Twenty-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time

October 22, 2017

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

"Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life."

Philippians 2:15

"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 ~ Closed
Monday: 9am-8pm

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm

Friday: 9am-12 Noon
Saturday: 10am-2pm

Parish Center Phone ~ 631-584-5454

Parish Center Fax~ 631-862-9675

Web ~ www.sspj.org

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
Lynn Sisti	Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry
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

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*

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

But, how to discern? Consider this reflection by Anne Osdieck:

Caesar, did you create the stars
and hurl them to the reaches of the universe?
Can you make blood course through human veins?
Or craft a hummingbird or a Gerbera daisy?

Your coins can't buy what we really need.

God, Creator, you are the one whose face we seek:
the domain of love that you give in grace and peace.

We are made in your image. Please take us as your own.

We're entering a change of seasons. It is getting dark earlier. Let's consider this a call for each of us to bring light into darkness. You no doubt have seen the numbers of young ones coming to Mass. They have been "invited" and, actually, a few have voiced that they have felt welcomed – by us, their family of faith! I ask each of us to consider the old bumper sticker *"you might be the only Gospel someone reads today"* . Yes, we are requiring our families with children in both Religious Education and SSPJ School to join us at Mass. We see them coming. We sing*, "All are Welcome".* Let's be mindful of how we do that welcoming. Active singing is a statement! Let's offer a really warm welcome. I don't mean to be anything other than pastoral. Here is our community's opportunity to be the change we want to see. Let's be the alive, faith-filled, loving community that welcomes Christ in one another.

Shortly all the children, not just those in grades 7 and 8, will be required to bring Mass reflections with them to church. Presently, we have enough parishioners responding to the 7th and 8th graders reflections. But, I need 60 more people to help this new ministry flourish and not become a burdensome task for anyone. It's a simple task, takes perhaps a half hour a week. It's an eye opener! And it's an opportunity to lend heart, affirm our young ones and birth hope in our parish. It asks us to write a simple response to the child on their reflection paper. The old Christopher slogan was *"it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness".* Please help! Light one!

This weekend we are happy to welcome the fourth grade families to the 10am Mass and to a reception following. Please remember that next Sunday's 10am Mass will include a Baptism.

The morning and evening small group retreats are going well. Please say a prayer for those on a journey with Christ. Unfortunately, insufficient enrollment caused the cancellation of the proposed Saturday morning adult education series. We will try again in the New Year! Perhaps Saturday isn't the best day? Or perhaps autumn Saturdays are just too busy? Perhaps focusing first on an introduction to Old and New Testaments might be helpful? If you have suggestions, please share them with me.

I'm writing this before the Knights of Columbus fun night has occurred.. I say it was Colonel Mustard in the Drawing Room. Thanks, Brothers, for providing us with this enjoyable evening!

And,

I asked my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad.
The fly didn't stand a chance.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of October 22nd, 2017

Sunday, October 22nd, 2017

8:30am	RCIA	Parish Ctr Cantina
10:00am	Children's Liturgy	School
11:00am	REO Reception for Grade Masses	Auditorium
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

Monday , October 23rd, 2017

1:15pm	Senior Group Meeting	Philip & James Rm.
6:30pm	Youth Leadership Training	Cantina
7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 7 Meeting	Auditorium

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017:

1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Room of Church
4:30pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Choir Loft
7:00pm	Retreat Evening Session	Philip & James Rm
7:30pm	Chords of Faith Rehearsal	Choir Loft
8:00pm	Boy Scout Leadership Meeting	Monte Building

Wednesday, October 25th, 2017:

4:30pm	**Communion I Church Tour**	**Church**
7:00pm	Youth Ministry Meeting	Auditorium

Thursday, October 26th, 2017:

2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
6:45pm	Hand bells Rehearsal	Choir Loft
7:00pm	Youth Ministry Retreat Meeting	Philip & James Rm.
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, October 27th, 2017:

3:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Workshop
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip &James Room
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, October 28th, 2017:

4:30pm	**Respect Life Christmas Card Sale**	**School Lobby**

Weekly Collection:
Sunday, October 15th, 2017

Sunday Collection: $13,960.
Faith Direct: $3,823.
Children's Jug: $ 20.
Total Collection: $17,803.
Many thanks for your generous support of Sts. Philip & James Parish

Second Collection
THIS Weekend:
October 21st & 22nd, 2017

For: World Missions

Pope Francis: Message for World Mission Day 2017

Once again this year, World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, "the very first and greatest evangelizer" (Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 7), who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. This Day invites us to reflect anew on the mission at the heart of the Christian faith. So it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. ***What is the basis of our mission? What is the heart of our mission? What are the essential approaches we need to take in carrying out our mission?***

Your donations enable the missionaries of the Propagation of the Faith to reach out to communities, families and children who are in need.

Banns of Marriage

First

Ryan O'Toole~SSPJ

To

Brittany Vallarella~SSPJ

Second

Matthew Caulfield
St. John's Lutheran Church-Poughkeepsie
To
Alyssa Granice~SSPJ

Second

Christopher Johnson
Our Lady of Lourdes-W. Islip
To
Laura Kelly
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, MA

Mass Intentions, For Week of October 22nd, 2017

Saturday, October 21st, 2017

5:00pm Mary & Stefano Giacoppo

Sunday, October 22nd, 2017

8:00am Lawrence M. Kenney
10:00am Frank Romanelli
12:00noon Collective Mass & For The Parishioners of SSPJ
Ralph M. Duhning Sr.
Reverend Robert Guintini
John Johnston

Monday, October 23rd, 2017

7:30am Richard Wiedersum
9:15am Rita Fitzgibbon

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017

7:30am Robert Koke
9:15am Geraldine Campbell

Wednesday, October 25th, 2017

7:30am Walter Ginty
9:15am Deacon Robert Heschel

Thursday, October 26th, 2017

7:30am Gerald F. Coyne
9:15am Collective Mass

Friday, October 27th, 2017

7:30am Thomas Bourguignon
9:15am Herbert Daub

Saturday, October 28th, 2017

9:15am John McDermott
5:00pm Henry Cahen

Sunday, October 29th, 2017

8:00am John Blazich
10:00am Jack Duffy
12:00noon Collective Mass & For The Parishioners of SSPJ
Yuknis, LoPresti, Westrich & DiMartino Families
Margaret & Joseph Grieco
Frank Costa

We Ask You to Remember Our Brothers & Sisters In your Prayers

For those who are ill…

Anna Capizzio,
Baby Mattia Lubrano
Brett Dowling
Bradley Shutka
Brennan Steinorth
Carol Walz
Catherine Burseind
Christel DeBlasio
Christopher Gerver
ChristopherTallarico
Dawn Kopel
Ed Gallagher
Eileen Zink
Elinor Glasser
Eva Alaimo
Florence Donahue
Jeanine EspositoTansey
Joe Alberigo
John Hernandez
Julianne
Kathleen N.
Kitty Cronin,
Laura Andrucki & family
Louis Giordano
Marie DelCiello,
Mary McDonough
Pasquale Santoro
Raymond Fox
Suzanne McCue
Terence Hobbes
Teresa Orlik
Vivien Cordes

We Remember…

Robert J. Burns
Catherine Mary Grayson

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
CORPORAL 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
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.

Altar Memorials for the Week of October 22nd, 2017

Our Bread and Wine

For the Week of October 22nd, 2017

Are offered ,
In Celebration of the
66th Wedding Anniversary of
Rose & Joe Perconti
Love,
Anthony, Joan, Joseph, John Anthony &
Josette

The Altar Candles

For the Week of October 22nd, 2017

Are Burning

In Loving Memory of
Karen Markowski
On your 5th Anniversary In Heaven

Forever missed, until we meet again!

Our Pro Life Rose

For the Week of October 22nd, 2017
Is dedicated
In Loving Memory of
Cathy Grayson
Love,
Your Husband Ray, Your Children & Grandchildren

Community News

St James Roman Catholic Church
429 Rte 25A, Setauket, NY 631-941-4141

Vendors wanted for Our Christmas Fair: December 2, 2017
Contact Bridget McCormick or Fr. Jerry Cestare
631-941-4141

CENACLE SISTERS Ronkonkoma

310 Cenacle Road
PO Box 4005
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0430

Phone: (631) 588-8366

LOVE NEVER DIES
GRIEF WORKSHOP

October 29, 2017
1:30pm - 4:00pm
Given by: Paul Alexander, LSCW
Suggested Offering: $35

Joseph Renewal Center at Montfort Spiritual Center, 26 S. Saxon Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706. Anyone interested in any of these programs please call the office at **631-647-8683**.

Living with Alzheimer's & Dementia - 1 to 2:30 pm –Free will offering. Program is held 1st Wednesday of the month beginning September 6 until June 6, 2018.

Facilitators: Josephine Daspro, CSJ, D. Min. & James Morris

Enduring Spirituality for Senior Men & Women- Fridays - 10:30 am to 12 Noon.September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3 & November 17.Offering: $15.00 per session or $75.00 for all the sessions. Presenter: Josephine Daspro, CSJ

Men 2 Men Gathering — 8:00 to 9:30 am – This program is offered the 2nd Saturday of every month beginning September 9 until August 11, 2018.Offering $20.00 incl. breakfast per person

Facilitators: Michael Dunne & participants from the gathering

A Gathering of Spiritual Women– 10:30 am to 12 Noon. This program is offered the 2nd Tuesday** of every month beginning October 10 until June 12, 2018. **Day change**

Offering $20.00 per session p. p.

Facilitators: Beth Barker, Judy Coste, Joan Vessio

A Note From Our Parish Social Ministry Coordinator

Dear Parishioners,

As Parish Social Ministry Coordinator, my hope is that as you hear the Spirit in your lives, you will respond. There are personal benefits to be gained; giving back to the Community, being part of something bigger than self, but most importantly, meaningful ways to give glory to God.

There are many tasks that require only small amounts of time and only on occasion.

Pope Francis has said that charity is at the heart of Church. He also said that small sees grow into a great tree. It is my dream that together, as Sts. Philip and James Apostles of Hope, we can put our faith into action, sowing small seeds, making our Parish Social Ministry, not only a sturdy oak, but also a beacon of hope and life for our brothers and sisters in need. We are here to be there for those who need us.

My prayer is that each one of you opens your heart to the Spirit's promptings...and then call me at the Parish Center!
I can be reached at (631)584-5454.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sisti~Parish Social Ministry

SSPJ 2017Thanksgiving Drive~
A different focus...

In order to promote the independence of our service users and to respect their dignity, we would like to empower them to make their own choices for a holiday dinner.

Therefore, this year, we would appreciate more supermarket gift cards or monetary contributions and less in the way of food items.

We will be collecting your donations after the Masses on Saturday, November 11th, and Sunday, November 12th, 2017.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

All Souls Day Mass of Remembrance

Thursday, November 2, 2017

7:30pm

At this mass, we will remember,
in a special way,
Our loved ones who have died during the past year.
Hospitality immediately following in the auditorium.

All are invited.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

Through the stewardship of our parishioners, we have been able to provide the following services to our members and larger communities:

September 01, 2015-August 31, 2016

Sacraments			Outreach		Funerals
Baptism	102	Children	Total Children Assisted	117	116 families were assisted by the Parish Ministry of Consolation
First Communion	144	Children	Total Adults Assisted	1033	
	2	Adults	Total Seniors Assisted	258	
Confirmation	207	Children	120 Families were assisted at Easter		
	2	Adults	120 families were assisted at Thanksgiving		
Matrimony	29				

In Our Family of Faith Formation

1,300 Religious Education students were served by 120 Catechists.

259 children attend SS. Philip & James School – 153 from within our parish, 90 from neighboring parishes, and 16 children who are not of the Catholic faith

SS Philip & James is served by 127 Eucharistic Ministers and 35 of them serve homebound parishioners as well as senior residents of St. James Health Care, Mills Pond Nursing Home, and Smithtown Health Center.

Our Parish is also blessed with 38 lectors, 24 student lectors, 35 ushers, and 123 altar servers (114 children and 9 adult)

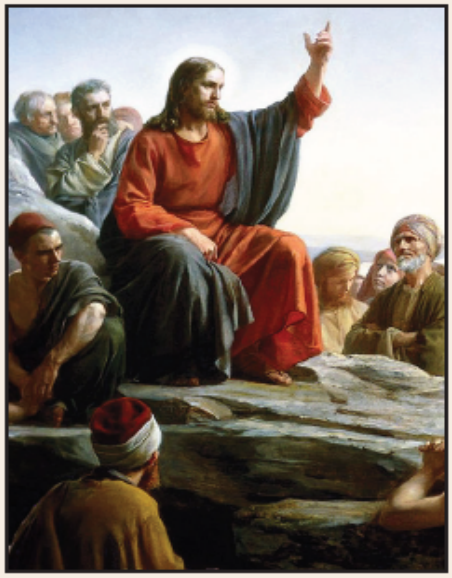
The Stewardship and so much more was provided by:
4,200 Registered Families

God Bless you and God Bless SS. Philip & James

THE MEN'S FORUM

AT THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES

A brotherhood of men dedicated to growing in their faith & discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Guest Speaker: Dr. Daniel Frascella,
Associate Professor of Church History at St. Joseph's Seminary
Topic: "The Protestant Reformation"

We are a brotherhood of Catholic men who meet at Saints Philip & James R.C. Church and are dedicated to growing in our faith and discipleship in the Lord Jesus Christ. We gather twice a month to pray, listen to spiritual wisdom, and draw strength from one another in fellowship. We seek to become better men of Christian virtue and witness in our families, friendships, Church, and community.

WHERE & WHEN: Main Church: North Country Rd., Saint James, NY
6:30 PM: Adoration • 7:30 PM: Speaker Talk • 8:30 PM: Coffee & Cake
Come for all, or part of our evening's schedule • No membership required. Open to all men!

For more information, visit our website: www.sspjmensforum.org

CHURCH of SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES
1 Carow Place • St. James, NY 11780 • 631-584-5454 • www.sspj.org

Something to think about...From Bishop Robert Barron

What is happening at Mass?

Bishop Robert Barron/October 14, 2017

It is an encounter with the real flesh and blood person of Christ Jesus, and it's also a dialogue, a prayer and a play.

As many Catholics know, the Second Vatican Council famously referred to the liturgy as the "source and summit of the Christian life." And following the prompts of the great figures of the liturgical movement in the first half of the 20th century, the Council Fathers called for a fuller, more conscious, and more active participation in the liturgy on the part of Catholics.

That the Vatican II dream of a revived liturgical awareness and practice has, at least in the West, largely remained unrealized goes without saying. In the years following the Council, Mass attendance in Europe, North America, and Australia has plummeted. The numbers of Catholics who regularly attend Mass in those parts of the world hover between 10 and 25 percent. Therefore, it is not surprising that an extraordinary number of those who self-identify as Catholics in the West have very little idea what the Mass actually *is*. My 31 years of priestly ministry convince me that, even for a great number of those who attend Mass, the liturgy is a kind of religiously-themed jamboree.

So what is the Mass? What *happens* during this paradigmatic prayer? Why is it the beginning and culmination of what it means to be a Christian? In the course of this brief article, I will share just a couple of basic insights.

First, the Mass is a privileged encounter with the living Christ. Christianity is not a philosophy, ideology, or religious program; it is a friendship with the Son of God, risen from the dead. There is simply no more intense union with Jesus than the Mass. Consider for a moment the two major divisions of the Mass: the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist. When we meet with another person in a formal setting, we typically do two things. We get together and talk, and then we eat. Think of the first part of Mass as an exchange, a conversation, between the Son of God and members of his mystical Body. In the prayers and interventions of the priest, and especially in the words of the Scriptures, Jesus speaks to his people, and in the songs, responses, and psalms, the people talk back. There is, if you will, a lovely call and response between the Lord and those who have been grafted onto him through Baptism. In the course of this spirited conversation, the union between head and members is intensified, strengthened, confirmed. Having talked, we then sit down to eat, not an ordinary meal, but the banquet of the Lord's Body and Blood, hosted by Jesus himself. The communion that commenced with the call and response during the first part of Mass is now brought to a point of unsurpassed intensity (at least this side of heaven), as the faithful come to eat the body and drink the lifeblood of Jesus.

A second rubric under which to consider the Mass is that of play. We tend quite naturally to think of play as something less than serious, something frivolous and far less important than work. But nothing could be further from the truth. Work is always subordinated to an end beyond itself; it is for the sake of a higher good. So I work on my car that I might drive it; I work at my place of employment that I might make money; I work around the house so that it might be a more pleasant place to live, etc. But play has no ulterior motive, no end to which it is subordinated. Hence, I play baseball or watch golf or attend a symphony or engage in philosophical speculation or get lost in a sprawling novel simply because it is good so to do. These activities are referred to in the classical tradition as "liberal," precisely because they are free (*liber*) from utility. When I was teaching philosophy years ago in the seminary, I would gleefully tell my students that they were engaging in the most useless study of all. Invariably they laughed—revealing the utilitarian prejudice of our culture—but I always reminded them that this meant the highest and most noble kind of study.

The Mass, as an act of union with the highest good, is therefore the supreme instance of play. It is the most useless and hence sublimest activity in which one could possibly engage. Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Mass for the installation of new members of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher. For the solemn liturgy, the Knights wore dashing capes emblazoned with the Jerusalem cross and jaunty black berets, while the ladies donned elegant black gowns, gloves, and lace mantillas. Two bishops, in full Mass vestments and tall miters, welcomed the new members into the order by dubbing them on both shoulders with impressively large swords. As I watched the proceedings, I couldn't help but think of G.K. Chesterton's remark that children often dress up when they engage in their "serious play." Capes, hats, ceremonial gloves, vestments, and swords for dubbing are all perfectly useless, which is precisely their point. So all of the colorful accouterments and stately actions of the Mass are part of the sublime play.

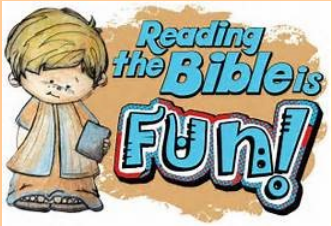
Why is the Mass so important? Why is it the "source and summit" of the Christian life? I could say many more things in answer to these questions, but suffice it to say for the moment that it is the most beautiful encounter between friends and that it is an anticipation of the play that will be our permanent preoccupation in heaven.

SSPJ School News

SSPJ Pre-K students love listening to new Bible Stories,

ESPECIALLY when Fr. Tom comes and reads one!

Thank you Fr. Tom for helping us to grow in our FAITH!



Religious Education IMPORTANT DATES

REO Grade Masses:
Sunday, October 29: 10:00am

Communion I ~1st Grade Church Tours:
Wednesday, October 25:

Eucharistic Retreat Day

Sunday, November 12, 2017
Father Sean, Father Declan, and Father Jerome
with
The Missionaries of The Most Holy Eucharist's own Bishop,
Dominique Rey of Fréjus-Toulon France

We welcome you to join us for a day
set aside to adore, reverence,
and love Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist

Come abide with Him
on this day which includes

Hot Breakfast & Lunch

Holy Rosary

Spiritual Meditations

Holy Mass with Bishop Rey

The Sacrament of Confession

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
440 West Neck Road, Huntington

8:00 am-5:00 pm

To register, please email MostHolyEucharist@gmail.com or call (631) 629-6514
Include your name, email address, home address, parish, & phone number.
Advance registration is **required** and registration by email is preferred.

$35 Donation of cash or check made out to
The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
is suggested for the day and will be collected at the door.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

It is that time again.
The Respect Life Committee will begin its annual Christmas card sale next weekend, October 28th & 29th, 2017.
It is not too early. Stop by our table after mass to purchase all new designs, and take a chance on our newest raffle!
Help our efforts to educate and provide for families in need

SSPJ School Open House

Sts. Philip and James School invites you to our
week-long celebration of
Early Childhood Education
Featuring our
Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs
****

Open Houses
Monday, October 23rd – Friday, October 27th
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 26th
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m...

* Meet the Teachers *
- Students entering Pre-K, Kindergarten
- and First Grade are welcome!*

****

Early Childhood Learning
at Sts. Philip and James School,

A fun-loving place where we
"learn to listen" and "listen to learn".

Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE–FOR October 28th & 29th, 2017

Saturday, October 28 , 2017 5:00 PM	Sunday, October 29, 2017 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday October 29, 2017 12:00 MASS
Father Tom Haggerty	**Father Tom Haggerty**	**Father Patrick Osei-Poku**	**Father Patrick Osei-Poku**
Deacon Ron		**Deacon Ron**	

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR October 28th & 29th 2017

Saturday, October 28, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017
5:00 PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:OO AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
P. Damato	L. Beisel	V. Rubano	B. Chandler
J. Giacalone	C. Czujko	M. Peykar	J. Hanrahan
W. VanGostein	M. Dunn	J. Alternative	M. Lebrun
C. Lombardi	R. Fabian	G. Amen	J. Linder
P. Schfilliti	J. Harvey	L. Keane	M. Napoli
D. Coppola	P. Kanuika	J. Kirdahy	T. Pace
M. Loughlin	M. Kenney	L. Patalano	C. Zito
G. Alfano	A. Mantia	J. Tafra	G. Zito
I. Arevalo	P. Martin	M. Tangel	D. Coppola
C. Boyen	K. Rapp	M. Tully	M. Loughliin

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR October 28th & 29th, 2017

Saturday, October 28, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017
5:00PM MASS	**8:00AM MASS**	**10:00 AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
P. Bisel	K. Dobkowski	J. Ricupero	J. Hoonhout
S. McCalvin	S. Dobkowski	N. Fazzini	N. Hoonhout
C. Williams	A. Willman	K. Tomasic	S. Santos
M. Papas	B. Willman	M. Tomasic	E. Zeman

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR October 28th & 29th, 2017

Saturday, October 28, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017	Sunday, October 29, 2017
5:00 PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:00AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
G. Priebe	D. Sanchez-Rincon	E. D'Amelia	V. Rubano
8th Grade Student	B. Willman	C. Philips	M. Hoonhout

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

October 29th - 30th 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

Exodus 22:20-26 *Psalm 18*
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 *Matthew 22:34-40*

Christian life is a triangle: God, others, and myself. We tend to focus on loving God, leading a good life, and resolving personal needs. The faith community, all of our sisters and brothers who share creation with us, can be lost in the shuffle. Today's readings make sure we keep all three dimensions vibrant. Our neighbor is an indispensable partner in the common enterprise of loving God and self.

The first reading is a selection from the Covenant Code (Exodus 20:22--23:19). It is part of God's communication to Israel on Mount Sinai emphasizing the legal obligations of the covenant people regarding community duties.

First Thessalonians is the oldest writing of the New Testament. Paul describes the interaction of the Christian missionaries and the former Greek pagans. The missionaries acted on behalf of the Thessalonians when they shared the gospel message with them. In turn, this community imitated Paul and his companions when they left their idols and embraced the living God.

The question asked of Jesus meant that out of 248 positive commandments and 365 negative commandments in the Torah, Jesus selected two: (1) love the LORD your God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) and (2) love your neighbor (Leviticus 19:18). Jesus acknowledged that these commandments, sometimes called the Great Commandment, offer the proper spirit that should regulate all the other laws.

Our God speaks to us through the needs of others. The oppressed and the despairing call out to us today just as they did to believers in the Old Covenant. It is not pity that we offer as Christians but an invitation to the fullness of life.

- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.
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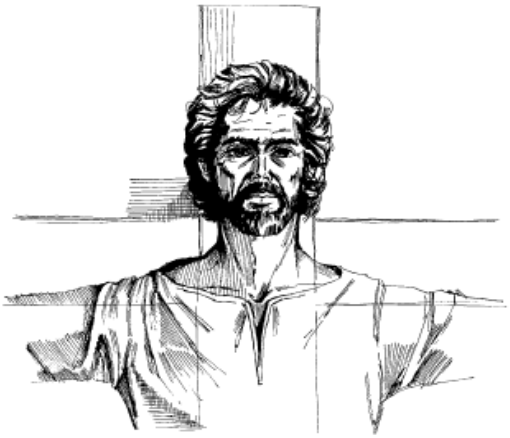

I AM COMPASSIONATE.

EX 22:27

For reflection…

The gospel tells us to love the Lord, our neighbors, and ourselves. How are these loves connected? Which do you find easiest? Which is the most challenging?

Jesus reminds us that without love of neighbor, our faith is only words, and becomes sterile. Without love of God, we become merely social activists. What are ways we can unite our love of God and love of neighbor?

The first reading reminds us of our call to tend to those most in need in society. Who are some of the people who most need our care today? In what ways do we provide that care?

In what ways are you an imitator of Christ? What are some of the challenges you encounter in trying to model Christ in your life? at work? at school? at home?

Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

CLOSE THE DISTANCE NOT THE GATE

Nobel-prizing winning author, Toni Morrison, assessing the times, asks this question: "Why should we want to know a stranger when it is easier to estrange another? Why should we want to close the distance when we can close the gate?" Except this isn't a question, it's a judgment.

It's a negative judgment on both our society and our churches. Where are our hearts really at? Are we trying more to close the distance between us and what's foreign, or are we into closing gates to keep strangers estranged?

In fairness, it might be pointed out that this has always been a struggle. There hasn't been a golden age within which people wholeheartedly welcomed the stranger. There have been golden individuals and even golden communities who were welcoming, but never society or church as a whole.

Much as this issue is so front and center in our politics today, as countries everywhere struggle with their immigration policies and with what to do with millions of refugees and migrants wanting to enter their country, I want to take Morrison's challenge, to close the distance rather than close the gate, to our churches: Are we inviting in the stranger? Or, are we content to let the estranged remain outside?

There is a challenging motif within Jesus' parable of the over-generous vineyard owner which can easily be missed because of the overall lesson within the story. It concerns the question that the vineyard owner asks the last group of workers, those who will work for only one hour. Unlike the first group, he doesn't ask them: "Do you want to work in my vineyard?" Rather he asks them: "Why aren't you working?" Their answer: "Because no one has hired us!" Notice they don't answer by saying that their non-employment is because they are lazy, incompetent, or disinterested. Neither does the vineyard owner's question imply that. They aren't working simply because no one has given them the invitation to work!

Sadly, I believe this is the case for so many people who are seemingly cold or indifferent to religion and our churches. Nobody has invited them in! And that was true too at the time of Jesus. Whole groups of people were seen as being indifferent and hostile to religion and were deemed simply as sinners. This included prostitutes, tax collectors, foreigners, and criminals. Jesus invited them in and many of them responded with a sincerity, contrition, and devotion that shamed those who considered themselves true believers. For the so-called sinners, all that stood between them and entry into the kingdom was a genuine invitation.

Why aren't you practicing a faith? No one has invited us!

Just in my own, admittedly limited, pastoral experience, I have seen a number of individuals who from childhood to early or late mid-life were indifferent to, and even somewhat paranoid about, religion and church. It was a world from which they had always felt excluded. But, thanks to some gracious person or fortunate circumstance, at a moment, they felt invited in and they gave themselves over to their new religious family with a disarming warmth, fervor, and gratitude, often taking a fierce pride in their new identity. Witnessing this several times, I now understand why the prostitutes and tax collectors, more than the church people at the time, believed in Jesus. He was the first religious person to truly invite them in.

Sadly, too, there's a reverse side to this is where, all too often, in all religious sincerity, we not only don't invite certain others in, we positively close the gates on them. We see that, for example, a number of times in the Gospels where those around Jesus block others from having access to him, as is the case in that rather colorful story where some people are trying to bring a paralytic to Jesus but are blocked by the crowds surrounding him and consequently have to make a hole in the roof in order to lower the paralytic into Jesus' presence.

Too frequently, unknowingly, sincerely, but blindly, we are that crowd around Jesus, blocking access to him by our presence. This is an occupational danger especially for all of us who are in ministry. We so easily, in all sincerity, in the name of Christ, in the name of orthodox theology, and in the name of sound pastoral practice set ourselves up as gatekeepers, as guardians of our churches, through whom others must pass in order to have access to God. We need to more clearly remember that Christ is *the* gatekeeper, and the only gatekeeper, and we need to refresh ourselves on what that means by looking at why Jesus chased the moneychangers out of the temple in John's Gospel. They, the moneychangers, had set themselves up as a medium through which people has to pass in order to offer workshop to God. Jesus would have none of it.

Our mission as disciples of Jesus is not to be gatekeepers. We need instead to work at closing the distance rather than closing the gate.

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.

Opening the gates...