

December 8th, 2019 Second Sunday of Advent

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



"A voice of one crying out in the desert,

Prepare the way of the Lord

Make straight his paths."

Matthew 3:3

"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 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

Stewardship, A Way of Life...

You heard our plea and graciously answered ...
Thank you for sharing your treasure, small acts filled with hope make great things happen!

MANK YOU

Sacraments

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

<u>Marriage-</u>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.

<u>Confirmation</u>-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

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

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 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

MARK GIORDANO—US CUASTGUARD 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 , December 1st, 2019 Faith Direct:

\$ 13,044. \$ 2,877.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$15,921

\$17,800.



MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends.

Today's first reading gives us Isaiah's description of God's "peaceable kingdom". Here lions and lambs do not fight, but are at peace with each other. We also hear today John the Baptist's challenge to change the way we think. Now is the time to tame the lions within us and the time to bring courage to the lambs.

John's call to repentance carries a dual meaning: that of changing your mind <u>and</u> changing your behaviour. It signals a need to go beyond your present mindset and allow a new mindset to bring about new actions. For John, "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" meant literally a turning around. It was like going in one direction on a road and making a sudden U-turn. John's voice is not a small voice or a muffled desire. It is an all-out cry, an impassioned invitation and announcement of judgment.

Repentance is not an end in itself. There is a promise at the centre of repentance. The arduous task of clearing a path is for the arrival of what is deeply desired. This call has within it a call to recognize and accept the truth of ourselves and to acknowledge all that blocks us from God and distances us from our neighbor. The peaceable kingdom of God, for which we long, will only come if we put an axe to resentments and biases that are rooted in our hearts. It is a deep, personal and interior journey in which we allow God to open up the horizons of our life. New behaviour will be proof that there has been a change of heart. It is a transformation that creates new social relationships that are other than those that are the norm in our world. The Kingdom of God is born from that transformation. Only then will the lion lie down with the lamb. The "way" is not a physical road across the desert but a metaphorical "way" made up of repentant human hearts.

The season of Advent calls us to tend to the lions and lambs within us. Celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation offers us a path. In addition to our regular Confession schedule, we will have a Communal Celebration of Reconciliation on Monday, December 16th, at 7:00pm in the church. Tame your lions! Feed your lambs!

This weekend we join will thousands across the country anticipating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, praying that we might see ourselves reflected in her eyes as we pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining in this prayer endeavor. You may sign up for a specific time in the church lobby or just stop in. The hours for exposition on Sunday, December 8th are 8pm through 1am.

This year the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Patronal Feast day of the United States, is transferred to Monday, December 9th. Though the obligation to attend Mass has been lifted, choosing to pray with Our Lady that day at either the 7:30am or 9:15am Mass is a wonderful Advent opportunity.

Beginning in January we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on the first Sunday of every month immediately following the 8 am Mass. Prayer Shawls, lovingly knitted by members of the community, will be blessed during the Mass and made available to anyone wishing one.

And finally,

The boy listened closely as the minister read the Bible. "May I ask a question?" he asked. "Sure. Go ahead. Ask your question," replied the minister. "Well, the Bible says the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?"

Peace.

Father Tom

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH

IN SUPPORT OF:



THE RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND

Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.



All are invited to
HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

AFTER THE 8AM AND 10AM MASSES

HOSTED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



<u>Catholicism 101</u> <u>Being Catholic 101 (Catholicism for Dummies)</u>

_Thank you for all those who have been participating in our 'after the Mass' programs. We at RCIA hope that you will continue to come and enrich your faith life through the topics we have been sharing. Here is an update on the next couple of weeks topics. (After the 8:00am Sunday Mass unless noted)

<u>Dec. 8th</u> What are the end times? Presenter: Michael Hoonhout (after the 8 am and Noon Masses)

<u>December 15:</u> What about Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist? Presenter: Michael Hoonhout (after the 8 am and Noon Masses)

<u>December 22:</u> "I am the Handmaid of the Lord, let it be done unto me according to your word."

Mary in our life. Presenter: Glee Hoonhout

NEEDED: HELPING HANDS AT THE 8AM SUNDAY MASS

Periodically the diocese requires a Mass count of the numbers attending Mass in each parish.

We are in need of individuals to assist with the count at the Sunday 8 am Mass. If you are interested in assisting kindly contact the Parish Center Office at 631-584-5454.

Thank you for your assistance.

National Night of Prayer for Life SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH

Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Please join us for Annual Night of Prayer (8:00pm to 1:00am) in the Main Church. Uniting the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with the Feast of St. Juan Diego

It was on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1531, (then celebrated on December 9th), that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the Unborn, first appeared to St. Juan Diego.

The National Night of Prayer for Life bridges these feasts. All nations of the world are invited to participate, as we ask Our Blessed Mother to protect Life and the Family; to renew the Church and establish Peace.

During the HOUR OF UNITY, 12 Midnight to 1AM EST., we will be united in churches across the country and the world in prayer to end abortion, and restore God's blessings.

The National Night of Prayer for Life includes adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the holy Rosary, prayer to St. Michael, silent prayer and hymns.



The Celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9th. This year it is not a holy day of obligation.

However we will be celebrating it on Monday December 9th at the 7:30am mass and the 9:15am mass.

The Immaculate Conception celebrated the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her Mother, Saint Anne. Mary was conceived naturally but God kept her soul immaculate, i.e free from sin.

PSM Pick —A-Star Program **PLEASE NOTE THE SHORT WINDOW OF TIME**

Parish Social Ministry's Annual Pick-a-Star Program has begun!

Our Pick-a-Star tree will be located at the front of church by the statue of St. Joseph

For your convenience, there will also be baskets of stars at the church doors, two in the back and two in the front.

Please choose the star (s) indicating items you would like to purchase for someone in need. Gifts should be place under the tree in unwrapped boxes or gift bags, with the original star tag securely attached.

Please Note: The color of the ornament indicates its destination

Please place unwrapped gift cards in the basket near the Pick-a-Star tree at week-end Masses only or drop them off at the Parish Center.

Gift cards may also be placed in the collection basket. All our gifts will be delivered on Monday, December 16

As always, thank you and God Bless you for your generosity.

REJOICE~ Parish Advent Retreat with Sister T

If you want to experience real transformation this Advent, take a journey through the eyes of Joseph and feel with Joseph's heart. Join with Joseph and Mary as they await the birth of their Son.

Prepare to welcome Jesus fully into your heart this Christmas.

See you Monday December 9th after the 9:15 Mass or at 7:00 PM in the church.





ANNUAL SSPJ CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Come join us every day from Sunday November 24 through the month of December! Our trees come in all sizes! We also have wreaths, kissing balls, and grave blankets!

When: Monday through Thursday: 5 pm to 9 pm

Friday: 5 pm to 9:30 pm Saturday: 10 am to 9:30 pm Sunday: 8:45 am to 9:00 pm

Where: SSPJ parking lot

All proceeds support SSPJ school





2019 Lights of Love Tree Lighting





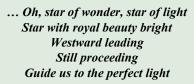








On Saturday, November 30th, the SSPJ Parish Family celebrated our Annual SSPJ Tree Lighting and Crèche Blessing. Over 100 friends and family were called to be remembered and their light shines over our parish and in our homes this Christmas.



Hot cocoa and cookies were enjoyed as we gathered together in community in a winter wonderland.

May the Peace and Love of Christ Jesus be in your homes this Christmas and may the light of your loved ones shine ever in your hearts













Advent... Making it Simple



Travelers on the Advent Journey

Reflection by S. Jean Amore, CSJ, Principal

Often, half of the happiness of important events in life is the preparation. This is particularly true of Advent and Christmas. Advent is for travelers whose spiritual journey is not just personal, but for the people and needs of those around them and those beyond them.

Like Jesus, we live in a time marked by language and actions that create separation, division, greed and disunity. Only God can heal and transform our world, but the world can be healed and transformed by the help of the real image, power and wisdom of the Divine within each of us. Jesus didn't form a steering committee, draft a proposal, design goals and outcomes or conduct a feasibility study.* Jesus simply lived profoundly conscious of the dignity and oneness of all people in God, no one excluded. His mind and heart connected to life at all levels of creation. He was the human expression of God's inclusive love, compassion, mercy and justice. Like us, he did this in the ordinary of every day.

Advent is a time to be more attentive to our world's hunger for us to speak the language of love, unity, reconciliation and forgiveness. It's a time for us to be more conscious of how we nourish life when we read to our children; cook a meal; work honestly and responsibly; sort out the garbage; extend a warm handshake or hug; and resist thoughts of prejudice, exclusion, retaliation or divisiveness. A simple awareness of our thoughts and actions can unite us with Jesus' prayer "that all may be one." Advent is about seeing the needs of the times in the ordinary (and extraordinary) of the life of our family, neighbors, world and planet. In this way we meet God in a new way with our love, compassion, courage and care.

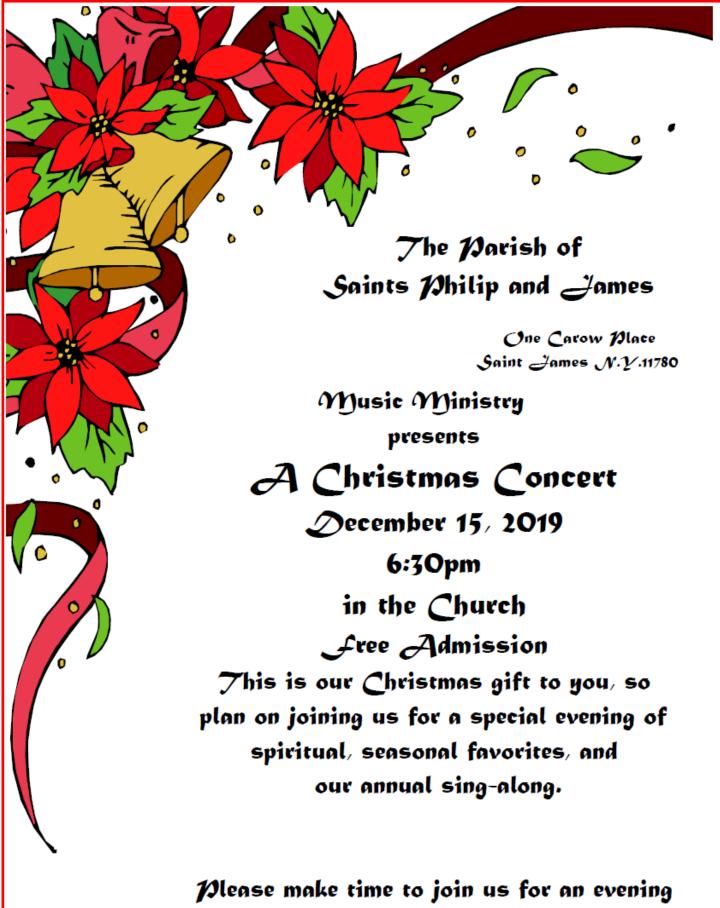
Our Advent journey can be our contribution to God's world this Christmas. Each of us can bring to birth pieces of the realm of God as Jesus did two thousand years ago.

Blessings on Your Advent Journey.

Sources

*Our Journey toward Joy, S. James Meyer.

Including the Earth in Our Prayers, Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee.



Of music.

SSPJ YOUTH MINISTRY~ 2019 NCYC ~ NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE.... AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

It is with sleepy eyes but grateful hearts that Arin Peykar, Genevieve Talento, Kristen Sheridan, Hailey Sheridan and Sister T headed out to the NCYC on Thursday Nov. 21, at 5:30 AM. All travel was successful and we reached Indy in time to rest up a little and find our way around the Convention Center and some food.

The rest is almost a blur as there was so much going on from keynote speakers to work shops to The Thematic Village and the warm up sessions of the Music artists. For me watching over 20,000 Youth pray and celebrate together as well as cheer each other on as they played miniature golf with the bishops was so hope filled for the future of our church. One of the most prayerful time was when all were in the stadium and they experienced adoration with prayer and beautiful reflective singing and music.

I was blessed by this trip as were our young women. THANK YOU SSPJ PARISH for making this trip possible. Watch for the **Gabriel** as there will be more photos and some of the reflections written by our young women.



Send off blessing



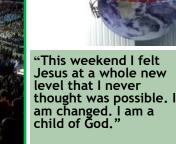
Safely arrived...

My experiences here at this conference strengthened the connection I had with God and taught me to how to include prayer into daily life."



A Stadium of Prayer

"I fully believe that all 20,000 people at this conference were here because God called us to be and I am ready to go home and spread the word of God!"



"Overall my NCYC was experience was very amazing. I've never experienced something like seeing 20,000 teens like me worshiping, crying, laughing and going through the emotions like a roller coaster"







PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY GANG SUNDAYS

"Help us spread the love one sandwich at a time"

What is this? A service opportunity aimed at feeding the hungry. Sandwiches are sent to soup kitchens on Long Island.

When? Sunday, December 15th, 2019

Time? 11:00 to 12:30 (sign in after 10:00 Mass)

Where? Auditorium

Who? All are welcome to feed the hungry, registration is required.

Volunteers are asked to bring: FOUR LOAVES OF WHOLE WHEAT BREAD, ONE JAR OF GRAPE JELLY AND TWO JARS OF SMOOTH PEANUT BUTTER.

If you are interested in our next session of PB&J please fill out the form below and return it to the Pastoral Center by Wednesday, December 11, 2019. Thank you.

Volunteers Name: _______ Peanut Butter Sunday Date: Sunday, December 15th, 2019 Home#: ______ Cell#: ______ Email: ______ Parent Signature: ______

The Fabulous Wash Kit Gang Needs Your HELP.... THEY ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Zip locks sandwich & gallon size . New Socks men's & women's Gloves Hand warmers Hats Candy canes Wash clothes Bandaids Toothpaste trial & full size Toothbrushes trial & full size

If you are able to help...

Kindly bring your donations to the Parish Center Office by December 11th

> THEIR AT 7:NNPM

NEXT MEETING IS ON FRIDAY. DECEMBER 13TH. 2019 AT 7:00PM IN THE AUDITORIUM





Saints Philip and James Parish

Wash Kit Gang

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780 631-584-5454

SIGN UP SHEET

"Wash Kit Gang" is a ministry of Saints Philip and James Parish. Our goal is to provide wash kits to homeless shelters throughout Long Island.

COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM AND

RETURN IT TO THE PASTORAL OFFICE.

******(Anyone who is not pre registered may not be accommodated.)**

WHEN? THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

TIME? 7:00-8:00PM WHERE? AUDITORIUM

VOLUNTEERS MUST BRING 2 PACKS OF WASH CLOTHS (PER PERSON)

(WALMART HAS PACKS OF 18 WASH CLOTHS FOR \$3.97)

AND 1 BOX OF BANDAIDS

******IN ADDITION, THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW ARE NEEDED BUT OPTIONAL*****

Ziploc Bags (Sandwich & Gallon size)

Bar Soaps (Full & Trial size) Shampoo (Full & Trial size)

Candy(Individualy wrapped) all sorts

Conditioner (Full & Trial size)

Hand Lotion (Full &Trial size)

Toothpaste (Full & Trial size)

CHECKS should be made Payable to: SSPJ with "wash kit" written in the memo section.

VOLUNTEER'S NAMES(1)		(2)		
(3)	(4)		(5)	:
VOLUNTEER DATE		TODAY'S DAT	Ė	
HOME#	CELL	#		
EMAIL				
PARENT/GUARDIAN: PRINT	& SIGN			
TOTAL # OF VOLU	INTEERS	<u>=</u>	·	

MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE IN THE # OF VOLUNTEERS IF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WILL BE ATTENDING AS WELL. THANK YOU!

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of December 8th, 2019

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	Sunday,	December 8th, 2019	
	8:00am	Guild Raffle Ticket Sales	School Lobby
	8:30am	RCIA	Cantina
	9:15am	Hospitality Sunday	Auditorium
	10:00am	Children's Liturgy	Auditorium
	12:00pm	Guild Christmas Tree Sale	Monte Lot
	5:00pm	Adult Choir Christmas Party	SSPJ Room
	7:00pm	AA Meeting Mo	nte Building
	8:00pm	Respect Life Night of Prayer	Church

Monday, December 9th, 2019:

9:15am Mass & Parish Advent Reflection Church
1:00pm Senior Group Meeting Philip & James Room
7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 7 Meeting Auditorium
7:00pm Parish Evening of Reflection Church

Tuesday, December 10th, 2019:

4:30pmChildren's ChoirChurch7:00pm6th Grade Catechist WorkshopBethany Center7:000pmSt Monica GroupCantina7:30pmChords of FaithChurch7:30pmRespect Life Committee MtgCantina

Wednesday, December 11th, 2019:

7:00pm REO 2nd Grade Catechist Mtg SSPJ Room 7:00pm SSPJ School Christmas Concert Church 7:00pm Youth Ministry Meeting Bethany Center

Thursday, December 12th, 2019

10:00am REO Catechist Wkshp GR:3,4,5 SSPJ Room
2:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church
7:00pm Boy Scout Leadership Meeting Monte Bldg
7:00pm REO Catechist Wkshp Gr: 3,4,5 SSPJ Room
7:30pm Adult Choir Church
7:30pm Chords of Faith Church

Friday, December 13th, 2019

6:00pm Guild Christmas Tree Sale Monte Lot 7:00pm AA Meeting Philip & James Room 7:00pm Wash Kit Gang Auditorium 8:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church

Saturday, December 14th, 2019

5:00pm Children's Liturgy Auditorium 6:00pm Guild Movie Night Auditorium

Sunday, December 15th, 2019:

8:00pm Stained Glass Sale School Lobby RCIA Sessions SSPJ Room 8:30am 10:00am Children's Liturgy Auditorium 11:00am Peanut Butter & Jelly Gang Auditorium 12:00pm Guild Christmas Tree Sale Monte Lot 6:30pm Parish Christmas Concert Church 7:00pm AA Meeting Sts. Philip & James Room 8:00pm Parish Concert Hot Cocoa Reception Auditorium

CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

AGES 5 TO 14

IN STS. PHILIP AND JAMES PARISH

The theme of the poster is:

"The true meaning of Christmas."

There will be three age groups: 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14.

All artwork must be originally created by the student And submitted on a sheet 8 ½ X 11 piece of paper

Please include the students name, and age on the back of the picture

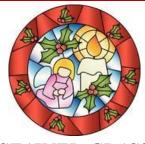
Students are asked to submit their entry by:

December 13th to the Parish Center Office.

All entries will be reviewed by a Panel of Parishioners and displayed in the Church

One entry from each age group will be acknowledged and published in the Parish Bulletin.

The Contest is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters and the Respect Life Committee



SSPJ STAINED GLASS SALE NEXT WEEKEND

DECEMBER 14TH & 15TH

AFTER ALL MASSES

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

PLEASE STOP BY AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY!

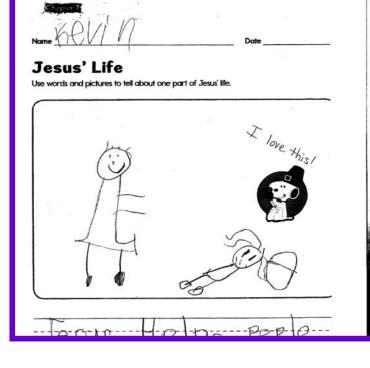
Religious Education Ministry

6th Grade Catechist Workshop Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 At 7PM In the Bethany Center

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade Catechist Workshop Thursday, December 12th, 2019 At 10AM and 7PM

Our Communion 1 (First Grade Religious Education Students) learned about some of the ways Jesus healed people see their artwork below...

Name Leah	Date
Jesus' Life Use words and pictures to tell about one part	of Jesus' life.
	I love this!
Toyd dan	Descis helped
0911	+ Was sick.



2nd Grade Catechist Workshop Wednesday, December 11th, 2019

At 7PM In the Sts Philip & James Room

URGENT! TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS REGISTERED IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR FAMILY WITH FLOCK NOTES PER THE DIRECTIONS BELOW:

As we approach the Winter season all relevant information regarding cancellations will be posted using Flocknotes: If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Ed office at 631-584-5454



First and Second Grade Parents or Catechists: TEXT the word SSPJ-Communion (no spaces) to number 84576 and follow the instructions on your phone

For Third thru Sixth Grade Parents or Catechists: TEXT the word SSPJ-CRE (no spaces) to number 84576 and follow the instructions.

For Seventh and Eighth Grade
Parents or Catechists: TEXT the
word

SSPJ-Confirm (*no spaces*) to number **84576** and follow the instructions on your phone

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.





SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 1, 2, & 3 THIS REFLECTION IS TO BE SHARED AT MASS ON: SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, December 14th or December 15th



December 8th, 2019

Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent

The Gospel of: Matthew 3: 1-12

My Name Is:	
I Am In Grade:	22
Ny Catechist "Teacher's" Name Is:	

Gospel Message: Matthew 3:1-12

In todays Gospel we meet John the Baptist, who is Jesus' cousin, he was very important because he told the people how to prepare for Jesus' coming.

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST

W	L	U	Z	M	H	V	J	0	J	Q	V	Q	S	U
I	Y	V	S	L	0	G	N	K	M	D	В	H	A	K
K	C	T	×	Т	N	M	R	H	K	Y	Т	E	×	×
C	I	×	J	T	E	Z	Y	כ	Т	Α	E	S	L	E
P	N	N	Y	Y	Y	A	S	L	P	P	т	R	Z	Т
R	В	M	G	3	W	I	L	D	G	S	U	E	S	Q
E	D	A	н	D	H	A	I	R	U	×	G	P	Т	C
P	Z	0	P	Y	0	U	s	C	E	N	U	E	R	F
A	т	0	Q	T	W	M	0	н	I	N	כ	N	A	F
R	Z	S	G	N	I	L	0	н	L	R	L	Т	I	M
E	Z	כ	N	P	0	Z	C	P	N	E	P	Y	G	P
E	s	P	0	A	E	A	E	H	M	N	N	Z	H	C
L	0	R	D	н	E	M	т	A	F	T	Q	×	T	Y
3	w	K	K	R	N	3	C	U	Y	C	т	Q	T	U
-		_	-	_					-	_	_	_		-

LORD	PREPARE	KINGDOM	JOHN	HAIR
BAPTIZE	STRAIGHT	PATHS	PREACHING	WILD
REPENT	LOCUSTS	HONEY	CAMEL	BELT

My Week 2 Advent Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker In my own life, and in the world.



Amen



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 4,5 & 6

THIS REFLECTION IS TO BE SHARED AT MASS ON:

SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, December 14th or December 15th



Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent ~

December 8th, 2019

The Gospel of: Matthew 3: 1-12

My Name Is:	
I Am In Grade:	
My Catechist Name Is:	

Gospel Message: The Gospel of Matthew 3: 1-12

In todays Gospel we meet John the Baptist, who is Jesus' cousin, he appeared in Judea preaching a message of repentance

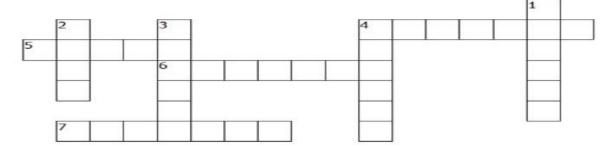
Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST



ACROSS

- One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
- The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
- To get ready for something that is going to happen
- What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

- An area where there is little rain and not many plants
- The man who preached that Jesus was coming
- To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
- 4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE	PREPARE	DESERT	PROPHET
REPENT	JOHN	PREACH	BAPTIZE

My Prayer for the 2nd week of Advent:

Dear Jesus,

Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker In my own life, and in the world.



Amen



SUNDAY MASS REFLECTION: For GRADES: 7 & 8 Confirmation I & II THIS REFLECTION IS TO BE SHARED AT MASS ON: SATURDAY, December 14th or December 15th



Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent December 8th, 2019

Mass Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10: Psalm 72: 1-17; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Student's Name :	thappy 2nd week of (Idvent)
I Am In Grade:	000
My Catechist Name Is:	NO PER PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT
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Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of the one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

My Prayer for the 2nd week of Advent:

Dear Jesus,

Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life. Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let me be a peacemaker In my own life, and in the world.

Amen

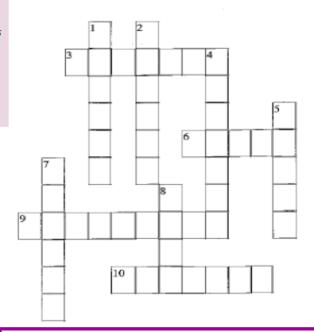
Across

- John said that the one who would come after him would be ______.
- The wilderness where John preached and baptized.
- 9. John called them a brood of vipers.
- 10. The Pharisees said that he was their ancestor.

Down

- The river where John preached and baptized.
- What John proclaimed.
- John liked to eat these.
- John wore clothing made from the hair of this animal.
- He wrote: "Prepare the way of the Lord."
- 8. Where was the Kingdom according to John?

John the Baptist Preaches Matthew 3:1-12



Word Bank:

JORDAN, REPENT, LOCUST, CAMEL, ISAIAH, ABRAHAM,
SADDUCEES; JUDEA; POWERFUL

Mass Intentions, For the week of December 8th, 2019

5:00pm

Saturday, December 7th, 2019

Adelaide Tschinkel

Sunday, December 8th, 2019

For the Parishioners of SSPJ 8:00am

Margaret Dellegar 10:00am 12:00Noon

Collective Mass:

Ralph Dunning, Jr.

Anthony Zielinski

Lou Alvarez Pauline Fattibene

Robert Remhild

Deceased Members of Gammino, Rizzo, Santo Spirito, Concert and Cillo Families

Monday, December 9th, 2019~The Immaculate Conception

7:30am

Paul DeWeerdt

9:15am

Adelaide Tschinkel

Tuesday, December 10th, 2019

7:30am

Ryan Birbiglia

9:15am

Pasquale Campano

Wednesday, December 11th, 2019~Saint Damasus

7:30am 9:15am Henry Oak

Joan Purcell

Our Bread & Wine

For the Week of December 8th, 2019

Is Offered,

In appreciation of

Diane Anderson

With gratitude,

Chris Hensen

Our Pro-Life Rose

For the Week of

December 8th, 2019

Is Dedicated to Our Blessed Mother For her many acts of

Kindness and Love toward mankind.

Let there be peace on earth.

We all praise you.

Vinny & Nancy Rizzo

Thursday, December 12th, 2019~Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30am 9:15am Agnes Kingston

Collective Mass: Mary & Bernard Buckley

Pasquale Campano

Giovanna Garziano

Friday, December 13th, 2019~St. Lucy

7:30am 9:15am Ezio & Olivia DiNucci Toni Donals

Saturday, December 14th, 2019~St John of the Cross

9:15am Carmela Massaro

5:00pm

Charles V. Masterson

Sunday, December 15th, 2019

8:00am 10:00am 12:00Noon For the Parishioners of SSPJ

Ettore Orlando Collective Mass:

Michael Kaplon

Maria Barlin

Joseph Klein

Nina Visne

RoseJean Sgarlato

Anthony Luckiewicz

We Remember....

John P. Boland John Bardong



Prayer for Comfort

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless your friends who are sick. Give them the strength in body, courage in

spirit, and patience in pain. Let them recover their health, so that, restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise your name, for you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

To add a name to prayers for the sick, kindly contact the Parish Center Office at 631-584-5454

Allison Ioli, Angela Amoroso

Angelo Peluso

Anthony A Antoinette Rotolo

Anna Capizzio

Baby Adeline

Baby Kennedy

Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano Belinda Vega

Brian R.

Bob Keenan, Charles Morgan

Daniel Radice

Donalea Donach & Peter

Elinor Glasser **Gregory Parker**

Gwen Dilgen Helen McDowell

Ian Dowling Jeanine Esposito-Tansey

Joan Kranz

Joann Boccia John Cuccia

Joseph

Judy Hanrahan Julie Scott

Karlyn Phillips, Kathleen N.,

Kitty Cronin

Leon Donach Maria Clark

Marie Sabry, Matthew

Melissa C. Michael J. Forker Michael LaVecchia

Pat I. Patricia Fontana

Patrick McDonnell

Patricia Monetti Peter McGreevy

Robin Graham Denis. Sara Jean Andersen

Tim Cavooris, Vicki Archdeacon-Gibb,

Vivien Cordes, Zachary Esposito-Tansey

SSPJ School News

5th grade always works hard during math and science, but religion time is a special time. They are not only learning about the Sacraments and receiving Sanctifying Grace, they also have prayer buddies!

5th grade looks forward to the times they get to spend with their buddies in nursery B, by taking them to Mass every month and working on special projects.



Congratulations to SSPJ Alumni Honor Roll Status

St. Anthony's High School

Meghan Bowden Christopher Cappelmann Ryan Cooke Alexandra DeVito Anthony DiDonato Larisa Dorrian Sarah Fitzgerald Meghan Hickey Amanda Iglio William McČulloh Ashley McDowell Madison McDowell Joseph Montefusco Austin Murn Charlese Profeta Aveline Roderick Cooper Roman Mihret Russo Stephanie Russo Conrad Stabile Christopher Stange Brendan Tobin Liam Willman Claire Wos

OUR LADY OF MERCY:

Catherine Burke Erin Nicastro Elizabeth Cirelli Hannah Collett Coleen Duffy

St. John the Baptist

Margaret Pappas Grace Cazzaniga Julia Kormylo Gabriella Cassimatis Ava Moncayo Marilyn Theagene Sean Walsh Mailyn Colletta Anthony Brown Isabella Tucciarone Julia Wiener

November SSPJ School Apostles of Hope

Sts. Philip and James School Apostles of Hope

November 2019

Nursery A

Piper Petrocelli is an Apostle of Hope. Piper is so kind to her classmates and her teachers. She loves to lend a helping hand, make other students feel welcome, and give loving compliments. Piper spreads God's love through her kind heart and loving smile.

Cecily Coleman is an Apostle of Hope. Cecily comes to school every day with a smile on her face, ready to learn. She is a great friend to all of her classmates and she loves to pray for her family every morning. Cecily's gentle heart makes her a wonderful disciple of Jesus.

Nursery B

Gerard Apoe is an Apostle of Hope. Gerard comes into class every day with a big smile on. He shows God's love through his kindness and willingness to help anyone in the classroom. His attentiveness and eagerness to learn shines bright each day.

Pre-Kindergarten

Hadley Anderson is an Apostle of Hope. Hadley is always ready to cheer on her friends and is respectful of every student. She is a kind and caring friend and works hard in class every day.

Melina Falcone is an Apostle of Hope. Melina always respects the classroom rules and is a very good friend to her classmates. She is always trying to make sure her friends are being good listeners and know what they should be doing. When Melina notices a friend needs help, she is the first one to be there and guide them.

Adam Michel is an Apostle of Hope. Adam is a very hard worker and gives his all on all classwork. He is eager to learn, while his laughter shows he is having fun as he grows daily.

Kindergarten

Aaron Frezza is an Apostle of Hope. Aaron always comes to school with a big smile on his face. He has grown academically and socially. Aaron is a good friend to his classmates and he is very reverent during morning and afternoon prayers. He is a great example of what Jesus would do.

Olivia Stolz is an Apostle of Hope. Olivia always works hard and tries her best. She has a love for learning. Olivia has been working very hard on her handwriting and it has shown! She is kind to her teacher and her classmates and sets an example of what Jesus would do.

First Grade

Bradley Faustin is an Apostle of Hope. Bradley tries his hardest in class and he is eager to participate. Bradley walks into the classroom with a big smile and makes sure to say good morning to all the teachers. Bradley continues to show how to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Second Grade

Chrystaluz Kenton is an Apostle of Hope. She is a great addition to second grade. Chrystaluz made friends easily because she treats others the way Jesus would. She is a polite, caring, and hard working student. Chrystaluz comes to school with a smile ready to share her ideas with her classmates and is a good role model for others.

Third Grade

Francesca Scott is an Apostle of Hope. Francesca is new to our school this year. In a very short time she has made many new friends. She is kind and considerate to all the children in the class. Francesca always tries her best and completes all assignments. She is a great role model to her peers.



Fourth Grade

Vincenza Franco is an Apostle of Hope. Vincenza is friendly and kind to all of her peers. She works well cooperatively in groups and she participates often in class. Vincenza always puts in her best effort when completing tasks and assignments. She is also currently training to be an altar server. Excellent job Vincenza!

Ryan Hurlbert is an Apostle of Hope. Ryan works hard each day to do his best. He shows kindness and patience with his peers. Ryan attends Mass weekly with his class and his family. He completes his daily Mass reflections weekly and he is currently training to be an altar server at SSPJ. Great job Ryan!

Fifth Grade

Lilyanna Marino is an Apostle of Hope. Lily comes to school with a smile on her face ready for the day. She is kind and a friend to all in the classroom. In addition to turning in her reflections every week she also is an active participant in Mass. Shane Stephen is an Apostle of Hope. Shane is an altar server at Mass and turns in his reflections every week. He works hard in the classroom and is very helpful to all who need assistance.

Sixth Grade

Nicole LoCastro is an Apostle of Hope. Nicole is a hard-working student whose effort should be commended. Her positive attitude and kind spirit is a gift to her classmates and teachers. She has answered God's call by cantoring in church and singing in this SSPJ choir.

Seventh Grade

Jonah Carlson is an Apostle of Hope. Throughout the first trimester, Jonah has continuously pushed himself to achieve his greatest educational and spiritual potential. He is driven to participate during class conversations, produce engaging and creative projects, and ace examinations. Jonah adds a fun-loving energy to the classroom while also asking intuitive questions that help bring classroom conversations to the next level. Jonah sets a wonderful example for his Pre-K buddy during school mass regarding how to intently listen to and follow the word of God.

Eighth Grade

Daniel Regan is an Apostle of Hope. Danny is a model of perseverance, he tries his best to improve himself academically. Danny monitors in the pre-k class and is a great role model especially for his younger brother. Danny consistently hands in his mass reflections. One of the highlights for Danny this year was when he made a video for the Bishop.

Celebrating the Liturgy-With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR December 14th & 15th, 2019

Saturday, December 14, 2019 5:00pm	Sunday, December 15, 2019 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, December 15, 2019 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, December 15, 2019 12:00 MASS
Father Tom Haggerty	Father John	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Patrick Osei-Poku
Deacon Ron	Deacon Ron	Deacon John	Deacon John

Eucharistic Minister Schedule-For December 14th & 15th 2019

Saturday, December 14, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019
5:00PM	8:00 AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
G. Alfano	J. Harvey	O. Laiz	M. Peykar
I. Arevalo	P. Kanuika	M. Latino	P. Roman
R. Byrne	M. Kenney	J. Lavan	C. Rubano
D. Coppola	M. Dunn	D. McCormick	B. Chandler
P. Damato	V. Portanova	D. Mulhall	T. Laiz
D. Doran	W. Ramos	C. Napolitano	M. Lebrun
J. Duffy	K. Rapp	H. Orlando	J. Linder
A. Dunn	E. Sica	W. Rodriguez	M. Napoli
D. Earl	T. Sica	P. Schifilliti	T. Pace
G. Priebe	W. VanGostein	J. Scott	A. Santo

We kindly ask all scheduled Ministers to arrive in the Prayer Room 15 minutes before mass begins, for prayer Thank you

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE - FOR December 14th & December 15th, 2019

Saturday, December 14, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
A. Hughes	E. Nicastro	S. Cullen	A. Peykar
J. Hughes	K. Nicastro	J. Prew	J. Peykar
V. Scarpelli	M. Page	J. Hurlbert	A. Miloscia
B & R Tobin	A. Willman	R. Hurlbert	M. Miloscia

LECTOR SCHEDULE - FOR December 14th & December 15th, 2019

Saturday, December 14, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019	Sunday, December 15, 2019
5:00PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
P. Wos	L. Willman	B. Tobin	V. Rubano
8th Grade Student	B. O'Leary	R. Donegan	L. Kenton

Preparing for Next Sunday

December 15, 2019 • 3rd Sunday of Advent• Year A

Do You Get It?

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ► Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 Israel's deliverance
- ▶ James 5:7-10 Patience
- ► Matthew 11:2-11 Christ's witness to John

After baptizing the crowds who came out to hear him preach in the wilderness, John the Baptist was thrown into jail by Herod. Herod was offended when John called out his adultery with his brother's wife and "all the evil things Herod had done" (Lk 3:19). The age-old practice of the powerful imprisoning the righteous played out again.

We may be puzzled why John is uncertain in this gospel passage about Jesus' identity. Weren't they cousins? Didn't John tell the crowds that Jesus was the Lamb of God when he baptized him? Didn't he tell them that Jesus was the one for whom he was preparing the way? Why the uncertainty now?

John's uncertainly about Jesus mirrored the questions that many Jews had about him. They were expecting a Messiah who would overthrow the Roman occupiers of their day. They were expecting a king who would rule their nation with great power and subdue all their enemies. They expected a king-military hero. Jesus' way of acting in the

world and the company he kept wasn't what the Jews were expecting in a Savior. Yes, he was doing deeds of amazing power, but he was also hanging out with sinners, eating with tax collectors, and talking with women in public (gasp!). He also wasn't treating the rich and the powerful with special respect.

In short, he was a mystery to many. So it's not surprising then that John is unsure just who this Jesus was turning out to be.

By telling John's disciples that John could decide for himself who Jesus was by his actions, Jesus trusted John would



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"Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!"

Sheepish Question:

This week, what do I need to practice in order to make a positive difference in the lives of people around me?

"get it." After all, John certainly knew the Old Testament scriptures well and would have recognized the parallels between what Jesus was doing - giving sight to the blind, healing the deaf and the lame, and proclaiming good news to the poor - and the promise from the prophet Isaiah of the wonders God would do.?

Questions of the Week

What are some other examples from history of powerful people imprisoning the truthtellers?

When have you met someone who didn't conform to certain cultural or religious expectations but did wonderful, lifegiving things?

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Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Anchoring Ourselves within God's Goodness

What would Jesus do? For some Christians, that's the easy answer to every question. In every situation all we need to ask is: What would Jesus do?

At a deep level, that's actually true. Jesus is the ultimate criterion. He is the way, the truth, and the life and anything that contradicts him is not a way to God. Yet, I suspect, many of us find ourselves irritated in how that expression is often used in simplistic ways, as a fundamentalism difficult to digest. Sometimes, in our irritation at this, we spontaneously want to say: Jesus has nothing to do with this! But, of course, as soon as those words escape our mouths we realize how bad that sounds! Jesus has a lot to do with every theological, ecclesial, or liturgical question, no matter its complexity. Granted, there's the danger of fundamentalism here; but it's equally as dangerous to answer theological, ecclesial, and liturgical questions without considering what Jesus might do. He's still, and forever, a non-negotiable criterion.

But while Jesus is a non-negotiable criterion, he's not a simplistic one. What did Jesus do? Well, the answer isn't simple. Looking at his life we see that sometimes he did things one way, sometimes another way, and sometimes he started out doing something one way and ended up changing his mind and doing it in a different way, as we see in his interaction with the Syro-Phoenician woman. That's why, I suspect, within Christianity there are so many different denominations, spiritualities, and ways of worship, each with its own interpretation of Jesus. Jesus is complex.

Given Jesus' complexity, it's no accident then that theologians, preachers, and spiritualities often find in his person and his teachings ways that reflect more how they would handle a situation than how he would. We see this in our churches and spiritualities everywhere, and I say this with sympathy, not with judgment. None of us gets Jesus fully right.

So where does this leave us? Do we simply rely on our private interpretation of Jesus? Do we give ourselves over uncritically to some ecclesial or academic authority and trust that it will tell us what Jesus would do in every situation? Is there a "third" way?

Well, there's a "third" way, the way of most Christian denominations, wherein we submit our private interpretation to the canonical ("dogmatic") tradition of our particular church and accept, though not in blind, uncritical, obedience, the interpretation of that larger community, its longer history, and its wider experience, humbly accepting that it can be naïve (and arrogant) to bracket 2000 years of Christian experience so as to believe that our insight into Jesus is a needed corrective to a vision that has inspired so many millions of people through so many centuries.

Still, we're not meant to park the dictates of our private conscience, our critical questions, our unease with certain things, and the wounds we carry, at our church door either. In the end, we all must be true to our own consciences, faithful to the particular insights that God graces us with, and mindful of the wounds we carry. Both our graces and our wounds are meant to be listened to and they, along with the deepest voices within our conscience, need to be taken into account when ask ourselves: What would Jesus do?

We need to answer that for ourselves by faithfully holding and carrying within us the tension between being obedient to our churches and not betraying the critical voices within our own conscience. If we do that honestly, one thing will eventually constellate inside us as an absolute: *God is good!* Everything Jesus taught and incarnated was predicated on that truth. Anything that jeopardizes or belies that, be it a church, a theology, a liturgical practice, or a spirituality is wrong. And any voice within dogma or private conscience that betrays that is also wrong.

How we conceive of God colors for good or for bad everything within our religious practice. And above all else, Jesus revealed this about God: *God is good*. That truth needs to ground everything else, our churches, our theologies, our spiritualities, our liturgies, and our understanding of everyone else. Sadly, often it doesn't. The fear that God is not good disguises itself in subtle ways but is always manifest whenever our religious teachings or practices somehow make God in heaven not as understanding, merciful, and indiscriminate and unconditional in love as Jesus was on earth. It's also manifest whenever we fear that we're dispensing grace too cheaply and making God too accessible.

Sadly, the God who is met in our churches today is often too-narrow, too-merciless, too-tribal, too-petty, and too-untrustworthy to be worthy of Jesus ... or the surrender of our soul.