



The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

December 27th, 2020
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph



“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

Col 3: 15a

“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

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 US ARMY

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

Weekly Collection: Sunday December 20th, 2020

Christmas Flowers

Christmas Offering

Faith Direct : (121 Participants)

Total Weekly Collection:

\$17,890.

\$.

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3,044.

\$.

**** Collection figures unavailable at bulletin submission date****

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

In today's gospel we encounter Simeon and Anna, who encountered – and recognized - Jesus. Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, reflects:

A devout Jewish couple present their child to God. Who could have guessed that this was the one that people had longed for? How easily he could have been missed. He almost was -- amid the priests offering animal sacrifices, the Pharisees teaching the children, the din of the terrified animals and the money changers. If anyone drew attention in the Temple that day they would have been the distinguished priests and the wealthy, who were well-dressed and up front. How easily the child, along with his poor parents, could have been missed.

Except he wasn't missed by everyone. There were the elderly Simeon and Anna, the aged sentinels who wouldn't give up on God, because they believed God would never give up on them.

What hope-filled belief! They would not give up on God because they believed God would never give up on them. Let's ask Simeon and Anna to strengthen our belief in our ever-faithful God. May we always be open to recognizing the presence of Jesus in all the people and situations of our lives.

This weekend we celebrate, honor and give thanks for our “first schools” – our families – those who guide us through life as we grow in wisdom, age and grace, as did Jesus. We have many kinds of families in our parish. We have moms and dads and brothers and sisters. We have grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. We have single parent families, stepfamilies, families who live at a distance, families who are rejoicing, families who are hurting.

**The Holy Family can and will help all of our families to become more whole, more holy.
It is for this help that we as a parish family pray, *Holy Family, guide us!***

- *As our families seek God's healing and peace,*
- *As our families seek God's wisdom and strength,*
- *As our families seek to serve God by serving one another,*
- *As our families go through times of pain and times of happiness,*
- *As our families look to the future, sharing dreams and hopes,*
- *As our families face the challenges of daily life, especially during this pandemic,
trying to live with gentleness and compassion,*
- *As our families seek to be Apostles of Hope,
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, be with us always. Amen.*

January 1st is traditionally set aside by the Pope as the World Day of Peace. Prayers for peace are so needed in this time of violence at home and abroad. As we honor Mary, the Queen of Peace, I invite each of us to renew or to take for the first time the “Vow of Non-Violence” printed in the bulletin. Taking this vow is a concrete way in which we can help make real the peace and harmony God always desires for us. Is this easy? No, it is not. Read the vow carefully. Pray about it. And hopefully you will choose to commit (or recommit) to this vow as the new year begins.

Perhaps our New Year's resolutions might include:

Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant with the weak and wrong. Sometime in your life, you will have been all of these.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of December 27th, 2020

We Remember....


Anne Gelo
Margaret Lee Shelton
Richard Cembrale

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
 During this holy season of Christmas,
 we ask for your blessing on all
 families.
 Let Mary's openness to your
 wondrous ways be an inspiration
 to place all trust in you.
 Let Joseph's courage provide hope
 during times of anxiety and
 uncertainty.
 Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
 a spirit of light and love.
 May the grace that encircled the
 Holy Family widen to embrace all
 families.
 For this we pray.
 Amen.



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Remembering in Our Prayers~

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

Saturday	December 26th 2020 <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: C. Burke</i> <i>EM:</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>Steve Rannazzisi</i>
Sunday	December 27th, 2020 <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: B. Tobin</i> <i>EM:</i>	8am	<i>Christmas Novena</i>
	<i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: P. Wos</i> <i>EM:</i>	10:00am	<i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
	Collective Mass <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: P. Suski</i> <i>EM:</i>	12:00pm	<i>John & Elizabeth McCarthy</i> <i>Richard Blake</i> <i>Nick Bellini</i> <i>Living-Pasquale Savarese</i> <i>Living~Richard Cembrale</i>
Monday	December 28th, 2020	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>Bill Keough</i>
Tuesday	December 29th, 2020~	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>Jack Duffy</i>
Wednesday	December 30th, 2020~	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>Joachim Melo</i>
Thursday	December 31st, 2020~	7:30am 9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>Collective Mass:</i> <i>Gregoria G.Diaz</i>
Friday	January 1st, 2021~	9:00am 12:00pm	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
Saturday	January 2nd, 2021~ <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: K. Smith</i> <i>EM: D. Anderson</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Christmas Novena</i> <i>Joseph Caltabiano</i>
Sunday	January 3rd, 2021 <i>Presider: Father Tom</i> <i>Lector: C. Czujko</i> <i>EM: M. Kenney</i>	8:00am	<i>Christmas Novena</i>
	<i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: J. Auletta</i> <i>EM: E. Sotomayer</i>	10:00am	<i>For the People of SSPJ</i>
	Collective Mass <i>Presider: Father Joe</i> <i>Lector: L. Kenton</i> <i>EM: B. Luna</i>	12:00pm	<i>James Loughrane</i> <i>Bruce Ogilvie</i> <i>Joseph Galletta</i>

Faith, Always brings us home...

A Reflection from Sister T ~ Always filled with HOPE

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate The Feast of the Holy Family and the New Year is just a few days away. I was thinking about something I wrote last week that spoke of “are you waiting for a day or a person”. As Christmas Day slips by I pray that your waiting was for the ‘person’ for as it becomes December 26th if you were waiting for the ‘day’ Christmas is all over.

Ah, but if you truly waited for the person, we still have so much to celebrate. The person of Jesus comes to us with a new way of living. Since most of us are tired of what 2020 has brought us there is a THRILL of Hope as Jesus once again reminds us of His presence in our lives, in our world. We need more than a day to take in all that is offered to us by His presence. Life and growth is ongoing and if we truly look at Jesus and the Holy Family we can see the role models that we need so that we can enter 2021 with Hope and a bright spirit.

The Holy Family lead a simple ordinary life by all the standards of the times and yet there was something extraordinary about them. We can be those ordinary yet extraordinary people as well. Let me share with you a recent experience of what I mean. This past week I went to have cataract surgery which happened to fall on the morning of the great snow storm. My dear friend drove me to the hospital and believe me, that we made it in one piece, was a miracle in itself!

As I entered the hospital I was greeted by cherry folks who had to make the same trip perhaps even earlier (I arrived at 6:30 am). As I watched them handle patients and cancelations and each other I was truly impressed. They were ordinary people displaying extra-ordinary attitudes. They made a choice when they came in, for there were many things they could complain about, yet their choice was to be kind, gentle and understanding to the patients and their co-workers.

Like the Holy Family they were a community family living out their best selves. For the Holy Family it was their relationship with God that kept them humble and yet extraordinary. I don’t know what kept those workers going but I hope they never lose their spirit. So you see waiting for a ‘person’ can take you on a new life journey as long as we are willing to grow and change and choose to bring hope, kindness and love into the lives of others. For if we bring it to others we can’t help having some of that inside of us. We can only give that which we cultivate.

Before the New Year spend some time looking at your life, can you find the extra-ordinary in all the ordinary things you do and are? It is possible. We have the example of the Holy Family as well as some of the people we come in contact with daily. We do have, and make, choice. Are you willing to be a Thrill of Hope so that the Weary World can Rejoice?

*Till next week,
Sister Theresita*



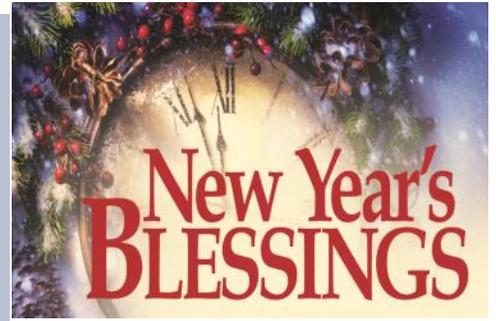
THE
THRILL
OF
HOPE

New Years Mass Schedules

New Years Eve~ Tuesday, December 31st, 2020
5:00pm Mass

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God ~ New Years Day ~
Wednesday, January 1st, 2021:

Mass at 9:00am
Mass at 12:00noon



Overcome Indifference and Find Peace ~World Day of Peace Jan 1

*Any who wish to again renew or take the Vow of Non Violence will be invited to do so, on New Year's Day.
To prepare, kindly pray over the vow and discern whether you feel ready to make it for
The New Year, 2020*

“Peace is to be worked at: it is not something that one gains without efforts” Pope Francis
VOW OF NON VIOLENCE

Recognizing the violence in my own heart,
yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God,
I vow for one year to practice the nonviolence of Jesus
who taught us in the Sermon on the Mount:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God...

You have learned how it was said,

“You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy”.

But I say to you, “Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”

In this way you will be daughters and sons of your Creator in heaven.

BEFORE GOD THE CREATOR AND THE SANCTIFYING SPIRIT,

I VOW TO CARRY OUT IN MY LIFE THE LOVE AND EXAMPLE OF JESUS

- BY STRIVING FOR PEACE WITHIN MYSELF AND SEEKING TO BE A PEACEMAKER IN MY DAILY LIFE;

- BY ACCEPTING SUFFERING RATHER THAN INFLECTING IT;

- BY REFUSING TO RETALIATE IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATION AND VIOLENCE;

- BY PERSEVERING IN NONVIOLENCE OF TONGUE AND HEART;

- BY LIVING CONSCIENTIOUSLY AND SIMPLY, SO THAT I DO NOT DEPRIVE OTHERS OF THE MEANS TO LIVE;

-BY ACTIVELY RESISTING EVIL AND WORKING NONVIOLENTLY TO ABOLISH WAR AND THE CAUSES OF WAR FROM MY OWN HEART AND FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

GOD, I TRUST IN YOUR SUSTAINING LOVE, AND BELIEVE THAT JUST AS YOU GAVE ME THE GRACE AND DESIRE TO OFFER THIS VOW,
SO YOU WILL ALSO BESTOW ABUNDANT GRACE TO FULFILL IT.

A Note From Our Music Ministry...

*Wow! New Year's is fast approaching.
I am anticipating 2021 to be a new year filled with music.
I would like to thank all the cantors and instrumentalists for a great
advent and Christmas filled with music. Your hard work and dedication
is greatly appreciated.*

A blessed, Happy and healthy New Year from all in the Music Ministry.



THE SSPJ PARISH FAMILY WELCOMES SHARON GILL!

*Sharon is coming into full communion with the Roman
Catholic Church.
God's abundant blessings upon you Sharon today and
always.*



*Pictured above, Sharon Gill with her husband, Kevin along
with her daughter and Son. Also pictured Father Tom and
Michael Hoonhout (RCIA)*

THE LECTOR MINISTRY WISHES TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST LECTOR:

EMMA SCHOR

**Congratulations Emma and thank you for sharing
your gifts and talents with SSPJ!
Emma is pictured with Rita Byrne who is the SSPJ
Mentor of all new lectors!**



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

BABY WIPES

**Thank you to all who respond so
graciously to the needs of all that walk
beside them...
Simple Acts of Love...
It's a great thing!**

**The Parish of St. Gerard Majella in Port Jefferson
Station is seeking a full time Business Manager to
oversee the physical and financial resources of the
parish.**

**This position requires flexibility in schedule to attend
meetings, coordinate projects and attend to
emergencies. This position reports directly to the
Pastor.**

**College degree required, preferably in Accounting or
related fields. Send cover letter and resume to Fr.
Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor, by email only:
frgreg@stgmajella.org.**

**Respect for human life means respecting all of God's creation. We must re-
engage with our environment and take responsibility for it; live sustainably, live
so that there are enough resources for everyone.**

Remembering...2020 Christmas Lights of Love

*Called to be remembered by ~
Margaret & Tim Adams
Mary Castiglie, Joseph Castiglie,
Margaret Castiglie*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Diane Anderson
Antoinette Genco*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Mom, Dad, Brittany, Marc & Dean
Birbiglia
Ryan Birbiglia*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Mom, Dad, Mark, Christopher,
Lynette and Families
Frankie Cafaro Jr.*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Janice Caltabiano
Joey Morda, Benedetta
Caltabiano, Joseph Caltabiano*

*Called to be remembered by ~
the Chiorando Family
Louis R. Chiorando, Mary & Luigi
Chiorando, Paul & Vincenza
Fabrizio
Bernard & Veronica Wehman*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Cullen Family
Patrick Halpin, Gerry Reilly*

*Called to be remembered by
~Charlotte Czujko
Paul J. Czujko*

*Called to be remembered by ~
J. Danese
Vincent Danese, Jr.*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Sister T Donach
Donnalea Donach Vanos*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Ruth Diaz & Family
Gregoria Diaz, Sixto E. Diaz, Evelyn
Eustace, Richard Walsh*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Jackie Duffy
Jack Duffy, William Olsen, Margaret
Olsen, Patricia Henrich, Stella
Williams*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Lucy & Glen Eschbach & Family
Suellen Eschback*

*Called to be remembered by -
John Fleming
Joel Mantone, Louis Mantone,
Josephine Mantone, Thomas &
Kathleen Fleming*

*Called to be remembered by -
Patricia Fisher
William T. Fisher*

*Called to be remembered by -
Nick & Ryan Gampel
Great Grandma Nina & Great Grandpa
Iggy Griffio,
Great Grandma & Great Grandpa Melo,
Nana Vicki & Grandpa John Gampel
Called to be remembered by - Sheila &
Thomas Ginty
Julia & John Murphy, Annie & James
Ginty*

*Called to be remembered by - The
Leonard & Lorraine Gombert
Valentine, Jean & Charles Gombert,
William & Adelaide Tschinkel,
Michael Kaleita*

*Called to be remembered by -
Jim & Judy Hanrahan
Pat & Kay O'Brien, Christopher
O'Brien, Dolores Kaleita O'Brian,
Jim & Edith Hanrahan*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Chris Hensen
Mary C. Michalek and
John J. Michalek*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Kaplon Family
Michael Kaplon*

Remembering...2020 Christmas Lights of Love

*Called to be remembered by ~
Maryjane Kenney
Lawrence Kenney*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Barbara Luna
Vincent Luna*

*Called to be remembered by~
Patricia & Bill Martin
Maureen McLaughlin, John & Richard,
Marie & Beth Martin
Thomas & Catherine Moffatt, Mary
Moffatt, Mary Moffatt Roethgen*

*Called to be remembered by~
Virginia McCauley
James A. McCauley*

*Called to be remembered by~
The McKie Family
John R. McDonald, Joseph McKie, Ann
McKie, Claire Fredeman, Brycen
McDonald*

*Called to be remembered by ~ Her
Husband, Thomas G McCormick
Dr. Colene Young*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Christine McGrath*

*Thomas Anthony McGrath & Marion &
Tom McGrath*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Napolitano Family
Joe Napolitano, Jenny Reichert, Joan
Ward, Jim Jackmore &
Haley Marie Ward*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Phil & Dorothy Nunziata
John & Fay Nunziata &
Catherine Zettwoch*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Pascalli Family
Gail Pascalli*

*Called to be remembered by~
The O'Hara Family
Agnes & William Kingston
Isabelle & Joseph O'Hara*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Portanova Family
Pasquale Campano, Lydia Portanova,
Concetta Cerrito, Frances LaCalamita,
John Portanova, Jelenich Babies,
Annie Portanova*

*Called to be remembered by~
The Schlee Family
John Schlee*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Sehne Family
Jakob M. Sehne and
Philip & Eva Maria Alaimo*

*Called to be remembered by~
Lynn Sisti
Anthony J. Sisti and Mary & Charles
Vanek*

*Called to be remembered by ~
The Smith Family
Ned Smith*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Edward H.L. Smith Family
Edward H.L. Smith, Jr., Edward H.L.
Smith III, The William Dugan Family*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Patricia Tripptree
Thomas Tripptree, Lorraine Booras,
Ann Love*

*Called to be remembered by ~
Virginia Portanova
Suzanne Fitzgibbon, John Long,
John Soscia, Sr., Jeff Pose*

Religious Education News

January Prayer of the Month~

FIRST GRADE PARENT MEETING:

JANUARY 5TH, 2021

MORE DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO PARENTS

SECOND GRADE PARENT MEETING

JANUARY 12TH, 2021

DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO PARENTS



My God,

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered
and died for us.
In His name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!!
YOU RESPONDED TO THE MISSION THAT ALL APOSTLES OF HOPE ASPIRE TO, THAT IS, PERFORMING SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS WITH GREAT LOVE....

WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH OF YOU!

The religious education students began the Advent season during the SSPJ Parish Tree Lighting as we gathered together to light the Christmas tree. Not only did we remember those in whose memory we illuminate the beauty and splendor of the lights that adorn our Parish Christmas tree, we also introduced an Advent Act of Service program.

Our students received an Advent service packet. The packet contained week by week prayers for both parents and students, craft idea, and an ornament. After they accomplished their act of service, they adorned their Christmas tree at home with a special ornament that read, HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE, our Advent weekly themes. Students and families crafted homemade cards, they shared their cards with those who hunger, those who are grieving, essential workers, and for all who receive donated pick a star gifts.



Simple Acts of Service With Great Love!



SSPJ SCHOOL NEWS



2020 Principal's List - Trimester I



Grade 8

Rylan Baxter
Victoria Caputo
Elyse Vos

Grade 7

Nicole LoCastro

2020 Honor Roll - Trimester I

Grade 8

Samantha Bazile-Regis
Jonah Carlson
Nicholas Fazzini
Natalie Kwee
Samuel Rennie
Craig Williams
Matthew Williams

Grade 7

Emma Beam
Madeline Bennett
Madison Carlino
Ethan Cruz
Marco Grimaldi
Adelina Hughes
Brendan Kieran
Claire O'Connor
Madelyn Saladino
Syoni Sharma

Grade 6

Immaliah Antoine
Tessa Bennett
Nicholas Bjorklund
Ella Carlson
Annabelle Cassimatis
Ryan Cruz
Mariana Ferrigno
Bradley Garger
Magnus Healy
Jack Hurlbert
Lilyanna Marino
Nicolas Merlino
Alexandra Paredes
Nicholas Piliero
Kailey Ryan
Marcel Telang
Ryan Tobin
Gianna Tomasino



Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Ps 128:1-5
or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9
Colossians 3:12-21
or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40

Monday December 28
Holy Innocents
1 John 1:5--2:2
Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday December 29
1 John 2:3-11
Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Wednesday December 30
1 John 2:12-17
Ps 96:7-10
Luke 2:36-40

Thursday December 31
1 John 2:18-21
Ps 96:1-2, 11-13
John 1:1-18

Friday January 1
Mother of God Solemnity
Numbers 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Saturday January 2
Sts. Basil the Great
& Gregory Nazianzen
1 John 2: 22-28
Ps 98: 1-4
John 1: 19-28

counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the de-

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this In *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are



mands of the Kingdom of God, we see their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do.

As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God is.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5,6,7) or elsewhere in the Gospels do you excuse yourself from?
2. How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught?
3. What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?
4. How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you?
5. What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?

We are most grateful for all our Parishioners and grateful for your generosity. Unfortunately, we remain \$3,000 away from our 2020 Catholic Ministries goal of \$111,000.

We are unable to receive our rebate if payments are not received by January 31, 2021.

God always holds us in the palm of his hands and will guide us through each of our moments...we simply have to let his will be done.

**If you are able to assist us, kindly use the form below.
Blessings and Peace to all....**



**Thank you for your generous support of the
2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

**Completing your 2020 pledge ensures that our Parish
will benefit by receiving our full rebate.**

**If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please
prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal.**

***Pledges can be accepted until December 31, 2020
and payments can be made through January 31, 2021!***

Self-Mailers are provided in the back of the church.

Join us as we join together as *One Family in Mission!*

Thank You!

Please make checks payable to *Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

Parish: _____ Total Pledge: \$ _____

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CHRISTMAS AS SHATTERING THE CONTAINERS OF OUR EXPECTATIONS

Funny how God invariably shatters the containers of our expectations. We have a notion of how God should act and God ends up acting in a way that shatters all of those expectations and yet fulfills our expectations in a deeper way. That's certainly true of what happened in Bethlehem at the first Christmas.

For centuries, men and women of faith, aware of their helplessness to rectify everything that's wrong in life, had been praying for God to come to earth as a Messiah, a Savior, to clean up the earth and right all that's wrong with it. Exactly how this was to happen was perhaps more of an inchoate longing for justice, a hungry hope, than any kind of clear vision, at least until the great Jewish prophets came along. Eventually prophets like Isaiah began to articulate a vision of what would happen when the Messiah came. In these visions, the Messiah would usher in a "Messianic Age", a new time, when everything would be made right. There would be prosperity for the poor, healing for the sick, freedom from every type of enslavement, and justice for all (including punishment for the wicked). The poor and the meek would inherit the earth because the long-sought Messiah would simply overpower all evil, drive the wicked off the face of the earth, and make all things right.

And after all those centuries of waiting, of longing, what did we get? What did we get? A helpless, naked baby, unable to feed himself. That wasn't the way anyone expected this to happen. They had expected a Superhuman, a Superstar, someone whose muscle, intellect, physical stature, invulnerability, and invincibility would simply dwarf all the powers on the planet in a way that there could be no argument, no resistance, no standing against its presence.

That's still the way, mostly, we fantasize how God's power should work in our world. But, as we know from the first Christmas, that's not normally the way God works. What was revealed in Bethlehem is that normally we meet the presence and power of God in our world as a helpless infant lying in the straw, vulnerable, seemingly powerless, touching us subliminally.

Why? Why doesn't the all-powerful Creator of the universe flex more muscle? Why is God normally revealed more in the body of an infant than in that of Superstar? Why? Because the power of God works to melt hearts rather than break them, and that's what vulnerability and helplessness can do. That's what infants can do. God's power, at least God's power to draw us into intimacy with each other, doesn't normally work through might, muscles, and cool (invulnerability). It works through a lot of things, but it works with a special power through vulnerability and helplessness. Intimacy is predicated on vulnerability. You cannot overpower another person so as to make him or her love you, unless you overpower his or her heart the way an infant does. We can seduce each other through attractiveness, draw admiration through our talents, and intimidate each other through superior strength, but none of these will ultimately provide the basis for a shared community of life for long ... but the powerlessness and innocence of a baby can provide that.

God's power, like a baby sleeping in its crib, lies in our world as a quiet invitation, not as a threat or coercion. When Christ took on flesh in our world in Bethlehem two thousand years ago and then died seemingly helpless on a cross in Jerusalem some thirty years later, this is what was revealed: the God who is incarnated in Jesus Christ enters into human suffering rather than stands clear of it, is in solidarity with us rather than standing apart from us, manifests that the route to glory is downward rather than upward, stands with the poor and powerless rather than with the rich and powerful, invites rather than coerces, and is more manifest in a baby than in a superstar.

But that isn't always easy to grasp, nor accept. We are often frustrated and impatient with God who, as scripture tells, can seem slow to act. Jesus promised that the poor and the meek would inherit the earth and this seems forever belied by what's actually happening in the world. The rich are getting richer and the poor don't seem to be inheriting much. What good does a helpless infant do apropos to this? Where do we see messianic power acting?

Well, again the containers of our expectations need to be shattered. What does it mean "to inherit the earth"? To be a superstar? To be rich and famous? To have power over others? To walk into a room and be instantly recognized and admired as being significant and important? Is that the way we "inherit the earth"? Or, do we "inherit the earth" when a coldness is melted in our hearts and we are brought back to our primal goodness by the smile of a baby?