



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

631-584-5454

September 20th, 2020

Twenty-fifth Sunday

In Ordinary Time



“The Last will be first,
and the first will be last”

Matthew 20:16

“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-8pm

Open Thursday 9am-5pm

Open Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Friday 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 ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Darrow

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

TEXT TO GIVE PROGRAM:

ONLINE OFFERTORY

GIVING

TEXT:

148parishssphilipandjames

TO: 516-271-3338

FAITH DIRECT:

GO TO SSPJ.ORG

CLICK ON THE FAITH

DIRECT ICON

Parish of Saints Philip and

James account code

NY232 when signing up

Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN

CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN

CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.

LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY

CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN

LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY

JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC

CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY

LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-

STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF

RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF

SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC

SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC

CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL

STEVEN CAVA-USN

ERIC SEELIN- USMC

CW2 CHRIS MUNZ

CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN

CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC

GREGORY DEVANEY- USMC

SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY

KEVIN JONES-USCG

PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG

GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA- US ARMY

MARIO CATANIA-USMC

RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC

KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY

ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN

STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC

DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF

SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC

PAUL MUMOLO-USN

VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY

MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD

KELLI MCLAUGHLIN—2ND LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD

STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

Weekly Collection: Sunday September 13th, 2020

\$ 11,540.

\$17,890.

Faith Direct : (121 Participants)

3,044.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$14,584.

Your continued support of SSPJ is very much appreciated.

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Today's gospel parable reminds us that sometimes God's ways and our ways are not "in sync"! We can get so caught up in what's "fair" by our standards, we lose sight of the overwhelming generosity of God's love for all – including us. With God, people are judged on an entirely different scale of values than the ones we use. God, like the landowner, is generous to both the big producers and the seemingly-undeserving. It is not in our hands to decide and give rewards based on what others have or have not done for God. When it comes to a final reckoning God will have the last word -- and it will be a generous one!

Today is Catechetical Sunday. The 2020 theme is ***"I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you"***. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

SSPJ School is in its second week. It's great seeing the students and faculty back. I'd like to thank all who have worked and continue to work so hard to ensure the safety of all, thereby creating a wonderful environment where Christ is known, celebrated and welcomed.

We are also excited about our Religious Education Program for the upcoming year. Over the summer the Rel. Ed. Staff have worked very creatively and generously in designing an online program which will touch the hearts not only of the students but the entire family. We have put together a welcome video explaining the program which may be viewed on the parish website. It is important that registration be completed by October 13th, 2020 so that user names, books, etc. can all be readied. The Religious Education registration form can be found on our website: sspj.org.

Next week we will begin Eucharist Adoration. This season Adoration will be moved from Thursday and Friday to Mondays from 1:30 to 7 pm. We would like to ensure that a minimum of two people are present at all times. Please use the sign up sheet in the church lobby and let's join in praying for our world.

Congratulations to Michael Hoonhout who was received as a candidate for the Diaconate last Saturday by Bishop Zglejszewski.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. As you can see from the thermometer, we are almost at our parish goal! In addition to helping so many in need on Long Island, the CMA rebate our parish receives when we achieve goal becomes our largest parish fundraiser! We really do need your help. Since the pandemic, collections have been down. If you are able to join in the CMA effort, please do so this week! Many thanks!

And,

*If you see me talking to myself, just move along.
I'm self employed.
We're having a staff meeting.*

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of September 20th, 2020

Eucharistic Adoration Begins

Monday September 21st

1:30-7pm

In the Church

On 9/28 and 10/19
Adoration will conclude
At 6pm.



The Pro Life Rose
For the Week of
September 20th, 2020

Is Dedicated to

Leon Peter Heffron

Returned home
September 24, 2004

Always & Forever

Waiting in joyful HOPE
Carol



Remembering in Our Prayers~

Angie Mingione	Alphonsus M. Hoonhout
Angela Amoroso	Antonette Sabatino
Anna Ormsby	Judy Rampola
Arthur Gureck	Kathleen N.
Baby Ben	Kitty Cronin
Barbara Bombace	Leon Donach
Barbara Sisti Russo	Mary Fresi
Mattia Rose Lubrano	Maria Clark
Belinda Groneman	Marie del Cielo
Belinda Vega	Matthew Parrella
Bob Keenan	Michael Fisher
Brooke Remhild	Mike Lofaro
Claudia Chandler	Monsignor Iocavacci
Daniel Radice	Peter Donach
Deirdre W.	P.I.
Dolores North	Ricardo Buffit
Donna Patrissi	Riordan Cavooris
Dorothy Mitchell	Sara Jean Andersen
Dylan Beach	Stephen Dolce
Ellie Walsh	Tara Cesarski
Ginny & John Rief	Tom Focone
Gladys Blake	Vivien Cordes
Gregory Parker	Victoria Zubrycky
Ida Wehman	Vicki Archdeacon
Jack Donohue	William Quinn
John Cronin	
John DeStefano	
J.C.	
Joseph S.	
Judy Cunnius	

For our Nation in time
of crisis

Saturday	September 19th, 2020 St. Januarius Presider: Father Tom Lector: J. Contrino	9:15am 5:00pm	Steven Carr Peter Byrne
Sunday	September 20th, 2020 Presider: Father Tom Lector: C. Czujko	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: E. Dobres	10:00am	Simon Stabile
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: G. Hoonhout	12:00pm	Rev. Charles Carow Albert Specht Monte & Gagne Families Mary & George Worthington
Monday	September 21st, 2020~ St. Matthew	7:30am	Gerard McNulty
		9:15am	Michael Amoroso
Tuesday	September 22nd, 2020~	7:30am	
		9:15am	John Long
Wednesday	September 23rd, 2020~ St. Pius of Pietrelcina	7:30am	Agnes & William Kingston
		9:15am	Ryszard Balcerzak
Thursday	September 24th, 2020~	7:30am	
	Collective Mass	9:15am	John Hubbard
Friday	September 25th, 2020~	7:30am	
		9:15am	Joan Marie Russo Monsees
Saturday	September 26th 2020~ Sts. Cosmas & Damian Presider: Father Tom Lector: C. Burke	9:15am 5:00pm	Joann Ruf Lucille Mignone
Sunday	September 27th, 2020 Presider: Father Tom Lector: G. Fitzpatrick	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Joe Lector: R. Donegan	10:00am	Paulina Calicchia
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Just	12:00pm	William Somerville Jerome Castronova Mr. Ray Ebert & Mrs. Loren Ebert



We Remember...
Patricia A. D'Orazio and Helen T. Williams
Resting in the arms of Jesus...

At the heart of financially supporting our parish

Because....

*Giving is compassionate,
Giving is ministry,
Giving is wise,
Giving is worship,
and Giving is safe
because we serve the God of abundant riches*



Giving is Safe~

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:19)

Most investing involves risk. And this is often the obvious reason we struggle with giving. You might be wondering, *If I give to the Lord, if I support Christian ministries, how can I be sure that I'll have enough for everything else?*

Verse 19 provides a wonderful promise to rest in: *"My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* We need to let that sink in.

What you think you need and what God knows you need may be two different things. In God's perfect wisdom he may withhold many things that you feel are necessities. But because he is your loving Father in Christ, you can always trust that he is doing this for your good.

Position Available

St. Gerard Majella Parish in Port Jefferson Station is seeking a **Receptionist/Parish Secretary**. This position reports to the Pastor and Office Manager and is for Monday-Thursday 9am-4:30pm.

Responsibilities include:

- Answer parish office emails and phone calls
- Assist visitors to the parish center
- Oversee Mass cards, sacramental registers, sacramental certificates, correspondence, recording of donations
- Assist the Pastor with the correspondence and other clerical tasks
- Assist other staff members as needed

Qualifications:

- Interpersonal skills appropriate for phone calls and greeting visitors to the parish center.
- Facility with Microsoft Office (e.g., Word and Publisher) and openness to learning other programs.

Salary commensurate with experience and skillset.

Please send cover letter, resume and references to Father Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor, at frgreg@stgmajella.org.



Now is the time to experience afresh our reverence for the Earth, which reveals God's glory, and to express our concern for our neighbors, here and worldwide, who are already affected by extreme weather events, rising seas, and conflicts over natural resources, such as water. Now is the time to proclaim our vision of a just, sustainable, and healthy world.

Parish Social Ministry



FOOD PANTRY HELP

**HONEY NUT CHEERIOS
CANNED TUNA
JAR SAUCE (PLASTIC JARS)
SMALL BAGS OF WHITE RICE
BOXED MILK**

**DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW
PAPER TOWELS
SIZE 4 DIAPERS
KING KULLEN & STOP & SHOP
GIFT CARDS**

GAS GIFT CARDS

Thank you for sharing....

Mass Reservations ~ HOLD THE PAPER!

To Our Most Wonderful, Kind and Faith filled Parishioners,

We **THANK YOU**, for your understanding and compliance in scheduling your Sunday mass reservation.

With sincere appreciation for this continued effort, we inform you that :

YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO BRING THE PRINT OUT OF THE MASS RESERVATION TO MASS.

We will have your name on the mass reservation list and that will suffice.

As we enter flu season, we wish to refrain from handling unnecessary papers, as well as refrain from using so much paper.

With our continued thanks, **KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!**



What is going on in our parking lot!

In anticipation of more parents than usual choosing to drive their children to school and the need to take everyone's temperature upon arrival - we had to establish a driving course for cars, buses and students to be safely dropped off at school.

We have two Temperature check areas for the students in the morning at one parking lot and two temperature check areas at the alternate lot.

We understand the inconvenience with parking during the weekdays and appreciate everyone's patience as the primary goal is keeping the children safe and the cars and buses orderly.

We hope within the next week all settles down and we will be able to remove the barriers. Thank you for your understanding.



A Prayer as I put on my mask ...

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world,

Help me to see the **Sacrament** in the wearing of this cloth —
Let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace" —
A tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors,
As I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,

That people would see my **smile** in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to **speak clearly**.
Not only with my words, **but with my actions**.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears,

Remind me to listen carefully—and full of care—
To all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth be **shield** and **banner**,
And each breath that it holds, be filled with **Your love**.

In **Your name** and in the **name of love** I pray.

May it be so, may it be so.

Anonymous



A Very Sincere Thanks from Mark Stephen who along with help from fellow scouts of Troop 7, created a beautiful landscape in front of the Mary Monte Building, as Mark pursues his Eagle Scout award.

Mark is ever grateful to his SSPJ Parish family for all their support and prayers as he embarked upon his Eagle Scout project.

Thank you Mark for sharing your gifts, smile and dedication to SSPJ Parish.

May God bless you on t his wonderful journey!

**OH MY GOSH! WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!!
OUR PLEDGES ARE AT 92% OF GOAL
OUR PAYMENTS ARE AT 83% OF GOAL**

During this very difficult time, it is with great appreciation and gratitude for your sacrifices and generosity to the SSPJ 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Our Parish receives its CMA rebate only when our payments received equal our goal of \$111,000

Our Parish Rebate will support us in the efforts necessary to ensure our compliance with regulations for maintaining the infrastructure of our Parish.

CMA UPDATE:

WE ARE ALMOST AT GOAL:

\$9,286 AWAY FROM PLEDGED GOAL

\$18,421 AWAY FROM PAYMENTS = GOAL



Labor Day is an opportunity to take stock of the way's workers are honored and respected. As Pope Francis pointed out, "Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. . . It gives one the ability to maintain oneself, one's family, to contribute to the growth of one's own nation."



For many people today, especially the poor, or those who may be unemployed or underemployed, the struggle to support their families is a daily battle. Please consider supporting the Catholic Ministries Appeal which supports the programs and services that assist families and individuals struggling in our communities.

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

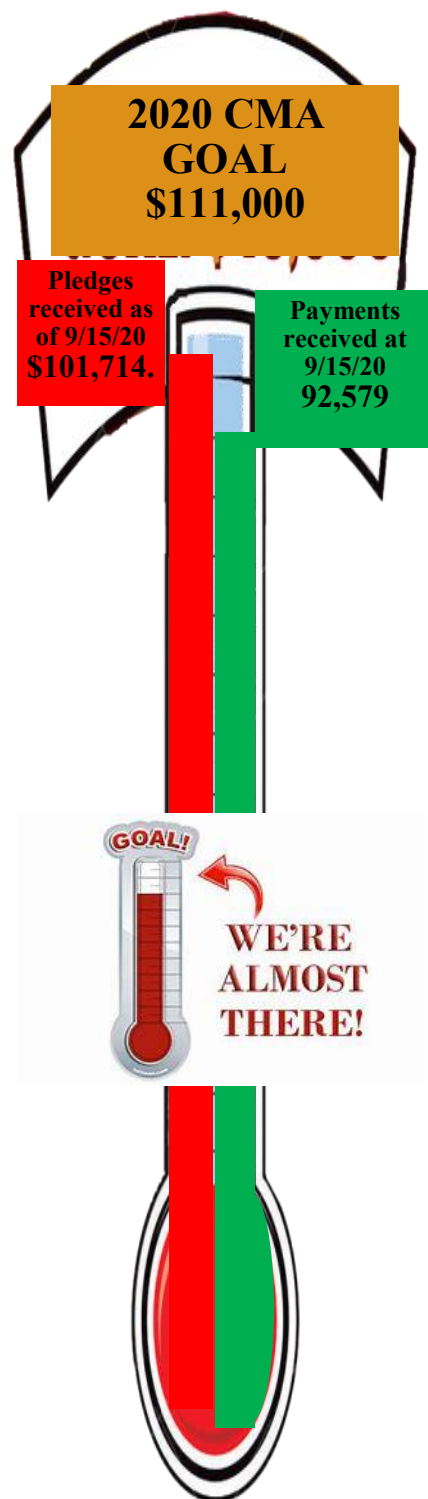
Parish: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____

Pledge	\$ _____
Down Payment	\$ _____
Balance	\$ _____

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

To make a donation, you can also visit
<https://www.drvc.org/CMA>
or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.
THANK YOU!



A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

On Monday, September 14, the Church celebrated the feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. I am blessed to be in a parish where the homilies are always challenging. Thank you, Fr. Tom and Fr. Joe! I thought I would share with you something from Fr. Tom's homily on Monday.

As Catholics, when we begin to pray, it is natural for us to begin with the sign of the cross. When Fr. Tom was young, his grandmother taught his siblings and him how to make the sign of the cross. With fingers to forehead, she would say in her heavy Irish brogue, "God is not just an idea; He is not far away. He came down from heaven and you could see him in Jesus." She would, then, move her hand to her heart and say, "We are called to take God out of our minds and bring Jesus into our hearts. And how do you know it is real?" At this point, she would move her hand from shoulder to shoulder, opening her arm in a wide, welcoming arc. "It's the work of the Holy Spirit -- you let people in, in a new way."

Fr. Tom goes on to say, "That is why we begin with the sign of the cross: to bring God into the real world so that you and I can receive each other in a different way." If there is any time that we need to stop and think about how we receive each other and how we bring God into the world, it is during these challenging times of the pandemic. For many, patience is wearing thin. It reminds me of the first reading on Monday which speaks of the Israelites complaining to God and Moses: "With their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses..." (Numbers 21:4-5). Sound familiar?

We do have choices. We can be like the serpents with "biting and hurtful" words and actions to one another. Or, we can celebrate the Triumph of the Cross and be the truth that the cross teaches: "Love is stronger than death!" Believe me, this takes practice, but we can't give up. Jesus teaches us a new way to live. We need to keep our eyes fixed on the Triumph of the Cross and greet each day with an open heart.

The challenge is to live the Triumph of the Cross which means to bring God out of our minds into the real world so that you and I can receive each other in a different way. During this week, take time to look at a cross you may have in your home or wear as a piece of jewelry. Pray this simple prayer: "Jesus, I trust in you; I trust in this way; raise up my life."

May your week be a time of celebrating the Triumph of the Cross.

Till next week,

Sister Theresita

P.S. If you would like to hear Fr. Tom's homily and see him demonstrate his grandmother's important lesson about the sign of the cross, [click here to go to the Saints Philip and James Church's Facebook page](#). The homily begins at the 16:25 mark in the video. Have a great week!



THE MEN'S FORUM

AT THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES

A brotherhood of men dedicated to growing in their faith & discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 OUR NEW SEASON BEGINS!

Father Joe Lobo

Opening Liturgy for the 13th Season of the Men's Forum

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Church of Saints Philip & James
359 Clinton Avenue, Saint James, NY

Hey Catholic man! The Lord is calling! Calling you, now, to a deeper relationship with Him. Join us, your brothers in faith, prayer and fellowship as we begin another year of the Men's Forum at Saints Philip & James. Come join us in thanksgiving and worship of our awesome God in our opening liturgy. We are stronger together. "I have come that they might have life, and life to the full." (John 10:10)



Website: www.sspjmensforum.org

Church of Saints Philip & James • 359 Clinton Avenue • St. James, NY 11780 • 631-584-5454



Celebrating First Holy Communion

"Seek the words of Jesus and come, to his table"



Thomas Sapienza
September 12th, 2020



Nicholas LiCausi
September 12th, 2020



Mason Cracchiola
September 12th, 2020



Jack Javorowsky
September 12th, 2020

Sunday is Special

*God our loving Father,
Thank you for all the ways you
bless me.
Help me to be aware that every
person,
Place, and adventure I
experience is an opportunity to
love you more.
Fill me with a desire to change
and grow, and give me the
grace to become the -best-
version-of -myself in every
moment of every day.*

Parish Social Ministry ~ Honoring Life ~ In All Its Stages

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Peaceful Prayer Vigil

September 23 - November 1, 2020

Outside the West Islip Planned Parenthood
180 Sunrise Hwy.
West Islip, NY

Sign up at www.40daysforlife.com/westislip

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

Contact email: paul.arena29@yahoo.com

We must protect and value all life from the very first heart beat to the last. The concept of a right to life usually centers around abortion but the right to life also includes among other issues, capital punishment, war, abortion, euthanasia, police brutality, justifiable homicide, racism, human trafficking, and animal rights. All these injustices should be embraced as part of the Right to Life movement.

The "Respect Life Office" of the Dioceses has a new name:

The Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics



STAY WITH US

The 2020 Catechetical Sunday theme is taken from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, "I Received from the Lord what I also Handed on to You." This theme focuses on the essential work of catechesis, which is an invitation to a whole new life given by Christ Himself.

It emphasizes that living faith necessitates movement, inspiring all those who hear the Word to share it as witnesses of the true and living God.

This year as our religious education instruction moves on line to "Google Classroom" We remember in our prayers all our students and families who will be experiencing the program TOGETHER. Learning, sharing and building a special relationship with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We assure our students and families that we are "ALL TOGETHER ON THIS JOURNEY"

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL ITS TRUE!!

**CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL FOR
ONLY STUDENTS AND THEIR SPONSOR
RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT ON:**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
AT BOTH 11AM AND 2PM:**

Your rehearsal will held on :
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH AT 7PM IN THE
CHURCH**

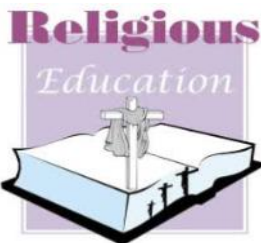


**CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL FOR
ONLY STUDENTS AND THEIR SPONSOR
RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT ON:**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
AT BOTH 11AM AND 2PM:**

Your rehearsal will be held on :
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AT 7PM IN THE
CHURCH**

Please arrive 15 minutes EARIER to assist us in seating you



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOOK ARE READY TO BE PICKED UP!!

BOOK PICK UP WILL BE AVAILABLE ON:
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH : 10AM-5PM
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH: 9AM-1PM
MONDAY-THURSDAY: SEPTEMBER 28TH-OCTOBER 1ST: 9AM-6PM
IN THE SSPJ ROOM
(Entrance to the SSPJ room is located behind the Parish Center Office)

Registration for the 2020~2021 Religious Education Year WILL CONCLUDE ON OCTOBER 13TH, 2020

We welcome all New Families to our Religious Education Program! We ask that you contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-3204 so that we can welcome you to our program and discuss information needed to register.

*We welcome back all Religious Ed families and ask you to
Complete the application for re-registration emailed to all families.*

If you should have any questions kindly contact the religious education office .

Registration forms can be found on our website: sspj.org

*Kindly complete the registration information, attach the family contribution, and drop off at the Parish center
office or mail to the Parish center at*

SSPJ Parish One Carow Place St. James, NY 11780

ATTN: Religious Education Office

*If you have any concerns or if there is assistance we can provide please do not hesitate to reach out to us at
631-584-3204.*

Thank you and may you continue to feel God's wonderful blessings in your hearts.

It's GREAT to have news from SSPJ SCHOOL!!!

Blessed to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross during our Virtual School Mass.

Thank you Fr. Tom for blessing our classroom crucifixes.

The students enjoyed your visit and were happy to meet our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Joe.

Great job boys and girls exalting the cross. Always remember the words you recited.

"Jesus, thank you. I put my trust in You."



*Thanks
be to
God*

SSPJ SCHOOL FALL PLANT SALE

Sts. Philip and James School Fall Plant Sale 2020

The SSPJ School Guild is once again pleased to offer a beautiful assortment of fall plants. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Lisa Stephen (631) 626-5690 or by email at spineguy2md@verizon.net.

Please have your orders in by Tues. Oct 1st. Send your order forms into school or the Parish rectory in an envelope addressed to Lisa Stephen (Fall plant sale). Please make all checks payable to SSPJ School. Plants are coming from Borella Nursery. Thank you for supporting our school!

***ALL ORDERS are to be picked up on Sat. Oct 3rd between 9am-12pm at Borella Nursery 194 Smithtown Blvd. Nesconset NY 11767 ***

*9" Pot Hardy Garden Mums @\$7ea. _____ Total

Red _____ White _____ Yellow _____ Purple _____ (Please indicate color & quantity)

*12" Terra Cotta Plastic Mum Planter @ \$15ea. _____ Total

Red _____ White _____ Yellow _____ Purple _____ (Please indicate color & quantity)

*6" Pansy @ \$6ea. _____ Total

Blue (blotch) _____ Orange _____ Yellow(solid) _____ (Please indicate color & quantity)

*10" Hanging Basket Mum (mix only) @ \$15 ea. _____ Total

*Bushel Basket Mum Planter (mix only) @ \$22 ea. _____ Total

*12" Mixed Fall Garden (very large) @ \$20ea. _____ Total

*8" Montauk Daisy @ \$7ea. _____ Total

*8" Cabbage @ \$6ea _____ Total : White _____ Purple _____ (Please indicate color & quantity)

*Corn Stalk @ \$10ea _____ Total

*Straw @ \$12ea _____ Total

Family Name: _____

Child _____ Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____

Order total \$ _____

MOVING BEYOND MISTAKES AND WEAKNESSES

The excusable doesn't need to be excused and the inexcusable cannot be excused.

Michael Buckley wrote those words and they contain an important challenge. We're forever trying to make excuses for things we need not make excuses for and are forever trying to excuse the inexcusable. Neither is necessary. Or helpful.

We can learn a lesson from how Jesus dealt with those who betrayed him. A prime example is the apostle Peter, specially chosen and named the very rock of the apostolic community. Peter was an honest man with a childlike sincerity, a deep faith, and he, more than most others, grasped the deeper meaning of who Jesus was and what his teaching meant. Indeed, it was he who in response to Jesus' question (Who do you say I am?) replied, "You are the Christ, the son of the Living God." Yet minutes after that confession Jesus had to correct Peter's false conception of what that meant and then rebuke him for trying to deflect him from his very mission. More seriously, it was Peter who, within hours of an arrogant boast that though all others would betray Jesus, he alone would remain faithful, betrayed Jesus three times, and this in Jesus' most needy hour.

Later we are privy to the conversation Jesus has with Peter vis-à-vis those betrayals. What's significant is that he doesn't ask Peter to explain himself, doesn't excuse Peter, and doesn't say things like: "You weren't really yourself! I can understand how anyone might be very frightened in that situation! I can empathize, I know what fear can do to you!" None of that. The excusable doesn't need to be excused and the inexcusable cannot be excused. In Peter's betrayal, as in our own betrayals, there's invariably some of both, the excusable and the inexcusable.

So what does Jesus do with Peter? He doesn't ask for an explanation, doesn't ask for an apology, doesn't tell Peter that it is okay, doesn't offer excuses for Peter, and doesn't even tell Peter that he loves him. Instead he asks Peter: "Do you love me?" Peter answers yes – *and everything moves forward from there.*

Everything moves forward from there. Everything can move forward following a confession of love, not least an honest confession of love in the wake of a betrayal. Apologies are necessary (because that's taking ownership of the fault and the weakness so as to lift it completely off the soul of the one who was betrayed) but excuses are not helpful. If the action was not a betrayal, no excuse is necessary; if it was, no excuse absolves it. An excuse or an attempt at one serves two purposes, neither of them good. First, it serves to rationalize and justify, none of which is helpful to the betrayed or the betrayer. Second, it weakens the apology and makes it less than clean and full, thus not lifting the betrayal completely off the soul of the one who has been betrayed; and, because of that, is not as helpful an expression of love as is a clear, honest acknowledgement of our betrayal and an apology which attempts no excuse for its weakness and betrayal.

What love asks of us when we are weak is an honest, non-rationalized, admission of our weakness along with a statement from the heart: "I love you!" Things can move forward from there. The past and our betrayal are not expunged, nor excused; but, in love, we can live beyond them. To expunge, excuse, or rationalize is to not live in the truth; it is unfair to the one betrayed since he or she bears the consequences and scars.

Only love can move us beyond weakness and betrayal and this is an important principle not just for those instances in life when we betray and hurt a loved one, but for our understanding of life in general. We're human, not divine, and as such are beset, congenitally, body and mind, with weaknesses and inadequacies of every sort. None of us, as St. Paul graphically says in his Epistle to the Romans, ever quite measure up. The good we want to do, we end up not doing, and the evil we want to avoid, we habitually end up doing. Some of this, of course, is understandable, excusable, just as some of it is inexcusable, save for the fact that we're humans and partially a mystery to ourselves. Either way, at the end of the day, no justification or excuses are asked for (or helpful). We don't move forward in relationship by telling either God or someone we have hurt: "You have to understand! In that situation, what else was I to do too? I didn't mean to hurt you, I was just too weak to resist!" That's neither helpful, nor called for. Things move forward when we, without excuses, admit weakness, and apologize for betrayal. Like Peter when asked three times by Jesus: "Do you love me?" from our hearts we need to say: "You know everything, you know that I love you."

September 27, 2020 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

Never Too Late to Change

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Ezekiel 18:25-28 - Personal responsibility
- Philippians 2:1-11 - Imitating the humility of Christ
- Matthew 21:28-32 - Parable of the two sons

All three readings today give advice and encouragement for every person to live an upstanding life. The first reading from Ezekiel does this by way of a threat that was in keeping with how the ancient Jews thought of life and death. The idea of everlasting heaven and hell hadn't developed yet, so they didn't believe in the afterlife as we do. They thought that if you don't live a just and virtuous life, your punishment would be an early death. On the flip side, if you lived well, you would earn yourself a longer life. It's not hard to imagine how that thinking developed into the Christian understanding that how we live on earth will determine our fate for the afterlife. Jesus, and later St. Paul, expanded on this idea by stressing that God's mercy and grace reach beyond human behavior. We don't earn our salvation—God grants it.

Jesus' parable today seems straight-forward. It's better for a child ultimately to do what he or she was asked, even if they didn't agree to it initially. The chief priests and elders knew right away that is the preferred outcome compared to a son who promises something but doesn't follow through. So what is the point of the parable? It seems so obvious.

The kicker comes when we think about who Jesus is addressing here. He is talking to the chief priests and elders, the ones who thought they were the good ones, the righteous ones, the virtuous, chosen ones who deserved to be handed the Kingdom of Heaven because of their good behavior. Yet he points out that when John the Baptist came preaching repentance, inclu-

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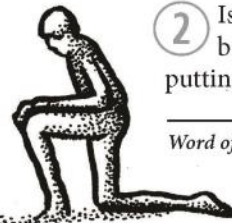
"Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves."

Sheepish Question:
When have I been humbled by serving someone in need? How?

sion, and economic and social justice, they dismissed him and ignored his message. On the other hand, the tax collectors and prostitutes (people looked down upon and ridiculed by the chief priest and elders) listened and heeded John the Baptist. They had the humility to recognize they needed to ask forgiveness and change their ways, and they did. Suddenly, Jesus' point becomes clear—it's never too late to change our ways, ask for forgiveness, and be welcomed into the Kingdom. On the other hand, if we say we want to do God's will, but never get around to it, we are no better than the hypocritical chief priests and elders.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Who do you usually relate most to - the first or second son? Why?
- 2 Is there something God might be asking you to do that you are putting off or resisting?



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