Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

August 13, 2017

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

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Matthew 14: 27

"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

Parish Center Office Hours: Sunday :10am-2pm ,Monday 9 am to 8 pm,
Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-5pm, Thursday: 9am-8pm,Friday: 9am-12pm Saturday: 10am-12pm
Phone: 631-584-5454 Fax: 631-862-9675

Pastoral Team

Father Tom Haggerty	Pastor
Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Associate Pastor
Deacon Ronald Blasius	Deacon
Deacon John Keenan	Deacon
Deacon Ken Maher	Deacon
Margaret Adams	Director of Music
Virginia Portanova	Business Manager
John Cordes	Director of Facilities
Charlotte Czujko	Religious Education Coordinator Grades1-2
Barbara Luna	Religious Education Coordinator Grades 3-6
Dominick Avento	Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-8
Suzanne Fitzgibbon	Religious Education Administrator
Frank Brancaccio	Youth Minister
Elizabeth Calvano	Director Camp SSPJ

Pastoral Council

Rita Byrne, Claire DiCarlo, Chris Donnelly, Ryan Doyle, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Mary Ann Pose, Noel Rannazzisi, Tom Sica, Robert Thompson

Trustees

Jerry Linder * Tina Cafaro

SSPJ School—Principal Ruth E. Testa

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

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 12:00mass 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*

VIRTUS TRAINING AT SSPJ

A Virtus training session will be held at Sts. Philip & James on:

Tuesday, August 22, 2017
At: 7:00pm
In the Auditorium

If you are in need of attending this training session on behalf of your ministry participation, please register on-line at:

virtusonline.org/virtus/reg

Registration is on a first come first serve basis, as classes fill up quickly.

If you should have any questions, please contact the

Parish center at 631-584-5454

OUR LADY OF FATIMA IN OUR TIME

Our Lady of Fatima instructed us to pray the rosary every day for world peace and to end the war. We will meet ***on Monday August 14th @ 8AM after the 7:30AM mass****. If it is too hot or rainy, we will say the rosary and sing to Mary inside the main church by the Mary statue.*
Please join us.

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary, This day is a holy day of obligation

Mass Schedule:

Monday, August 14, 2017 5pm Mass

Tuesday, August 15, 2017: 7:30am, 9:15am, 7:30pm

We Welcome the SSPJ Youth Ministry at the 10:00am Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month!

This past Sunday, parishioners attending the 10:00am mass were blessed by the presence of the SSPJ Youth Ministry as leaders of song!

They did a fabulous job!

They will be back on Sunday, September 17th, 2017 at the 10:00am mass.

The Stained Glass Club wishes to thank everyone for their support of their "Crosses for College" sale last weekend.

They are happy to announce that the raffle winners of the "Stained Glass Cross" were Pete and Pat O'Hara!

Music Ministry

NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT JOINING A CHOIR.
NO AUDITION REQUIRED. ALL YOU NEED IS A LOVE OF MUSIC AND GOD. COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO!!!
WE ARE BACK IN SEPTEMBER.
MORE INFORMATION IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

COURT ANNA THERESA #1074
STS. PHILIP AND JAMES PARISH

50/50 LABOR DAY RAFFLE
TO BENEFIT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

COST $2.00 Each **Book of 6 for $10.00**

Tickets will be sold after weekend Masses -
August 12 & 13, 19 &20 and 26 & 27
September 2 & 3

For more information and/or to purchase tickets, please call:
Phyllis Long at 631-584-8434

12 9 3

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

SUNDAY 10AM-2PM
MONDAY 9AM-8PM
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 9AM-5PM
THURSDAY 9AM-8PM
FRIDAY 9AM-12PM
SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

If you have a meeting scheduled on an evening when the office closes early please make arrangements to get a key before the close of the day.

Religious Education

Religious Education Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
9am thru 5pm
Closed on Fridays

Catechists Are Needed!!

We are seeking Catechists In:
Grades 4 & 5
&
Our Special Needs Program –which meets on Saturday mornings from 9am-10am

If you are interested in learning more about the role of a Catechist, kindly contact Suzanne Fitzgibbon in the Religious Ed Office: 631-584-3204, to arrange a meet and greet!

We welcome you to become a part of our Religious Education Team!

Religious Education Classes
will Begin
The Week of:
September 25, 2017

All families that have registered their children for Religious education classes should have received their classroom assignments.
If you have any questions, kindly contact Suzanne in the Religious education office: 631-584-3204
Registration closed on July 31st, 2017
If you missed registration please contact the Religious Education Office immediately.
Class assignment cannot be guaranteed, however, we will do our best to place your child if room is available.

Upcoming Catechist Workshops:

COMMUNION II: (2ND GRADE)

Tuesday August 22nd, 2017: 7:00 PM
Sts. Philip & James room

Or:

Thursday August 24th, 2017:10:00 AM
Sts. Philip & James room

GRADES 3 &4:

Monday August 21st, 2017: :

1:30pm or 7:00 PM

Sts. Philip & James room

GRADES 5 &6:

Wednesday August 23rd, 2017:

10:00 AM or 7:00 PM

Sts. Philip & James room

CONFIRMATION I & II (GRADES 7 & 8)

August 23rd 2017 @ 6:30pm – 8:00pm

In the Auditorium

November 9th 2017 @ 6:30pm to 8:00pm
In the Auditorium

Liturgical Ministry Training

Dear SSPJ Apostles of Hope,

If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or a Lector, kindly contact the Parish Center Office at 631-584-5454.

Many thanks for considering these beautiful ministries.

Liturgical Ministry Training

*** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION IN NASSAU AND SUFFOLK***

1. TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. Session "A" is required of **ALL** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are required to attend Session "B" **in addition** to Session "A". **SESSION "A" MUST BE ATTENDED PRIOR TO SESSION "B".**

TO REGISTER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING: the pastor must send a letter to Bishop Barres ***at least 5 days in advance*** requesting the training for each person attending.

DO NOT USE THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.

This letter must mention the date and place of the training session the person(s) will attend.

2. TRAINING FOR LECTORS: PLEASE USE THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.

TIMES AND PLACES FOR MINISTRY TRAINING:

In Nassau: EM "A" Session and Lectors
October 14, 2017; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre

"B" session for Extraordinary Ministers
November 4, 2017; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre

In Suffolk: EM "A" Session and Lectors
October 21, 2017; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

"B" Session for Extraordinary Ministers
October 28, 2017; 9 AM—1 PM
St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

EVENING SESSIONS for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors at St. Elizabeth, Melville
Session "A" - Wednesday, October 4, 2017; 7:00—10 PM
Session "B" - Wednesday, October 18, 2017; 7:00—10 PM

WORKSHOP FEES:
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: $30 per person
Lectors: $20 per person

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LECTOR TRAINING ONLY

Mail this registration to the Office of Worship, PO Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023, e-mail to worship@drvc.org, or fax to 516-764-3316.

I wish to register for Lector Training

☐ St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre (Saturday, October 14, 2017)
☐ St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays (Saturday, October 21, 2017)
☐ St. Elizabeth, Melville (Wednesday, October 4, 2017)

Name ..... Phone .....

Parish ..... Town .....

THE APOSTLE OF HOPE CHALLENGE

The past few weeks we have been highlighting various areas where you could offer bite size pieces of your time and talent, to help in our Religious Education Program. Many thanks to those of you who have completed and returned the sign up request.

We are still seeking "Apostles of Hope" to join this endeavor.
Professor Maria Harris, a prolific writer and speaker from Fordham University once said,

"Catechesis is the whole church teaching the whole church.
Being in it together will enliven our community and make Jesus present."

Signup sheets are available in the back of the church and in the parish center office. These slips can be placed in the collection basket or be returned to the Parish Center office.

We ask that you prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with our parish family.

APOSTLE OF HOPE CHALLENGE CONTINUES

First Grade Children and Parents Program

We as a faith community want to invite and welcome all to become part of the Body of Christ. We plan to have people meet with first grade families and their children as they begin their entry into our revised and revamped Faith Formation program. The following are just a few areas where you as an Apostle of Hope could give a bite-size piece of your time to help this Program for First Grade Parents.

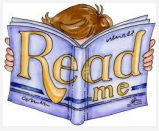
- Would you be willing to make phone calls to facilitate the meetings?
- Would you be willing to type lists/letters as needed?
- Would you be willing to meet with first grade parents on a one-to-one basis?

Training will be provided.

The Apostle of Hope Challenge Continues! Week 3

Activities for Major Celebrations

- Do you have an idea/theme for a major church celebration?
- Can you help decorate for a celebration?
- Do you have an idea for a craft/activity for children for a celebration?



APOSTLE OF HOPE CHALLENGE Week 2…

Collecting, Sorting or Reading Mass Reflections by Students

or

Students will be required to bring to Mass their scripture reading assignment each week.

Helping with the Blessing and Distribution of 1st Grade Books at class masses, along with welcoming students and greeting families.

Are you willing to accept the Apostle of Hope Challenge?

APOSTLE OF HOPE CHALLENGE…Week One….

Helping at Class Masses, as a greeter, serving refreshments, decorating, baking, or assisting with clean up.

Can We Count You In?

"CELEBRATING OUR FAITH – HOLY HOUR AND BBQ"

AGES 18-25

MILLENNIAL MISSIONARIES 2017

WITH BISHOP BARRES

A SUMMER EVENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

TUESDAY AUG. 22

Catholic Young Adults are invited to a summer barbecue and Holy Hour with **Bishop Barres** at the Basilica in Southampton.

5:00 PM: ARRIVAL / LAWN GAMES & BBQ
6:30 PM: BRIEF REFLECTION & ADORATION
8:20 PM: FELLOWSHIP, ICE CREAM & ICES

THE BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

168 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968

Diocese of Rockville Centre Office of Communications | (516)678-5800, ext. 221

www.drvc.org | www.licatholic.org

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SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of August 13th, 2017

Sunday, August 13th, 2017

8:00am	CDA Labor Day Raffle	School Lobby/ Outside
10:00am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
1:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshp
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

Monday , August 14th, 2017

1:15pm	SSPJ Senior Group	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Summer Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshp.
7:00pm	Catholic Daughters Meeting	Philip & James Room

Tuesday, August 15th, 2017: The Assumption of The Blessed VirginMary

9:00am	Camp SSPJ	School
1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Room of Church
7:00pm	Boy Scout Merit Badge Program	Auditorium

Wednesday, August 16th, 2017:

Thursday, August 17th, 2017:

2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	Summer Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Workshop

Friday, August 18th, 2017:

7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip &James Room
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, August 19th, 2017:

10:00am	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshop
5:00pm	CDA Labor Day Raffle	School Lobby/Outside

Weekly Collection:
Sunday, August 6th, 2017

Sunday Collection: $13,565.
Faith Direct: $3,823.
Children's Jug: $ 23.
Total Collection: $17,411.

Many thanks for your generous support of Sts. Philip & James Parish

Banns of Marriage

Third

Thomas Gariepy
SSPJ

To

Stephanie Rubino
St. Thomas Moore,
Hauppauge

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,
SR AIRMAN E4 ALEXANDER PARRELLA
RICHARD SOTOMAYER, USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT, USMC
LCPL. DANIEL P. STEELE, USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH, USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
JOHN VINCENT KNOBLOCH, USMC
STEVEN CAVA, USN
ERIC SEELIN, USMC
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
LANCE CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY, USMC
GREGORY DEVANEY, USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY, US ARMY
KEVIN JONES, U.S.C.G.
RICHARD MAIER, U.S.M.C.
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN, USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-U.S. ARMY
PFC. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA
MARIO CATANIA, USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO, U.S.M.C.
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS U.S.N.

Mass Intentions, For Week of August 13th, 2017

Saturday, August 12th, 2017

5:00pm — Mary Rogan

Sunday August 13th, 2017

8:00am — Carmine LaCava
10:00am — Betty Frey
12:00noon — Collective Mass & For The Parishioners of SSPJ
Mary Pollock
Michael Christopher Koch
Grace N. Knudsen
Raymond Fallar, Jr.
Alice Winter

Monday, August 14th, 2017

7:30am — Joan Mazurczak
9:15am — Daniel Bertovich
5:00pm — The Lasarado Family

Tuesday, August 15th, 2017-Assumption

7:30am — For All Who Have No One to Pray for Them
9:15am — Dolloy Gallino
7:30pm — Irene Manoliakis

Wednesday, August 16th, 2017

7:30am — Helen Congdon
9:15am — Reverend Christopher Conlon S.M.

Thursday, August 17th, 2017

7:30am — No Intention
9:15am — Collective Mass
Joseph Milne
Lucy & Pete Bruno (Living)
Eva Salerni (Living)

Friday, August 18th, 2017

7:30am — No Intention
9:15am — Adrea Charles

Saturday, August 19th, 2017

9:15am — Harry Nordin
5:00pm — Peter Joseph Loughlin

Sunday, August 20th, 2017

8:00am — David McCulloch
10:00am — Frank Cafaro, Jr.
12:00noon — Collective Mass & For The Parishioners of SSPJ
Chief Warrant Officer Adolphus David-Nava
Eillen Schaffer
Joseph Beninati
Emma Eveleno
Gil Viojan

Keeping You In Our Prayers....

For those who are ill...

Daniel Radice,, Eva Alaimo,
Kitty Cronin, Vivien Cordes Raymond Fox, Joe Alberigo,
Eileen Zink, Louis Giordano, Grace Giordano,
Barbara Bombace AnnMarie Cortina, Laura Andrucki & Juli Anne,
Pasquale Santoro,Lorraine Cashman,Elinor Glasser, Kathleen N. ,
Marie Loughlin,Deanna Rubino Monzon, Christopher Gerver,
Baby Mattia Lubrano, Anna Capizzio
Catherine Burseind,Brennan Steinorth

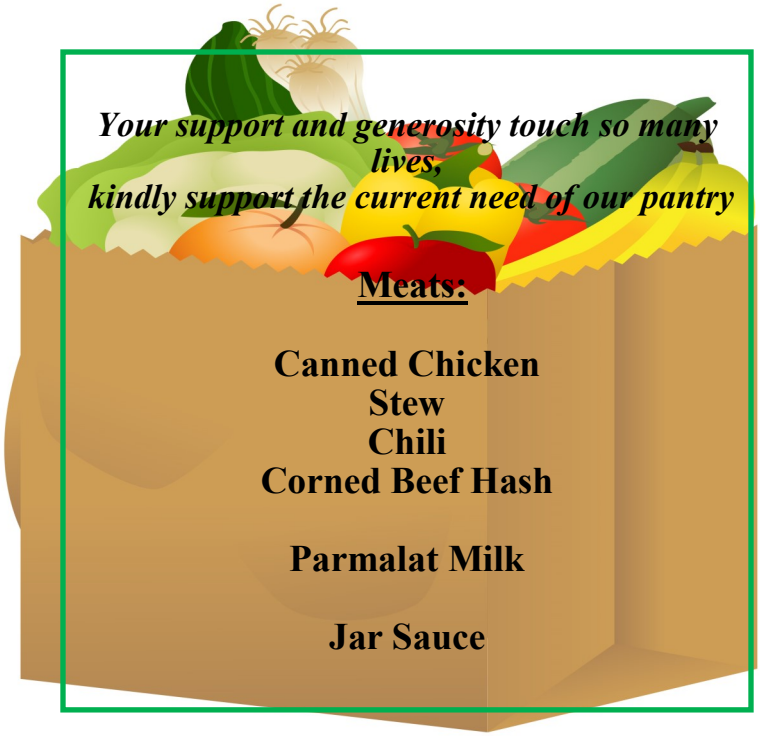
Together, we mourn the passing of,
Joan Kennedy

Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Is In Need Of the following Items:

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

—Proverbs 11:25



Your support and generosity touch so many lives,
kindly support the current need of our pantry

Meats:

Canned Chicken
Stew
Chili
Corned Beef Hash

Parmalat Milk

Jar Sauce

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME IS SOON APPROACHING!

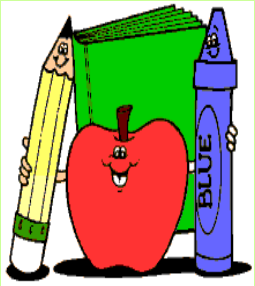
Its that time of year again, or as some parents say…The most wonderful time of the year… The sun is still shining blessing us with warmth and heat, but just around the corner, school buses, teachers, parents, and children will be embarking upon a new school year!

Let us join together and help our children in need, start the school year off positive, prepared and confident!

Parish Social Ministry is beginning to collect school supplies. The following school supply items would be of great help to children and families in need and will be graciously accepted at the Parish Center.
Any parishioners that may find it difficult to obtain these necessary school supplies, can contact the Parish Social Ministry Office at 584-5454.

#2 Ticonderoga Pencils
Glue Sticks
White Glue
Pink Erasers
Washable Felt Markers
Scissors
Pencil Cases
Pocket Folders
Lined Paper
Plain Paper
Lined Notebooks

Blue Pens
Red Pens
Rulers
Colored Pencils
1—2 inch Binders
Subject Dividers
Pencil Sharpeners
Pocket Dictionary
Backpacks
Lunch Boxes
Marble Notebooks



Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE–FOR August 19th & 20th, 2017

Saturday, August 19, 2017 5:00 PM	Sunday, August 20, 2017 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, August 20, 2017 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday August 20, 2017 12:00 MASS
Father Leo Praveen	**Father Leo Praveen**	**Father Patrick Osei-Poku**	**Father Patrick Osei-Poku**

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR August 19th & 20th, 2017

Saturday, August 19, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017
5:00 PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:OO AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
C. Lombardi	M. Dunn	J. Alternative	M. Loughlin
P. Schfilliti	R. Fabian	G. Amen	E. Law
G. Alfano	C. Haff	D. Bleggi	C. Zito
I. Arevalo	W. Haff	R. Bleggi	G. Zito
C. Boyen	J. Harvey	T. Cafaro	J. Hanrahan
R. Byrne	M. Kenney	G. Patalano	M. Lebrun
D. Doran	A. Mantia	L. Patalano	J. Linder
J. Duffy	P. Martin	N. Rannazzisi	M. Napoli
A. Dunn	W. Ramos	W. Rodriguez	T. Pace
D. Toto	K. Rapp	J. Scott	B. Chandler

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR August 19th & 20th, 2017

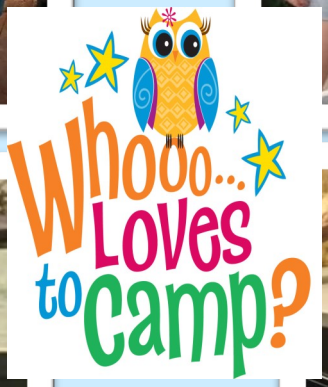
Saturday, August 19, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017
5:00PM MASS	**8:00AM MASS**	**10:00 AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
C. Nigro	E. Nicastro	B. Dearie	A. Miloscia
S. Nigro	K. Nicastro	S. Dearie	M. Miloscia
J. Scomillio	J. Koester	G. Lombardi	G. Cusumano
T. Miller	L. Trama/ N. Trama	J. Lombardi	N. Cusumano
R. Lauro	C. Morbillo	E. Anderson	P. Cusumano

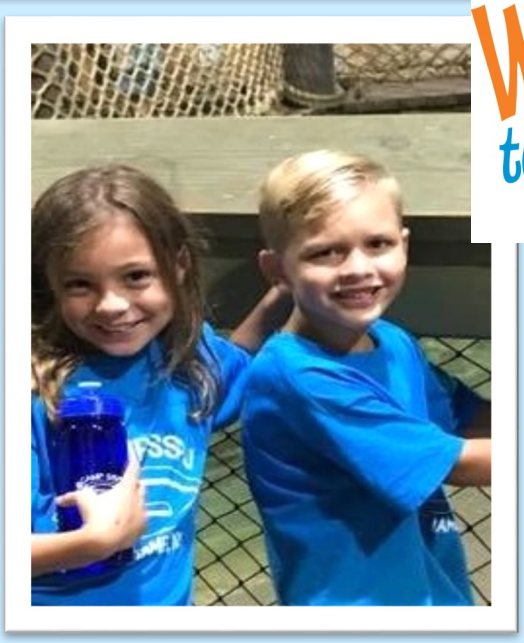
LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR August 19th, & 20th, 2017

Saturday, August 19, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017	Sunday, August 20, 2017
5:00 PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:00AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
J. Contrino	C. Czujko	E. Dobres	A. Dinnegan
G. Priebe	P. Kanuika	A. Latino	B. O'Leary

Summer Fun Continues at Camp SSPJ!

Camp SSPJ Awesome Counselors!!





The Fun Never Ends at Camp SSPJ!

SUMMER FUN!

SSPJ School!

Registration Continues for September!

Sts. Philip and James School

Pre-K through Grade 8

Value-Centered Education

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service

Full-Day Pre-K program * Full-Day Kindergarten * Before and After School Care *
Weekly attendance at Mass * iPad Classrooms * Spanish and Mandarin * Band program
including violin * NYSSMA Member * Drama Club/Broadway Jr. * Choral Club *
Member of Catholic Middle Schools Athletic Association * Variety of After School Clubs *
Accomplished New York State Assessment Scores *
History of success on Catholic High School Entrance Exam *
Much more!!

Call 631-584-7896 for further information!

Sts. Philip and James School is currently seeking an experienced/certified Spanish Teacher 3 days/week - Pre-K through Grade 8. If interested, please call 631-584-7896

HOLA! spanish!

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

August 27th - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time —Cycle A

Scripture Readings ONLINE
The website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the text of the Scripture Readings. Go to: **www.usccb.org** . Click on the date.

Reflections on Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 22:19-23 *Psalm 138*
Romans 11:33-36 *Matthew 16:13-20*

Today's readings remind us that power exists for the good of the powerless.

The first reading contrasts the use and abuse of power. In the eighth century B.C., Isaiah is sent to inform Shebna, the prime minister, of his removal from office. Shebna has been a "disgrace to [his] master's house" (Isaiah 22:18). The prophet also speaks of Eliakim, one truly worthy of authority. Eliakim will discharge the duties of office as a "father" and will support King Hezekiah and his kingdom by paternal service.

Psalm 138 praises God for living up to God's name and covenant loyalty. "On the day I called, you answered me" (Psalm 138:3) captures this divine commitment. The most high Yahweh responds to the needs of the lowly.

Matthew combines the scene of Peter's confession with a post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus to Peter. The Lord calls Peter blessed because he perceives that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Because this faith comes from God, Jesus confers the grace of leadership on Peter. This impetuous disciple will be "Rock", an unshakable foundation for the Church (see Matthew 7:24-27). The keys (as in Isaiah) suggest power, the power of one who will focus not on self but on community.

All of us exercise some kind of power. Are we more Shebna or Eliakim? Are we intent upon making our power felt or making our power a service? Isaiah, the psalmist, and Matthew agree that to be in charge means to protect our charges.

- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.
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For reflection…

Jesus hears who "other people" say he is, but he wants to know who his disciples think he is. How would you answer his question, "Who do you say that I am?"

"And upon this rock I will build my church." Who is building the church, Christ or Peter? How do you help "build" the church?

Besides being supportive and having a solid faith, what other qualities or virtues do you look for in Church leadership? In situations where you are called on to lead, what qualities do you exhibit?

Paul praises the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God. How have you experienced God's riches, wisdom and knowledge? In looking into your rear-view mirror down the highway of life can you see where God was on the road with you? Where might God lead you in the future?

Our Ability to Serve...

Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Our Utmost in Dealing with our Faith

The complexity of adulthood inevitably puts to death the naiveté of childhood. And this is true too of our faith. Not that faith is a naiveté. It isn't. But our faith needs to be constantly reintegrated into our persons and matched up anew against our life's experience; otherwise we will find it at odds with our life. But genuine faith can stand up to every kind of experience, no matter its complexity.

Sadly, that doesn't always happen and many people seemingly leave their faith behind, like belief in Santa and the Easter Bunny, as the complexity of their adult lives seemingly belies or even shames their childhood faith.

With this in mind, I recommend a recent book, *My Utmost, A Devotional Memoir,* by Macy Halford. She is a young, thirty-something, writer working out of both Paris and New York and this is an autobiographical account of her struggle as a conservative Evangelical Christian to retain her faith amidst the very liberal, sophisticated, highly secularized, and often agnostic circles within which she now lives and works.

The book chronicles her struggles to maintain a strong childhood faith which was virtually embedded in her DNA, thanks to a very faith-filled mother and grandmother. Faith and church were a staple and an anchor in her life as she was growing up. But her DNA also held something else, namely, the restlessness and creative tension of a writer, and that irrepressible energy naturally drove her beyond the safety and shelter of the churches circles of her youth, in her case, to literary circles in New York and Paris.

She soon found out that living the faith while surrounded by a strong supportive faith group is one thing, trying to live it while breathing an air that is almost exclusively secular and agnostic is something else. The book chronicles that struggle and chronicles too how eventually she was able to integrate both the passion and the vision of her childhood faith into her new life. Among many good insights, she shares how each time she was tempted to cross the line and abandon her childhood faith as a naiveté, she realized that her fear of doing that was "not a fear of destroying God or a belief; [but] a fear of destroying self." That insight testifies to the genuine character of her faith. God and faith don't need us; it's us that need them.

The title of her book, *My Utmost*, is significant to her story. On her 13th birthday, her grandmother gave her a copy of a book which is well-known and much-used within Evangelical and Baptist circles, *My Utmost for His Highest,* by Oswald Chambers. The book is a collection of spiritual aphorisms, thoughts for every day of the year, by this prominent missionary and mystic. Halford shares how, while young and still solidly anchored in the church and faith of her childhood, she did not read the book daily and Chamber's spiritual counsels meant little to her. But her reading of this book eventually became a daily ritual in her life and its daily counsel began, more and more, to become a prism through which she was able to reintegrate her childhood faith with her adult experience.

At one point in her life she gives herself over to a serious theological study of both the book and its author. Those parts of her memoir will intimidate some of her readers, but, even without a clear theological grasp of how eventually she brings it all into harmony, the fruit of her struggle comes through clearly.

This is a valuable memoir because today many people are undergoing this kind of struggle, that is, to have their childhood faith stand up to their present experience. Halford simply shows us how she did it and her struggle offers us a valuable paradigm to follow.

A generation ago, Karl Rahner, famously remarked that in the next generation we will either be mystics or unbelievers. Among other things, what Rahner meant was that, unlike previous generations where our communities (family, neighborhood, and church) very much helped carry the faith for us, in this next generation we will very much have to find our own, deeper, personal grounding for our faith. Macy Halford bears this out. Inside a generation within which many are unbelievers, her memoir lays out a path for a humble but effective mysticism.

The late Irish writer, John Moriarty, in his memoirs, shares how as a young man he drifted from the faith of his youth, Roman Catholicism, seeing it as a naiveté that could not stand up to his adult experiences. He walked along in that way until one day, as he puts it, "I realized that Roman Catholicism, the faith of my childhood, *was my mother tongue."*

Macy Halford eventually re-grounded herself in her mother tongue, the faith of her youth, and it continues now to guide her through all the sophistications of adulthood. The chronicle of her search can help us all, irrespective of our particular religious affiliation.

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

Needing God, Needing Faith

Community News

Cardinal Rosa Chavez Visit to the Diocese of Rockville Centre

On June 28, 2017, Pope Francis created a Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop a Cardinal. His Eminence, Jose Gregorio Cardinal Rosa Chavez dedicated his appointment as El Salvador's first Catholic Cardinal to the living memory of his close personal friend Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romero who was shot to death in 1980 at the beginning of the 12 year Salvadoran civil war as he celebrated Mass in a hospital chapel.

Cardinal Rosa Chavez will visit the Diocese of Rockville Centre for a variety of Masses, pastoral visits and special events from Friday, August 18 - Monday, August 21, 2017. You are invited to participate in the public events and Masses. For complete schedule information visit www.drvc.org. You will also be able to watch each of the Masses live on the Diocesan Facebook page. Search for "The Diocese of Rockville Centre" The Telecare Television Network will air the Sunday morning Mass from Our Lady of Loretto Church (Optimum Channel 29/137, Verizon FIOS 296 and Charter Spectrum 471) and on telecaretv.org. Thank you all for joining us in prayer as we share together these historic days of *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island.

Community News

St. James RC Church
429 Route 25A East Setauket 631-941-4141

In Concert Sunday September 17, 2017 at 7:00pm

Grammy Award Winner and Contemporary Chrisitian Music Pioneer…

John Michael Talbot

Tickets: $30.00 and $50.00

On sale at the Rectory Office 631-941-4141

And On-Line at www.johnmichaeltalbot.com

An evening of spiritual blessings for all who attend.

St. Mary's Parish in East Islip is offering a free 8 Week support group for adults who are coping with the death of a loved one. Registration is required for this group which begins on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Refreshments will be served.

In order to participate in this group the death must have occurred prior to June 6, 2017. For information and or registration please contact the rectory at 631-581-4266 ext. 100.

Support for Divorced and Separated Catholics

Prayer services will be held for all Catholics in the Diocese of Rockville Centre who are experiencing separation, or are in the process of, or are divorced. The prayer services and refreshments are scheduled for-
August 14 – Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington 7pm
August 16- Christ the King, Commack 7:30pm

If you would like more information feel free to contact Jason Velazquez at 516-678-5800 ext. 236 or jvelazquez@drvc.org