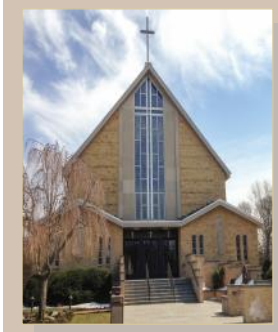


The Parish of Saints Philip and James
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780
631-584-5454

February 7th, 2021

Fifth Sunday

In Ordinary Time

"Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose I have come."

Mark 1:38

"With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be Apostles of Hope"

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone:631-584-5454 Parish Fax:631-862-9675
Website—www.sspj.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS
Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-6pm
Open Thursday 9am-6pm
Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY
Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor
Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor
Deacon Ronald Blasius
Deacon John Keenan
(With Sympathy) Deacon Ken Maher

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER
Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3
Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6
Barbara Luna

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8
Dominick Avento

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY
Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
Dominick Avento

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Diane M. Anderson
School Phone-631-584-7896 School Fax: 631-584-3258

TRUSTEES
Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL
Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration In The Church– *Monday1:30pm -7pm*

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN
CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.
LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
STEVEN CAVA-USN
ERIC SEELIN- USMC
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY
STAFF SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA– US ARMY
MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS –USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC
PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG
KYLE J. GRUNER –US ARMY
MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD
KELLI MCLAUGHLIN– LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD
STAFF SGT MICHAEL J BANG SPECIAL FORCES US ARMY
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY

FAITH DIRECT:
GO TO SSPJ.ORG
CLICK ON THE FAITH DIRECT ICON
Parish of Saints Philip and James
account code **NY232** when signing up

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

Weekly Collection: Sunday January 31st, 2021 ***$ 12,618.***
Snow Removal: ***118.***
Faith Direct : (126Participants) ***3.253.***
Total Collections: ***$15.989.***
Parish Social Ministry: ***$155.***

Thank you for your generosity

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Job wrestled with the question of suffering. Today, don't we also wrestle with that question? Here are some thoughts of Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, about suffering drawn from today's gospel.

> *In today's Gospel, Jesus is shown healing, first Peter's mother-in-law, and then those brought to him at sundown. Notice that after he cures the woman, she gets up to serve. Mark is hinting that she becomes a disciple and that the process of discipleship is first the healing encounter with Jesus that enables service in his name. We, the church, the followers of Jesus, must recognize our responsibility to stop suffering as much as we can. In today's Gospel, Jesus is a sign of God's desire to deal with suffering. We do not deny the presence of suffering and the tragic in our lives, in fact, we do what we can to overcome it. But while Jesus deals with suffering and cures illnesses in these stories, he doesn't eliminate all pain from the world; somehow, we deal with that suffering and its causes as we can and are left with the awesome mystery of what remains.*
>
> *Maybe we can't answer the questions raised by suffering in our world. Though, like Jesus the Word made flesh, we can be there with those in grief – stand with them, suffer with them and, when possible, do what we can to alleviate their pain. Our faith in Jesus, the one whom Mark promises will be more powerful, and will baptize us with the Holy Spirit, will strengthen us in this task of solidarity with those who suffer. The Eucharist we celebrate today, remember it is broken bread, reminds us that Jesus is here with us in our pain, helping us not to lose hope.*

I've included in the bulletin a note from Bishop Barres thanking us for surpassing our last year's Catholic Ministries Appeal goal. May I once again add my deepest thanks to you, not only for assuring that we receive our parish rebate on which we rely so much, but even more for heeding Our Lord's call to love, care, support and provide for our sisters and brothers. Our Lord continues to come to us in all those with whom He so lovingly identifies – the least, the poor, all those who like Him took to heart His parable of the Good Samaritan. Also in today's bulletin is a note of thanks to you from the Finance Committee. Your love for our community and support of our desire to live the Gospel are so deeply, gratefully, lovingly appreciated.

Further along in today's bulletin you will find some of the Lenten suggestions we are happy to recommend to you. Please return last year's palm for burning for this year's ashes. **Ashes will be distributed very differently this year.** The Vatican has issued guidelines for the distribution of ashes during the pandemic. Churches will return to the ancient practice of receiving ashes by sprinkling on the forehead in silence. Every year the Holy Father receives ashes in this way. **Please remember that Ash Wednesday is not a holyday of obligation.** Catholics are not obligated to receive sacramental ashes as Lent begins. The schedule of services on Ash Wednesday may be found in the bulletin. These services will be livestreamed. The season of Lent calls us to pause, to reflect on our relationship with God, and to move forward – letting go of any obstacles and strengthening the goodness around and within us. Next week I will share more on our Lenten theme which will be stated on the Lenten bracelets we will offer this year. This picks up on the Key offered at Christmas – Jesus is the Key.

During these next weeks, the children preparing for First Communion will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation in small groups, as will our Confirmation candidates. Please keep them in your prayers.

And, have you ever felt like this?

I want to be like a caterpillar. Eat a lot. Sleep for a while. Wake up beautiful.
Real heartbreak is when you've been dreaming about eating the leftovers all day and then come home to find someone else has eaten them.
Some days I amaze myself. Other days I look for the phone while I'm holding it.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

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

The Altar Candles
For the Week of
February 7th, 2021

Are burning
In loving memory
Of
Matthew Ryan Martin

"Our love for you is forever"

Love,

Mom, Dad and Ashley

Remembering in Our Prayers~

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

Saturday	***February 6th, 2021*** ***Presider: Father Joe*** ***Lector: M. Dreschler*** ***EM: L. Sisti***	***9:15am*** ***5:00pm***	***Deacon Ken Maher*** ***James Peter Klouda***
Sunday	***February 7th, 2021*** ***Presider: Father Joe*** ***Lector: A. Mantia*** ***EM:M. Sehne***	***8am***	***For the People of SSPJ***
	Presider: Father Tom ***Lector: B. Tobin*** ***EM: E. Sotomayer***	***10:00am***	***Lawrence M. Kenney***
	Collective Mass ***Presider: Father Tom*** ***Lector: L. Just*** ***EM: B. Luna***	***12:00pm***	***Marilyn McCutcheon*** ***Muykhaylo Panchishak*** ***Marie Csorny*** ***Joseph Winters*** ***Edda Nieves***
Monday	***February 8th, 2021*** ***Saint Jerome***	***7:30am*** ***9:15am***	***Matthew Ryan Martin*** ***Madeline Haggerty***
Tuesday	***February 9th, 2021***	***7:30am*** ***9:15am***	***Anne O'Neill*** ***Jakob Sehne***
Wednesday	***February 10th, 2021*** ***Saint Scholastica***	***7:30am*** ***9:15am***	 ***Philip Giarraputo, Sr.***
Thursday	***February 11th, 2021*** ***Our Lady of Lourdes***	***7:30am*** ***9:15am***	***<u>Collective Mass</u>:***
Friday	***February 12th, 2021***	***7:30am*** ***9:15am***	***Sean West*** ***Living-Pasquale Savarese***
Saturday	***February 13th, 2021*** ***Presider: Father Kevin*** ***Lector: B. Thompson*** ***EM: D. Anderson***	***9:15am*** ***5:00pm***	***Deacon Ken Maher*** ***Catherine Ginty***
Sunday	***February 14th, 2021*** ***Presider: Father Kevin*** ***Lector: M. Sehne*** ***EM: E. Sica***	***8:00am***	***For the People of SSPJ***
	Presider: Father Joe ***Lector: P. Wos*** ***EM: K. Consenz***	***10:00am***	***Rosemarie Sherow***
	<u>Collective Mass</u> ***Presider: Father Joe*** ***Lector: C. Rubano*** ***EM: B. Luna***	***12:00pm***	***Living-Pasquale Savarese*** ***Joseph Winter*** ***Vincent Buchanan*** ***Deacon Ken Maher*** ***Leonard G. Dabalsky***

Sincere Gratitude and Thanks from SSPJ Finance Committee

At our recent meeting last week,

The Finance Committee joined our Pastor, Father Tom, in expressing gratitude and thanks to the parishioners of SSPJ for their continued financial support during these most difficult times. Despite the inability and real concerns of many to actually attend Mass during the pandemic, you have continued to recognize the financial needs of the parish. In addition to the monies donated by the parishioners attending the weekend Masses, we have been receiving contributory offerings dropped off or mailed to the office. It truly reflects the wonderful, caring and giving nature of our parishioners which has allowed the parish to continue to maintain the maintenance of our buildings and campus and remain in good financial position.

Thank you for being such shining examples of Apostles of Hope.

The Finance Committee:
Diane Anderson, Tina Cafaro, Larry Just,
Jerry Linder, Gus Mantia, Brendan McGovern, Virginia Portanova,
John Primavera, Lisa Stephen

A Special Thank You from Bishop Barres to Sts. Philip & James Parish

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 22, 2021

Reverend Thomas Haggerty
Church of Saints Philip & James
1 Carow Place
St. James, New York 11780

Dear Father Haggerty:

Barbara Kilarjian has shared with me the wonderful news that your parish has exceeded goal in pledges for the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal. What a wonderful tribute to you and your parishioners during this unprecedented time ~ congratulations and many thanks.

Your support is so vital to continuing our evangelization and discipleship ministries throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre and I am most grateful for your commitment and leadership not only to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, but to your parish and the Diocese.

Thank you again for helping us to fulfill the promise of the future and continue to promote *dramatic missionary growth* across Long Island. I keep you and your parishioners in my Masses and prayers.

Fraternally in Christ,

+ John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Very grateful Tom

cc: Barbara Kilarjian

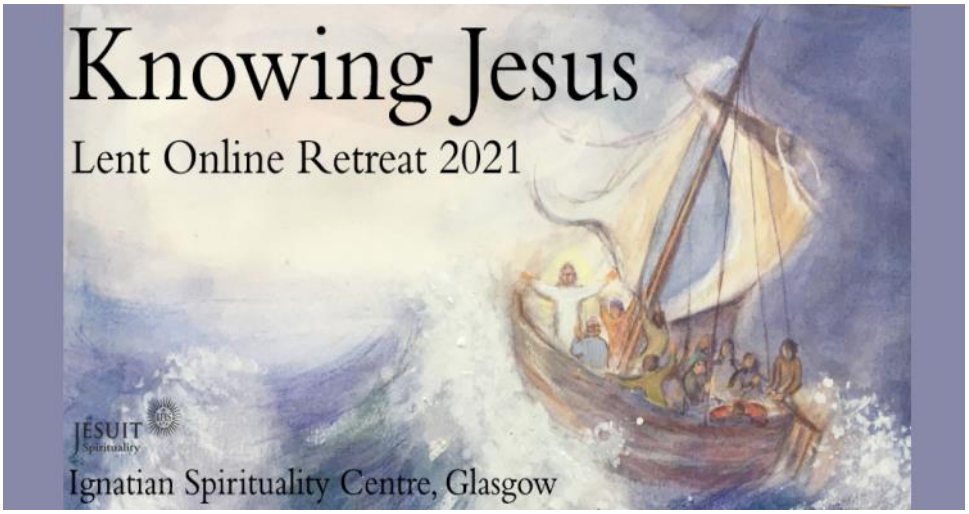
Preparing for Our 2021 Lenten Journey ~ 2021 Some suggestions….

Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 2021
Ashes will be distributed during the following times:
7:30am Mass
9:15am Mass
12:00 Word Service
3:00 Word Service
5:00 Word Service
7:00pm Mass

BBC AND JESUITS IN BRITAIN BRING YOU A SPECIAL LENT RETREAT

Lent 2021 | Jesuits in Britain : VISIT: www.jesuit.org.uk/tags/lent-2021

Do you need some therapy for the soul?St Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), has inspired millions to dig deeper, connect more closely with the world, and find God in all things. It is a spirituality which appeals to people of all religions and none.In these uncertain times, Ignatius reaches across the centuries and asks: What moves you? What brings you life? What do you want to give yourself to? What do you desire most deeply? What holds you when you...



An amazing Daily Lenten Journey – please review and consider.
VISIT: www.onlineprayer.net

The Search is a beautifully produced journey through the big questions we all share. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to *The Search with your own small group. And if you don't have a small group yet...we encourage you to start one! It's easy, and The Search is a great resource to start with. In fact, each week Chris Stefanick from Real Life Catholic will be guiding us throughout Lent on how to use The Search in your own small group during his weekly show The Life You Were Made For.*

To sign up for this seven-week series,
visit reallifecatholic.com/thesearch
and get ready to experience your most meaningful Lent, ever.

RCIA Thoughts….

Dear Parish family of SSPJ our RCIA team is asking for your prayers. This week has been a tough one for some of the members.

We lost our longstanding founder of the RCIA process here at SSPJ Georgia Priebe. She will be greatly missed. What an accomplished woman who brought her talents to this wonderful process.
Rest in peace Georgia, you will be missed.

Barbara Erias who worked with Georgia for many years and still continues to be with us lost her brother and only sibling this past Tuesday. His name is Michael Joseph McMahon. Prayers going out to Barbara and her family.

Lastly we ask you to pray for Michael Hoonhout's dad Alphonsus "Mike" Hoonhout, who is seriously ill. Michael will be traveling out to the west coast to be with him. Prayers for his family as well.

Lastly we pray for those who are searching to find God in their lives and struggle to find him.

A Reflection from Sister T~

Dear Friends,

Picture this: the first real blizzard, the snow is coming down heavily and the wind is howling… There is a small fireplace that is heating a large room and there I sit, writing my reflection. Lucky me! Due to unforeseen circumstances, I am able to stay in the place I had my annual retreat. Although I have finished my retreat, I get a few more days thanks to the storm and generosity of my friends. Now, on to the matter at hand, the reflection.

As I was finishing my retreat on compassion (remembering last week's reflection), I came across something that finished my time and I thought it dovetailed last week's theme. Joyce Rupp shares a story about a group of leaders that went looking for the Cave of Wisdom. They traveled far and wide and, as most journeys go, experienced different challenges: getting lost, having to ask for directions, bad weather, and some difficult terrain along the way. Finally, they reached the Cave of Wisdom. They are overjoyed as they are greeted by the friendly guard at the entrance. He invites them in, but instead of entering, they reply "Thank you, but we have no time for exploration. We just want to say that we've been here." Then they turned around and headed back the same way they came.

The story hit me like a ton of bricks. I couldn't help but think of the story of the wise Men who searched for the Messiah, perhaps born in that Cave of Wisdom. But they explored and were changed, and went home by a different route. For me the story said, you have come this far and have learned so much about compassion, directed at the self as well as others. Will you continue to explore and go deeper, or are you just going to go back to what was?

Joyce offers this: "The journey of compassion has only begun. So much waits to be discovered, explored, and integrated in to daily living. Compassionate presence will always require taking another step further into personal transformation. This way of life is continually evolving." The book ends with the quote that I probably need to put on my mirror, so each morning I can read it. "The guard at the door of your heart invites you to come into the 'cave of compassion.' I hope that you will enter there often and find the treasures that await you."

For me, this has been a different journey, and yet the quotes urge me on. I pray that I can enter many times into that cave of compassion, not only for others but for myself. May your week be blessed, and do something nice for yourself and someone else this week!

Till next week,
Sister Theresita

Parish Social Ministry

We Remember In Our Hearts the families holding precious memories in their hearts from the loss of,

Margaret Tomasicchio
Thomas Hartigan
Howard Ladermager
Gudys Vinces

Safely home in the loving arms of Jesus.

FOOD PANTRY HELP

TOILET PAPER

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

Creation is not a property which we can dispose of at will; much less so is it the property of some, of a few: creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude.

Stewardship of Creation

Music Ministry

This weekend's focus is on healing. We hear in the readings of God's healing power. Come before the Lord with your troubles and burdens and He will take us in his arms and heal our broken hearts and wounded souls. Jesus will be our healing and nourishment.

*The **Sending Forth hymn** this weekend is "Christ in me Arise' by Trevor Thomson. Look online for the words. Christ in me arise to dispel darkness, arise in me with your power and strength. Pour out your blessings and healing. Christ in me arise and I will rise with you.*
We sing for God to pour out his healing and blessings on us.

Thank you for praying for the protection of human life!
The last nine days, we've united in prayer with Catholics all over the country. That is powerful. But help is still needed.
To stay up to date with the latest

Subscribe to Respect Life Prayer and Action at

9DAYSFORLIFE.COM

Sister T's Recommendation: Evergreen By: Joyce Rupp

Evergreen,
Silent sentinel of hope
Through all seasons.

Somewhere
Deep within me
An evergreen grows,
Strong, tall, resilient,
Always singing of life.

Her stouthearted green
Endures, thrives
Amid winter wilds.

She is strong.
She is evergreen.
She lives in me.

The Feather Prayer

By: Joyce Rupp

Begin:
Find a feather or an image of one and hold it in your hand.
Enter the still-point within yourself. Rest contently, remembering the feather is a sign of your desire to care well for yourself.

The Feather Prayer ~ Joyce Rupp

Winged One of my life, you taught valuable lessons by observing the birds of the air and flowers of the field.
Be my teacher now as I seek to be self compassionate.

I desire to pull out old feathers of negative self-judgment, to remove tattered remnants of past thoughts about self that generate discouragement and lessen positive energy.

Strengthen my daily resolve to layer my activities carefully, to maintain a reasonable balance of inner peacefulness.

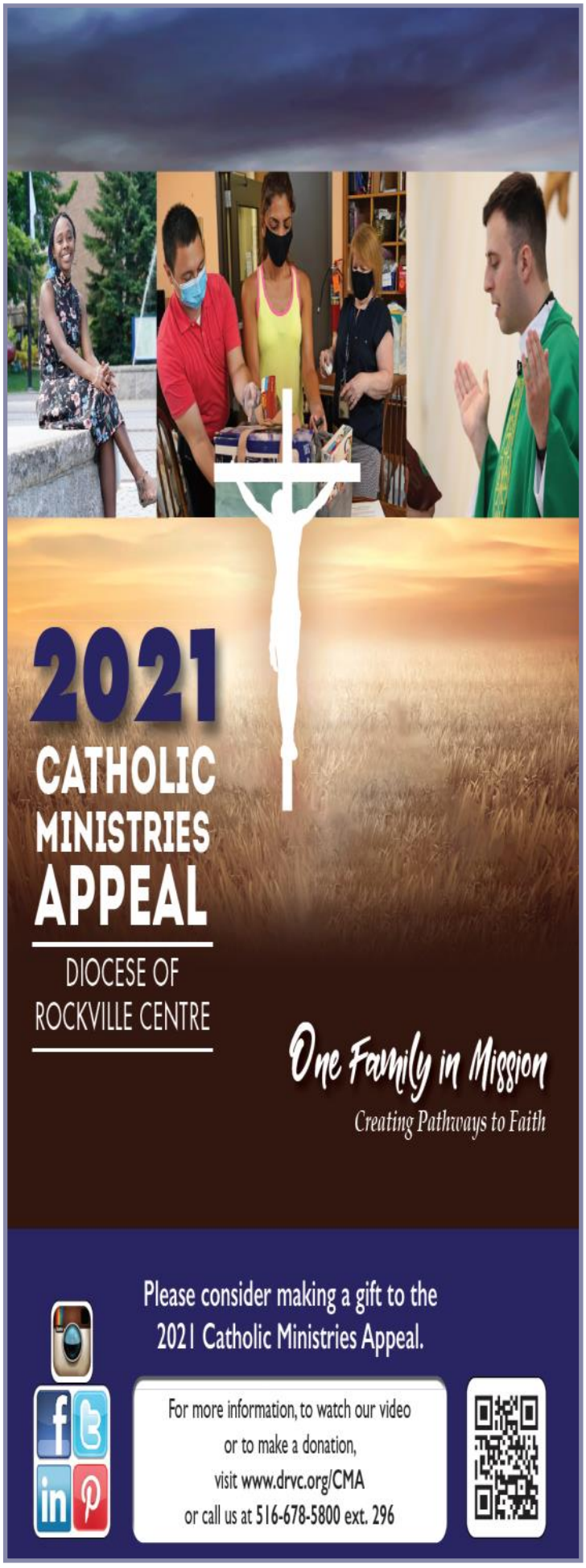
Sort out with me what old attitudes need to be discarded so that my relationship with you has room enough to grow.

Support me as I pick off the parasites of false expectations. and shake off the collected dust of trying to do too much.

Oil my heart with your love through steadfast prayer and keep me flying freely on the wings of your grace.

May I swim with easy movement upon the sea of your love, float without fretting, and regularly preen my life.

Closing:
Place one of your hands over your heart.
Place the other hand softly, with gentle care, on your forehead.
Think of the Holy One extending love to you,
Desiring the greatest peace and ease for your well -being.
Open your mind and heart as fully as you can and let Yourself receive this kindness.
Now, bring your hands back to a resting posture.
Sit quietly for a while and allow yourself to rest in this graciousness.
Be immersed in the Comforting One's presence.



Registration Has Begun at SSPJ School!

The beginning of **Catholic School's Week** was off to a great start with many activities planned for the students throughout the week.

But then..... the snow storm happened.

The spirit of our school along with the students and staff did not stop us from achieving our goals for the week.

We were able to continue educating our students here at **SSPJ remotely** while having some fun after the school day building snowmen and playing in the snow.

Catholic School's Week will continue into next week.

Come join our school.

Catholic EDUCATION

For more information on enrolling at SSPJ school or to schedule a tour, please contact:

Diane Anderson, Principal

At: danderson@sspjschool.net

SSPJ School January Apostles of Hope

January Apostles of Hope

Pre-K A

Taylor Shubert is an Apostle of Hope. Taylor loves coming to school and works hard every single day. She loves to learn something new each day she is at school. She is a kind friend to everyone and is a great helping hand.

Pre-K B

Aaron Metelenis is an Apostle of Hope. Aaron always has a smile on his face, even under the mask. He spreads kindness and warmth with his positive energy and he always tries to put in his best effort for classwork. Aaron's kindness makes him an excellent follower of Jesus.

Kylah Pearson is an Apostle of Hope. Kylah is a hard worker and follows the class rules very well. She is always helping out her friends and helps them remember to make the right choices. She is also very kind and friendly to everybody in our classroom. Kylah's positivity and kindness make her a wonderful follower of Jesus.

Kindergarten

Michael Cullen is an Apostle of Hope. Michael comes in every day ready to learn new and wonderful things. He has been working very hard on his reading! Michael sets a wonderful example to his classmates on putting his best foot forward and being a good samaritan to his teacher and friends.

Gabriella Gonzalez is an Apostle of Hope. Gabriella has been working very hard on getting ready for first grade. She has come a long way with her sight words especially. Gabriella tries her best each day and is respectful during prayer time.

Grade 1

Gregory Apoe is an Apostle of Hope. Gregory is a motivated learner, and enjoys making his teacher and classmates smile. Gregory loves to make his classmates happy by drawing pictures for them during indoor recess. Gregory enjoys reading out loud to his classmates, and modeling to others how well he incorporates his manners throughout the day.

Isabella O'Reilly is an Apostle of Hope. Isabella comes to school everyday with excitement, love, and happiness. Isabella has been a wonderful model to her classmates, and enjoys being the mini teacher in the classroom. Isabella enjoys telling jokes to her friends, and making them laugh throughout the day.

Grade 2

Solana Johnson is an Apostle of Hope. Solana is a **remote learner** who joins our class every day with a big smile. Solana tries her best to complete all her work carefully. Solana is learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and excited to be receiving the sacrament next month. Solana tries to live each day the way Jesus teaches us in the Bible.

Sabella Johnson is an Apostle of Hope. Sabella is a **remote learner** who joins our class each day with a friendly greeting. Sabella does her best to complete all her work and share her answers with the class. Sabella is looking forward to getting closer to Jesus when she makes the Sacrament of Reconciliation next month.

Grade 3

Declan Morosky is an Apostle of Hope. Declan thrives on doing his best each day. He pays attention to detail and completes his daily work with extra care. He is kind and considerate to his classmates and is a good friend to the entire class.

Antonella Franco is an Apostle of Hope. Antonella is a sweet and caring student. She comes to school each day ready to do her very best. She is attentive and always contributes to class discussions. Antonella is a good friend to all and she models a true disciple of Jesus.

Grade 4

Raizel Silvestre is an Apostle of Hope. Raizel is gentle, kind, thoughtful, and caring. She enjoys making cards and crafts for others to brighten their days. She works hard and puts effort into all of her work. She enjoys writing, reading and praying. She is a wonderful role model to her peers.

Jack Kollmer is an Apostle of Hope. Jack works hard each day in class to focus on completing his classwork assignments. He is kind and respectful to his peers and his teachers. Jack puts in great effort and he enjoys being friendly and interacting with others in a positive manner.

Grade 5

Sarah Cullen is an Apostle of Hope. Sarah is a bright student who works hard in the classroom. She is polite and kind to her teachers and classmates. Sarah models to others what it is like to truly say, "Yes my Lord."

Grade 6

Gianna Tomasino is an Apostle of Hope. Gianna is a kind and hardworking student who is friendly to all of her classmates. She is always eager to learn new things, especially about her faith. She easily adapts to any new situation and never complains. Her quiet kindness and amazing sense of humor makes her a wonderful disciple of Jesus.

Grade 7

Angelina Sparacino is an Apostle of Hope. Angelina comes into the classroom every day with a smile that can light up any room. Her joy is infectious. Angelina is easily excitable and is eager to put her best foot forward in everything she does. Angelina is a hard worker and friendly to all.

Grade 8

Rylan Baxter is an Apostle of Hope. Rylan is a hard worker who always tries his best. Rylan has a love for learning and will ask questions to further his understanding of material. Rylan is a great friend to his classmates. He is a good listener and will give them help when needed. Rylan is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and participates in many community service projects both inside and outside of the classroom.

Faculty

Mrs. Avanzato is an Apostle of Hope. Mrs. A is always willing to help out where and whenever needed. You can find her monitoring the bathrooms, helping out in Pre-K, and monitoring Elementary and Academy students. Thank you Mrs. A for being a team player and sharing the Light throughout each day.

Miss Christine is an Apostle of Hope. Miss Christine helps keep all the students safe each and every day. She takes temperatures in the morning and is constantly spraying and cleaning desks and chairs. Miss Christine makes sure all the students wash their hands and always has hand sanitizer available for the boys and girls. Thank you for all your care and concern.

Religious Education News

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation~

Please remember in your prayers all of our students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, most especially the second graders in Miss Charlottes Communion II class and the seventh and eighth grade students in Dominick Avento' s Confirmation I and II program. May God touch their hearts with his tender mercy and forgiveness.

Communion II Reconciliation:
February 13th at 11:30am and 1:30pm
Emails have been sent to families regarding dates
Parents were emailed with details

Confirmation II Class:
February 8th and 9th at 5:00pm and 7:00pm
Emails have been sent to families regarding dates

WAY TO GO SSPJ RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS!
YOUR JANUARY ACTS OF SERVICE PRODUCED:

27 PAIRS OF MENS WARM GLOVES
28 MENS WARM HATS
32 PAIRS OF MENS WARM SOCKS
22 WOMENS WARM HATS
23 PAIRS OF WOMENS WARM GLOVES
12 PAIRS OF WOMENS WARM SOCKS
40 WARM HATS AND GLOVES FOR CHILDREN
20 PAIRS OF WARM SOCKS FOR CHILDREN

YOUR SACRIFICE AND GENEROSITY HAS PROVIDED OVER 200 PIECES OF WARM ESSENTIAL CLOTHING FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN NEED!

Your SSPJ Parish Family is so grateful for your compassion and contributions!
YOU TRULY ARE "APOSTLES OF HOPE!"

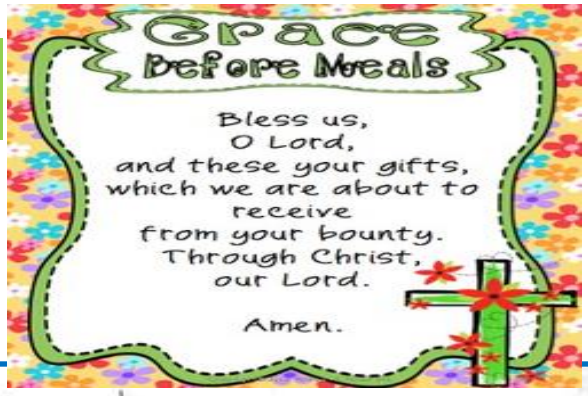
FEBRUARY ACTS OF SERVICE PROJECT:

FEBRUARY~ WARMING HEARTS….HOW DO YOU DO THAT? YOU SHARE YOUR TREASURE-YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR KINDNESS…

CRAFT 3 VALENTINE HEARTS….
Put two of them into a plastic bag with your name upon it. Bring that bag to the Parish center office drop box by February 7th .
Now,
GIVE THE THIRD HEART TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE!
YOUR HOMEMADE HEARTS WILL BE SHARED WITH Patients and families at Stony Brook Children's Hospital and with Patients and families at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

COMING UP: OUR LENTEN CHALLENGE…

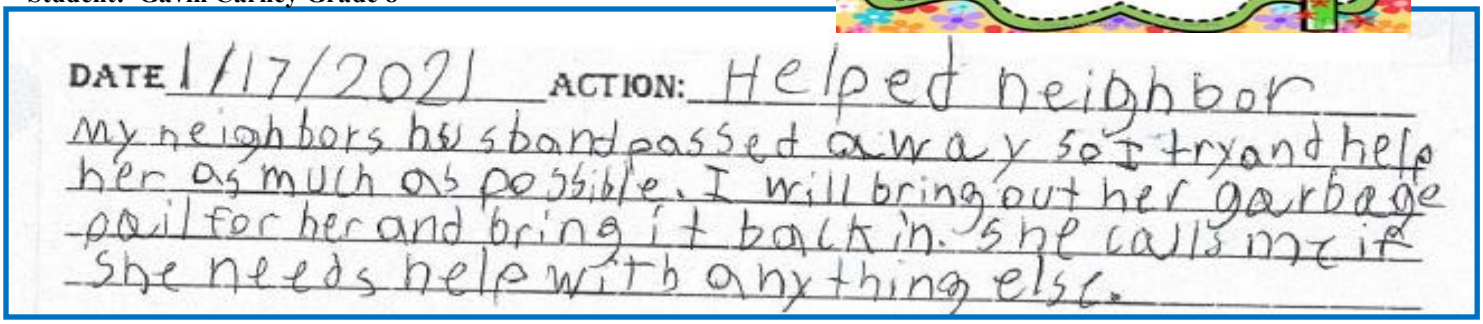
February Prayer for the Month-February



Small Acts of Kindness Go A Very Long Way…
See how some of our children are serving others….

MY NONNA COOKED **OUR WHOLE FAMILY DINNER LAST WEEK. I CLEANED UP THE WHOLE** KITCHEN AND WASHED THE DISHES AS A SURPRISE SO THAT SHE CAN REST AFTER THE BIG MEAL.
STUDENT: JOHN H. GRADE 3

Student: Gavin Carney Grade 8


DATE 1/17/2021 ACTION: Helped neighbor
My neighbors husband passed away so I try and help her as much as possible. I will bring out her garbage pail for her and bring it back in. She calls me if she needs help with anything else.

Good News
INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
Ps 32:(7) 1-2, 5,11
1 Corinthians 10:31--11:1
Mark 1:40-45

Monday February 15
Genesis 4:1-15,25
Ps 50:1,8,16bc-17,20-21
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday February 16
Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10
Ps 29:1a,2,3ac-4,3b,9c-10
Mark 8:14-21

Ash Wed. February 17
Joel 2:12-18
Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17
2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2
Matthew 6:1-6.16-18

Thursday February 18
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 9:22-25

Friday February 19
Isaiah 58:1-9a
Ps 51:3-6,18-19
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday February 20
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Ps 86:1-6
Luke 5:27-32

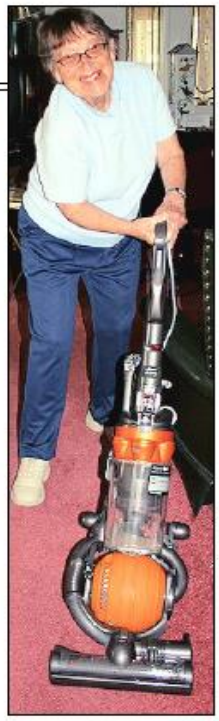
This Sunday's second reading gives us a great motto that we should post on our bedroom mirrors so that it's the first thing we see as our sleepy eyes awaken each morning: "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."

Everything! Brush your teeth for the glory of God. Kiss your family "Good morning!" for the glory of God. Go to Mass for the glory of God (in other words, we don't go to church just for what *we* can get out of it). Do your work for the glory of God. Drive politely for the glory of God. Shop and eat and greet others for the glory of God. Say yes to the needs of the Church for the glory of God.

And receive all that he wants to give you (the compliments, the money you earn, the answered prayers, the good times and rewards) all for the glory of God.

This should be part of our daily prayers every morning: "Holy Spirit, help me to do everything today for the glory of God. Amen!"

By making it a daily habit to start the day this way, the glory of God becomes integrated into our character. When we remember to see our activities through the lens of "whatever you do, do it for the glory of God", we become stronger in avoiding all kinds of sins. It sanctifies each moment of every day.



Often, we see religious activities as separate from our normal activities. We take "time out" from our schedules to go to church. We stop what we're doing when we want to pray. We think that only Clergy and Religious can be religious all of the time and that a layperson who is like that is a "fanatic". But why?

Why should we limit "for the glory of God" to only what is "holy" – Mass attendance, religious rituals, prayers, the works of ministry, etc.? We can sanctify every moment by remembering that whatever we do, we want to please God with it.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What have you done already today that glorifies God?
2. What is planned for later today and how can that be offered to God?
3. What will you do to remind yourself daily to do everything for the glory of God?
4. Describe ways that we can glorify God in normal, everyday activities.
5. How do you turn mundane tasks into a gift for God?
6. When is it most difficult to glorify him?
7. How can even our lapses into sin become blessings that glorify God?

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OUR UNCONSCIOUS SEARCH FOR GOD

How do we search for God?

It is easy to misunderstand what that means. We are forever searching for God, though mostly without knowing it. Usually, we think of our search for God as a conscious religious search, as something we do out of a spiritual side of ourselves. We tend to think of things this way: I have my normal life and its pursuits and, if I am so inclined, on the side, I might have a spiritual or religious pursuit wherein I try through prayer, reflection, and religious practices to get to know God. This is an unfortunate misunderstanding. Our normal search for meaning, fulfillment, and even for pleasure, is in fact our search for God.

What do we naturally search for in life? By nature, we search for meaning, love, a soulmate, friendship, emotional connection, sexual fulfillment, significance, recognition, knowledge, creativity, play, humor, and pleasure. However, we tend not to see these pursuits as searching for God. In pursuing these things, we rarely, if ever, see them in any conscious way as our way of searching for God. In our minds, we are simply looking for happiness, meaning, fulfillment, and pleasure, and our search for God is something we need to do in another way, more consciously through some explicit religious practices.

Well, we are not the first persons to think like that. It has always been this way. For instance, St. Augustine struggled with exactly this, until one day he realized something. A searcher by temperament, Augustine spent the first thirty-four years of his life pursuing the things of this world: learning, meaning, love, sex, and a prestigious career. However, even before his conversion, there was a desire in him for God and the spiritual. However, like us, he saw that as a separate desire from what he was yearning for in the world. Only after his conversion did he realize something. Here is how he famously expressed it:

"*Late have I loved you*, *O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. … You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness."*

This is an honest admission that he lived a good number of years not loving God; but it is also an admission that, during those years, he had massively misunderstood something and that misunderstanding lay at the root of his failure. What was that misunderstanding?

Reading his confession we tend to focus on the first part of it, namely, on his realization that God was inside of him all the while, but that he was not inside of himself. This is a perennial struggle for us too. Less obvious in this confession and something that is also a perennial struggle for us, is his recognition that for all those years while he was searching for life in the world, a search he generally understood as having nothing to do with God, he was actually searching for God. What he was looking for in all those worldly things and pleasures was in fact the person of God. Indeed, his confession might be recast this way:

Late, late, have I loved you because I was outside of myself while all the while you were inside me, but I wasn't home, and I had no idea it was you I was actually looking for in the world. I never connected that search to you. In my mind, I was not looking for you; I was looking for what would bring me meaning, love, significance, sexual fulfillment, knowledge, pleasure, and a prestigious career. Never did I connect my longing for these things with my longing for you. I had no idea that everything I was chasing, all those things I was lonely for, were already inside me, in you. Late, late, have I understood that. Late, late, have I learned that what I am so deeply hungry and lonely for is contained inside of you. All these years, I never connected my restlessness, my seemingly selfish and lustful pursuit of things, with you. Everything I am lonely for is inside of you and you are inside of me. Late, late, have I realized this.

W*e are fired into life with a madness that comes from the gods.* So say the Greek Stoics. They are right. Our whole life is simply a search to respond to that divine madness inside us, a madness Christians identify with infinite yearnings of the soul. Given those yearnings, like Augustine, we plunge into the world searching for meaning, love, a soulmate, friendship, emotional connection, sexual fulfillment, significance, recognition, knowledge, creativity, and pleasure, and that earthy pursuit, perhaps more than our explicit religious pursuits, is in fact our search for God.

Best to realize this early, so we do not have to write: *"Late, late, have I loved you!"*

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.
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