



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

631-584-5454

Twenty-second Sunday
In Ordinary Time
September 2, 2018



*"All good giving and every perfect
gift is from above."*

James 1:17

"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

Parish Center Office Hours:

Sunday ~ Closed
Monday: 9am-8pm

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm

Friday: 9am-12 Noon
Saturday: 10am-2pm

Parish Center Phone ~ 631-584-5454

Parish Center Fax~ 631-862-9675

Web ~ www.sspj.org

Pastoral Team

Father Tom Haggerty

Father Patrick Osei-Poku

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

Margaret Adams

Virginia Portanova

John Cordes

Lynn Sisti

Charlotte Czujko

Barbara Luna

Dominick Avento

Catherine Darrow

Frank Brancaccio

Pastor

Associate Pastor

Deacon

Deacon

Deacon

Director of Music

Business Manager

Director of Facilities

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 1-2

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 3-6

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-8

Religious Education Administrator

Youth Minister

Pastoral Council

Claire DiCarlo, Chris Donnelly, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Kelsey Greco, Cynthia Lombardi,
Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Mary Ann Pose, Noel Rannazzisi, Tom Sica,

Trustees

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

SSPJ School—Principal Diane M. Anderson

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

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 12:00mass 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— Thursday 2-4pm Friday 8-9pm



We Welcome

*Most Reverend Gabriel Justice Anokye "Anoche"
Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana*

He will be celebrating the 12:00 mass today,

Sunday, September 2nd, 2018

Our Parish Family welcomes Bishop Anokye!

Special Needs Religious Education Ministry

***Our Religious Education Department is Seeking Catechists for our
Saturday Morning Special Needs Religious Education Team***

***Classes are held in the School Building on
Saturday Mornings from 9am-9:45am***

Classes begin on Saturday, September 29, 2018

***If you are interested in assisting this extraordinary ministry, kindly contact the
Religious Education Office
at 631-584-3204.***

Thank you for your consideration, kindness and generosity

Classes on Bioethics

Father Leo Lasrado is conducting an Adult education session on An Ethical-Theological outlook on the issues regarding the beginning and the end of human life.

This session began on August 9th, 2018 and will continue each Thursday evening concluding on
Thursday, September 20th, 2018.

(August 9, 16, 23, 30/ September 6, 13, 20)

Place: Bethany Center Time: 7:00-8:30pm

If you missed a session, please, come join the discussion when you are able.

***Father Leo Lasrado holds a PhD in Moral Theology from the Urban
University in Rome and has the experience of teaching in the Seminary.***



SECOND COLLECTION
NEXT WEEKEND:
SEPTEMBER 8TH & 9TH, 2018
FOR:

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



The Catholic University of America is unique among universities in the United States – even among Catholic universities. Established by Pope Leo XIII and the U.S. bishops in 1887, it is the national university of the Catholic Church. In addition to alumni who hail from this diocese, Catholic University claims one third of the U.S. bishops and 12,000 priests and religious as alumni. In Washington, D.C., the University provides an education based in the Catholic intellectual tradition to almost 7,000 students through its 12 schools.

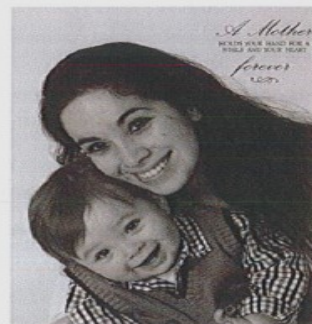
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

*SSPJ continues to grow in God's love and light... we are pleased to announce
The Katie Farrell Memorial Playground*

In memory of Katie Farrell, SSPJ Graduate Alumni, who loved children more than anything, and whose son attends the school now.



*Angel of God, My Guardian dear to whom God's
love commits me here.
Ever this day be at my side, To light and guard,
to rule and guide.
Amen*



Angel Patron \$50

Patron of a place for children to play for generations and Listing in program at dedication blessing

Archangel Patron \$100

Patron of a place for children to play for generations, listing in program at dedication blessing, Name or family name included in prayer at dedication blessing

Guardian Angel Supporter \$250

Patron of a place for children to play for generations, listing in program at dedication blessing, Name or family name included in prayer at dedication blessing, Name or family name memorialized at playground

Become a Patron/Supporter:

_Guardian Angel Supporter \$250 Name: _____

_Archangel Patron \$100 Address: _____

_Angel Patron \$50 _____

_Angel Patron \$50 _____

Phone: _____

Memorial will include a name or a family name, please indicate your choice, below: (i.e., John Smith or The Smith Family)

*Checks made payable to SSPJ Church with playground in memo- mail or return in Sunday collections
For more information e-mail Ms. Diane Anderson at danderson@sspjschool.net or call 631.584.7896*

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE
BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY EFFORT**

**Many thanks to all who generously contributed to the "back to school supply collection".
Your generosity, compassion and kindness has enabled several children in our community
along with their families, the opportunity to begin the school year with all the supplies
necessary for a great start!**

**A very special thanks to all the SSPJ students and their families that
assisted in this effort!**



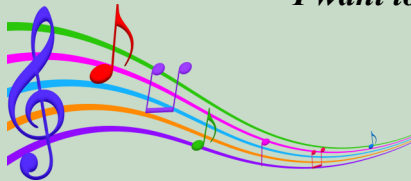
**No, this isn't Staples, it's the PSM office
chock full of school supplies!**

Backpacks are filled and ready to go!



**Supplies are sorted and ready for
distribution!**

A Note From The Music Ministry



***I want to thank the accompanists that had played for me
while I've been on vacation.***

***Jennifer Testa
Eileen Benedict
Lucy Young
Jeannie Hill***

Choirs are back soon! If you are interested in joining come to a rehearsal.

Join the Music Ministry.

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY IS ONGOING. WE ARE IN NEED OF
ACCOMPANISTS, CANTORS AND MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY **MEN**. PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER
BECOMING A PART OF THE MINISTRY AND BECOME AN APOSTLE OF HOPE.**

**The need is GREAT !!! We need everyone!!!!
TOGETHER WE PRAISE GOD THROUGH MUSIC**



CHOIRS ARE BACK ON SEPTEMBER 15TH AND 23RD!

First Mass and Rehearsals are as follows:

Chords of Faith –Rehearsal Tuesday September 11th, 7:30 pm
Mass September 15th 5pm

Adult Choir – Rehearsal September 13, 7:30 pm
Mass September 23rd 10:00am

Children's Choir –Rehearsal September 18th, 4:30 pm
Mass September 22nd 5pm

**All rehearsals are in the Church Any questions please CONTACT: MARGARET
ADAMS AT 584-5454 OR SSPJMUSICMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM**

Lending a Hand and Prayers To Father Leo

For the past three years, as our school year winds down and the Family festival begins, a friendly, grace filled visitor has come to the doors of Sts. Philip & James .

Those doors opened wide as we greeted the return of Father Leo for the summer months. His kindness, dedication and presence filled our hearts and souls.

In the fall, Our Father Leo will be returning to Mangalore, India. It is there, that he will continue his mission of educating and spreading the word of God to Seminarians enrolled in St. Joseph's Seminary, in Mangalore India.

Father Leo's teachings require many theological textbooks. The cost to purchase and ship these materials can exceed \$4,000. He is unable to purchase the necessary materials in India. As a result, he is trying to obtain these materials, both new and used, while he is staying with us.

If you are moved to assist Father Leo in defraying the cost of these materials, we have established the following:

Any donation in the form of a check:

Make check payable to: SSPJ

In the memo section: Father Leo textbooks

Each book that is purchased by the generosity of Father Leo's SSPJ Parish Family, will have an inscription as such placed inside its front cover.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL UPDATE

Ever grateful that we have met our goal, our parish is blessed.

Any donations that are received above our goal, will further support the Catholic Ministries charitable works and they will also touch our Parish in the form of an additional rebate.

Helping Hands...its a great thing.

Congratulations to our newly over goal parishes:

St. Barnabas Bellmore
St. Aloysius Great Neck
Our Lady of Peace Lynbrook
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Roosevelt
O/L Queen of Martyrs Centerport
Ss. Philip & James
St. James
St. Louis de Montfort Sound Beach



Labor Day is an opportunity to take stock of the ways 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, especially for the poor, 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 2018 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

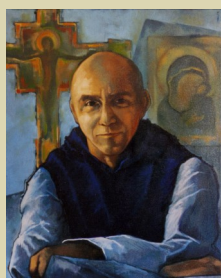
THANK YOU!

Adult Education: Beginning September 24th, 2018

Thomas Merton A Spiritual Guide for our Time

Thomas Merton was one of the great spiritual masters of the 20th century.

The circuitous journey of his own life from bon vivant to Trappist monk, from poet and contemplative to peace activist, and from solitary hermit to interlocutor with leading world figures is a fascinating journey that can be a rich resource for all of us seeking a deeper relationship to God.



Join us this fall for three evenings in which we explore Thomas Merton's life.

Sept. 24th: Thomas Merton: Spiritual Explorer

Oct. 30th: Thomas Merton: The Geography of the Inner Life

Nov. 26th: Thomas Merton: Contemplation and Compassion

Location: Bethany Center-Main Meeting Room

Time: 7-9pm

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Parish Center at 631-584-5454
Conducted by: Thomas Petriano~Professor and Chair of Religious Studies-St. Joseph's College

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy." —THOMAS MERTON, written in a letter to Dorothy Day

FORMED



The Cat.Chat Family teaches your children the most important lessons on the Catholic Faith with catchy songs, jokes, and even juggling and unicycling adventures. Moses the family cat will entertain viewers to no end in the midst of learning about their exciting Catholic faith. In Season 1, the Cat.Chat Family explores some of the basic elements of the Catholic faith including Jesus, our Blessed Mother, prayer, and the saints.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Who Am I to Judge?

Presented By Dr. Edward Sri

How can we stand up for truth in a world that says there is no truth?

How can we explain our moral convictions without being labeled "judgmental?" Join Dr. Edward Sri as he explores what the Church teaches about truth and learn how to better explain it without fear of being "intolerant."

Watch on formed.org



"Well explained! I definitely feel more at peace knowing and understanding how to act and speak with others that live a more secular lifestyle."

—Chuck S, Wichita, KS

FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH, ON DEMAND.

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY GANG SUNDAYS



“When did we see you hungry and feed you?”

What is this? A service opportunity aimed at feeding the hungry on Long Island by making sandwiches for distribution to local social service agencies.

When? Sunday September 16, 2018

Time? 11:15 to 12:30 (Check in at 11:05)

Where? Auditorium

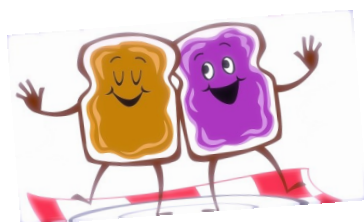
Who? Any person or family with a desire to make a difference in the community.

****Volunteers are asked to bring four loaves of WHOLE WHEAT bread, one jar of jelly and two jars of peanut butter.**

In addition, any youth volunteers are to be picked up in front of SSPJ School on Clinton Ave. at 12:15-12:30

******WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF BOXES TO TRANSPORT OUR SANDWICHES . WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMPUTER PAPER BOXES WITH LIDS TO BE DROPPED OFF IN THE AUDITORIUM THE MORNING OF THE PBJ SESSION. THANK YOU!!**

If you are interested in our next Peanut Butter Sunday, please complete the registration form, which can be obtained at the Pastoral Center. Any questions, please leave a message at 584-5454 and we will contact you as soon as possible.



Father Charles and Laurie Mangano

~ a brother & sister ~

Present a Night of Recollection

A Night of Song.....Night of Inspiration..... Night of Reflection

SS Philip and James Church

One Carow Place, Saint James, NY 11780 631-584-5454

Thursday, September 27th
at 7:30 p.m.

~ free will offering ~



Topic: Divine Providence



Discover how our fears and toxic guilt prevent us from living in the freedom of peace that God desires for us.

This outstanding program is supported by scripture, song and personal reflection and is designed to comfort and inspire those facing struggles of any kind. If you've ever wondered: "Where is God in this struggle?", "Why is God allowing this to happen?" or "How can God love me if..?" Then this evening is for YOU!

You will have an opportunity to participate in a symbolic offering of your fears and have them prayed over. Come and refresh your soul and rejuvenate your spirit knowing that God's Divine Providence is at work every day in your life.

Father Charles and Laurie have united their gifts to praise God and minister to His people in a very special way. They have been singing for the Lord since childhood, and together they have touched the hearts of thousands with their meditative and inspirational music. In addition to producing 13 albums, a DVD and music video, Father Charles and Laurie have also co-hosted their own TV show on Telecare for many years. They have sung at countless venues and their benefit concerts have raised \$426,000 for charity to date. This beautiful Night of Recollection on Thursday, September 27th is **guaranteed to be most uplifting!** It is our hope that through this experience we will come to know, love and trust the Lord Jesus in a deeper and more intimate way, leading us to serve the Lord with gladness.

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of September 2nd, 2018

Sunday, September 2nd, 2018:

7:30am CDA Labor Day 50/50 Raffle School Lobby & Outside
11:00am Stained Glass Club Stained Glass Wkshp
7:00pm AA Meeting Philip & James Room

Monday, September 3rd, 2018: Labor Day No Events Scheduled

Tuesday, September 4th, 2018:

12:15pm School Faculty Meeting Faculty Room
8:00pm Boy Scout Leadership Meeting Monte Building

Wednesday, September 5th, 2018:

12:15pm School Faculty Meeting Faculty Room
7:00pm School Orientation Night Main School Building

Thursday, September 6th, 2018:

9:15am School Pre-K Orientation(Parents only) St. Otto Classrm
2:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church
7:00pm Adult Ed Class-Bioethics Bethany Center Main Room
7:30pm Pre-Baptism Class Philip & James Room

Friday, September 7th, 2018:

8:30am School Pre-K Orientation Parents & Children St. Otto Classrm
7:00pm AA Meeting Philip & James Room
3:00pm Stained Glass Club Stained Glass Wkshp
8:00pm First Friday Eucharistic Adoration Church

Saturday, September 8th, 2018:

No events scheduled

Last Chance to purchase tickets
for the CDA Labor Day 50/50
Raffle

**DRAWING TO BE HELD
AFTER THE 9:15AM MASS ON
LABOR DAY,
SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2018**

You have to be in it to win it!!

**Kindly support the Catholic
Daughters!**



Save the Date!

Sunday, September 9th, 2018

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

**A wonderful opportunity for a light
breakfast and fellowship**

**Offered after the 8am and 10am
masses**

**Please treat yourself and bring a
friend !**

Banns of Marriage

First

**Dillon Caliguiri~SSPJ
To
Heather Buckshaw
St. Lawrence, Sayville**

Second

**Michael DeSimone~SSPJ
To
Cayla Francis ~SSPJ**

Third

**Philip Anthony Fritzlo~SSPJ
To
Gina Loria-
SSPJ**

Third

**Virgilio Varandas~SSPJ
To
Nancy Wolfe
St. Hugh Huntington**



Weekly Collection: Sunday August 26, 2018

**Sunday Collection: \$10,580.
Faith Direct: \$3,823
Children's Jug: \$20.
Total Collection: \$14,423.**

**Many thanks for your generous
support of
Sts. Philip & James Parish**

Mass Intentions, For the week of September 2nd, 2018

Saturday, September 1st, 2018

5:00pm Thomas Mangiaraciana

Sunday, September 2nd, 2018

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am Evelyn McGreevy

12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Gerard P. Williams
Patrick Smith
John Prosceo
Howard Grafstein
Catherine Hourican

Monday, September 3rd, 2018-St. Gregory the Great

7:30am Patrick Smith

9:15am Robert Heschl

Tuesday, September 4th, 2018

7:30am Elenor Gilmartin

9:15am John Jaeger

We Ask You to Remember Our Brothers & Sisters In your Prayers

Anna Capizzio
Angela Amoroso
Angelo Peluso
Angela Boccio McComb
AnnMarie M.
Baby Mattia Lubrano
Betty Schmidt
Brett Dowling
Brennan Steinorth
Bryan Van Colt
Camden Bailey
Carmela Massaro
Carole Hennessy
Catherine Burseind
Christel DeBlasio
Christina Meringolo
Daisy Abruzzo
David Shankles
Dawn Kopel
Dominic Pace
Dylan Lauro
Eileen Zink
Elinor Glasser
Florence Donahue
Gerard Duffy
Ginny McAuley
Greg
Helen McDowell
Hillary Boehme
James Gietzen
Jane Prato
Jane Wigutow
Jeanine EspositoTansey
Joseph Perconti
Joe Alberigo
John Capizzio
Jean McCue
John Harney
John Hernandez

Julianne
Kathleen N.
Kathleen Corcoran
Kitty Cronin,
Krista Farley
Kylie Quigley
Laura Andrucki & family
Linda Sue
Livia Parrella
Louis Giordano
Mark Montesano
Marie DelCiello,
Marie Fabry
Marie Loughlin
Mary McDonough
Michael LaVecchia
Nancy Fornabia
Nicole Theresa
Pasquale Santoro
Patricia Casey
Pat Corey
Patricia Fontana
Patricia Monetti
Patricia Thompson
Paulette Agoglia
Roe Hetterich
Russell Caiola
Robin Graham Denis
Rosemary Morgan
Sean Winters
Suzanne McCue
Terence Hobbes
Teresa Orlik
Thomas McKay
Tim Cavooris
Terry Pace
Vivien Cordes
Vickie Archdeacon Gibb

Wednesday, September 5th, 2018-St. Theresa of Calcutta

7:30am Anna McEvoy

9:15am Charles & Virginia Koop

Thursday, September 6th, 2018

7:30am Vincent Rossello

9:15am Collective Mass:
Ann Pollio

Friday, September 7th, 2018

7:30am Maria Cipriani

9:15am Robert Thompson

Saturday, September 8th, 2018

9:15am Eileen Shanley

5:00pm Albert Gill

Sunday, September 9th, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am Antonino & Lena Testagrossa

12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Bob Thompson
Joseph Casey
Michael Ferrucci

We Pray for those Who Serve

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
CORPORAL DANIEL P. STEELE-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
SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA-US ARMY
MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, LT.COL.-USAF
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC
PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG



Safely Home... We Remember



Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR September 8th & 9th, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, September 9, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 12:00 MASS
Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Leo Lasrado	Father Patrick Osei-Poku
Deacon John	Deacon John	Deacon Ron	Deacon Ron

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR September 8th & 9th, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, September 9, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 12:00 NOON MASS
P. Agolia	J. Harvey	D. Bleggi	C. Zito
K. Consenz	P. Kanuika	R. Bleggi	G. Zito
J. Giacalone	M. Kenney	T. Boboris	D. Coppola
A. Dunn	A. Mantia	T. Cafaro	B. Chandler
M. Fox	P. Martin	M. Dolce	J. Hanrahan
E. Kaleita, Jr.	W. Ramos	C. Donnelly	D. LaVecchia
P. Kaleita	K. Rapp	A. Giordano	M. Lebrun
A. Keenan	E. Sica	A. Henchel	J. Linder
H. Keenan	T. Sica	L. Keane	M. Napoli
G. Priebe	W. Van Gostein	J. Kirdahy	T. Pace

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR September 8th & 9th, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018 5:00PM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 8:00AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 12:00 NOON MASS
S. McCalvin	E. Nicastro	A. Romero	A. Miloscia
P. Bisel	K. Nicastro	G. Romero	M. Miloscia
J. Scomillio	C. Morbillo	G. Cusamano	A. Frankenberger
R.Laro	G.Morbillo	N. Cusamano	B. Frankenberger
		P. Cusamano	

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR September 8th & 9th, 2018

Saturday, September 8, 2018 5:00PM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:00AM MASS	Sunday, September 9, 2018 12:00 NOON MASS
C. Burke	C. Czujko	A. Brown	P. Geier
J. Contrino	G. Fitzpatrick	M. Koke	A. Latino

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

September 9th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle B

Scripture Readings ONLINE

The website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the text of the Scripture Readings. Go to: www.usccb.org . Click on the date.

Reflections on Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalms 146

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

Modern media often tend to saturate our society with images of tragedy, thus reducing our ability to feel compassion. Pity is sometimes the most that we can muster. Today's readings invite two other reactions -- a genuine emotional outburst like Jesus' groaning in the gospel, and a genuine effort to move from pity to compassion. Both reactions call for the strength that turns feeling into action!

Today's reading from Isaiah articulates hope and intervention to the discouraged and bewildered. The author uses Exodus imagery: God's people will go home, and they will experience the miracles of the desert. The all-powerful God of Israel responds to the needs of the people. God singles out four groups -- the blind, the deaf, the lame, and those who cannot speak.

The author who wrote the Epistle of James is well acquainted with the human tendency to prefer the wealthy and neglect the poor. He begins his challenge to this tendency by speaking of their faith "in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ." Basically this is a summary of the Christian creed. Prejudice in favor of the wealthy is a rejection of that Christian belief. The Christian faith focuses on the poor rather than the rich because the poor are objects of God's election and heirs of the kingdom.

For Mark, Jesus as Son of God must reach out to the marginalized -- the poor, women, tax collectors, and lepers. Jesus cures the man whose hearing and speech are impaired. The reaction of the crowd is amazed over what Jesus has done. Jesus' moaning suggests his compassion for the great suffering of this individual. This episode also shows the Church's universal mission to all the nations.

— John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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For reflection...

Jesus uses words, materials, and actions to bring about healing in today's gospel, opening the ears and the mouth of the man brought to him. How have words, materials and actions brought healing in your life? What has been opened for you, freeing you to "speak plainly"?

The reading from Isaiah instructs us to speak words of encouragement to those whose hearts are frightened, reminding them that God frees in marvelous ways. Recall a time when your heart was frightened. Who or what helped you to be strong?

The letter of James says to show no partiality based on wealth. Our society today often seems to do the opposite. In what ways can we bring greater dignity and respect to those who are poor?

Is there an area of your life which needs to "be opened" more to God's love?

HOW TO RESPOND

Sometimes all you can do is to put your mouth to the dust and wait. That's a counsel from the *Book of Lamentations* and while perhaps not the best response to the recent revelations of clerical sexual abuse and cover-up in the Roman Catholic Church, it seems the only helpful response available to me as Roman Catholic priest today. Beyond prayer, I've been hesitant to respond otherwise to this current situation for *three* reasons.

My first hesitation has to do with the seeming futility of yet another apology and breast-beating. Since the report on sexual abuse and clerical cover-up was released in Pennsylvania a few weeks back, there have been apologies issued by virtually every diocese, every parish, and every priest in America, including one from the Pope himself. While these apologies have been almost universally sincere, non-defensive, and rightly focused on the victims, they've also for the most part not been well-received. More generally the response has been: "What good does that do now! Where were you when this was all happening?" The apologies have generally met with more cynicism and anger than acceptance. And yet it's important that they be made, though I'm not sure my adding another one will be helpful.

My second hesitancy stems from the fact that there's so much anger and grief around this issue right now that words, even the right ones, generally don't hit their mark, akin to telling someone freshly grieving the death of loved one that "she's in a better place." The words are true, but moment's too raw for the words to be heard. They only become effective later. And that's the situation now; we're in a time of raw anger and dark grief. These are in fact the same emotion (just that one's hard and the other soft) and so for many people dealing with the revelations of clerical sexual abuse and cover-up right now, apologies, while necessary, are not being heard. The moment is too raw.

And, one last hesitation: As a priest with a vow of celibacy I'm painfully aware that right now I'm at an understandable disadvantage to speak out on this. Victims speak from a position of moral privilege, rightly so, their voices carry extra authority; but those who stand symbolically connected to the perpetrators, and that's me, are understandably heard with suspicion. I accept that. How could it be otherwise? At this particularly charged moment, what moral authority can my voice carry on this issue? What does my apology add?

But, for what it's worth, even given those caveats, I do offer an apology: As Roman Catholic priest, I want to publicly say that what's happened in the church in terms of sexual abuse by the clergy and cover-up by the hierarchy is inexcusable, deeply sinful, has harmed thousands of lives irrevocably, and needs radical redress in terms of reaching out to the victims and of prompting structural change in the church to ensure that this will never happen again.

Let me add something else: First, as a Roman Catholic priest, I do not distance myself from this by morally separating myself from those who have done wrong by declaring: "They're guilty and I'm not!" The cross of Jesus doesn't allow such an escape. Jesus was crucified between two thieves. He was innocent, they weren't; but he didn't protest his innocence, and those looking at three crosses that day didn't distinguish between who was innocent and who was guilty. The crosses were all painted with the same brush. There are times when one does not protest one's innocence. Part of Jesus' mission, as our liturgy puts it, was "to become sin for us", to risk having his innocence mixed in with guilt and be perceived as sin so as to help carry darkness and sin for others.

Beyond our apologies, all of us, clergy and laity alike, are invited to do something for the church right now, namely, help carry this scandal as Jesus did. Indignantly separating ourselves morally from this sin is not the way of Jesus and the cross.

Like Mary standing under the cross, we must not replicate the anger and darkness of the moment so as to give it back in kind. Instead, like her, we must do the only thing possible sometimes when standing beneath the consequence of sin, that is, let our posture, like Mary's, speak deeply through a voice that, unlike bitterness or collapse, says: "Today, I can't stop this darkness, nobody can. Sometimes darkness just has its hour. But I can stop some of the sin and bitterness that's in the moment by absorbing it, not distancing myself from it, and not giving it back in kind." Sometimes darkness has its moment and we, followers of Jesus, may not self-servingly distance ourselves from the sin but need to help absorb it.

Sometimes all we can do is put our mouths to the dust ... and pray ... and wait. Knowing that, at some future time, the stone will again roll away from the tomb.