



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

October 4th, 2020

Twenty-seventh Sunday

In Ordinary Time



“Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:9

“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
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 27th, 2020

Faith Direct : (121 Participants)

Total Weekly Collection:

Your continued support of SSPJ is very much appreciated.

\$17,890.
\$ 9,942.

3,044.

\$12,986.

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Most of us are familiar with the Serenity Prayer. Here's a "new serenity prayer":

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God. At least not the last time I checked.*

*And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change
about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.*

*It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.*

*Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me,
or that I alone have all the answers,*

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.

AMEN

Today's first reading and gospel speak of vineyards. Vineyards require great care and much work. We live in God's vineyard. How are we tending to this vineyard? October is Respect Life month. As we pray in gratitude for the gift of life, we also pray that all in our country and our world will recognize, respect, and protect the gift of life in all situations. As Apostles of Hope, let us tend to life in God's vineyard.

Please join me in congratulating the first half of our young parishioners who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday. It was an honor to confirm them as "essential workers" in bringing the gospel to life with the unique gifts which with the Spirit has blessed each of them. Please keep the second half of the class in your prayers. They will be confirmed on October 24th.

On Sunday afternoon, October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the traditional blessing of animals at 1:30pm by the statue of the Sacred Heart in the front parking lot. Pets, please bring your owners, and remind them to socially distance!

It's been wonderful seeing so many joining in Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays between 1:30 and 7pm. Please consider spending some quiet time with the Lord. And to coincide with Sunday's feast of St. Francis, let's pray for the rebuilding of the church throughout the world as we work together to safely emerge from the pandemic.

And,

*The customer asked the waitress, "What do you have with no fat and no sugar?"
The answer: "Napkins".*

*I enjoy one glass of wine each evening for its health benefits. The other glasses are for
my witty comebacks and flawless dance moves.*

So many people these days are so judgmental. I can tell just by looking at them.

*This is the first year I'm not going to Fiji due to the covid virus. Usually I don't go
because I can't afford it.*

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of October 4th, 2020

Prayer for Our Nation

Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself to walk alongside us as a man. Help our leaders be willing to walk alongside each other, their constituents, and especially the marginalized. Our leaders have different opinions and priorities; give them the wisdom to navigate differences and work together to strengthen our country. Remind us in this election year that You have called Christians to be one body. Amen

Eucharistic Adoration –In Church

Monday's from 1:30-7pm

Except on 10/12 due to Columbus day
On 9/28 10/19
Adoration will conclude At 6pm.



Remembering in Our Prayers~

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

Saturday	October 3rd, 2020	9:15am	Mary Carmen Pontilo
		5:00pm	Brian Brett
Sunday	October 4th, 2020 Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Halluska	8am	For the People of SSPJ
		10:00am	Edward H.L. Smith
		12:00pm	Michael Kaleita Richard Blake Harold Worthington
Monday	October 5th, 2020~	7:30am	John Graham
		9:15am	Charles Notaro
Tuesday	October 6th, 2020~	7:30am	Living-Kathleen Kelsch
		9:15am	Theresa Keane
Wednesday	October 7th 2020~	7:30am	MaryAnn Piranio
		9:15am	Madeline Gadue
Thursday	October 8th, 2020~	7:30am	Rose Mucarla
		9:15am	Collective Mass
Friday	October 9th, 2020~	7:30am	
		9:15am	John Stewart
Saturday	October 10th, 2020~	9:15am	Anthony Cannone
		5:00pm	Marie Stickelberger
Sunday	October 11th, 2020 Presider: Father Tom Lector: P. Kanuika	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
		10:00am	Rosemarie & Don Orrico
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: L. Kenton	12:00pm	John Schlee Anna Cvercko Al Marcantonio



We Remember... Resting in the arms of Jesus...

**Anthony Logiudice
William Quinn**

Our Lady of the Rosary– Wednesday, October 7th

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(from *The Roman Missal*)



Our Parish ~ Place We Call Home

WHY DO WE HAVE PARISHES?

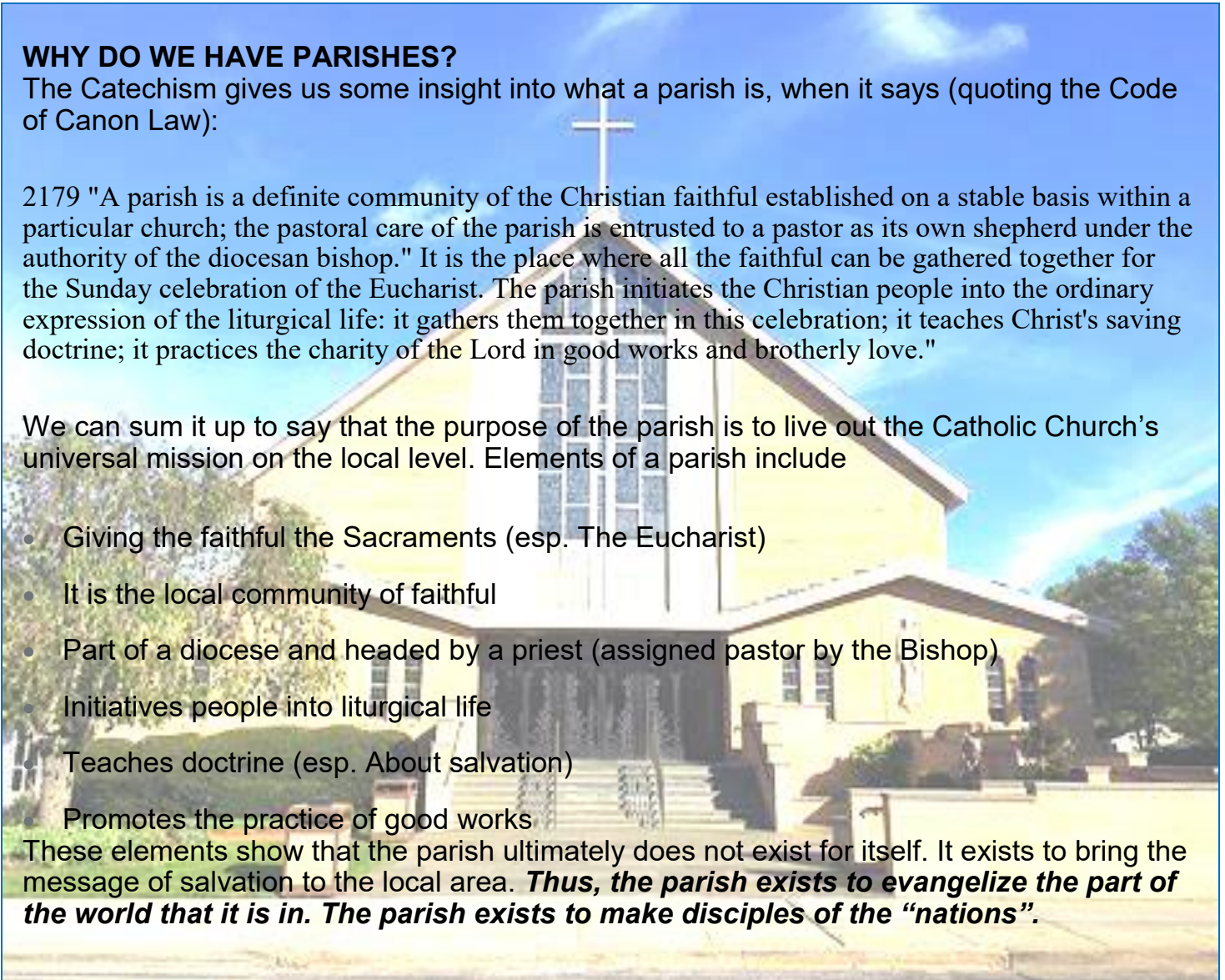
The Catechism gives us some insight into what a parish is, when it says (quoting the Code of Canon Law):

2179 "A parish is a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a particular church; the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop." It is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love."

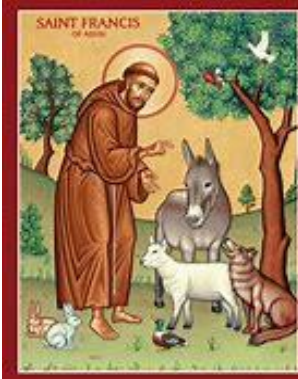
We can sum it up to say that the purpose of the parish is to live out the Catholic Church's universal mission on the local level. Elements of a parish include

- Giving the faithful the Sacraments (esp. The Eucharist)
- It is the local community of faithful
- Part of a diocese and headed by a priest (assigned pastor by the Bishop)
- Initiates people into liturgical life
- Teaches doctrine (esp. About salvation)
- Promotes the practice of good works

These elements show that the parish ultimately does not exist for itself. It exists to bring the message of salvation to the local area. ***Thus, the parish exists to evangelize the part of the world that it is in. The parish exists to make disciples of the "nations".***



Parish Social Ministry~Blessing of the Animals~ TODAY!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2020
AT 1:30PM

We will gather, safely distanced and wearing masks,
near the statue of the Sacred Heart, the area at the front edge of the
parking lot.

If you bark, purr, fly, gallop, slither, swim, hop, etc....
You are invited to bring your owner and join us as we remember St.
Francis' great love for all of God's creation
And ask His blessing on those special creatures with whom we share our
world and our lives.



FOOD PANTRY HELP
DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW

TISSUES
SIZE 4 DIAPERS

KING KULLEN & STOP & SHOP
GIFT CARDS

GAS GIFT CARDS



Thank you for sharing your treasure.

OCTOBER~RESPECT LIFE MONTH

During October, Respect Life Month, the Committee
invites all parishioners to join us in praying for Life
in all it's stages in the prayer room after the 7:30
AM Mass, Monday through Friday. When we
gather, we must be safely distanced and wearing
masks.

**This Sunday marks the end of the Church's celebration
of the Season of Creation. Be sure to make some time
to contemplate God's gift of creation to all of us!**

**I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God's
presence in creation today?**

**I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see
the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?**

**I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor
and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I
turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?**

**I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. Where have
I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of
heart?**

**I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to
stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation and make
choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation.**

OH MY GOSH! WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!!
OUR PLEDGES ARE AT 92% OF GOAL
OUR PAYMENTS ARE AT 84% 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

\$17,846 AWAY FROM PAYMENTS = GOAL



You can make a difference in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal

Every Gift Counts!

A gift of \$25 may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.

A gift of \$50 from an emergency fund may help pay the electric bill in a cold winter month for a family in need.

A gift of \$100 may help care for a newborn infant in Catholic Charities Regina Residence.

A gift of \$250 may help subsidize a home for an adult who is developmentally disabled.

A gift of \$1,000 may help support a Seminarian's education.

Because of you, every year we serve more than 600,000 people in our Long Island Community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve the community. With your support, Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit <https://www.drvc.org/donate/cma/> or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



The Ministry of Music

Today along with it being the 27th Sunday in ordinary time it is the feast of St. Francis. We honor St. Francis by singing the Gathering, All Creatures of God and King. The words are attributed to St. Francis and of course his prayer at Presentation, Prayer of St. Francis.

Today's focus is God the gardener. How appropriate that it occurs on the feast of St. Francis, patron of creation and animals The Gospel states the "Kingdom of God will be given to a people that will produce its fruits."

St. Francis Pray for us.



Welcome and Thank You....



Last week we said "see ya soon" to Cathy who worked in our Religious Ed office. Cathy was a tremendous asset to our parish. We will miss her greatly and wish her well as she re-establishes home in the Chicago area. All the best to you Cathy and Chris Darrow and your beautiful family.

We all welcome Father Joe to our parish as our new Associate Pastor.

SSPJ is blessed to have you join us.

THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OF LONG ISLAND

TEST FOR ADMISSION TO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS
ONLINE FOR 2020-2021

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020



CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL
MINEOLA
(516) 742-5555



HOLY TRINITY DIOCESAN H.S.
HICKSVILLE
(516) 433-2900



KELLENBERG MEMORIAL H.S.
UNIONDALE
(516) 292-0200



OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY
SYOSSET
(516) 921-1047



SACRED HEART ACADEMY
HEMPSTEAD
(516) 483-7383



ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL
SOUTH HUNTINGTON
(631) 271-2020



ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL
OYSTER BAY
(516) 922-4888



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST H.S.
WEST ISLIP
(631) 587-8000



ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
MANHASSET
(516) 627-2711

THE EDUCATION OF A LIFETIME



REGISTER TODAY
www.TACHSINFO.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Oct. 23, 2020

THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OF LONG ISLAND OPEN HOUSES

You are Invited to explore the benefits of a Catholic High School Education

Please feel free to visit our schools during the times and dates listed below.

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2020		
SATURDAY, SEPT. 26	11 A.M. - 2 P.M.	SACRED HEART ACADEMY
SUNDAY, SEPT. 27	10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL
	2 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.	ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
OCTOBER 2020		
SATURDAY, OCT. 3	10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	KELLENBERG MEMORIAL H.S.
	2 P.M. - 4 P.M.	CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL
SUNDAY, OCT. 4	10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	OUR LADY OF MERCY ACADEMY
	1 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.	ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL
SATURDAY, OCT. 17	11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.	HOLY TRINITY DIOC. H.S.
SUNDAY, OCT. 18	10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DIOC. H.S.

TEST FOR ADMISSION TO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS
ONLINE FOR 2020-2021



NOVEMBER 7, 2020
REGISTER TODAY
WWW.TACHSINFO.COM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
OCT. 23, 2020

Religious Education:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Religious Education year.

On-line classes BEGIN TODAY: Sunday, October 4th, 2020

This year we are using the Google Classroom platform to bring religious education lessons to our families. The lessons have been carefully and prayerfully planned by our Religious Education Coordinators:

Mrs. Charlotte Czujko - Communion I and II (1st-2nd grades) and 3rd grade.

Mrs. Barbara Luna - 4th-6th grade Coordinator

Dominick Avento -Confirmation I & Confirmation II (7th - 8th grade)

We encourage families to frequently visit the parish website at SSPJ.org for news and updates on our religious education tab. On the website you will find a "Welcome" video as well as an instructional tutorial regarding google classroom.

"We are all in this together!"

Dear Parish Family,

We ask your prayers for the 80 Confirmation II Candidates, their Sponsors, and their Families, who will be confirmed on Saturday, October 3rd, 2020 at both the 11am ceremony as well as the 2pm ceremony.

To their "Amazing Catechists" who shared this wonderful journey of faith with these Students and Families, your Parish Family thanks you, and will remember your efforts, and your dedication in our prayers of gratitude and blessings.



**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



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

**OUR ON LINE CLASSES ARE BEGINNING TODAY,
OCTOBER 4TH, 2020**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REGISTERING IN OUR RELIGIOUS ED PROGRAM,
PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**OUR REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE RELIGIOUS ED TAB FOUND AT SSPJ.ORG.
KINDLY COMPLETE AND BRING TO THE PARISH CENTER 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**

OR EMAIL: RELIGIOUSED@SSPJ.ORG

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

Ushers Needed~

Anyone out there just waiting to use their talents as a friendly usher? During this pandemic time, we need a few more good people to help us usher folks to their places. Wednesday October 7th at 7 PM we will be having a meeting, in the church for all ushers and newcomers wishing to help. At this time, we will be able to review as well as update the procedures for providing a safe and reverent celebration of the Mass. Thank you, looking forward to seeing your smiling face masks on Wednesday! Sister Theresita and Virginia Portanova.

September 30, 2020

A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

Often people ask how I come up with a thought every week to share. My answer is God sends some word in one form or another. It may be a quote or a sign on the highway or an inspiring homily. Believe me, I couldn't do it on my own. Sometimes it may be a little hard to recognize but eventually God wins out.

That is why I am happy to share with you some thoughts that our Sr. Marcelina Mikulska wrote for our [Nazareth Connections](#) magazine in her article "Adventures with God: A Reflection on Covid-19." Her reflection got me thinking about how today we can get caught up in the idea that this experience of isolation, loss, anxiety, and uncertainty are new to our society. Sr. Marcelina writes, "For many, this confusing time is a spiritual battle and a search for truth." She continues, "Jesus didn't need to change his heart; yet he went into the desert....Jesus calls us to the desolate places of our hearts."

I especially love the section in the article that talks about our Mother Foundress, Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd (Frances Siedliska). Sr. Marcelina explains, "For a long time she was bedridden and prayed before the Eucharist from a little window of her room.... In all probability, she may have felt like she was experiencing a quarantine, such as we have experienced during shelter-in-place orders."

I am also inspired by what Sr. Marcelina wrote regarding our Martyred Sisters, Blessed Mary Stella and her Ten Companions, who were killed during World War II. She says, "The long hours after their arrest, the night prayer on the floor of the Commissariat's cold and damp basement, and the morning walk to the place of their execution on August 1, 1943 must have seemed like an eternity. Certainly, it must have seemed much longer than our current lockdowns."

Why do I share this? Perhaps what I am trying to emphasize is the fact that people before us have experienced similar things in their lives. We can learn from their experiences and the graces they share with us. Today, can we look at our challenging times as an adventure with God? We have an opportunity to change our hearts. We are called to continue on our mission in life no matter what challenges we may face, knowing in faith that God is always with us as we grow and change.

When things get you down this week, try to find opportunities in the face of the obstacles. And, remember that God will not abandon you!

*Till next week,
Sister Theresita*

P.S. Sr. Marcelina's article begins on page six in our most recent issue of Nazareth Connections. Read it online by going to our [Publications](#) page.

A Note From Miss Charlotte~

It is with great pleasure to announce that 80 of our Communion II students have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

The children were personally introduced to all in attendance at the 9:15am daily masses beginning in July, 2020 and ending on September 26th, 2020.

Finally, after their two year preparation, these beautiful children are able to receive Jesus each time they attend mass. How very wonderful that is!

With much love to these students and their families,

*Miss Charlotte
Religious Ed Coordinator
Communion I & II, Grade 3*



Celebrating First Holy Communion

"Let Jesus live in your heart"



Sophie Haney
September 26th, 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.
Amen*



Michael Noce
September 26th, 2020



Logan Wood
September 26th, 2020



Gianna La Franca
September 26th, 2020



Thomas Miniutti
September 26th, 2020



Maxwell Haug
September 26th, 2020



Julianna Rajkov
September 26th, 2020



Annalyn Cucci
September 26th, 2020

"OH TO BE IN KINDERGARTEN IN SSPJ SCHOOL!"

Kindergarten is off to a great start at Saints Philip and James School!! We started the month of September by introducing ourselves to our school, teacher, and classmates. In addition to reading books and learning about our letters, letter sounds, sight words, shapes, the world around us, and God's love, we have been learning and reviewing how to stay safe and healthy every day. We know that it is important to wear our masks, keep our distance, and wash our hands!! We love being in school with our friends and teachers. We are looking forward to learning more wonderful things together as Apostles of Hope!! ☺



A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the **unique gifts** of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with **fresh enthusiasm** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your **enduring love**, give them **confidence and grace**, and equip them with the ability to **persevere** through trials. Bless their teachers with **wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve**, as they embark on the journey together! **Amen!**



laurieyogi.com | fb.com/laurieyogi.fitwithfriends

Shaped
STRENGTH

THE HIDDEN FACE OF EVIL

We tend to be naïve about evil, at least as to what it looks like in everyday life. Our picture of evil has been falsely shaped by images taken from mythology, religious cults, and from books and movies that portray evil as personified in sinister spiritual forces. Demons haunt houses, appear at séances, are summoned up by Ouija boards, contort bodies, and are exorcized by the sprinkling of holy water. Whatever evil does reside inside this concept of demonic forces (and you can believe in them or not) is infinitely eclipsed by the ordinary face of evil which looks out at us from newscasts, is daily manifest in ordinary life, and is manifest too in our own face on a given day.

Mostly we are blind to the hidden evil that foment inside us, tears communities apart, and eats away at God and goodness. The Gospels can help us understand this.

In the Gospels, the evil one has two names because evil works in two ways. Sometimes the Gospels call the evil force “the Devil” and other times they call it “Satan”. What’s the difference? In the end they both refer to the same force (or person) but the different names refer to the different ways in which evil works. *Devil*, in Greek, means to slander and to tear things apart. Ironically, *Satan* means almost the exact opposite. It means to unite things, but in a sick and malevolent way.

So evil works in two ways: **the devilish** works by dividing us from each other, tearing us apart, and having us habitually slander each other so that community is forever being torn apart through jealousy and accusation. **The satanic**, on the other hand, does the opposite, with the same result. The satanic unites us in a sick way, that is, through the grip of mob-hysteria, social hype, self-serving ideologies, racism, sexism, envy, hatred and in a myriad of other malevolent ways so as to draw us into mob-hatred, gang-rapes, lynchings, and crucifixions. It was satanic forces that engineered Jesus’ crucifixion.

When we look at our world today, from politics to social media to what’s happening inside many of our religious circles, we would have to be blind not to see the powers of the “devil” and of “satan” at work (however you personally define and picture these).

Where do we see the devilish at work? Basically everywhere. Today, most everywhere, you see persons sowing division, attributing false motives to others, calling for them to be distrusted and ostracized. Indeed, this is almost the dominant element we see in our politics and in our social media. The result is the breakdown of community, the stalemate in our politics, the breakdown of civility, the loss of trust in the meaning of truth, the smug belief that our own idiosyncratic narrative functions as truth, and the near universal neglect of elemental charity. Today we are witnessing a dangerous breakdown of trust and civility, coupled with a massive erosion of simple honesty. The devil must be smiling.

Where do we see the satanic at work? Everywhere as well. More and more we are retreating into tribes, gangs, with those others who think like us and have the same self-interests to protect. While this can be a good thing, it’s not good when we unite in ways that are rooted in self-serving ideologies, economic privilege, racism, sexism, false nationalism, envy, and hatred. When this happens, our group ceases being a community and becomes instead a mob, a sick one, which at the end of the day, whatever its particular idiosyncratic slogan, ends up chanting, as did the crowds on Good Friday, “Crucify him! Crucify him! It’s significant that in the Gospels almost every time the word “crowd” is used it’s used pejoratively. Commentators tell us that almost without exception every time the word “crowd” appears in the Gospels it could be preceded by the adjective “mindless”. Crowds are mindless; worse still, they generally have a sick bent towards crucifixion. The renowned Czech novelist Milan Kundera highlights this when he shares his strong fear of “the great march”, the sick fever that so generally infects a crowd and, soon enough, has them chanting “Release to us Barabbas! And as for Jesus, crucify him!” This is the face of satan in ordinary life, the actual face of evil.

We need to name this today as we see the ever-intensifying and bitter polarization inside our families, communities, neighborhoods, cities, and countries. Factionalism, anger, bitterness, distrust, accusation, and hatred are intensifying most everywhere, even inside our own families where we are finding it harder and harder to sit down together, be civil with each other, and talk through our political, social, and moral differences. Sadly, even the deadly presence of a pandemic which threatens all of us has worked to divide rather than unite us.

Evil doesn’t ordinarily have the face and feel of the devil in *Rosemary’s Baby*; it has the face and feel of this evening’s newscast.

October 11, 2020 • 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

Puzzling Parable

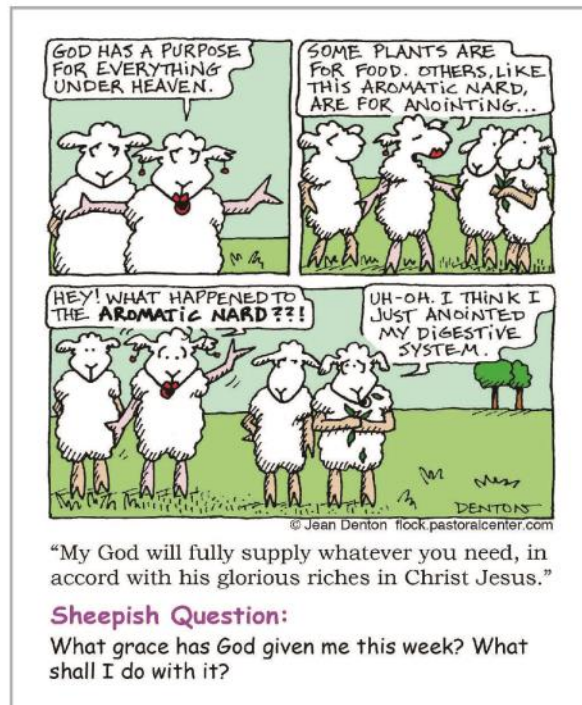
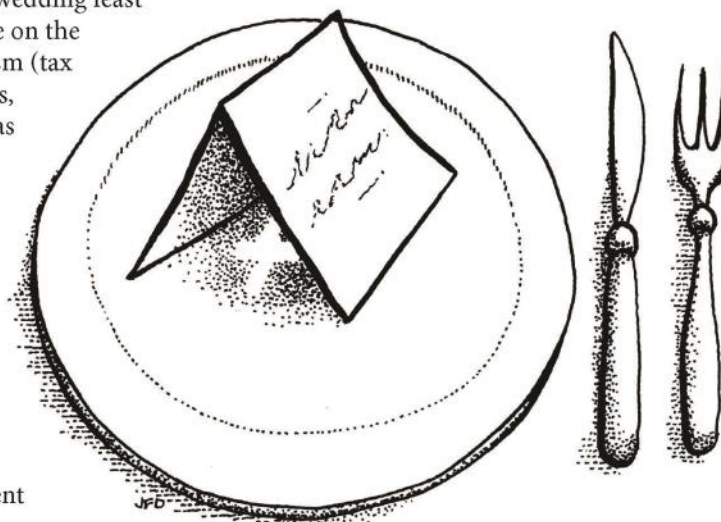
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Isaiah 25:6-10 - A feast for all peoples
- Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 - Generosity
- Matthew 22:1-14 - The wedding banquet

Matthew's Gospel was written about 50 years after Jesus walked the earth, and it gives us glimpses into the issues of the early Christian community of the day. Jesus' parable of the wedding feast would have helped explain to Matthew's audience the reality that some people accepted Jesus and his message while others did not. God issued invitations to a heavenly banquet through the prophets in the Old Testament (the servants in the parable), but they ignored them. Then God sent Jesus, who again invited people to live in the Reign of God (not just in a distant afterlife, but here and now on earth). Jesus was "mistreated" and "killed" by some of the invited guests (the chief priests and Pharisees).

The reference to the enraged king sending troops, destroying the murderers, and burning their city is probably a reference to the Roman troops who burned down Jerusalem and destroyed the Jewish temple in the year 70 AD, about a decade before Matthew recorded this parable. Matthew, and other early Christians, seemed to interpret this destruction as punishment for Israel rejecting Jesus and his Good News. The ones who accepted a belated invitation to the wedding feast represented those on the margins of Judaism (tax collectors, sinners, prostitutes, etc.) as well as Gentiles. They became followers and received Jesus with joy and gratitude.

The final verses about the wedding guest without the proper garment



"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Sheepish Question:

What grace has God given me this week? What shall I do with it?

may have originally been a separate parable. The garment seems to have some symbolism that is lost to us today. We are left with the question of how someone who wasn't expecting an invitation to a wedding banquet would have the proper clothes on in the first place.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What is your first impression of this Gospel passage?
- 2 When have you experienced a joyous coming together of unlikely people responding to something good in life?

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