



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

631-584-5454

# June 21st, 2020 Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*  
(Matthew 10:29-31 NIV)



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

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

## STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675

Website—www.sspj.org

### PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-8pm

Open Thursday 9am-5pm

Open Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Friday and Sunday

### CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

Father Patrick Osei-Poku-Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Darrow

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-2

Charlotte Czujko

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 3-6

Barbara Luna

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

### COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

### DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

### DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

### SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

### TRUSTEES

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato

Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro

**TEXT TO GIVE PROGRAM:**  
**ONLINE OFFERTORY**  
**GIVING**  
**TEXT:**

**148parishssphilipandjames**  
**TO: 516-271-3338**

**FAITH DIRECT:**  
**GO TO SSPJ.ORG**  
**CLICK ON THE FAITH**  
**DIRECT ICON**

Parish of Saints Philip and  
James account code  
NY232 when signing up

### Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Eucharistic Adoration In The Church**— Thursday 2-4pm  
Friday 8-9pm

### 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 June 14th, 2020**

**Father's Day:**

**Faith Direct :**

**Total Weekly Collection:**

**\$ 7,106.**

**740.**

**3,035.**

**\$17,800.**

**\$10,881.**

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

# Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Although "Ordinary Time" during the week began right after Pentecost, today is the first Sunday we're back in Ordinary Time following the feasts of the Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. While the term "ordinary" refers to the number order (today being the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time), it also signals entering a different phase of time – a different season. During these next months we hear again stories of Jesus' ministry and teaching, seeking to understand and follow his invitations to be Apostles of Hope.

Last week we entered into another type of different phase as a limited number of people were able to gather for Mass in person. Thank you for your kindness and understanding as we began our re-imagining of re-opening. Happily the sanitation of the church went well and the consensus of those who made last week flow so smoothly is that we are ready to resume our full Mass schedule. We will celebrate the 5pm on Saturday, and the 8am, 10am, and 12noon on Sunday. **So as to maintain the required social distancing the number permitted at each liturgy is limited to 90. You are asked to make a reservation by going to the parish website, [www.sspj.org](http://www.sspj.org).** Masks must be worn. Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass. Directions for reception of Eucharist will be given at Mass. Livestreaming will continue, as will livestreaming of the 9:15am daily Mass. Thank you in advance for following instructions as we continue to journey through this unusual "Ordinary Time".

We may be celebrating some First Communions at the 7:30am and 9:15am daily Masses. Families whose children were preparing to receive in the spring may request to schedule a celebration. Registration is required. We still have a limit of 90 people at daily Mass, so 7 tickets will be provided for each family which includes the child. The children's names will be announced before Mass, Communion outfits may be worn, we ask Parents to take a photo of their child with the Communion banner they create and email it to [msehne@sspj.org](mailto:msehne@sspj.org). The photos will be displayed in our parish bulletin. Masks must be worn during the Mass and for any pictures taken after the liturgy. Families may prefer to wait for a later time, and that is fine as well. Notifications have been sent to all second grade families from the Religious Education Office and from the School.

***Fear no one.....do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows...*** Today's gospel includes these words of comfort and encouragement to the disciples – to us. These are words we need to hear and to believe. We have experienced a world of challenges where fear too easily can take control. Like the early followers of Jesus, we need to stay rooted in God's Word. ***What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light.*** Let's continue to pray with and for all people, that the Light of Christ will bring healing, peace, hope and justice to our world.

Happy Father's Day! Today it is our joy to remember you with gratitude and to pray that you might continue to be instruments in God's hands as you pass on the Spirit's gifts of wisdom, understanding and knowledge to your children, grandchildren and godchildren.

And,

*Being a great father is like shaving. No matter how good you shaved today, you have to do it again tomorrow.*

*Why do fathers who golf take an extra pair of socks? In case they get a hole in one.*

*What did daddy spider say to baby spider? You spend too much time on the web.*

*Dad, you're someone to look up to no matter how tall I've grown.*

Peace,

*Father Tom*

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



## Helping Others

*With great sadness, we share the sudden passing of Sister T's sister Donalea on June 3rd, 2020.*

*So many have asked what they can do in memory of Donalea.*

*Anyone interested may send a contribution clearly marked to the Parish Center office stating to where you wish your donation be made. Either:*  
**FORWARD IN HEALTH-  
HAITI PROJECT**

**SSPJ PARISH SOCIAL  
MINISTRY**

*Your prayers and heartfelt wishes mean so very much to Sister T, her brother in law, Peter, and her brother, Leon.*



### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** **TOILET PAPER**

**CANNED CHICKEN**

**BABY WIPES**

**BOXED MAC & CHEESE**

**GIFT CARDS: KING  
KULLEN/STOP & SHOP  
GAS GIFT CARDS**

Any donations may be left in the Church Prayer Room or the St. Anthony's Bread Closet.



Take good care of creation. St. Francis wanted that. People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. If we don't take care of the environment, there's no way of getting around it.

**We are called to protect creation—and we are missing the mark.** "Something good in the eyes of God has become something exploitable in human hands."

### **WELCOME HOME!**

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we begin to  
**Safely celebrate Mass ...**

**All protocols in place are to ensure the health, safety,  
and well being of all .**

Daily mass at SSPJ resumed on June 10th, 2020 at 7:30am and 9:15am Monday thru Friday, Saturday at 9:15am  
(9:15am Daily Mass is live streamed)

### **SUNDAY MASS:**

**EFFECTIVE SUNDAY JUNE 21ST, 2020 WE WILL RESUME MASSES AT:**

**SATURDAY 5:00PM ~ SUNDAY~ 8AM, 10AM, 12 NOON (We will livestream at one Sunday Mass)**

**DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS, MASS IS LIMITED TO 90 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE**

**FOR COMPLIANCE AND TRACING PURPOSES, MASS ATTENDANCE WILL REQUIRE**

**ON -LINE REGISTRATION AT: [SSPJ.ORG](http://SSPJ.ORG) :MASS RESERVATIONS**

**IF A PERSON IS UNABLE TO REGISTER ON LINE: PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE AT 631-584-5454**

### **AS THE "NEW NORMAL" BEGINS, WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION WITH THE FOLLOWING WHEN ENTERING CHURCH:**

**A MASK MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES**

**HAND SANITIZER MUST BE USED UPON ENTERING AND EXITING CHURCH**

**SOCIAL DISTANCE IS MANDATORY: ALLOW 6 FEET DISTANCE UPON ENTERING  
AND EXITING**

**PROCESS UP THE CENTER AISLE AND ENTER THE OPEN PEW FROM THE SIDE AISLE.**

**SIT ONLY WHERE THERE IS AN "X" ON THE PEW.**

**FAMILIES OF 3 OR MORE ARE ASKED TO SIT IN THE SIDE PEWS ONLY**

*Thank you so very much for your cooperation and understanding*

## *Live Streaming Mass~*

Twelve weeks ago - due to Covid-19 and regulations mandated by our government and health agencies - to reduce the number of lives lost to Corona Virus... churches were required to stop holding public Mass and the distribution of Holy Communion.

This was an extremely sad day for everyone in our parish. We immediately turned to our cell phones and started live-streaming our daily and weekend Mass on March 22. Though very unsophisticated, we were happy to be able to not skip a week and bring Mass to you in the safety of your homes. We attempted to reach out to those with far more knowledge in streaming Mass than we had. This was at the height of personal distancing and businesses had their doors closed and were unable to inspect our church for what we needed - and even if we knew what was needed...we were not able to hire anyone to set-up the equipment. Amazon was no longer guaranteeing fast delivery and audio/visual equipment was now on backorder. We were using a five-foot ladder with a wooden crate atop as our tripod. We were using a plate/frame holder to steady the cell phone.

As you can understand there were many hurdles and we did the best we possibly could to continue live-streaming...yet we heard your frustration about the quality of the audio and the visual and we shared that frustration.

Fast forward - we did get a "real" tripod and invested in a lavalier system specifically for the I-Phone and we are learning how to work with the church sound system and the I-phone lavalier simultaneously. A lavalier is a headset/sound speaker - currently our priest are using two - one that is directly connected to the church system so Congregants can hear the Mass and another connected to the cell phone so those at home can hear the Mass without the echo or feedback from the vast area.

This has been a major learning adjustment for all of us involved. We would like to have the ability to continue live-streaming Mass for those who are still uncomfortable attending in person and in light of the fact that due to socially acceptable distancing we are only permitted 90 parishioners at any given Mass.

To do this properly we would like to look into a system whereby the camera is not a personal cell phone, but one permanently mounted and connected directly to our Facebook streaming and hopefully onto our website as well. Preferably hard-wired to avoid any interruptions in service as is known to happen dependent on Wi-Fi. This would eliminate the need for any one person to have to physically be in church to live-stream Masses 7 days a week.

Unfortunately, as the Business Manager, you can understand my hesitation to spend the \$5,000 to complete this project. With weekly collections not coming anywhere near needed funds to meet budget...spending \$5,000 is a major consideration.

We are not debating whether there is a need for live streaming to continue as that has already been determined.

I hate to come to our parishioners, especially during these financially difficult times, to ask for funding specifically for live-streaming equipment - yet, I find myself doing so and pray that you understand the need and if you are able to help financially, it would be greatly appreciated. Please mark Live streaming on your donation.

I would be happy to discuss anything with you personally and always appreciative of your generosity and support.

Virginia Portanova  
[vportanova@sspj.org](mailto:vportanova@sspj.org)  
631-584-5454 x202

***How do we contact our "flock" without ~FLOCK NOTE?  
PLEASE SIGN UP YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED***

***We ask that ALL PARISHIONERS SIGN UP FOR FLOCK NOTE~***

***THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE.***

***FLOCKNOTE ENABLES US, AT THE CURRENT TIME, TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY  
PARISHIONERS OF ANY IMPORTANT ISSUES IN A VERY EFFICIENT AND TIMELY FASHION.***



***Please text "SSPJParish" to 84576 - you will  
automatically be as an SSPJ parishioner - please  
follow the prompts to complete the sign-up.***



So blessed we are to say, WE ARE AT 78% OF OUR CMA GOAL...

As of June 16th, 2020, we have received **\$87,405.** toward our **2020 CMA Goal of \$111,000.**

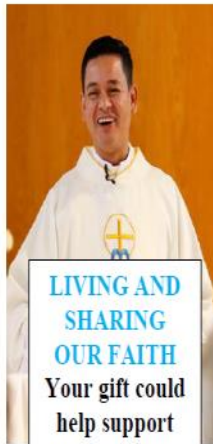
During this very difficult time, it is with great appreciation and gratitude  
for your sacrifices and generosity.

If you wish to donate to the Catholic Ministries Appeal:  
Diocese of Rockville Centre| Catholic Ministries Appeal | 516-678-5800  
ext. 296  
<http://www.drvc.org/CMA>

## At Home Retreat Corner with Sister T

*As the weeks continue, it is wonderful to hear from the different people who are taking advantage of our At home retreat using The Song of the Seed. Participating in several group and hearing from others there is nothing but a smile on my face (although it is covered by a mask!) Some of the chapters have brought people to a depth of sharing that they thought was not possible.*

*I am truly grateful to Tina Cafaro for recommending this book to me for my own retreat. One of the groups is so excited that they are going to meet (using social distancing) for one of their next sessions. There is no stopping the Spirit. By their fruits you shall know them. Blessings on this next week's sharing.*



### LIVING AND SHARING OUR FAITH

Your gift could help support the formation of our Seminarians and Deacons.



### BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Your gift could help support youth, young adult and campus ministry programs.



### CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Your gift could help Catholic Charities and Parish Outreach Programs feed and serve the poor and needy.

Please consider donating to the Appeal and help make a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to:  
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVE ONLINE AT [drvc.org/donate/cma/](http://drvc.org/donate/cma/)

## PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Heavenly Father,  
Surround those who are graduating with your grace.  
Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts.  
Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and insights gained through their education to use for the good of all humankind.  
Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties.  
As they commence with their lives, may they grow ever more grateful and wise.  
All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son. Amen.



# Mass Intentions, For the week of June 21st, 2020

Saturday, June 20th, 2020 ~The Immaculate Heart of Mary  
5:00pm No Intentions

Sunday, June 21st, 2020  
8:00am Father's Day Novena  
10:00am For the People of SSPJ  
12:00Noon Collective Mass:  
No Intentions

Monday, June 22nd, 2020~St. Paulinus of Nola  
7:30am Father's Day Novena  
9:15am Katie Farrell

Tuesday, Wednesday June 23rd, 2020  
7:30am Father's Day Novena  
9:15am Hedwig Zielinski

Wednesday, June 24th, 2020~The Nativity of St. John the Baptist  
7:30am Father's Day Novena  
9:15am John Long

**Our Sincere Sympathy...**

**We mourn the passing of**

**Judith Frampton  
John Schlee**



Thursday, June 25th, 2020  
7:30am Father's Day Novena  
9:15am Collective Mass:  
Evelyn M. McGreevy  
Irene Popik

Friday, June 26th, 2020  
7:30am Father's Day Novena  
9:15am Ettore Orlando

Saturday, June 27th, 2020  
9:15am Father's Day Novena  
5:00pm Theresa Stramiello

Sunday, June 28th, 2020  
8:00am Father's Day Novena  
10:00am For the People of SSPJ  
12:00Noon Collective Mass:  
No Intentions

## Remembering in Our Prayers~

Adrian Erias  
Angela Amoroso  
Baby Ben  
Barbara Bombace  
Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano  
Belinda Groneman  
Belinda Vega  
Bob Keenan  
Claudia Chandler  
Daniel Radice  
Deirdre W.  
Dottie Nunziata  
Donalea Donach  
Dylan Beach  
Ellie Walsh  
Gladys Blake  
Gregory Parker  
Ida Wehman  
John DeStefano  
J.C.

Joseph S.  
Judy Contrino  
Kathleen N.  
Kitty Cronin  
Leon Donach  
Maria Clark  
Marie del Ciello  
Matthew Parrella  
Michael Fisher  
Mike Lofaro  
Peter Donach  
P.I.  
Ricardo Buffit  
Sara Jean Andersen  
Tom Focone  
Tim Cavooris  
Vivien Cordes  
Victoria Zubrycky  
Vicki Archdeacon  
William Quinn

And for all the prayers  
intentions in our hearts

For our Nation in time of  
crisis

## Prayer for the Sick

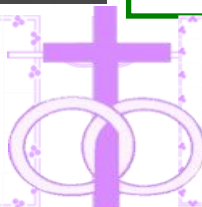
God of love, ever caring, ever strong stand by us in our time of need.

Watch over your children who are sick.

Look after them in every danger.

And grant them your healing and peace. Amen

Wedding Banns  
First  
Eric Muller ~ SSPJ To  
Catherine Montesano ~ SSPJ



Second  
Kevin Scally ~ SSPJ To  
Kelly Schneider ~ St. Patricks, Smithtown



# CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD BLESS THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** JOSEPH CARLINO  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Elections  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Spending time with my friends.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Making new friends

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** AIDAN CAZALET  
**High School:** Saint Anthony's  
**Favorite Subject:** Math  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** P.E. Day Activity and Events  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The SSPF assembly and all the events during it and things we did.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
The advice and sports that will be available to me and the adventures of students that I will have.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** SEBASTIAN CHESEMAN  
**High School:** Southwestern State  
**Favorite Subject:** English Language Arts  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Physical Education  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Playing on the soccer team  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Enjoying the senior years

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** COURTNEY D'AGOSTINO  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Science and Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Bowling team and Student Government Club  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The 7th grade field trip with Mr. Collins.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Being able to switch classes every period and getting to meet new people.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** HANNAH DOMINO  
**High School:** Our Lady of Mercy Academy  
**Favorite Subject:** Religion  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Student Government Club  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The senior before school when I got to meet everyone.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Making new friends and the new senior year opportunities.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** CHRISTOPHER DWYER  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Basketball  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Medieval Town field trip  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
The sports offered at SJH.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** ANDREW KADER  
**High School:** Kellenburg Memorial HS  
**Favorite Subject:** Math  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** The sports teams  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Going to Canyon Park to 7th and 8th grade  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Participating in the sports at the school

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** JONATHAN LEBER  
**High School:** Saint Anthony's  
**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Elections  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Fun Day  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Continuing to learn more.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** ISABELLA MAYIEGA  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Science  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Girls Basketball  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The 7th grade field trip with Mr. Collins and going to Adventureland this year.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Meeting new people and experiencing the "high school experience" with my best friends that are going to St. John's, like Emma, Maria, Courtney, and Henry.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** MICHAEL MICHAEL  
**High School:** Saint Therese  
**Favorite Subject:** English Language Arts  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** 7th grade field trip with Mr. Collins.  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Coming back to SSPJ after 3rd and 4th grade  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
The new environment of a high school setting.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** TORREY MILLER  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Science  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** The carnival at the end of the year and Fun Day  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** On Fun Day when my dad would volunteer to do a station with a water gun and I would take the water gun and squirt him with the water and he would get me back at some point during the morning.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Trying out for the track team and meeting new people.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** GIANNA MOSS  
**High School:** Saint Anthony's  
**Favorite Subject:** Science  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Student Government  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The seventh grade New York City field trip  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
I am really looking forward to meeting new friends in high school.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** KATE NEARING  
**High School:** Our Lady of Mercy Academy  
**Favorite Subject:** Math, more specifically Algebra  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Student Government Club  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Bowling the Mary & Monica Award  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
I am looking forward to doing cross country and track and field. I am also looking forward to being in the same school as my older sister, Tina.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** MAIVE O'CONNOR  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Math  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** CMSAA girls basketball  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The Radio City field trip, the first day of Kindergarten, sports with Mrs. Howard, participating on the girls basketball team, all Fun Days, Fun Day in 7th grade where it was raining out, Catholic Schools Week, Memorizing January A.  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Making more friends and being in a bigger school.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** SEBASTIAN RAMOS  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Religion  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Soccer  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Dr. Dad and making new friends.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** EMMA RYAN  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Fun Day or the Drama Play  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Our Pro-K Show  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
Being able to have more friends because the school is bigger than SSPJ.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** DANIEL EGAN  
**High School:** Saint John the Baptist  
**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Playing basketball  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** The Imperial Museum field trip  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
The basketball team at SJH.

**STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL**  
**8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT**



**Name:** BRIAN SPOTTELL  
**High School:** Chaminade  
**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies  
**Favorite 8th Activity:** Fun Day  
**Favorite 8th Memory:** Doing the Saint's Day Project  
**What advice or words of encouragement do you have for your classmates?**  
I am looking forward to the sports and the science career at Chaminade.



June 28, 2020 • 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

## Following Jesus Will Cause Conflict

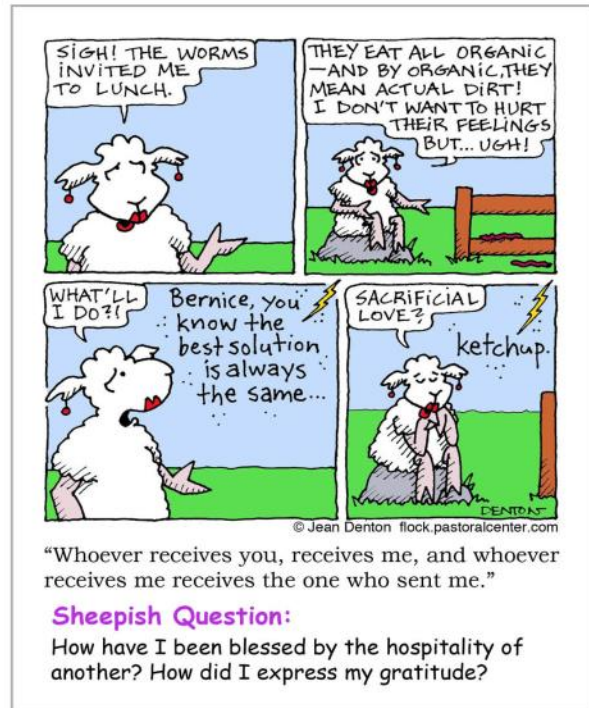
*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16 - Elisha and the Shunammite woman
- ▶ Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 - Death to sin, life in God
- ▶ Matthew 10:37-42 - Conditions and rewards of discipleship

The Gospel reading today is a continuation of last week's instructions to the apostles as Jesus sends them out to expand his work of healing, teaching, and driving out demons. The first half of the reading contains some solemn teachings: disciples must love Jesus more than their own families, and they must be willing to lose their lives in to find it.

It is easy for us to get defensive or upset about being asked to love Jesus more than our parents or our children. Yet what Jesus was asking wasn't a new teaching in his tradition, a tradition which emphasized that one must follow God before one's parents. We should be clear that Jesus is *not* telling us it is wrong to love our family or that we should love them less than we do.

What he *is* saying is that sometimes following him will create conflict within our families. We should expect resistance and breaks in some relationships if we are faithful to what Jesus is asking of us. In those



"Whoever receives you, receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

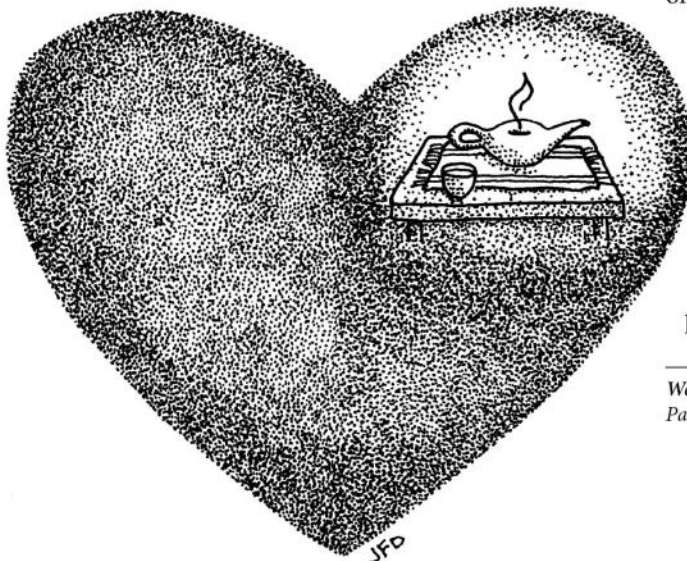
### Sheepish Question:

How have I been blessed by the hospitality of another? How did I express my gratitude?

times, we will lose the life as we know it to be faithful to him. Still today, it is not unusual for there to be family conflict when one person begins to deepen in his or her faith commitment while others around them don't. Ask any parish RCIA director, and she can tell you stories of how painful it is for catechumens to become Catholic when their family disagrees or even disowns them for their faith in Jesus. Yet all of them who go through with it do so because they believe they are "finding" new life despite losing their old life.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 Has your faith ever caused disagreements or conflicts with loved ones? Please share.
- 2 Share about something you have "lost" in your life because of your faith, and also about how your faith has helped you to find new life.



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## *Dignity*

The movie *Million Dollar Baby* tells the story of a young woman who becomes a professional boxer. Young, strong, and physically very attractive she captures your heart as, against all odds, she eventually rises to the top in her sport. But then the story turns tragic; she is unfairly hit by an opponent and ends up paralyzed, her body broken and with it her health and attractiveness. And her condition is permanent, there is no cure. She chooses to end her life through euthanasia.

I had gone to this movie with a young couple, both solidly committed to their church and their faith. Yet both of them were in strong sympathy with how this young woman chose to die. Perhaps it was more their emotions than themselves speaking when they justified her manner of death: "But she was so young and beautiful! It wouldn't have been right for her to spend the rest of her life in that terrible state!" In their young eyes, her debilitated state stripped her of her essential dignity.

What is dignity? When and how is it lost?

Dignity is a promiscuous term, constantly shedding different partners. It is also a sneaky term. Sometimes it no longer means what it used to mean and nowhere is this truer than when the term is applied today to "death with dignity"? What defines death with dignity?

Shortly after Brittany Maynard died by euthanasia in a case that caught wide public attention, Jessica Keating wrote an article in *America* magazine assessing that death from various points of view. At one point she takes up the question of *dignity* and writes: "The use of the term *dignity* to describe this death is deeply problematic, since it masks the reality of fear and equates dignity exclusively with radical autonomy, choice, and cognitive capability. The result is a not-so-subtle implication that the person who chooses diminishment and suffering dies a less dignified death." (*America*, March 16, 2015)

In much of our talk about death with dignity today there is in fact the not-so-subtle implication that the person who chooses diminishment and suffering over euthanasia dies a less dignified death. That is hard to deny, given the dominant ethos of a culture wherein physical diminishment and suffering are seen as a very assault on our dignity. This has not always been the case; indeed in former times sometimes the opposite was true, an aged, physically diminished body was seen as something dignified and beautiful. Why is our view of dignity different today?

They are different because of how we conceive of dignity and beauty. For us, these have to do mainly with physical health, physical vitality, and the physical attractiveness of the human body. For us, aesthetics is a house with one room – physical attractiveness. Everything else assaults our dignity. That makes it difficult for us to see any process that diminishes and humbles the human body by robbing it of its vitality and physical attractiveness as being a dignified one. And yet that is normally how the death process works. If you have ever journeyed with someone dying from a terminal disease and been at their bedside when he or she died, you know that physically this is not pretty. Disease can do horrible things to the body. But does this destroy dignity? Does it make one less beautiful?

Well, that depends on one's spirituality and on what one considers as dignified and beautiful. Consider Jesus' death. By today's concept of dignity, his was not a very dignified death. We have always sanitized the crucifixion to shield ourselves from its raw "indignity", but crucifixion was humiliating. When the Romans chose crucifixion as a method of capital punishment they had more in mind than just ending someone's life. Besides wanting to make a person suffer optimally and they also wanted to totally and publicly humiliate him by humiliating his body. Hence the person was stripped naked, with his genitals exposed, and when he went into spasms in the moments before death, his bowels would loosen. What can be more humiliating? What can be less beautiful?

Yet, who would say that Jesus did not die with dignity? The opposite. We are still contemplating the beauty of his death and the dignity displayed in it. But that is within a different aesthetics, one that our culture no longer understands. For us, dignity and beauty are inextricably tied to physical health, physical attractiveness, and lack of humiliating diminishments within our physical body. Within that perspective there is, seemingly, no dignity to Jesus' death.

I am the first to admit that the issue of death with dignity is an extremely complex one that raises legal, medical, psychological, familial, societal, ethical, and spiritual questions for which there are no simple answers. But inside all of these questions there still lies an aesthetic one: what, ultimately, makes for beauty? How, ultimately, do we see dignity? Does a person with a still attractive, undiminished, physical body who voluntarily chooses to die before that beauty is despoiled by disease die more dignified than did Jesus?