



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

631-584-5454

July 5th, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time



"Come to
me, all you
who are
weary and
burdened,
and I will
give you
rest."

Matthew 11:28

"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

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

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

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

Weekly Collection: Sunday June 28th, 2020

Live Streaming

Parish Social Ministry food pantry donation

Faith Direct :

Total Weekly Collection:

\$17,800.

\$12,147.

700.

200.

3,035.

\$16,082.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

*"... although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned,
you have revealed them to little ones..."*

When you hear this line from today's gospel, do you think of yourself as among the wise and learned or among the little ones? Who were the wise and learned of Jesus' day? Who were the little ones? Jesus is always reaching out to the "little ones" – to those who are in need – of acceptance, of love, of hope. In some way we are all "little ones" in need. And what has been revealed to us little ones? The consoling, encouraging invitation of Jesus:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

These words of Jesus have often awakened comfort and encouragement in we who listen and believe, and in these days of anxiety, these words can lead us to hope. We have labored through months of pandemic anxieties with so many falling ill and so many dying. Many have been burdened with loss of income, loss of "normalcy", and there are many questions and concerns about the future. We've been challenged to confront racism, to work for justice, to seek peaceful solutions. These have been trying weeks, and there are still many unknowns and much to do. But by rooting ourselves in Jesus, by taking on his yoke and learning from him, we can become stronger, more compassionate, more just, and more hopeful. Let's continue to pray with and for one another, for our country and for our world.

We are looking for more greeters to help escort people to their seats. Sister T is looking forward to meeting with you and going over the game plan. Please leave your name and phone number at the Parish Center.

As you know we are trying our best as we regather for Mass. Thank you for your cooperation and encouragement! We chose to do what many parishes are doing with reservations rather than just keeping count and locking the doors when the maximum number allowed is reached. This way parishioners can plan ahead. Remember, the 8am and 10am Sunday Masses (and 9:15am weekday Masses) continue to be live streamed. If you are feeling ill, have been exposed to someone with covid-19, or are concerned about coming to Mass, please stay home. There is no Sunday Mass obligation at this time.

We have been advised by the diocese that Fr. Patrick will be moving to St. Joseph's Parish in Kings Park on August 26th. We will be planning a celebration to thank him for his ministry among us and to wish him well as he begins his twenty-sixth year as a priest. Hopefully soon pandemic situations will improve, and we will be able to set a date. As of this writing, we have not been advised who his replacement will be.

Our 2020 celebrations of Independence Day will be quite different, but may our prayer continue to be one of gratitude for the gift of freedom along with recommitting to the responsibility's democracy brings. May we and all our sisters and brothers throughout the world work together to create a world of peace.

Now, some wordplay for the bored and restless:

No matter how much you push the envelope, it will still be stationary.

Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

A backward poet writes inverse.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of July 5th, 2020

Remembering in Our Prayers~

<p>Angela Amoroso Baby Ben Barbara Bombace Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano Belinda Groneman Belinda Vega Bob Keenan Claudia Chandler Daniel Radice Deirdre W. Dolores North Dylan Beach Ellie Walsh Gladys Blake Gregory Parker Ida Wehman John DeStefano J.C. Joseph S. Judy Contrino Judy Cunnius</p> <p>And for all the prayer intentions In our prayer baskets</p>	<p>Judy Rampola Kathleen N. Kitty Cronin Leon Donach Maria Clark Marie del Ciello Matthew Parrella Michael Fisher Mike Lofaro Monsignor Iocavacci Peter Donach P.I. Ricardo Buffit Sara Jean Andersen Tara C. Tom Focone Tim Cavooris Vivien Cordes Victoria Zubrycky Vicki Archdeacon William Quinn</p> <p>For our Nation in time of crisis</p>
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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

Third

Eric Muller ~ SSPJ

To

Catherine Montesano ~ SSPJ



Saturday	July 4th, 2020	5:00pm	George Yassopoulos
Sunday	July 5th, 2020	8am	For the People of SSPJ
		10:00am	Michael Stephen McDermott
	Collective Mass	12:00pm	Reverend William Duhigg
			John Schlee
Monday	July 6th, 2020~St Maria Goretti	7:30am	Marie Bourguignon
		9:15am	Mary Christina McDermott
Tuesday	July 7th, 2020	7:30am	Joe Keane
		9:15am	Patricia Brosche
Wednesday	July 8th, 2020	7:30am	Irene Carasiti
		9:00am	Jack Duffy
Thursday	July 9th, 2020~ St. Augustine Zhao	7:30am	
	Collective Mass	9:15am	
Friday	July 10th, 2020	7:30am	
		9:15am	Domenico Raimondo
Saturday	July 11th, 2020~St. Benedict Abbot	5:00pm	Steven Giacoppo
Sunday	July 12th, 2020	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ
		10:00am	Michael McDermott
	Collective Mass	12:00pm	Burke John Samson
			Irene Sims



Our Sincere Sympathy...

We will remember, Joanne Ruf with a Memorial Mass on July 8th, 2020

Resting in the loving arms of the Lord



A 4th of July Prayer for The USA





MASS RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AT THIS TIME
(For Saturday 5pm mass and Sunday 8am, 10am & 12noon)

WHY?

- TO PROTECT YOURSELF
- TO PROTECT YOUR PARISH FAMILY
- TO MAINTAIN PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING

AND: FOR TRACING PURPOSES:

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR PARISHIONERS IN THE
EVENT SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION FOR SUNDAY MASS?

VISIT SSPJ.ORG
SELECT TAB AT TOP: MASS RESERVATION
SELECT THE MASS TIME

REGISTER YOURSELF
AND:
REGISTER THE NAMES OF ANY
ADDITIONAL FAMILY OR FRIENDS
YOU MAY BE BRINGING



PRINT OUT THE EMAIL
CONFIRMATION PAGE AND BRING
IT WITH YOU TO MASS OR
HAVE THE CONFIRMATION READY ON
YOUR PHONE

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER?

CONTACT THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE AT:
631-584-5454
WE ARE HAPPY TO SCHEDULE YOUR REQUEST

ALSO:

PLEASE REGISTER FOR FLOCKNOTE

WHY?

SO THAT WE CAN IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY YOU OF ANY IMPORTANT,
URGENT ISSUES IN A FAST, EFFICIENT MANNER

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

TEXT: SSPJ PARISH
TO: 84576
THEN FOLLOW THE PROMPTS.

OUR NEW NORMAL...

Receiving Communion While Attending Mass with a Mask on...



IF RECEIVING COMMUNION ON THE
TONGUE WE ASK THAT YOU NOTIFY THE
GREETER WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT MASS, SO
THAT YOU MAY BE SEATED IN A LOCATION
FROM WHICH YOU CAN BE SAFELY
ESCORTED TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

#01

RESPOND

APPROACH THE
PRIEST WITH YOUR

MASK ON



IF RECEIVING COMMUNION ON THE
TONGUE
PULL MASK DOWN WHEN IN FRONT OF
THE PRIEST
RECEIVE COMMUNION
REPLACE YOUR MASK IMMEDIATELY

#02

RECEIVE

IF RECEIVING HOLY
COMMUNION IN YOUR HAND
APPROACH THE PRIEST WITH
YOUR
MASK ON AND
HANDS EXTENDED



#03

REMOVE

AFTER RECEIVING
COMMUNION
STEP TO THE SIDE
PULL DOWN YOUR MASK
CONSUME THE HOST
REPLACE YOUR MASK

#04

EXIT THE CHURCH REVERENTLY
USE HAND SANITIZER IN THE VESTIBULE
AND ENJOY THIS DAY THE LORD HAS MADE

*Parish Social Ministry
Thanks you for your help*



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

CEREAL
GRANOLA BARS
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
PASTA
SAUCE IN A JAR
CANNED CHICKEN

BABY WIPES

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.**

HOPE

New York Blood Center

URGENT NEED BLOOD DRIVE

Urban Air Trampoline & Adventure Park
Tuesday, July 7th
1:00pm – 7:00pm
3147 Middle Country Rd. Lake Grove, NY

To sign up see please visit our website at nybc.org/donate

To remain in compliance with the federal guidelines for social distancing

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Walk-ins welcome if drive capacity permits

DONORS PRESENTING:

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19
- May **NOT** donate if they have had a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions

Please be aware that we **DO NOT** test for COVID-19.
You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.

www.nybc.org/coronavirus **1.800.933.2566**

Unfortunately, humans are the most polluting species. Earth is very good at recycling waste, but people are generating far more than earth can cope with. Pollution occurs at different levels and it doesn't just impact our planet; it impacts all species, including mankind, who dwell on it.



Music Ministry~ Good News!

Greetings from the Music ministry.

I hope you are all safe and well. I have missed seeing you this spring but I was glad to be able to provide music for you as we live streamed Mass.

I want to thank the choirs for all their hard work and dedication to the music ministry. Unfortunately, it was abruptly cut off as we went into quarantine. I don't know what the future holds with singing but we are doing the best we can under these conditions.

We have had a few happy happenings in the music ministry. Two choir members became grandparents for the first time. Barbara Meringolo's daughter Christina gave birth to Ethan Christopher on June 9th and Lori Delle Cave's daughter Kelsey, (A former Chords of Faith member) gave birth to Noah Anthony on June 19th. All are healthy and well.

We also had a High School Graduation. Grace Cazzangia, a Chords of Faith member and cantor, graduated St John's high school and is off the college in the fall. Grace has been in the Music ministry since 3rd grade (10 yrs.). She will be **greatly missed** but we at SSPJ wish her all the best.

Live Streaming Mass Equipment ~ We are Almost there...

We are so blessed by the generosity of our Parish Family. We have almost reached our goal of \$5000 which would enable us to purchase the equipment necessary for live-streaming masses.

The appeal continues with HOPE that we will reach our goal within the next few weeks.

Your help, your presence your understanding is greatly appreciated.

(For information kindly see the article below)

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
631-584-5454 x202



**So blessed we are to say,
WE ARE AT 82% OF OUR CMA GOAL...
As of June 30th, 2020, we have received \$90,980. 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>



"Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor."

-Pope Francis

Help us Support A Place to Call Home

Charles spent 17 years deployed at military bases throughout the world. Returning home after an incident involving nerve gas, he began struggling with debilitating bouts of anxiety and depression.

His circumstances worsened and he couldn't maintain a steady job. Charles moved in with his mother, but within a year she died and his childhood home went into foreclosure.

Catholic Charities' *Project Veterans' Independence*, which guides homeless veterans into permanent housing so they can live independently and have access to support networks that get them back on their feet, reached out and helped Charles.

"I was out of the service, out of a family, out of a job and out of a home. Catholic Charities found me and helped me to not only find a place to live - but they helped me to turn my life around."

- Charles, honorably discharged US Veteran

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

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

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

A Beautiful Celebration of First Holy Communion



We wish Allyssa DePalma and her entire family our sincere blessings as she finally celebrated her First Holy Communion on Friday, June 26th, 2020 at the 9:15am mass celebrated by Father Patrick.

"May the LORD bless you and keep you; may the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the LORD hold you in his loving arms"



Welcome RCIA Candidates



The sun was shining brightly not only outside on Sunday June 28th but inside the hearts of the Scimeme and Muller families. Happily Eric Muller (pictured left) was welcomed into the church as a Catholic, was confirmed and received First Communion.

Paul Scimeme (pictured below) was fully initiated into the church by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. We at Saints Philip and James are so grateful for their presence in our parish family and look forward to their further participation in Parish life. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

At Home Retreat with Sister T ~ Song of the Seed by Macrina Wiederkehr

"This book came at the exact time that I needed it. With the pandemic etc the days could have been depressing but with some extra time, I could focus on my own self growth. I am so grateful. At another time in my life I wouldn't have found the time to treasure it."

"The book is touching on topics that are deep within my soul. Although I may not share a lot, much is happening with in. I am grateful."



THANK YOU to everyone who registered their Stop & Shop Card. We just earned \$474.83 for SSPJ School.

If you have not done so already, please sign up for a Stop & Shop Card (stopandshop.com) and be sure to register our School ID #06975.

Everytime you shop at any Stop & Shop, using your Stop & Shop Card, you will earn A+ points. These points become cash for our school!



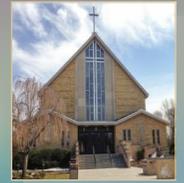
SSPJ SCHOOL SAYS...

Thank You!



Religious Education News

Registration for the 2020~2021
Religious Education Year HAS BEGUN



We welcome all New Families to our Religious Education Program! We ask that you contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-3204 so that we can welcome you to our program and discuss information needed to register.

We welcome back all Religious Ed families and ask you to visit the SSPJ.org website to register for this coming educational year.

The Religious Education Team has redesigned our parish program with an understanding of your new reality and ours, recognizing time demands and the many uncertainties we face as we approach the next school year.

Following are the main points for our new Religious Education Program:

- 1) Parents will be asked to view the Casey Cole video, "Saving a Dying Shrinking Church", YouTube video, April 15, 2020. We will be focusing our Religious Ed Program more on the importance of Family in catechesis.
- 2) All classes this year will be online. We will use Google Classroom and Google Meets. No classes will be held at Church/School.
- 3) All Classes will be prepared and taught by the Coordinators. When registering, Parents will not choose a day and time for class, or a Catechist. All students in a certain grade will be in the same class.
- 4) Students will have a week to complete a lesson. They will be required to answer a question/questions following each lesson. Attendance will be monitored through Google.
- 5) At the start of the year, all Parent Meetings, Class Masses and events will be virtual. Grade level events will be offered for students/families on campus as permitted, especially during Advent and Lent.
- 6) There will be a Family Parish Contribution of \$325.00 instead of a Religious Ed Fee. Everything will be included in this contribution, there will be no additional fees for First Communion or Confirmation.
- 8) Classes will begin the week of October 4, 2020.

TO REGISTER ON LINE:

VISIT SSPJ.ORG

SELECT THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TAB (top banner)

FROM THERE: SELECT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

****PLEASE NOTE: FIRST GRADE STUDENTS: COPY OF BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE IS NEEDED**

(This can be scanned and emailed to: Religioused@sspj.org or brought to the Parish Center Office)

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION IS PAID THROUGH PAYPAL AND IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

As always, if you have any questions about Registration or if there is anything else we can assist you with, please contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-3204.

Religious Education ~ Planting seeds, for growing~
Apostles of Hope

Summertime Reflections for Families

Sunday July 5th, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Scripture: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28



For Kids...

What is something you find so hard to do that you just want to give up?

Well, in today's Gospel message Jesus tells us:

"Never give up! I am always there to help you."



Prayer for this week...

Dear Jesus,

We are thankful that when we have a hard time you are always there to help us carry things that may be too difficult for us.

Amen

Rest for the Weary

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)



F Q N E Y M Y V K K D X G X E
Q Q K O Q R G H U M B L E M S
W O Q F A V E I E D T E O R Z
Y M O E V B N Y Q Q K C T B V
F N W L S W T H V A D C M U W
P H K G R O L E T R W T F R D
E M G I B U E A G E W W R D A
Z A A V G P S R R W C H V E Y
M S S E Z J Z T F E C W L N T
Q U Q Y V X T H G Q A R X J N
R E S E M X E N U E L Y N R W
X C C O I I Y X M J F I A A K
E I Z A U S S L Y J K E G Y D
Y I J O L L V N I X L E R H V
W G T R L L S K E R E S T K T

Table with 5 columns: HUMBLE, SOULS, COME, ALL, WEARY, GIVE, LEARN, GENTLE, EASY, LIGHT, TAKE, BURDEN, YOKE, HEART, REST

For Parents

Some of our struggles may help us to grow and become stronger. They may also help us to learn to trust in Jesus.

But when the load is too heavy, he seems to be the last person we go to. Jesus, will always help us carry them...there is no burden that is too heavy for Jesus.

Jot down the heavy burdens you may be feeling or even your feelings of gratitude and place them into the hands of Jesus. Your prayers are always heard.

A Reflection By Joyce Rupp

Reflection – July 2020

*When we hold our suffering in a way that opens us to greater compassion,
heartbreak becomes a source of healing, deepening our empathy for others
who suffer and extending our ability to reach out to them.*

~ Parker Palmer

Not long ago I received a tender letter from someone whose heartbreak eventually led to becoming a source of compassion for others. When I looked at the return address on the envelope, I did not recognize the name. Upon reading the letter, I found a profoundly compassionate message. A young man who had been in spiritual guidance with a dear friend of mine sent a birthday card to me. He knew this would be the first year I'd not receive one from her because she had recently died from brain cancer.

His sending the card was remarkable, but the story of what preceded this action makes it even more touching. As a teenager, this young man was the first to find the body of his father when he took his life. This traumatic loss led the teenager to a retreat given by my friend. So began a developing relationship to help him heal from his grim experience. Along with this gift came an ability to enter into the suffering of others.

When I finished reading the letter, I thought, "This gashing experience of suffering broke open the young man's heart. Compassion has come pouring forth. He could have chosen to stay with his sadness, to close in on himself. Instead, he opened up to receive and act upon God's grace, moving to comfort others in their sufferings. And I am one of the fortunate recipients of this decision to not let sorrow suffocate his love."

When painful experiences happen, there's always a choice in how to respond. Some people choose to slam their heart's door shut, tightly containing bitterness, self-orientation, blame, and caustic anger. Others let their hearts break open, becoming a fountain of empathy and compassion with ever-growing love spilling out.

Our hurting world presents us with similar options, whether the distressing events we experience are related to Covid-19, racism, food insecurity, political strife, or the great divide between the haves and have nots. How we respond will decide whether our hearts build a brick wall around them or if they widen to give actual credence to the maxim that "we are all in this together." May we choose each day to have expansive hearts.

*Great Ocean of Love, help us turn the tide toward global compassion.
Move through minds and hearts caught in the choking seaweeds of
indifference and selfishness. Wash out to sea discrimination and systemic
racism, ignorance, hatred and bigotry. Let all of this dissolve in your vast
waters of transforming love. Your indwelling presence is much stronger
than the moon's energy urging the sea back and forth. Inspire us to use
our energy to overcome what causes division and inequality among
humankind. Let us not lose heart.*

Abundant peace,

Joyce Rupp

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Praying When We Don't Know How

He taught us how to pray while not knowing how to pray. That's a comment sometimes made about Henri Nouwen.

It seems almost contradictory to say that. How can someone teach us to pray when he himself doesn't know how? Well, two complexities conspired together here. Henri Nouwen was a unique mixture of weakness, honesty, complexity, and faith. That also describes prayer, this side of eternity. Nouwen simply shared, humbly and honestly, his own struggles with prayer and in seeing his struggles, the rest of us learned a lot about how prayer is precisely this strange mixture of weakness, honesty, complexity, and faith.

Prayer, as we know, has classically been defined as "the lifting of mind and heart to God", and given that our minds and hearts are pathologically complex, so too will be our prayer. It will give voice not just to our faith but also to our doubt. Moreover, in the Epistle to the Romans, St. Paul tells us that when we do not know how to pray, God's Spirit, in groans too deep for words, prays through us. I suspect that we don't always recognize all the forms that takes, how God sometimes prays through our groans and our weaknesses.

The renowned preacher Frederick Buechner, speaks of something he calls "crippled prayers that are hidden inside our minor blasphemes" and are uttered through clenched teeth: "God help us!" "Jesus Christ!" "For God's sake!" These are prayers? Why not? If prayer is lifting mind and heart to God, isn't this what's in our mind and heart at that moment? Isn't there a brutal honesty in this? Jacques Loew, one of the founders of the Worker-Priest movement in France, shares how, while working in a factory, he would sometimes be working with a group men loading heavy bags onto a truck. Occasionally one of the men would accidentally drop one of the bags which would split open leaving a mess and a mini-blaspheme would spring forth from the man's lips. Loew, partly seriously and partly in jest, points out that while the man was not exactly saying the Lord's Prayer, he was invoking the name of God in real honesty.

So, is this in fact a genuine modality of prayer or is this taking the Lord's name in vain? Is this something we should be confessing as a sin rather than claiming as a prayer?

The commandment to not take the name of God in vain has little to do with those mini- blasphemes that slip out between clenched teeth when we drop a bag of groceries, jam a finger painfully, or get caught in a frustrating traffic jam. What we utter then may well be aesthetically offensive, in bad taste, and disrespectful enough of others so that some sin lies within it, but that's not taking the name of God in vain. Indeed, there's nothing false about it at all. In some ways it's the opposite of what the commandment has in mind.

We tend to think of prayer far too piously. It is rarely unadulterated altruistic praise issuing forth from a focused attention that's grounded in gratitude and in an awareness of God. Most of the time our prayer is a very adulterated reality – and all the more honest and powerful because of that.

For instance, one of our great struggles with prayer is that it's not easy to trust that prayer makes a difference. We watch the evening newscasts, see the entrenched polarization, bitterness, hatred, self-interest, and hardness of heart that are seemingly everywhere, and we lose heart. How do we find the heart to pray in the face of this? What, inside of our prayer, is going to change any of this?

While it is normal to feel this way, we need this important reminder: *prayer is most important and most powerful precisely when we feel it is most hopeless – and we are most helpless.*

Why is this true? It's true because it's only when we are finally empty of ourselves, empty of our own plans and our own strength that we're in fact ready to let God's vision and strength flow into the world through us. Prior to feeling this helplessness and hopelessness, we are still identifying God's power too much with the power of health, politics, and economics that we see in our world; and are identifying hope with the optimism we feel when the news looks a little better on a given night. If the news looks good, we have hope; if not, why pray? But we need to pray because we trust in God's strength and promise, not because the newscasts on a given night offer a bit more promise.

Indeed, the less promise our newscasts offer and the more they make us aware of our personal helplessness, the more urgent and honest is our prayer. We need to pray precisely because we are helpless and precisely because it does seem hopeless. Inside of that we can pray with honesty, perhaps even through clenched teeth.

July 12, 2020 • 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

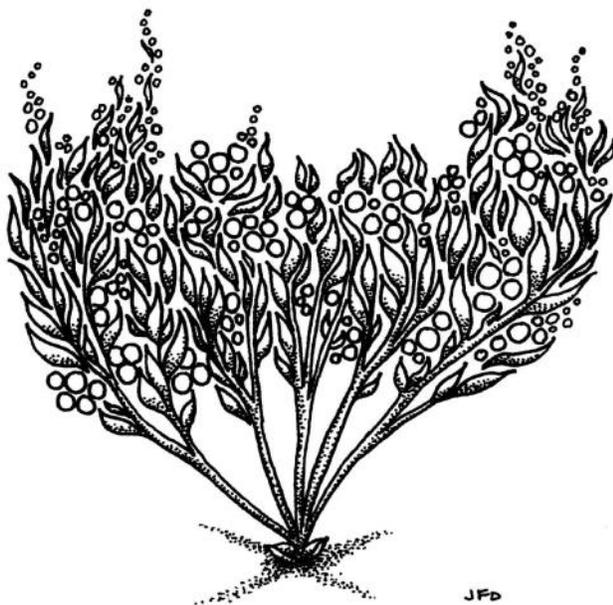
Open or Closed?

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 55:10-11 - Triumph of God's word
- ▶ Romans 8:18-23 - Destiny of glory
- ▶ Matthew 13:1-23 - Parable of the seed

This is one of Jesus' more famous parables, commonly called "The Parable of the Sower" or "The Parable of the Seed." It briefly describes a scenario that makes sense to most listeners. Of course, seeds sown on a path, on rocky ground, and among thorns wouldn't produce much, if any, harvest. And, of course, seed sown in fertile soil should produce a very good harvest. Anyone who knows anything about seeds and plants would understand this, so what is the point Jesus is trying to make? Knowing Jesus, the disciples immediately realize that a seemingly straightforward parable has a deeper meaning than what we understand on the surface. They also recognize that not everyone will read a more profound message into a simple parable, so they ask Jesus why he teaches like this.

This Gospel passage comes after Jesus has just clashed with the scribes and Pharisees, the ones who think they "know-it-all" when it comes to God and religion. He had been healing people and casting out



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"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit."

Sheepish Question:
What new insights from God's Word have influenced my actions?

demons, and many people in the crowds received him with humility and gratitude. The scribes and the Pharisees, on the other hand, wouldn't accept the good work he was doing at face value, and they accused him of working for Satan. Jesus points out to his disciples that those religious leaders are just like their ancestors who refused to listen to the prophets of old. As the saying goes, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't force it to drink." The Pharisees and scribes could see the good and miraculous things Jesus was doing, but they willfully closed their ears and eyes to how God was acting in and through Jesus. At the same time, many people in the crowd were proving to be "good soil," hearing and seeing how God was acting in the world.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share about a time when you have witnessed someone open to experience God's amazing or miraculous growth.
- 2 At this point in your life, what kind of soil would you say you are?

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