The Parish of Saints Philip and James

1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

June 30 , 2019

Thirteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

"Yes, Lord, I will follow you wherever you lead. I trust that your grace will be enough for me"

"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, Connor Donnelly, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Kelsey Greco, Cynthia Lombardi,Paul Damato
Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Maureen Burke

Stewardship, A Way of Life

As we continue our journey, we share our "Time, Talents and Treasures" with our family, friends, and our parish community.
Thank you for your support of Sts. Philip & James Parish

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN
CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.
LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
STEVEN CAVA-USN
ERIC SEELIN- USMC
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC
GREGORY DEVANEY- USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY
SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA– US ARMY
MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS –USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC
PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG
KYLE J. GRUNER –US ARMY
MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD
KELLI MCLAUGHLIN– 2ND LT. US ARMY NATL. GUARD

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget: ***$21,000***

Weekly Collection: Sunday , June 23rd, 2019 ***$ 12,664.***

Faith Direct: ***$ 2,877.***

Total Weekly Collection: ***$15,441.***

Thank you for your stewardship and contributions to our Parish

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

We are companions on the journey..." Yes, we are on a journey, or rather, as Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, says, we are on a *"pilgrimage".*

Life is frequently described as a journey – it has a beginning, an end and along the way there are important stopping-off places with countless vistas. However, the difference for us Christians is that it is more than a journey – it is a pilgrimage. We are like pilgrims of old, traveling together towards a special place, praying as we go and supporting one another as we face the challenges along the way. Jerusalem is the backdrop for Jesus' journey... Jesus makes it quite clear along the way that to follow him is to be willing to journey whole heartedly with him to Jerusalem. No compromises, no half measures.

This is a major challenge! Fr. Jude goes on to share:

Today's gospel does what the Sermon on the Mount does – makes me feel my inadequacy as a disciple. Who among us hasn't looked back? Or, made a choice for our own profit, rather than accept the sacrifice of discipleship? Who hasn't kept quiet when we should have spoken up, so that we can continue to fit in comfortably with our peers? We have acquiesced rather than speak up and put ourselves on the line. Thankfully we have this Eucharist, the meal of recommitment. Gathered with other followers around the table, we hear the words that rebuild the crumbling structure, patch the cracks and freshen up the paint of our discipleship. We eat the meal that knits us more closely into a community that has heard the invitation to follow, considered the costs and still said "yes"; even if it is a fragile "yes," timidly whispered, more than confidently shouted.

I am grateful to be among wonderful pilgrims, Apostles of Hope. As we gather together at Eucharist, let's continue to pray with and for one another, for our parish, our country, our world.

Many thanks to all who joined in making the Family Festival such a delightful experience for all. It was great to see so many smiling faces and happy hearts enjoying the great weather (except for Thursday!) and good time provided by the many volunteers who made it possible.

Father Maxim joins us this week as Father Patrick enjoys July off. As I mentioned last week, if any are able to volunteer to drive him on periodic sick calls and wake services, please leave your name, number and availability at the rectory.

We are inching toward our Catholic Ministries Appeal goal. If you are able, please help us to reach our goal. CMA helps many in need in our diocese, and we will receive a rebate when our goal is met.

School's out! So...

Q: What school do kids like to go to during the summer?

A: Sundae school – because of all the ice cream!

Q: How is a teacher's summer vacation like someone closing their eyes?

A: There aren't any pupils to see.

Q: What is a math teacher's favorite sum?
A: Summer.

It's my favorite sum too!!!

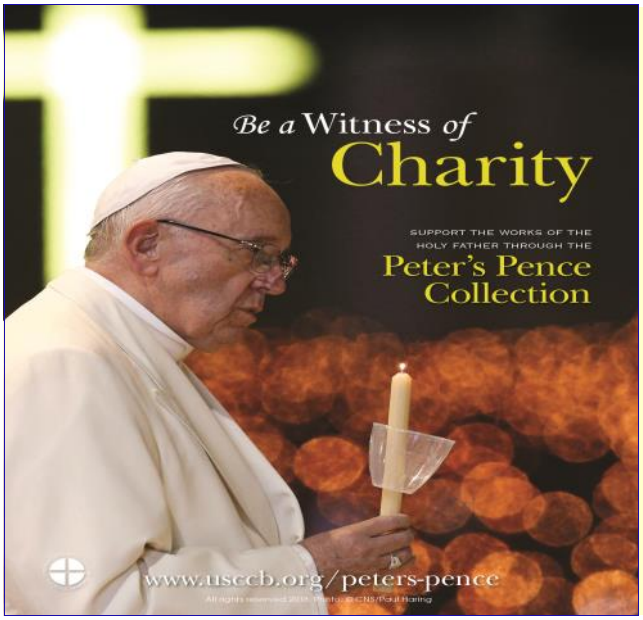
Peace,

Father Tom

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

Peter's Pence Collection: Second Collection This Weekend: June 29th & 30th

This week, we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit *www.usccb.org/peters-pence*



Be a Witness of Charity

How You Can Help

PRAY Pray for the Holy Father as he reaches out compassionately to make the world less cold and more just, and pray for those suffering around the world who will benefit from this collection.

SHARE To spread the message of mercy and peace, share this flier with someone who might be interested, and tell others how Pope Francis supports the marginalized.

GIVE Please give generously to the collection to be a witness of charity and offer hope to those who suffer around the globe.

News From Our Religious Education Ministry

"Participating in the faith formation of our children,
that is where a relationship with Jesus, is born…
It begins with loving parents
and continues in the faith filled hands of a Catechist"

Registration for the 2019-2020 Religious Education School Year will begin on June 24th, 2019:

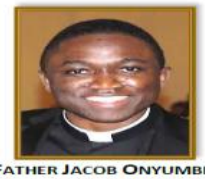
Please visit the Parish website at: www.sspj.org and follow the instructions to enroll your child/children in our Religious Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year.

Any family registering a First Grader or a child new to our Parish, is asked to contact us via email at religioused@sspj.org or by phone at 631-584-3204 To arrange a convenient appointment date and time.

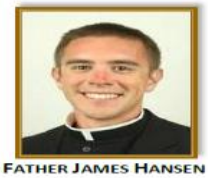
We are almost there….your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated!
Any contribution is a gift...to help those in need…
If you can, your offering will be a blessing.
2019 SSPJ GOAL ~ $119,700.00: SSPJ is at <u>88.8% of Goal</u>

OUR PARISH
IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

"AN INCREASE IN VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD


FATHER JACOB ONYUMBE

FATHER VIAN NTEGEREJ'LMANA


FATHER JAMES HANSEN

FATHER ALESSANDRO DA LUZ

FATHER JOHN WACHOWICZ

WITH HELP FROM THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL!

Your pledge today will increase our Priests tomorrow!

REV. MR. CODY BOBICK | REV. MR. MATTHEW BROWNE | REV. MR. KENNETH GROOMS | REV. MR. NELSON MARQUEZ | REV. MR. ALEXANDER TURPIN | REV. MR. ROGER VELASQUEZ

Ordination Day: 22 June 2019 at Saint Agnes Cathedral

Photos courtesy of Gregory A. Shemitz and the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

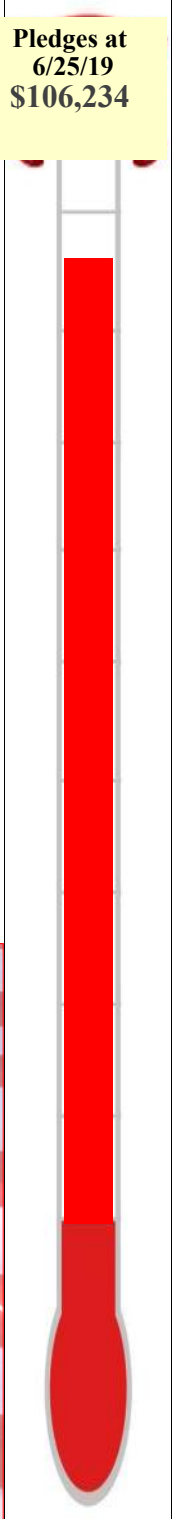
Please consider what you can do to make a difference! Make your check payable to: *Catholic Ministries Appeal*

Parish: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Pledge: $ _____
Down Payment: $ _____
Balance: $ _____

2019 CMA GOAL $119,700

Pledges at 6/25/19 $106,234



Music Ministry

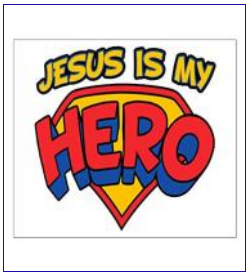
Well, we are back in ordinary time. Things will start to quite as we move into summer. The choir sing their last masses this weekend and are off for the summer. They will return the weekend of Sept 14-15. First rehearsals Sept 10 and 12. Music will continue through the summer. Cantors are on and subs for me as I take vacation.

The Mass parts will change to Mass of Resurrection # 855, 858, 859, and 860.

I try to pick songs most familiar to us while keeping within the Mass theme. This way everyone will sing with confidence.

This week, the 4th of July of course we sing America the Beautiful.
Sing it loud and strong.
God Bless America!
&
Happy Summer! From the SSPJ Music Ministry

Saints Philip and James Parish
631-584-5454



Vacation Bible Camp

Week 1~ July 22nd-26th (or)
Week 2~ July 29th-Aug 2nd

Registration is available for either Week 1 or Week 2

(Curriculum will be the same for both weeks)

Monday – Friday from 9:30am – 12:00pm

This summer's theme is: "Bible Hero's"

Vacation Bible Camp is a one week experience where 4 -9 year olds are introduced to our faith through music, dance, arts & crafts, outside activities and daily assemblies. VBC is a place for children to sing, laugh, learn, pray and meet new friends. Special events and Surprises at the end of the program.

- *$35 Tuition includes supplies, a daily healthy snack and a VBC T-Shirt.*

** Registration is for either week 1 or week 2*
Registration forms are available at the Parish Center Office
One Carow place St. James, NY 11780

Camper Registration 2019
Week 1 July 22-26 ___ (or) Week 2 Jul 29-Aug 2 ___

Camper's Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

DOB_____ **Age**_____ **Grade (as of 9/19)**_____

Phone # _____ **Cell #** _____

E-Mail_____ **Allergies** _____

Emergency Contact _____

Contact #_____**Relationship**_____

Special Needs:_____

T-Shirt Size (Children's) S M L (Adult) S M L XL

Parish Social Ministry

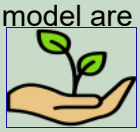
OUR FOOD PANTRY IS CURRENTLY IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Tuna
Jelly (small jars)
Whole Wheat pasta
Granola bars

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

A Message from Peace & Justice Committee

Pope Francis in 'Laudato si' stresses the importance of encounter and dialogue: "We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family (# 52)." - "When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of 'might is right' has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus (# 82)."



AND THE WINNERS ARE

Congratulations to the Car raffle winners

1st Prize 2019 Mercedes- Benz CLA250 4MATIC 2 year lease or $15,000 -

Kaiser Family #09933

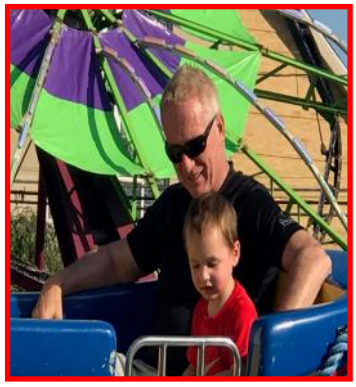
2nd Prize $250 Paul Lennon #10633

3rd Prize $100 Nancy Greubel #14278

4th Prize $100 Kaiser Family #09936

5th Prize $10 Northorn Family#23048

Thank you Mercedes-Benz of Smithtown for their continuous generosity and support



Sts. Philip & James Family Festival

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE OUR FESTIVAL A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!

Festival Sponsor:

Island Industrial Boiler

Ride Sponsors:

Deacon Ken & Family, St. James Funeral Home
Jason Prew, Banker's Life

Festival Supporters:

Eddie's Power Equipment
The Radosta Family
The Stephens Family
The Taurassi Family

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of June 30th, 2019

Sunday, June 30th, 2019

11:00am Stained Glass — Stained Glass Wkshp
7:00pm AA Meeting — Philip & James Room

Monday, July 1st, 2019:

7:15am Camps R Us — Main School Building
1:00pm Rosary Makers — Philip & James Room

Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019:

7:15am Camps R Us — Main School Building
1:30pm Cantor Training — Church

Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019

7:15am Camps R Us — Main School Building

Thursday, July 4th, 2019

No Events scheduled

Friday, July 5th, 2019:

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

Saturday, July 6th, 2019

No Activities Planned

Sunday, July 7th, 2019:

11:00am Stained Glass Club — Stained Glass Wkshp
7:00pm AA Meeting — Sts. Philip & James Room

Banns of Marriage….Third Announcement:
Chris Aliperti ~ St. James Church To Molly Dearie ~ Sts. Philip & James Church

Our Bread & Wine

For the Week of June 30th, 2019

Are Being Offered,

In Loving Memory of,

Lydia Portanova

With Love,

Josephine DiPalermo

The Sanctuary Lamp

Is Illuminating the Love and Sacrifices of Our Lord & Savior

This week and always,

In Thanksgiving for Mary Ann and Jeff Posè

With gratitude for your kindness, generosity and support of our Parish and School during the past 30 years.

God's blessing upon your family today and always

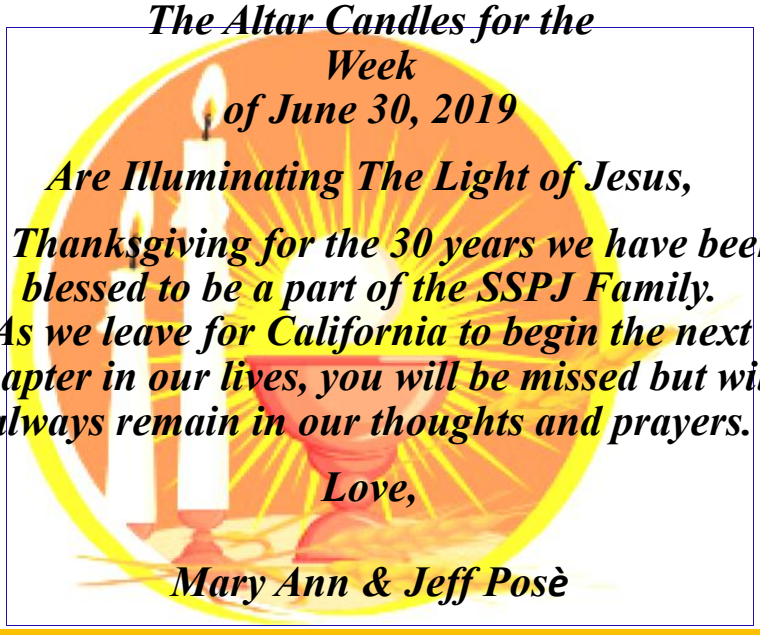
The Altar Flowers Are The Presence of God's Loving Creation

And This week are offered,

In Gratitude for All of God's Blessings

Mary Ann & Jeff Posè

The Altar Candles for the Week of June 30, 2019



Are Illuminating The Light of Jesus,

In Thanksgiving for the 30 years we have been blessed to be a part of the SSPJ Family. As we leave for California to begin the next chapter in our lives, you will be missed but will always remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Mary Ann & Jeff Posè

Mass Intentions, For the week of June 30th, 2019

Saturday, June 29th, 2019

5:00pm Joan Ward

Sunday, June 30th, 2019

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ
10:00am Patricia Quinn
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Ed & Ann Svenningsen (Living)
Joseph Paul Wollweber
Lydia Portanova
Teri Ritchie
Evelyn Stenger

Monday, July 1st, 2019

7:30am Caroline Pizzorusso
9:15am Marie & Bob Merz

Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019

7:30am Peggy Kearney
9:15am Rudy Bonitch

Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019

7:30am Patricia McNeely
9:15am John Zorski

Thursday, July 4th, 2019

7:30am Kathleen Cotter
9:15am Collective Mass:

Friday, July 5th , 2019

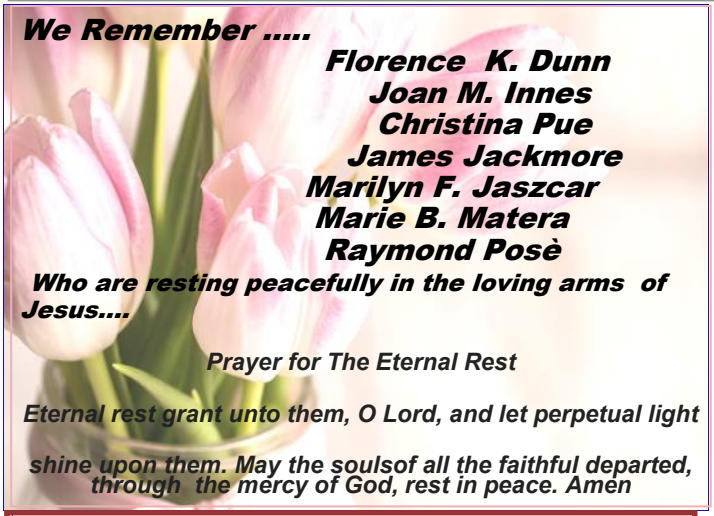
7:30am Donald G. Gill, Jr.
9:15am Jerry Losquardo

Saturday, July 6th, 2019

9:15am Mary Christina McDermott
5:00pm James Ginty

Sunday, July 7th, 2019

8:00am For the Parishioners of Sts Philip & James
10:00am Dr. Frank Blazich
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Reverend William Duhigg
Aurelia Manzl
Brian Egitto
Theresa Stramiello
Mary B. Cournane



We Remember .....

Florence K. Dunn
Joan M. Innes
Christina Pue
James Jackmore
Marilyn F. Jaszcar
Marie B. Matera
Raymond Posè

Who are resting peacefully in the loving arms of Jesus....

Prayer for The Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the soulsof all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Our Pro Life Rose

For the Week of June 30th, 2019

Is Offered

In Loving Memory of,
William & Geraldine Heneghan
Mentors in the Culture of Life

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

Al Salerno
Allison Ioli,
Angela Amoroso,
Angelo Peluso,
Angie Carr,
Anna & John Capizzio
Baby Adeline ,
Baby Kennedy
Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano,
Brian R.
Bob Keenan,
Carole Hennessy ,
Charles Morgan,
Dena Pollina
Donalea Donach
Elinor Glasser
Eric Shutka,
Helen McDowell,
Ian Dowling,
Jeanine Esposito-Tansey,
Joann Boccia
John Boland ,
Jordan Marvelli
Joseph ,
Joseph Keane ,
Karlyn Phillips,
Kathleen N.,
Kitty Cronin ,
Marie Sabry,
Marty Caltabiano
Matthew
Michael LaVecchia,
Patricia Fontana,
Patricia Monetti,
Robin Graham Denis,
Tim Cavooris,
Tom Sica,
Vicki Archdeacon-Gibb,
Vivien Cordes ,
Zachary Esposito-Tansey

Camps *'r'* Us Summer Fun at SSPJ for June– July
August schedule to follow in next weeks bulletin!

ST. JAMES

JUNE/JULY 2019 • CAMP OPENS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
July 1 The Little Gym KK	2 The End MTK Long Island 78 $	3 Crazy Hair Day	June 27 Hello Summer	28 Wild 'n Wacky Challenge
8	9 A Totally Boo-Dacious Halloween Party	10 Adventureland 12 34 56 78	11 Happy 4th of July Camp Closed July 4/5	12 USTA National Tennis Center 78
15 One World Observatory 78	16 XPLORE Family Fun Center KK	17 Bay Princess II 56	18 AMF Bowling Co.	19 Bowling & Amusement Round 1 34
22 KZAM 12	23 Pinewood Derby #CampKindnessDay	24 Smith Point Archery 78	25 34 56 78 $	26 picture day

Saint James Campus Summer Phone: (631) 250-9393
Ss. Philip & James School • 359 Clinton Avenue • Saint James, NY 11780

Camp Hours are 9 AM - 5 PM. Morning Drop-off is 8:40 - 9:10 AM. Afternoon Pickup is 4 - 5:10 PM.
Extended Hours are 7:30 - 8:40 AM in the morning and 5:10 - 6 PM in the afternoon. Additional fees will apply.

Swimming and Bowling is scheduled when you see these icons.
Swimming Venue: Smithtown Landing Park Pool **Bowling Venue:** AMF Smithtown Lanes

$ Added fee & consent form required for attendance.

TT KK 12 34 56 78

Trips are planned for each camper division, indicated by these icons.
TT (Tiny Tots) | **KK** (KinderKamp) | **12** (Grades 1/2) | **34** (Grades 3/4) | **56** (Grades 5/6) | **78** (Grades 7/8)
If your camper does not want to attend a trip, please ask your counselor to opt out.

This is a tentative schedule of events. The calendar is subject to change due to venue availability, transportation change and/or inclement weather. Trips, Theme Days and/or Special Events may be added, modified or removed before or during the camp season.

CAMPS 'R' US WHERE SUMMER VACATION IS OUR JOB!

American Camp Association ACCREDITED

CAMP gives kids a world of good.

Safety 1st 2018

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

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Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE–FOR July 6th & 7th, 2019

Saturday, July 6, 2019 5:00pm	Sunday, July 7, 2019 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, July 7, 2019 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, July 7, 2019 12:00 MASS
Father Tom Haggerty	**Father Maxim Rosario**	**Father Tom Haggerty**	**Father Tom Haggerty**
	Deacon Ron	**Deacon John**	**Deacon John**

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR July 6th & 7th, 2019

Saturday, July 6, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019
5:00PM	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:OO AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
G. Alfano	K. Consenz	N. Locastro	P. Agoglia
I. Arevalo	J. Giacalone	S. McKie	M. Laub
R. Byrne	G. Beisel	M. Morbillo	B. Luna
D. Coppola	L. Beisel	P. Rizzo	E. Sotomayer
J. Duffy	R. Doda, Sr.	M. Sehne	C. Zito
D. Earl	M. Dunn	D. Anderson	G. Zito
M. Fox	R. Fabian	C. Lombardi	M. Hoonhout
P. Kaleita	C. Haff	L. Tepedino	E. Law
E. Kaleita	W. Haff	J. Alternative	D. McCormick
J.Primavera	J. Harvey	B. Carey	M. McCreesh

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR July 6th & 7th, 2019

Saturday, July 6, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019
5:00PM MASS	**8:00AM MASS**	**10:00 AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
C. Nigro	B. Keese	B. Dearie	C. Tsoumpelis
S. Nigro	K. Keese	S. Dearie	I. Cole
C. Williams	V. Chiappone	N. Fazzini	A. Peykar
A. Hughes		J. Hurbert	S. Glen

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR July 6th & 7th, 2019

Saturday, July 6 , 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019	Sunday, July 7, 2019
5:00PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:00AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
J. Auletta	S. Cavooris	M. Koke	A. Latino
M. D'Amelia	C. Czujko	P. Geier	G. Hoonhout

July 7, 2019 • 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C

Needed: More than 12

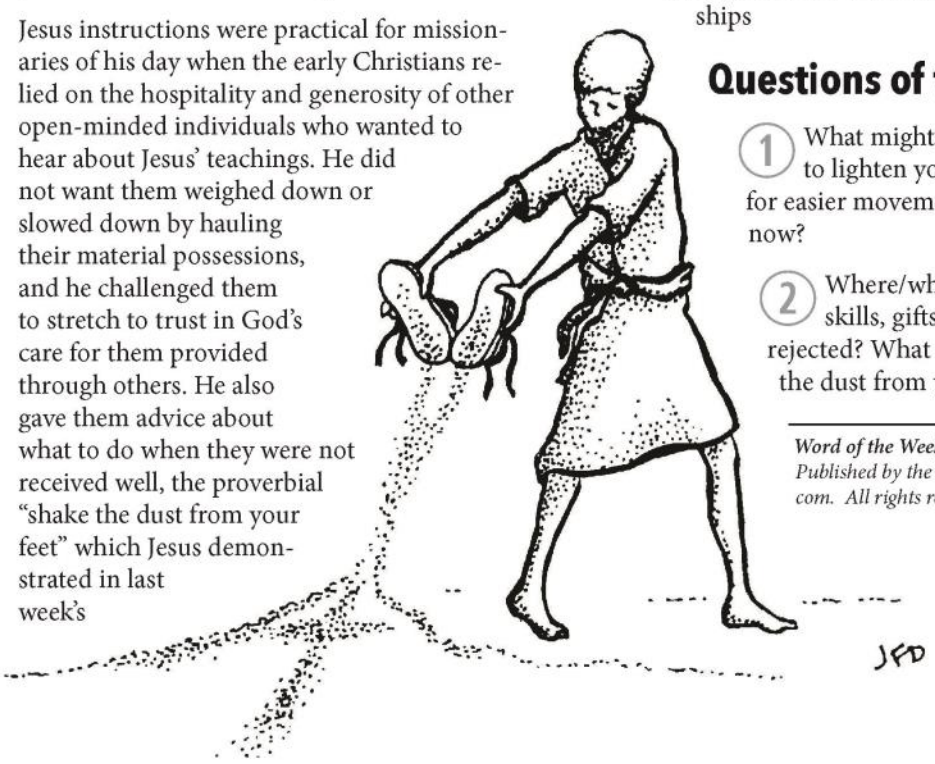
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Isaiah 66:10-14c - Mother Zion
- Galatians 6:14-18 - The Cross, our true boast
- Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9 - Mission of the 72

Twice in the Gospel of Luke Jesus sends disciples out to spread his mission by curing the sick and preaching the Kingdom of God, a realm of peace, justice, and compassion for all. The first time, in the chapter before this reading, Jesus sent out his 12 apostles. In the passage today, he sends out a larger group of 72 others. It seems Jesus realizes that he needs more than 12 helpers in this work!

It's likely that this larger group of 72 included women as well as men. In chapter 8, Luke mentions by name several women who accompanied Jesus in his ministry including Mary Magdalen, Joanna, and Susanna, "and many others, who provided for them out of their resources" (Lk 8:2-3). When Jesus sends out the 72 they are sent out in pairs. In the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters, there are references to married couples who work and travel together as missionaries.

Jesus instructions were practical for missionaries of his day when the early Christians relied on the hospitality and generosity of other open-minded individuals who wanted to hear about Jesus' teachings. He did not want them weighed down or slowed down by hauling their material possessions, and he challenged them to stretch to trust in God's care for them provided through others. He also gave them advice about what to do when they were not received well, the proverbial "shake the dust from your feet" which Jesus demonstrated in last week's reading when he wasn't received in Samaria. Although we may not be full-time Christian missionaries today, all of Jesus' instructions for how to conduct ourselves in our daily lives can still be relevant and offer guidance for our work and personal relationships



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"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."

Sheepish Question:

With all I've been given, am I spreading the Good News, or just spreading myself?

Questions of the Week

1. What might you be invited to let go of to lighten your load and free you up for easier movement in your life's work right now?

2. Where/when have you offered your skills, gifts, or time only to have them rejected? What was it like to try to shake the dust from your feet and move on?

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Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The Loss of Heaven and The Fear of Hell

Growing up as a Roman Catholic, like the rest of my generation, I was taught a prayer called, *The Act of Contrition.* Every Catholic back then had to memorize it and say it during or after going to confession. The prayer started this way: *Oh, my God, I am truly sorry for having offended thee and I detest all of my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. …*

To dread the loss of heaven and fear the pains of hell can seem like one and the same thing. They're not. There's a huge moral distance between dreading the loss of heaven and fearing the pains of hell. The prayer wisely separates them. Fear of hell is based upon a fear of punishment, dreading the loss of heaven is based upon a fear of not being a good, loving person. There's a huge difference between living in fear of punishment and living in fear of not being a good a person. We're more mature, humanly and as Christians, when we're more worried about not being loving enough than when we're fearful that we will be punished for doing something wrong.

Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, I breathed in the spirituality and catechesis of the Roman Catholicism of the time. In the Catholic ethos then (and this was essentially the same for Protestants and Evangelicals) the eschatological emphasis was a lot more about the fear of going to hell than it was about being a loving person. As a Catholic kid, along with my peers, I worried a lot about not committing a mortal sin, that is, doing something out of selfishness or weakness that, if unconfessed before I died, would send me to hell for all eternity. My fear was that I might go to hell rather than that I might not be a very loving person who would miss out on love and community. *And so I worried about not being bad rather than about being good.* I worried that I would do something that was mortally sinful, that would send me to hell; but I didn't worry as much about having a heart big enough to love as God loves. I didn't worry as much about forgiving others, about letting go of hurts, about loving those who are different from me, about being judgmental, or about being so tribal, racist, sexist, nationalistic, or narrow in my religious views that I would be uncomfortable sitting down with certain others at the God's banquet table.

The heavenly table is open to all who are willing to sit down with all. That's a line from a John Shea poem and it spells out succinctly, I believe, a non-negotiable condition for going to heaven, namely, the willingness and capacity to love everyone and to sit down with everyone. It's non-negotiable for this reason: How can we be at the heavenly table with everyone if for some reason of pride, wound, temperament, bitterness, bigotry, politics, nationalism, color, race, religion, or history, we aren't open to sit down with everyone?

Jesus teaches this too, just in a different way. After giving us the *Lord's Prayer* which ends with the words, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us", he adds this: "If you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you." Why can't God forgive us if we don't forgive others? Has God arbitrarily singled out this one condition as his pet criterion for going to heaven? No.

We cannot sit at the heavenly banquet table if we are still selective as to whom we can sit down with. If, in the next life, like here in this life, we are selective as to whom we love and embrace, then heaven would be the same as earth, with factions, bitterness, grudges, hurt, and every kind of racism, sexism, nationalism, and religious fundamentalism keeping us all in our separate silos. We can only sit at the heavenly banquet when are hearts are wide enough to embrace everyone else at the table. Heaven demands a heart open to universal embrace.

And so, as I get older, approach the end of my life, and accept that I will soon face my Maker, I worry less and less about going to hell and worry more and more about the bitterness, anger, ingratitude, and non-forgiveness that still remains in me. I worry less about committing a mortal sin and more about whether I'm gracious, respectful, and forgiving towards others. I worry more about the loss of heaven than the pains of hell, that is, I worry that I could end up like the older brother of the prodigal son, standing *outside* the Father's house, excluded by anger rather than by sin.

Still, I'm grateful for the *Act of Contrition* of my youth. Fear of hell isn't a bad place from which to start.

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.
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