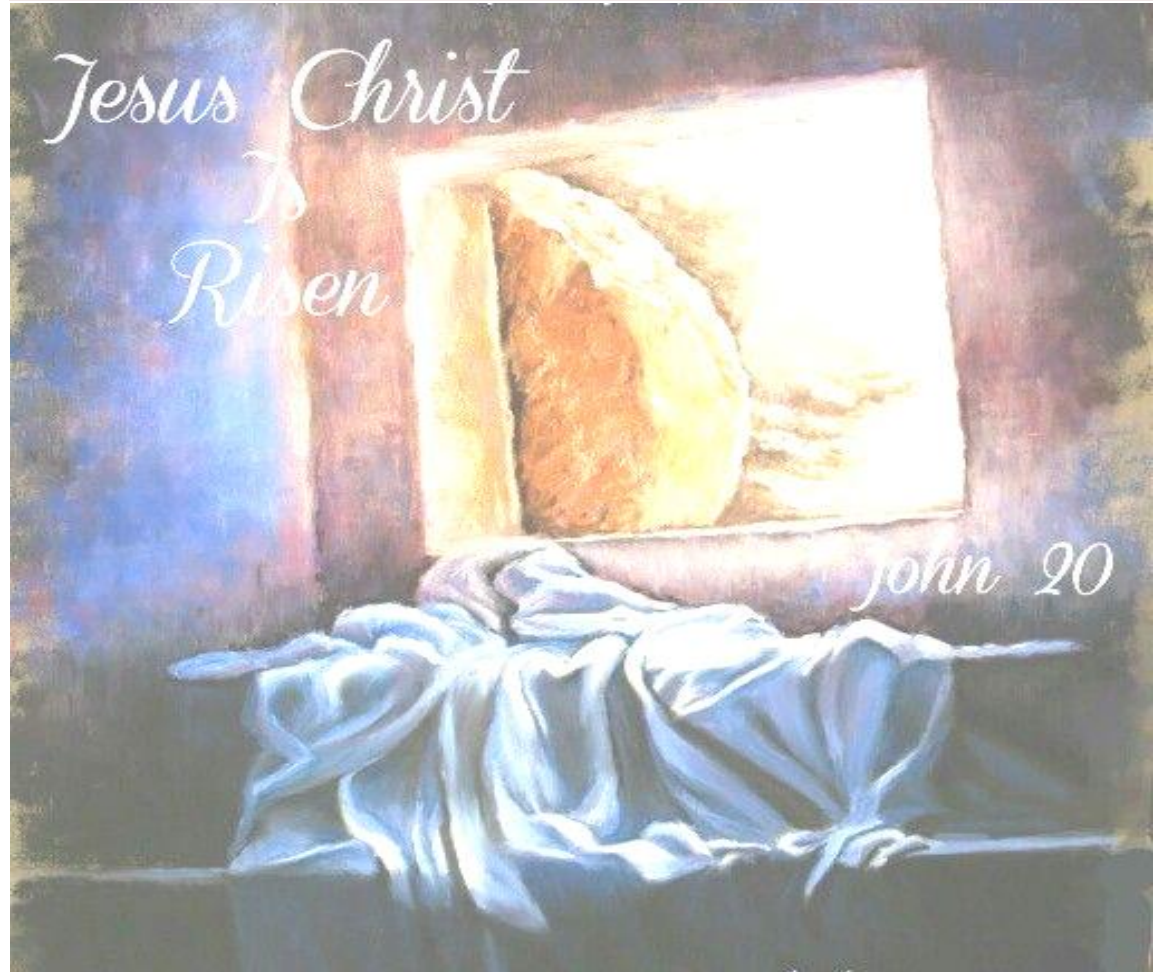




The Parish of Saints Philip and James
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

April 4th, 2021
Easter Sunday
Of the Resurrection of the Lord



"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice
and be glad." Psalm 118

"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

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

Brendan McGovern ~ 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— Monday 1:30pm -7pm

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



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

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: \$17,890.
Weekly Collection: Sunday March 28th 2021 : \$ 10,648.
Easter Remembrance/flowers: 395.
Easter Gift 2,630.
Faith Direct : (126Participants) 3,253.
Total Collections: \$ 16,926.

****FIGURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE : EARLY BULLETIN SUBMISSION DATE**

**FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON:
USING SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232**

As you probably know, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has declared Bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law.

In order to be as helpful as possible to the parties that may be affected by this bankruptcy, we will be publishing the following note regarding “proof of claim forms” for the next few months:
Information regarding the deadlines for filing proofs of claim in the Diocese’s chapter 11 case and the forms to use can be found by clicking on the following link to the Diocese’s bankruptcy website and scrolling down the page <https://dm.epiq11.com/drvc>

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen! Christ is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Happy Easter to everyone! Easter sends us forth as Apostles of Hope, to bring light to dark places and joy to places where sadness needs to be swept away. The Resurrection of Jesus challenges us by filling us with new life, – new life which in order to continue and grow must be shared with others. Rejoice to be an Apostle of Hope!

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, we are so in need of Easter joy and Easter hope! You have often heard me say God comes disguised as our life. I believe this is so true in these challenging times as God continues to roll away the stones which hinder us from dwelling in joy and hope. God provides us with a divine vaccine - one which dispels divisiveness, prejudices, unkindness – all things which keep us entombed. And not only does God want to dispel those things, but God also wants to raise up new life and new possibilities within each of us. Will we, like Mary Magdalene, be open to recognizing Jesus as he calls us to be agents of resurrection, working and praying together to renew our lives, our church, our world?

Let's pray this prayer by Anne Osdieck:

***Lord, help us to see what is above:
compassion, gentleness,
kindness, humility, patience,
forgiveness of one another,
bearing with one another.
Let your peace dwell in our hearts!
Let us put on love and find ways
to fix the wrongs we see in our world today.
Amen.***

One of the most common Christian symbols associated with Easter is the lamb with a banner bearing a cross. In ancient times the Jews sacrificed a lamb in the course of the Passover celebration. The early Christians, most of whom were Hebrews, associated the sacrifice of the lamb with Christ's sacrifice on the cross. They connected the joyous Passover festival commemorating the liberation of the Hebrews from years of bondage in Egypt with the liberation from death represented by the Resurrection. Today's bulletin includes a "Paschal Lamb" for you to place in your window from Easter until Pentecost, which this year is May 23rd.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal continues. As you know, as our goal is paid off, we receive a rebate. Please help us meet goal during Easter season! Donations and pledges of any amount are most welcome.

Easter Blessings to all! And remember, we celebrate the Easter Season for 50 days!

Peace,

Father Tom

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

He Is Risen



Alleluia

Mass Intentions, For the week of April 4th, 2021

**Our Bread & Wine
For the Week of
April 4th, 2021**

Are Offered In Loving Memory of,

Richard & Grace Ehmann

**Easter Blessings,
Your Loving Family**

**The Pro-Life Rose
For the Week of
April 4th, 2021**

**Is Offered In Loving
Memory of,**

Richard & Grace Ehmann

**At Easter and Always, you are
loved and missed.
Love,
Your Family**

Remembering in Our Prayers~

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

Saturday	April 3rd, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: EM:	9:15am 9:30am 7:00pm	Morning Prayer Blessing Easter Bread Vigil Mass
Sunday	April 4th, 2021 Presider: Father Tom Lector: EM:	8am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: EM:	10:00am	Easter Novena
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: EM:	12:00pm	Easter Novena
Monday	April 5th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Easter Novena Scott Manley
Tuesday	April 6th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Easter Novena Beatrice & John Hearney
Wednesday	April 7th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Easter Novena Antonina & Ignatius Griffo
Thursday	April 8th 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Easter Novena Collective Mass: Anne Timke Filippina Nolfo Grace Ehmann Living-John Harney
Friday	April 9th, 2021	7:30am 9:15am	Easter Novena Terence Hobbes
Saturday	April 10th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: B. Thompson EM: L. Sisti	9:15am 5:00pm	Easter Novena Joey Morda
Sunday	April 11th, 2021 Presider: Father Joe Lector: E. Dobres EM: M. Sehne	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
	Presider: Father Tom Lector: M.Hoonhout EM: E. Sotomayer	10:00am	Easter Novena
	Collective Mass Presider: Father Joe Lector: M. Cashman EM: B. Luna	12:00pm	Evelyn Eustace Bruce Ogilvie Brigid Winters Miriam Dorrian Living-Pasquale Savarese

An Easter Letter from Bishop Barres~



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia! Around the world and across Long Island, we proclaim this marvelous truth. Good news is ours. Sin and death have been vanquished. Christ has conquered. God is victorious!

In light of the suffering and death of the past year, how blessed we are to behold again the Mystery of the Resurrection. These months have been dark and bleak. They have been long and challenging. Yet, as we encounter Easter 2021, we are reminded that God has the final word. Indeed, **Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it** (John 1:5). This Light, Jesus Christ, illumines our path. He gives hope. As the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council said:

Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful. Apart from His Gospel, they overwhelm us. Christ has risen, destroying death by His death; He has lavished life upon us so that...we can cry out in the Spirit: Abba, Father.1

With significant challenges facing us still on Long Island and across the globe, with darkness still afoot, perhaps the joy of Easter is difficult to embrace. Our hearts may be like those of the disciples who went on Easter dawn to anoint the Lord's body. At the strange sight of an empty tomb and an apparently absent Jesus, instead of experiencing immediate joy, they were confused and distressed. Only in seeing the Lord face to face did they come to embrace His rising from the dead.

Like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, we need to see Christ alive among us. We need to see the Resurrection in our midst. So, the Easter, let us ask, "Where is Christ Alive?"

Christ is alive in the countless frontline workers, civil servants, and medical professionals who have served so faithfully and so heroically this past year. Their sacrificial love and Good Samaritan-willingness to help neighbors in need radiate the Lord Jesus!

Christ is alive in the catechumens who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Their reception of the Sacraments reminds us of the power of our own Baptism-where each of us has died with Christ and risen with him to new life.


Above all, Christ is alive in His risen and glorified presence in the Eucharist and in the transforming power of His Body and Blood that we receive in the celebration of the Mass. Christ is alive, and therefore the Church is alive. The Eucharist is the source of this life-and its power has become perhaps more evident than ever, after months of separation from the weekly and daily celebration of the Mass. Together, we recall the disciples' recognition of Jesus following the Resurrection at Emmaus in the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of the Bread. We are grateful for the many ways in which our parishes and schools have continued to foster creatively this Emmaus experience on Long Island, both in-person and virtually. May we continue to recognize the Sunday Eucharist as the source from which the life of the Resurrected Christ bursts forth into the world.

At his Sunday Angelus on January 3, 2021, Pope Francis beautifully reminded us of Christ's continued presence in our midst:

"I like to think that when the Lord prays to the Father for us, he does not merely speak he shows him the wounds of the flesh, he shows him the wounds he suffered for us. This is Jesus: with his flesh he is the intercessor, he wanted to bear even the signs of suffering. Jesus, with his flesh, is before the Father. Indeed, the Gospel says that **He came to dwell among us**. He did not come to visit us, and then leave; He came to dwell with us, to stay with us."2

May we continue to encounter the presence of Jesus Christ who dwells in and through His Church. May we continue to experience signs of His Resurrection even amidst the challenges and crosses we embrace, and may this encounter continue to fill our hearts, so that our voices can confidently cry out: **The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia!**

Faithfully in the Lord,

+ 
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

1 Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes* (December 7, 1965)22, in *The Documents of Vatican Council II* (St. Paul's Publications, 2009).

2Francis, Angelus, 3 January, 2021. http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20210103.html

An Easter Reflection from Sister T~

Easter Sunday,

Dear Friends,

Well, we can now say in full Joy ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! The strife is over the battle won. Happy Easter.

Just a short while ago we were fasting and praying in preparation for this glorious day. I do not know about you, but I am thinking, 'where did Lent go?' for some of us the time seemed to drag on while for others it very quick. Although I had planned a different kind of Lent I had to let go and move where God was leading. Sometime this can be very challenging. However, it is now Easter!!!

As we experienced the days of Holy Week, we saw the most vulnerable gracious giving and serving side of Jesus. Good Friday when Jesus died all seemed lost. But Easter brought with it new Life. In nature we see all the sign of spring and new life. All those who went to the tomb realized that Christ had risen, and a new time had begun.

Each of us have had those moments in our life when all seemed to be lost. Take a moment and recall some of those times. Then when we entered the tomb of our souls, we were able to find new life. There are different ways that the new life came to us, perhaps through a person place or event. Spend some time during this day to remember those times.

Now picture yourself with Mary at the tomb as Jesus appears to her. You are there. You are there now. The risen Jesus is looking at you. He talks to you about your journey through this Lent. Share with Him your thoughts about your Lenten journey. Then listen to Him as He speaks to you of your journey. Jesus now lives for us and His final question for us this glorious Easter day might be "Will you live for me?"

May your Easter season be filled with the joy of the Resurrection and the life you will live for Jesus in your own special way.

Sister Theresita

Congratulations and God's Abundant Blessings Upon,

Sharon Gill and her beautiful Family!

Sharon was received in Full Communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Ceremony.

Let your light of faith always illuminate the love and grace of our faithful God.



Jesus is the Key– In Our Lives...

"I will place the key of the House of David on His shoulder; what He opens, no one will shut, what He shuts no one will open." Isaiah 22-22

Sometimes in my life I have found myself in a circumstance (for me being a young widow) and thought this is not how I imagined my life. This was not what I was planning. Not at that moment, but sometime in the future I would look back and see that Jesus already planned for that event. I was never alone and there was a way forward. That is because Jesus Is the Key.

Marianne Koke

Jesus is the Key that has opened the hearts of so many SSPJ Parishioners. Their generosity with donations to the food pantry has been overwhelming. The pantry is so abundantly filled and as a result those in need can be assisted, especially at this unusual and difficult time.

Jackie -Parish Social Ministry

***We have all heard the saying "Jesus is good"
We have all heard the reading, "I can do all through god who strengthens me"***

These are always prevailing statements no matter the situation. The reason these are true, every day, is because Jesus is the key in our lives.

This pandemic has provided so many challenges to our world, our parish, and every person. At the very beginning, it had seemed like all hope was lost. People were dying, medical professionals were spread thin, and everyone was working tirelessly just to make it through the day. Then something amazing happened. Everybody looked past all the bad things that were going on and saw everything in a new way. We began praising our essential workers, we started going on walks and enjoying nature, we slowed down our lives and lived more simply. We became better people as a result.

We have all had struggles in life, some more than others, but Jesus is our key. He unlocks our eyes so we can see the light in the darkness, he unlocks our hearts to love our neighbors, and he unlocks the gates of haven so we can have eternal life with him.

This is the true reason for lent. Lent isn't always about sacrifice. Its also about taking time to stop for a second and to look past the darkness to see the light, because Jesus allows us to.

Jesus is good. We can do all through him, who strengthens us. Jesus is the key!

–Anthony Spiezio (Cords of Faith Cantor)



Due to circumstances that are beyond our control, unforeseen obstacles may arise that prohibit our ability to communicate our "live stream events" on the parish website's : Facebook page: SSPJ Church

We appreciate your understanding

There are occasions when the livestream filming becomes available later on in a given day, however that is not always guaranteed.

Parish Social Ministry

FOOD PANTRY HELP

PARMALAT MILK

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

We Remember,

Geraldine D. Ross

Safely home in the arms of Jesus

Diocese of Rockville Centre *Healing after Abortion*



Project Rachel retreats offer the opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The retreats are directed by specially trained compassionate caregivers, including counselors and clergy, who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer.

Day of Prayer and Healing for Women— Saturday, May 15, 2021

Register by: May 10, 2021

For more information and to register please visit

www.drvc.org/projectrachel

or contact Project Rachel at 1(888) 456-HOPE (4673), 1(516) 766-2538 or
projectrachel@drvc.org All information will remain confidential.

COVID 19 Protocols will be observed

**YOU ARE CALLED TO
CARE FOR CREATION
NOT ONLY AS
RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS,
BUT ALSO AS
FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST!**

POPE FRANCIS

**DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!**

The Editorial Team at the Gabriel wish to extend sincere Easter Blessings to all at SSPJ. The next publication of the Gabriel will be available on Mother's Day, May 9th, 2021

The Gabriel Team is looking for creative submissions about...

MOM' S!!!

Please send your submission in A WORD DOCUMENT:

To: Elena Atkins Mingione

At: emingione55@yahoo.com

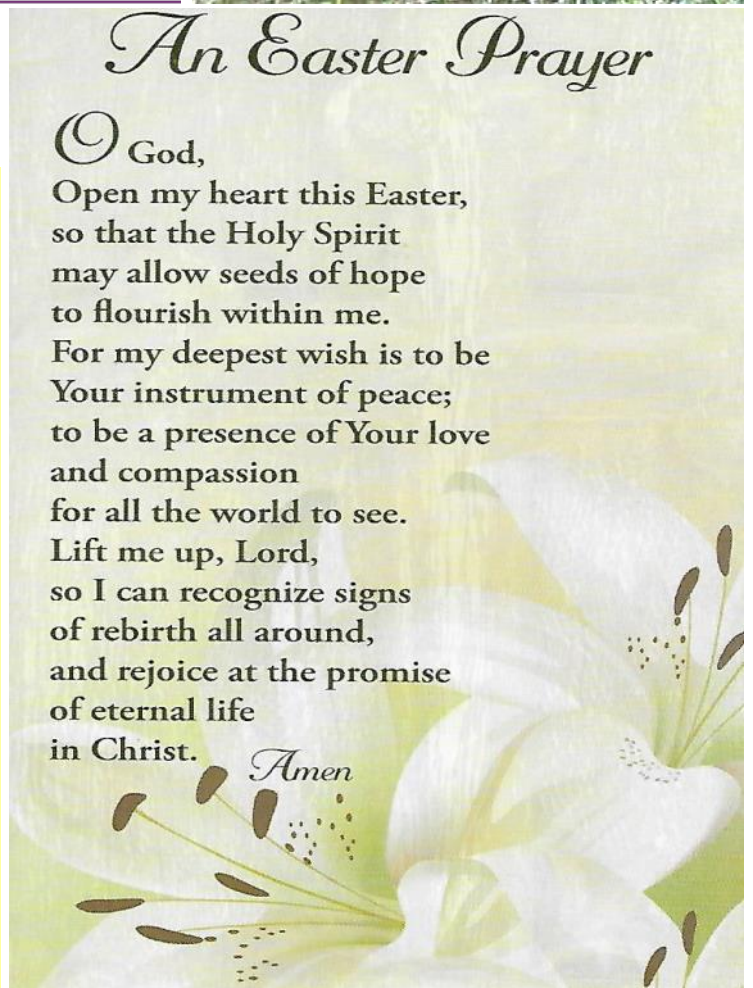
DEADLINE IS: APRIL 9TH, 2021

We have an opportunity for one family to sponsor THE MOTHER'S Day of The Gabriel, in honor of their mother. The donation is \$500. Please contact Elena Atkins Mingione.
emingione55@yahoo.com

An Easter Prayer

O God,
Open my heart this Easter,
so that the Holy Spirit
may allow seeds of hope
to flourish within me.
For my deepest wish is to be
Your instrument of peace;
to be a presence of Your love
and compassion
for all the world to see.
Lift me up, Lord,
so I can recognize signs
of rebirth all around,
and rejoice at the promise
of eternal life
in Christ.

Amen



*SSPJ SPRINGING FORWARD RAFFLE!
DRAWING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2021*

*SSPJ is
"SPRINGING IT
FORWARD"
With a
PLANTING SEEDS
OF HOPE RAFFLE!
6 for \$100.
Grand Prize: \$5,000!
Tickets are available at the
Parish Center Office*



SSPJ is Springing Forward
Apostles of Hope • Planting Seeds of Hope

*\$25 Each / 3 for \$50
Buy 6 for \$100
get this BONUS ticket
Drawing to be held April 25th*

\$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2500 \$5000
hope hope hope hope hope

Music Ministry

Happy Easter from the Music Ministry.

I would like to thank our dedicated volunteers that presently make up the Music Ministry here at SSPJ. They provide music all year long including Christmas, Easter and the overflow Masses.

I acknowledge and thank our cantors and instrumentalists:

*Barbara Meringolo
Barbara O'Donnell
Jane Lohmann
Jeannie Hill*

*Susan Ricci - flute
Tim Adams - guitar
Jim Scully - guitar
Steve O'Donnell - drums*

*Grace Cazzaniga
Anthony Spiezio
Katelyn Feeney Nina Hughes*

The ministry would not be the same without you.

Thank you and Blessed Easter to all

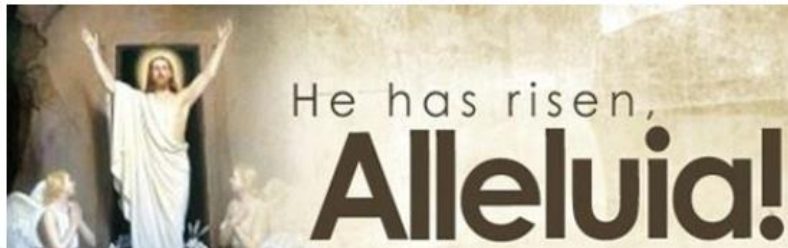
2021 ~Catholic Ministries Appeal
The 2021 Goal for SSPJ is: \$105,300.
Status as of March 29, 2021
Pledges: \$44,895. Payments Received: \$27,710.
We are at 44% of GOAL!! Thank you!

**2021 CMA
GOAL**

\$105,300

*Thermometer
represents
Payments
received at
3/29/21*

**GOAL:
\$105,300**



Happy Easter! Alleluia! The Lord Is Truly Risen!

Christ is alive and His light has illuminated the darkness. As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, may we continue to discover where Christ is truly alive in our life and on Long Island. Christ is alive through your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, *creating pathways of faith* through the ministries it serves by touching more than 600,000 people in our community.

Christ is Alive through our Parish Outreach and Catholic Charities programs that serve the needs of the disadvantaged in our Community.

Christ is Alive through our Faith Formation programs, educating our Lay Leaders and children. And through our Seminary as we train our future priests and deacons.

Christ is Alive in our Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries as our young people grow closer to the Lord.

Christ is Alive in our schools as children learn in an environment that's vision is directed by the teachings of our Lord.

Christ is Alive in our Respect Life Office as we promote the sanctity of life at all stages.

And most of all **Christ is Alive** as we join together to celebrate the Eucharist at our Parish.

Thank you for your help in keeping Christ Alive in our Long Island Community through your financial support and prayers for the Catholic Ministries Appeal!

Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Name: _____ Parish: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: Home _____ Cell: _____

Signature: _____

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

Thank You!

Payments at
3/29
\$27,710.

THE GREAT WORK AT SSPJ SCHOOL

The **SSPJ School Guild** and the entire **SSPJ School Community** would like to extend a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all who made our **1st Annual Clothing Drive** a **HUGE SUCCESS!**



"Clothing Drive" is an organization that picks up ***clothing, stuffed animals and other used goods.*** They pay our school by the pound for our donations!



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 118:2-4,
13-15, 22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

Monday April 12

Acts 4:23-31
Ps 2:1-9
John 3:1-8

Tuesday April 13

Acts 4:32-37
Ps 93:1-2, 5
John 3:7b-15

Wednesday April 14

Acts 5:17-28
Ps 34:2-9
John 3:16-21

Thursday April 15

Acts 5:27-33
Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20
John 3:31-36

Friday April 16

Acts 5:34-42
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
John 6:1-15

Saturday April 17

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
John 6:16-21

"My Lord and my God!" This exclamation of Thomas in the Gospel reading used to be our exclamation at the raising

of the Eucharist during Mass. It would be good to renew this habit. It's an awe-filled, humble recognition of Christ's Lordship and of the reality of his presence in the form of bread and wine.

Notice how Jesus convinced the disciples that he had truly come back to life in the flesh. At first, they thought he was a ghost, or they didn't know what to think. They found the miracle of the resurrection too incredible to grasp.

Jesus opened their minds to the truth of the miracle by showing his wounds. He does the same for us in every Mass.

Through the use of our logic and our senses, it's difficult to grasp the truth that the bread

and wine miraculously become the actual body and blood of Christ – the same broken and bleeding body that died on the cross 2000+ years ago. It's even harder to see and understand that the resurrected Jesus is also there!

During Mass, we enter the timelessness of eternity to benefit from the living Christ. When we realize that we personally need the sacrifice he made on Good Friday, because we've sinned, we begin to look at his wounds from a crucial perspective. It is then that we begin to understand the truth about the Eucharist.



The first step toward believing in the miracle of the Eucharist is to want Christ's death to save us from our sins and to want his resurrection to take us to heaven. The final step occurs when our desire to unite to Jesus is so thorough that we yearn for him to consume our lives with his presence. We want the divine Jesus to come to us in the flesh, in whatever manner he chooses, to transform us into his likeness.

It is this desire that makes us exclaim whenever we see the Eucharist, "My Lord and my God!"

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Have you ever doubted Christ's real presence in the Eucharist?
2. How do you feel when you look at the Eucharist? Does your spirit exclaim, "My Lord and my God"? Why or why not?
3. How has Jesus revealed himself to you in surprising ways – "in his many forms of presence"?
4. When have you found him incredible, difficult to grasp? What helped you accept the truth of his presence in that situation?
5. How has Jesus revealed his presence to you in the Eucharist?

THE COSMIC DIMENSION OF THE RESURRECTION

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was once asked by a critic: "What are you trying to do? Why all this talk about atoms and molecules when you are speaking about Jesus Christ?" His answer: *I am trying to formulate a Christology large enough to incorporate Christ because Christ is not just an anthropological event but a cosmic phenomenon as well.*

In essence, what he is saying is that Christ did not come just to save human beings; he came to save the earth as well.

That insight is particularly relevant when we try to understand all that is implied in the resurrection of Jesus. *Jesus was raised from death to life.* A body is a physical reality so when it raised up as a body (and not just as a soul) there is something in that which is more than merely spiritual and psychological. There is something radically physical in this. When a dead body is raised to new life, atoms and molecules are being rearranged. The resurrection is about more than something changing inside of human consciousness.

The resurrection is the basis for human hope, surely; without it, we could not hope for any future that includes anything beyond the rather asphyxiating limits of this life. In the resurrection of Jesus, we are given a new future, one beyond our life here. However, the resurrection also gives a new future to the earth, our physical planet. Christ came to save the earth, not just the persons living on it. His resurrection ensures a new future for the earth as well as for its inhabitants

The earth, like ourselves, needs saving. From what? For what?

In a proper Christian understanding of things, the earth is not just a stage for human beings, a thing with no value in itself, apart from us. Like humanity, it too is God's work of art, God's child. Indeed, the physical earth is our mother, the matrix from which we all spring. In the end, we are not apart from the natural world; rather we are that part of the natural world that has become conscious of itself. We do not stand apart from the earth and it does not exist simply for our benefit, like a stage for the actor, to be abandoned once the play is over. Physical creation has value in itself, independent of us. We need to recognize that, and not only to practice better eco-ethics so that the earth can continue to provide air, water, and food for future generations of human beings. We need to recognize the intrinsic value of the earth. It is also God's work of art, is our biological mother, and it is destined to share eternity with us.

Moreover, like us, it is also subject to decay. It too is time-bound, mortal, and dying. Outside of an intervention from the outside, it has no future. Science has long taught the law of entropy. Put simply, that law states that the energy in our universe is running down, the sun is burning out. The years our earth has before it, like our own days, are numbered, counted, finite. It will take millions of years, but finitude is finitude. There will be an end to the earth, as we know it, just as there will be an end to each of us as we live now. Outside of some re-creation from the outside, both the earth and the humans living on it have no future.

St. Paul teaches this explicitly in the Epistle to the Romans where he tells us that creation, the physical cosmos, is subject to futility, and that it is groaning and longing to be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God. St. Paul assures us that the earth will enjoy the same future as human beings, resurrection, transformation beyond our present imagination, an eternal future.

How will the earth be transformed? It will be transformed in the same way we are, through resurrection. The resurrection brings into our world, spiritually and physically, a new power, a new arrangement of things, a new hope, something so radical (and physical) that it can only be compared to what happened at the initial creation when the atoms and the molecules of this universe were created out of nothingness by God. In that initial creation, nature was formed and its reality and laws shaped everything from then until the resurrection of Jesus.

However, in the resurrection, something new happened that touched every aspect of the universe, from the soul and psyche inside every man and woman to the inner core of every atom and molecule. It is no accident that the world measures time by that event. We are in the year 2021 since that radical re-creation happened.

The resurrection was not only spiritual. In it, the physical atoms of the universe were rearranged. Teilhard was right. We need a vision wide enough to incorporate the cosmic dimension of Christ. The resurrection is about people, and the planet.