderson	9:15am 5:00pm	George J. Beckett Vincent & Katherine Salvatore
Sunday	March 7th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: S. Cavoris EM: M. Kenney	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: T. Cafaro EM: E. Sotomayer	10:00am	Kenneth Rathjen
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Dinnigan EM: B. Luna	12:00pm	Joseph Winters Marie Csorny Donald Hehir, Sr Burke Samson Anne M. Childs Virginia Kelly
Monday	March 8th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Frances, Howard, & Kathy Laderwager Glenn Fourney
Tuesday	March 9th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Georgia Priebe Deacon Ken Maher
Wednesday	March 10th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Patricia Leo Eckstein & Muenster Families
Thursday	March 11th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	<u>Roe & Joe Hetterich</u> <u>Collective Mass:</u>
Friday	March 12th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Katie Farrell Steven Carr
Saturday	March 13th, 2021 Presider: Father Tom Lector: A. Kaiser EM: L. Sisti	9:15am 5:00pm	Antoinette Fisher Jeff Posé
Sunday	March 14th, 2021 Presider: Father Tom Lector: C. Czujko EM: V. Portanova	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: M. Koke EM: M. Latino	10:00am	John Pavelka
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Kenton EM: P. Parish	12:00pm	John Kelly Georgia Priebe Thomas Akerberg, Jr. Richard E. Ryan Living~Pasquale Savarese

**HOLY WEEK MASS RESERVATIONS
WILL BE NECESSARY:**

PALM SUNDAY SATURDAY EVENING MASS

MARCH 27TH:

5:00PM MASS— Church and Auditorium

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2021

8:00AM MASS —Church and Auditorium

10:00AM MASS —Church and Auditorium

12:00NOON —Church only

MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER

APRIL 1ST, 2021 AT 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY : APRIL 2ND, 2021 AT 3PM

EASTER VIGIL MASS: APRIL 3RD AT 7:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

APRIL 4TH, 2021

8AM—Church and Auditorium

10:00am— Church and Auditorium

12:00noon—Church and Auditorium

Kindly make your reservation at
SSPJ.org

If you are unable to schedule a reservation, kindly contact
the Parish Center office:
631-584-5454



2022 MASS BOOK OPENING

**We will be opening the Mass Book for
2022 on:**

March 22 , 2021 from 10am until 3pm

And

March 23, 2021 from 10am –3pm

In the Parish Center Office.

**We ask that you limit your mass intention
requests to 3 intentions on these opening
dates.**

**If you should have any questions, kindly
contact the Parish center office at
631-584-5454**

**Thank you for your cooperation and
understanding.**

Music Ministry

How is your Lent going? It is the Third Sunday of Lent already. Wow!! This Sunday's theme is God gets serious. We need to reach out to those in need.

Our hymn Endless is Your Love, talks of God knowing us and is there for us. This song is based on Psalm 139, Lord you have searched me and you know me. If you get a chance read the Psalm in the Bible and see how the composer uses the words to create his song.

The Sending Forth, Save Your People, is telling us that we are a people in need. We are looking to God to save us, to show us the way home. As we are wondering away from home.

***Remember, Jesus is the key. He will lead us home. His door is always open.
Will you enter?***

The Music Ministry is preparing a Lenten Reflection of Music for the Website. This mini concert should be on the Parish Website next weekend. More info to follow.

The Ceiling is Leaking in the Sacristy!!!



We are most grateful to all who contributed to our 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal and helped us reach our goal!

Our Parish rebate will allow us to make needed repairs around the church campus. Like the one above, our leaky ceiling in the Sacristy.

Thanks again for all your support! The 2021 Catholic Ministries appeal is underway now-further details are in the bulletin.

Jesus is the Key-

We welcome all to submit to us your thoughts about wearing the SSPJ Lenten bracelet inscribed with the words,

“Jesus is the key”

Sharing your heartfelt thoughts about how “Jesus Is The Key “ that has opened possibilities, doors, interests, knowledge or our eyes to the community around us and in our lives.....

You can drop off your reflection in an enveloped marked “Jesus is the Key” to the Parish center, or email us at info@sspj.org

Being part of our SSPJ Consolation Ministry, it seems that we attend a lot of funerals...certainly more than the average person does anyway! You may be thinking, wow...that sounds terribly depressing, and of course it is often very sad...but somehow, it is also so inspiring and uplifting. How can this be so?

Well, Jesus is the Key. When we hear the beautiful words of the liturgy, the hymns, and the homilies of the priests at the funerals over and over, we are reminded each time of the heart of our faith. We're assured that it's because of Jesus that we can hope to see our dear ones whom we have “loved and lost” again one happy day.

It's because of Jesus that we can trust that “all shall be well”, no matter what life brings, because He had got us in the palm of His hand. It is because of Jesus and His love for us, that we can have joyful hearts in the midst of this often crazy, broken world.

Jesus is the Key to a “life well lived”, here in the everyday adventures of our journey on earth, and also our lives for ever after...because we have a “sure and certain hope” that we will get to spend forever with Him...and with our loved ones. Jesus is the Key to all that is a mystery to us now. Jesus is the Key to our wildest dreams.

Peggy and Lou Guerra

A Key...

A set of answers to a test. Something that provides access to or understanding of something else...

Jesus you have the key which understands and accepts my suffering as your own, that assures me that carrying crosses is an honor and an unquenchable love that your heart so generously holds for me, your beloved child.

Jesus you are the key to unlocking the compassion that lives in my soul-to see your eyes in your children that escort their needs to my heart. Their voices to my strength.

Jesus you are the key to consolation-when your will allows my hands to touch the dying, the sick, the lonely the grieving-for in those moments my leprosy, is no more, your grace is profound.

Jesus you hold the key which unlocks the door to those that hunger-those before me receiving your life sustaining eucharist.


Jesus you open the door to the proclamation of your word, as I seek your will, your voice, your heart when proclaiming your words in the liturgy.

Jesus you hold the key, you open the doors by sharing your love through those that lift me and carry me during times of distress. Jesus thank you for sharing that key with others when I cannot open the doors. With those that feed the hungry, that care for the sick, that stand as essential workers, that sanitize our church, our stores, our hospitals, and care facilities, that see to it that our faith filled home at SSPJ is safe, warm and welcoming.

Jesus, at times I cannot locate your key-but by grace, you always lead me home again.

Maria Sehne

Lenten Offerings

A poster for the 'Knowing Jesus' Lent Online Retreat 2021. It features a painting of Jesus in a boat with his disciples on a stormy sea. The text includes: 'Knowing Jesus', 'Lent Online Retreat 2021', 'An amazing Daily Lenten Journey – please review and consider. VISIT: www.onlineprayer.net', and 'Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow'. There is a small 'JESUIT Spirituality' logo.A poster for 'It's Who You Become' featuring a man in a cap and green shirt standing in a field. The text includes: 'IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GIVE UP', 'It's Who You Become', 'A Life-Changing Lenten Experience', 'Embrace a deeper, more spiritually rewarding life, and lose yourself in God this Lent.', 'Visit BestLentEver.com to take the first step toward unlocking your God-given potential.', and a 'BEST LENT EVER' logo. It also mentions: 'This Lent, join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST LENT EVER - a free series of emails and video reflections that will help you to discover or rediscover God through prayer.'

Loyola on the Potomac
A Jesuit Retreat House
Faulkner, Maryland

presents:
A Virtual Lenten
Evening of Prayer Series:
Hope in the Cross

Join us each Tuesday evenings in Lent for this hour long prayer series on ZOOM. Each evening will begin at 7:00 pm and end by 8:00 pm. There will be an opening prayer, an Invitation to Prayer, a period of personal prayer time, a time for sharing of graces and discussion and then a closing prayer.

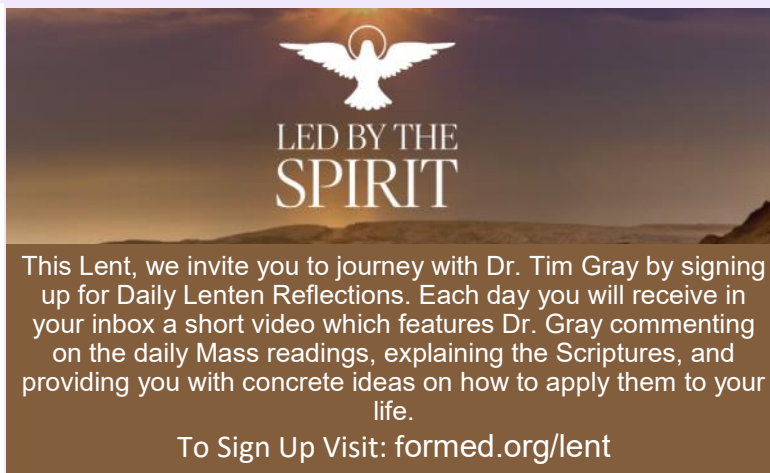
To register, send an email
to: Reservations@lovolaretrereat.org You will receive an email link to the ZOOM prayer series on Monday of each week.

Tuesday, March 9
“**The Magis of God**”

Father Thomas Gavin, SJ
Tuesday, March 16
“**The Cross as Waiting**”
Sister Pat Mensing, SSJ

Tuesday, March 23
“**The Glory of God present in the Passion of Christ**”
Father Bill Rakowicz, SJ

Tuesday, March 30
“**Letting Jesus Wash Your Feet**”
Elaine Ireland

A poster for 'LED BY THE SPIRIT' featuring a white dove with wings spread against a sunset background. The text includes: 'LED BY THE SPIRIT', 'This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for Daily Lenten Reflections. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your life.', and 'To Sign Up Visit: formed.org/lent'.A poster for 'Lent with St. Francis' featuring a close-up of a stone wall. The text includes: 'Lent with St. Francis', 'To subscribe visit:', and 'www.franciscanmedia.org'. At the bottom, it says 'LIVE STREAMS START MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22'.A poster for the 'BBC AND JESUITS IN BRITAIN BRING YOU A SPECIAL LENT RETREAT'. It features a portrait of a man in a red robe. The text includes: 'BBC AND JESUITS IN BRITAIN BRING YOU A SPECIAL LENT RETREAT', '[Lent 2021 | Jesuits in Britain](http://Lent2021.JesuitsinBritain) :', and 'VISIT: www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021'.

Parish Social Ministry

This past week, the girls from SSPJ troop 2111 are starting to deliver on their Juniors Bronze Award Project. They have started an ongoing food pantry Birthday Box program where donations are to be given out at local food pantries for children who may not have a birthday otherwise. 1st stop, our very own SSPJ parish outreach. Thank you Lynn and Virginia for letting our girls help you in such an amazing cause. These girls are amazing.



FOOD PANTRY HELP

Pasta Sauce
Canned Chicken

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

JOY MEETS JOY

In my hurry, I often forget that You desire

to seek those who have gone astray,

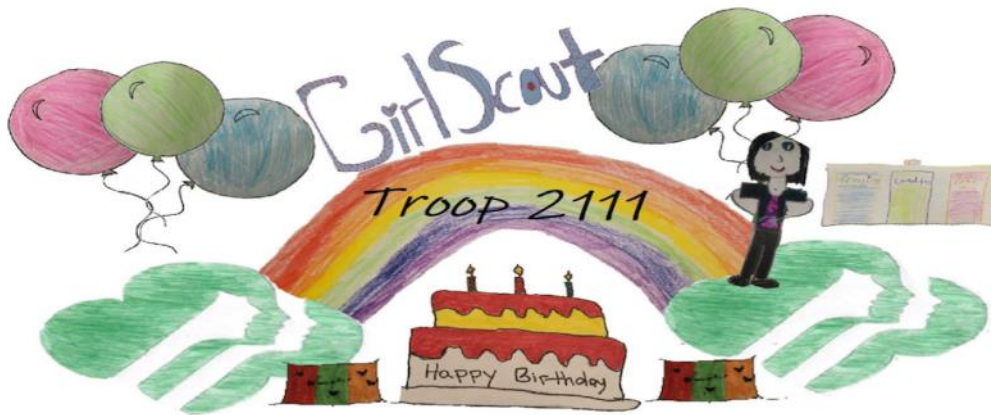
even me, and that my work is to free

myself of myself so that You can be

born in me, and so your joy in seeking

meets my joy in having been found.

Amen
Meister Eckhart



Bronze Award Service Project

GIRLS SCOUT TROOP 2111

Our 4th and 5th grade Juniors Troop is from Sts Philip and James school in St. James, New York. Our 5th graders are Rosalia, Melinda, Erin, Gabby, Sarah, Clarissa, Reilly and Maggie. Our 4th graders are Francesca and Reagan.

We are hoping to gift a birthday celebration to those in need. Can YOU help us with the following supplies?

*A Medium Shoe Box. *Birthday Wrapping Paper. *Cake Mix. *Icing. Candles.

*Birthday Napkins. *Birthday Plates. *Balloons. **And A Small Item Such As:

(has to be able to fit in the box)

Play Doh, an Activity Book, a Small Book,

Mini Puzzle, Toy Car, Fidget Spinner,

Key Chain, Jump Rope, Etc.

Thank you for contributing to Troop 2111's Bronze Award Project. Items and donations will be collected on an ongoing basis.

Contact information for the drop off sites are as follows:

Prew

201-240-6414

1 Park View Lane, Lake Grove

Kieran

516-319-9336

19 Weatherstone Way, Smithtown

Radosta

631-495-0171

17 Curlin Lane, St. James.

FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 29
HELP
SAVE
LIVES



9,699
Babies saved
from abortion
... so far

40 DAYS
FOR LIFE
Join the worldwide
movement to protect
mothers and babies

From February 18 - March 29, our community will join with hundreds of other cities and towns participating in 40 Days for Life, a life-saving campaign made up of three components:



PRAYER & FASTING



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PEACEFUL VIGIL

40 Days for Life is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, involving more than 650,000 volunteers in 559 cities across 27 nations.

Remembering Mothers, Children and all Life through prayer, fasting peaceful vigils and community outreach.

40 Days for Life campaigns have inspired many participants including the Respect Life Committee of SSPJ.

Their hearts of mercy are involved in:

Peaceful Prayer Vigil on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood building in Smithtown.

Fasting and Sacrifice

Eucharistic Adoration Monday's from 1:30pm-7pm. The closing hour from 6-7pm praying for respect for human life.

Please call 631-862-9370 for further information .

2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal

The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300.



"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day."

- Pope Francis

Dear Friends:

During the special Lenten season, please allow me to share a special request with you. If you have never contributed to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, or if you haven't contributed in a number of years, please consider making this the year that you join with me and other members of our Parish family to make a donation to the 2021 Appeal.

As you may already be aware, 100% of all the money raised is restricted to support the objectives, programs, and mission that serves more than 600,000 people each year, and our parish shares in the money raised to use for our own local needs.

These programs include services to people in need; affordable housing for senior citizens; people with disabilities and our veterans; respect life initiatives; and formation of our priests, deacons, lay leaders, and young people. These are just a few of the programs that help make our church and this Island a vibrant and wonderful place to live.

But to help ensure that we can always serve those who come to us for aid, support and spiritual guidance, we need help from you!

If 100 of our parishioners who have not supported us in the recent past made a \$25 contribution this year – think about how many more people we could help! If that amount is more than you can manage, consider \$5 or \$10.

Every gift counts and makes a difference in the lives of others! THANK YOU!!

Make checks payable to:

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit drvc.org/CMA

or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296

Thank You!

Religious Education News

MARCH ACTS OF SERVICE

"JESUS IS THE KEY"-

Let us know how Jesus is the key in your life...

Responses can be written on your act of service card and attached to the donation you are offering.

Our March Acts of Service will share love with a local shelter for those who do not have a home to call their own...

WE ARE COLLECTING CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR A LOCAL SHELTER:

DISH SOAP, WIPES, DETERGENT :(SMALL SIZES PLEASE)

ALSO COLLECTING: RAMAN NOODLES AND CEREAL

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE BOX OUTSIDE THE

PARISH CENTER OFFICE DURING THE WEEK OF

MARCH 22ND, 2021 ~ Thank you for thinking of others...

RESCHEDULED:

CONFIRMATION I—7TH GRADE

RECONCILIATION:

MONDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2021 AT 5PM

AND

TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2021 AT 7PM

Parents were emailed the session to attend. Any questions,

Please call the religious ed office at

MARCH PRAYER OF THE MONTH:
JESUS PRAYER



JESUS
PRAYER

LORD JESUS
CHRIST,
SON OF GOD,
HAVE
MERCY ON
ME
A SINNER!

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry
for having offended You,
and I detest all of my sins because
of Your just punishments,
but most of all because
they offend You, my God,
Who are all good and
deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve,
with the help of Your grace,
to sin no more and to avoid
the near occasions of sin. Amen.

A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

If you are like me, during Lent you may have several resources come into your email inbox. There are times that I do not get to read all of them daily. But this past Monday I was inspired to read a selection I often miss. "Daily Inspirations" comes from the website Crosswalk.com. The reflection that grabbed my attention was titled "[Kill Me Now](#)." It was about Moses, Elijah, and Jonah and their people, pity, and pouting problems. There are times that I have had feelings like those described in the story, but I didn't think these prophets of the Old Testament had similar feelings.

Take a look at this quote from Numbers 11:15: *"If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now—I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."* According to the reflection in "Daily Inspirations," Moses had a real "**People Problem**." He could not figure out how to satisfy the Israelites in the desert.

Elijah on the other hand had a "**Pity Problem**." He was able to destroy the prophets of Baal and see the end of a drought but one simple vow from the Queen sent him reeling. Here is how he felt: *"...while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.'"* (1 Kings 19:4)

Lastly, Jonah had a "**Pouting Problem**." *"Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than live."* (Jonah 4:3). You see, after Jonah finally got to Nineveh, preached so well, and the Lord did not destroy Nineveh, he became angry that the destruction he proclaimed never came to be.

Interesting that all of these great men had experienced great blessings, miracles, and gifts from God. But, as circumstances became overwhelming and impossible, their exhausted body, soul, and spirit cried out. They realized that they could not go on using their own power.

Have you ever had similar experiences? We've all experienced the goodness of God in our lives but sometimes when we become weary, whether it be in body, soul or spirit, we cry out in our own way. But, we have Jesus who is the key to all those situations -- People Problems, Pity Problems and Pouting Problems. Jesus experienced all those things the great prophets did and more. But he trusted in the Father. Our situations can turn us away from wanting to live through the challenges, coming out redeemed. The evil one has a way of coming into our lives when we are tired. Can we remain hopeful? Can we make it through to the other side of the tunnel? We need to stay alive and remember that we serve a God of hope and follow Jesus who had to deal with people, pity, and pouting while laying down his life for us.

This week, check in and see if during this pandemic time you may have had similar feelings as the great prophets. What blessings, graces and miracles have you experienced? Don't give them up because you have become wearisome. Jesus is there as the key to open the doors you need to bring life to yourself and others.

Till next week,
Sister Theresita



ATTENTION SSPJ FAMILIES DONATE FOR OUR SCHOOL EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

WHAT: "Clothing Drive" is an organization that picks up *clothing, stuffed animals and other used goods*. They will pay our school by the pound for our donations...EASY!!
**Please have items in bags*

WHEN: Saturday, March 27th 9:00 am - 11:00 am
(Drop off between these hours)

WHERE: Drop off location will be in the **Soul Brew** parking lot
Soul Brew Address: 556 N Country Rd, St James
We will be collecting directly in front of the Soul Brew entrance.

HOW: Pull up, drop off, leave, done!

DONATION ITEMS: Stuffed Animals, Clothes, Bicycles,
Accessories such as: POCKETBOOKS, BELTS, BABY ACCESSORIES, BACKPACKS,
HATS, SCARVES, BRIEFCASES, GLOVES, TIES, HANDBAGS
Household Items such as: BLANKETS, TABLE CLOTHS, BED SHEETS, DRAPERY,
CURTAINS, PILLOWS, TOWELS, QUILTS, COMFORTERS

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE: Hard toys, baby gear, books, pots,
pans, etc...

Please visit the website for a full listing of acceptable
and non-acceptable donation items:

www.clothingdrive.net

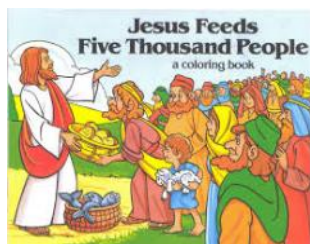
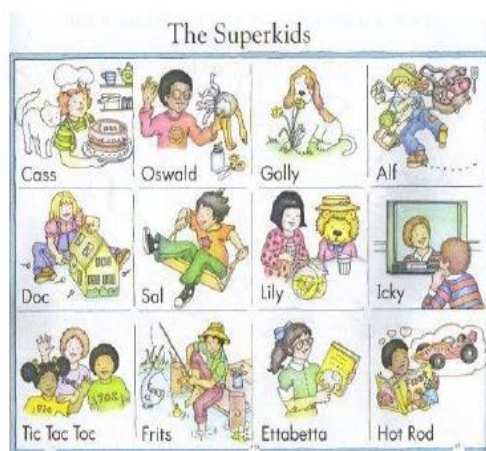
For Questions Call or Text:

Jaime Carey: 631-356-5691 or Jennine Cullen: 631-871-9973

SSPJ School~ Kindergarten News!

SSPJ Kindergarten News:

Kindergarten has been learning and having so much fun!! In ELA, we finished learning about the Letter "Uu." We have now met all of the SuperKids!!! We are also continuing to practice our reading and sight words. In Math, we finished Addition. In Science, we learned about space and Mae Jemison, the first black female astronaut to go into space. In Social Studies, we learned more about Presidents' Day and two of our presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In Religion, we learned about how we belong to the Catholic Church and how special baptism is. We also learned about Jesus feeding the people and talked about how we can be generous to those less fortunate. We have started the season of Lent. We will remember that "Jesus is the Key!!" We love SSPJ!!!! We are having so much fun!! :)



SSPJ SCHOOL ALUMNI HONORS AT SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL:



SUMMA CUM LAUDE:

Kelly Lynn Baumert
Maeve O'Connor
Margaret Pappas

MAGNA CUM LAUDE:

Joseph Carlino
Emma Ryan
Marilyn Colletta
Gabriella Cassimatis
Julia Wiener
Theresa Constantine
Caitlin McAlvin

CUM LAUDE HONORS:

Dayana Mayorga
Torrey Miller
Marcus Regan
Anthony Brown
Isabella Tucciarone
Kevin Gould

To All our Alumni and
their Families, your
SSPJ Parish Family
Are so very proud of
YOU!!!



Reflecting and Preparing for Next Weeks Gospel~March 14th, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

4th Sunday of Lent

2 Chron 36:14-16,19-23
Ps 137:1-6
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

Monday March 15

Isaiah 65:17-21
Ps 30:2,4,5-6,11-13b
John 4:43-54

Tuesday March 16

Ezekiel 47:1-9,12
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
John 5:1-16

Wednesday March 17

St. Patrick
Isaiah 49:8-15
Ps 145:8-9,13cd-14,17-18
John 5:17-30

Thursday March 18

Exodus 32:7-14
Ps 106:19-23
John 5:31-47

Friday March 19

St. Joseph
2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Romans 4:13,16-18,22
Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a
or Luke 2:41-51a

Saturday March 20

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Ps 7:2-3,9bc-12
John 7:40-53

Why do we prefer to conceal our sins rather than face them and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and speak about them out loud?

It's Jesus who meets us in the confessional, appearing to us in the form of a priest who's sworn to secrecy. In the Gospel reading, Jesus assures us that he did not come to condemn us. It is safe to come into the light where our sins are exposed.

However, we don't like going to Confession when guilt is driving us deeper into the darkness of low self-esteem, the fear of being unlovable, or an inability to forgive ourselves.

Guilt is a good motivator for repentance, and regret motivates us to change, but low self-esteem triggers shame, which says that we are undeserving of forgiveness.

Shame makes us even more afraid to face the truth about our sins.

However, God's image of you is not poor. He sees what is wonderful about you. He says you do deserve forgiveness. He wants to replace shame with joy. What keeps you from repenting? Perhaps you would benefit from a therapist or spiritual director who helps you heal from low self-esteem. Whatever opportunity will help



you get into the confessional, this is where your healing begins.

Jesus completes the healing by curing your spirit with forgiveness, mercy, and unconditional love through the words of absolution that he speaks to you through the priest.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus points out that whoever lives the truth (whoever is honest about themselves) "comes to the light" to be rescued. When we admit our sins, speaking it out loud to the ears of one of Christ's servants, we are rescued by Jesus. We hear Jesus minister to us through the vocal chords of the priest, and we receive from Jesus the power to resist the same sins in the future.

Why suffer any longer, hiding in the darkness of fear and a poor self-image? Jesus has come to rescue you!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What do you feel ashamed about? Have you taken this to the Sacrament of Reconciliation? If not, what are you waiting for? Blessings and healing await you!
2. Why does admitting our sins and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation set us free to live in joy and peace?
3. Describe a time when you lived in darkness; how did Jesus bring you into the light?

AN INVITATION TO SOMETHING HIGHER

In 1986, Czechoslovakian novelist Ivan Klima published a series of autobiographical essays entitled, *My First Loves*. These essays describe some of his moral struggles as a young agnostic seeking for answers without any explicit moral framework within which to frame those struggles. He's a young man, full of sexual passion, but hesitant to act out sexually, even as all his peers, men and women, seemingly do not share that same reticence. He remains celibate, but isn't sure why; certainly it's not for religious reasons since he's agnostic. Why is he living as he is? Is he being responsible or is he simply uptight and lacking in nerve?

He's unsure and so he asks himself: if I died and there is a God and I met that God, what would God say to me? Would God chastise me for being uptight or would God praise me for carrying my solitude at a high level? Would God look at me with disappointment or would he congratulate me for going without consolation?

As he writes this book, Klima doesn't know the answer to that question. He's not sure what God would say to him and whether at any given moment God is smiling or frowning upon him. Irrespective of the answer, what's insightful here I believe, is how Klima frames his moral choice. For him, it's not a question of what's sinful or not, but rather a question of carrying his solitude and tension in a way that makes for nobility of soul. At first glance, of course, that can seem self-serving; trying to be special can also make for a pride that's very judgmental. However, true nobility of soul isn't something sought for its own sake but something sought for the good of others. One does not try to be good to set oneself apart from others. Rather one tries to be good in order to create a beacon of stability, respect, hospitality, and chastity for others.

This, I believe, can be a second starting point for moral theology and spirituality. The first starting point, of course, is more basic. It focuses on keeping the Ten Commandments, and most of these begin with a negative warning, "thou shalt not". At a base level, moral theology and spirituality are very much identified with ethics, with sorting out what's right and what's wrong, what's sinful and what's not. However, keeping the Ten Commandments and sorting out what's a sin and what's not, while a non-negotiable and critically important endeavor, is to moral theology and spirituality what elementary arithmetic is to higher mathematics, a necessary base, no more. Once that fundamental base has been essentially achieved, the real task starts, namely, the struggle to become big-hearted, to put on the heart of Christ, to become a saint so as to create a better world for others.

Let me risk an earthy example to try to illustrate this. When I was a seminarian studying moral theology, one day in class we were examining various questions within sexual morality. At one point, the question arose as to sinfulness or non-sinfulness of masturbation. Is this an intrinsic disorder? Seriously sinful or not anything serious? What's to be said morally about this question?

After weighing the various opinions of students, the professor said this: I don't think the important question is whether this is a sin or not. There's a better way of framing this. Here's where I land on this question: I disagree with those who say it's a serious sin, but also disagree with those who see no moral issue here whatsoever. The issue here is not so much whether this is a sin or not; rather it's a question of what level, compensatory or heroic, we want to carry this tension. In the face of this issue, I need to ask myself; at what level do I want to carry my solitude? How noble of soul can I be? How much can I accept to carry this tension to make for a more chaste community inside the body of Christ?

At this second level, moral theology and spirituality cease being a command and become an invitation, one to a greater nobility of soul for the sake of the world. Can I be more big-hearted? Can I be less petty? Can I carry more tension without giving in to compensation? Can I be more forgiving? Can I love a person from whom I'm separated by temperament and ideology? Can I be a saint? Saints don't think so much in terms of what's sinful and what isn't. Rather they ask, what is the more loving thing to do here? What's more noble of soul and what's more petty? What serves the world better?

In the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus begins his preaching with the word *Metanoia*, a word that implies infinitely more than what's connoted in its English translation, *Repent*. *Metanoia* is an invitation to put on a higher mind, to be more noble of heart, and to leave paranoia, pettiness, and self-gratification behind.