Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time

June 25, 2017

" So do not be afraid;

You are worth more than

many sparrows." Matthew 10:21

"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

The Parish of Saints Philip and James

One Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

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

Pastoral Team

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

Pastoral Council & Trustees

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*

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Although "Ordinary Time" during the week began right after Pentecost, today is the first Sunday we're back in Ordinary Time following the feasts of the Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. While the term "ordinary" refers to the number order (today being the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time), it also signals entering a different phase of time – a different season. During these next month's we hear again stories of Jesus' ministry and teaching, seeking to understand and follow his invitations to be Apostles of Hope.

Though we may now be back in ordinary time, my sincere thanks to all of you for your extraordinary generosity in enabling us to reach our goal in the Catholic Ministries Appeal. As you know, it is both a way for us to demonstrate our concern for those in need outside our parish as well as a major source of income for our ministries here at SSPJ via the rebate we receive. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Fear no one.....do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows... Today's gospel includes these words of comfort and encouragement to the disciples – to us. Words we need to hear and to believe. We live in a world of challenges where fear too easily can take control. Like the early followers of Jesus, we need to stay rooted in God's Word. *What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light.* Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP, reflects:

God also knows how many hairs we have on our head. Again, we're not talking about the hairs on our head are we? It is another assurance of God's attentiveness to all of our lives. Jesus is encouraging us to keep strong in faith through hard times caused by the opposition our Christian values face in the world....

Fear in the face of suffering, especially from persecution, is natural. Still, three times Jesus issues instructions about not being afraid. "Do not be afraid." Matthew was addressing his community's present situation: there was reason to be afraid, they were being persecuted for their faith. Ultimately, in the final judgment, Jesus assures his followers, the truth will come out. Meanwhile, they will endure suffering because they are his followers and must still proclaim the truth openly – "proclaim on the housetops."

I hope all of you get to enjoy some family fun at our Parish Festival. Many, many thanks to all those whose hard work makes this festival possible.

And, *"Mom's Dictionary"*

AIRPLANE: What Mom impersonates to get a 1-yr.-old to eat strained beets.
APPLE: Nutritious lunchtime dessert which children will trade for cupcakes.
BECAUSE: Mom's reason for having kids do things which can't be explained logically.
BED AND BREAKFAST: Two things the kids will never make for themselves.
COOK: 1) Act of preparing food for consumption. 2) Mom's other name.
EAT: What kids do between meals, but not at them.
GENIUSES: Amazingly, all of Mom's kids.
"I SAID SO": Reason enough, according to Mom.
JOY RIDE: Going somewhere without the kids.

Peace, Father Tom

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

Parish Social Ministry

"You are the salt of the earth…You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." MT5:13-16

The Light of Christ shines brightly in each of us.
Parish Social Ministry offers many volunteer opportunities to let <u>your</u> *Christ-Light* shine.
Is one of the following Ministries the place God is calling you?

Blood Drive
Consolation Ministry: (Companions, Lectors, EM's, and Cake-bakers)
Food Pantry
Home Visitation Ministry
Moms & Tots Group
Office (Core) Volunteers
Our Lady's Rosary Makers
Peace, Justice & Care of Creation Ministry
Pick-A-Star (Christmas) Ministry
Ministry of Prayer
Prayer Shawl Ministry knitters/crocheters
Prison Ministry
Thanksgiving Food Drive volunteers
Transportation Ministry (Mass & Doctor visits)

For information about these opportunities to serve, please contact
Elizabeth Wittish, OFS at 584-5454.

Attention Seniors!

Medicare's "Extra Help" Program assists qualified seniors to pay for prescription drugs (premiums & costs).
This program is also called "LIS" or Low-income Subsidy.
People whose yearly income and resources are below certain limits can qualify for this help. To see if you qualify:
See Section 8 of your <u>Medicare & You 2017 Handbook</u>
Or
Call 1-800-633-4227 (24 hours/7 days)
Or
Contact Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213
between 7am -7pm Monday through Friday

Fortnight for Freedom 2017
Freedom for Mission
June 21 – July 4

Catholics for Freedom of Religion
Preserving Religious Liberty For All

MASS CELEBRATING THE 2017 FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM: FREEDOM FOR MISSION

Bishop Robert J. Brennan - Celebrant

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 12:30PM

St. Agnes Cathedral 29 Quealy Place Rockville Centre 11570

ROSARY & RALLY FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Bishop John O. Barres - Keynote Speaker

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

6:00pm - Public Witness Rosary in front of auditorium facing Newbridge Rd.

7:00pm - Fortnight Rally for Religious Freedom in auditorium *Light refreshments served following program*

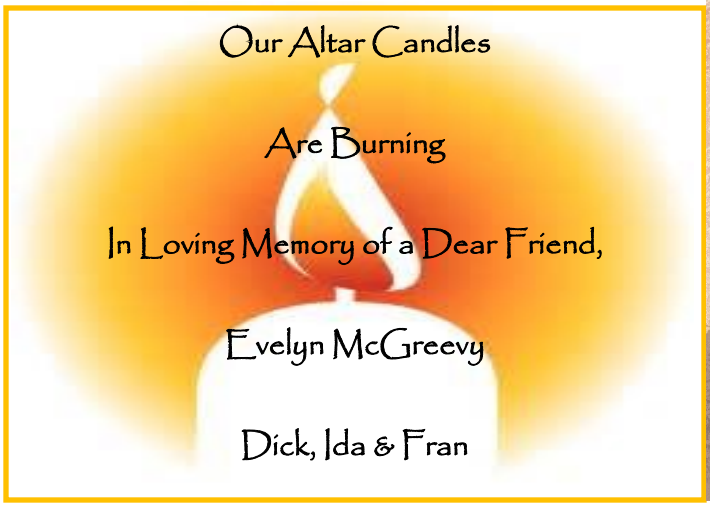
Holy Trinity High School 98 Cherry Lane Hicksville 11801

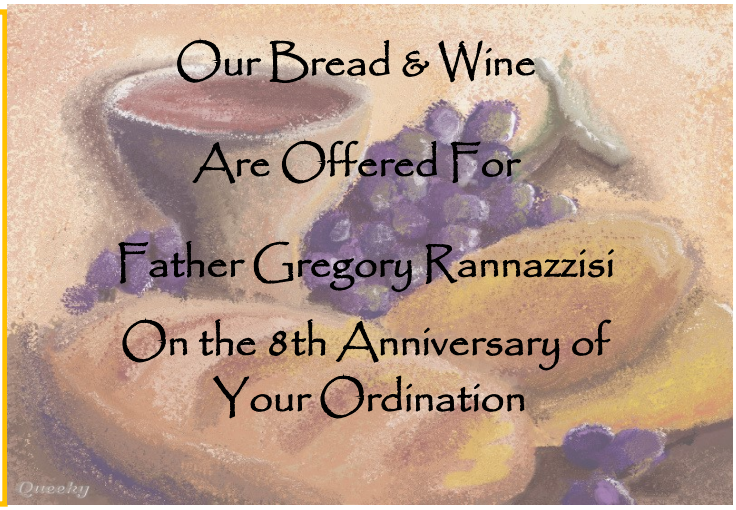
Catholics for Freedom of Religion

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM HOLY HOUR

MONDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2017
7-8PM
ST. JAMES R.C. CHURCH, SETAUKET
Includes the singing of Patriotic Hymns

As We Come To The Table...For the Week of June 25th, 2017





SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of June 25th, 2017

Sunday, June 25th, 2017

7:45am	Guild Car Raffle Sale	School Lobby/Outside
10:00am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
1:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Rm
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Monte Building

Monday , June 26th, 2017

9:00am	Camp SSPJ	School
1:15pm	SSPJ Senior Group	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Boy Scout Troup 7 Meeting	Auditorium

Tuesday, June 27th, 2017:

9:00am	Camp SSPJ	School
1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Rm in Church
7:30pm	Boy Scout Leadership Meeting	Monte Building

Wednesday, June 28th, 2017:

9:00am	Camp SSPJ	School
7:00pm	Youth Ministry	Philip & James Room

Thursday, June 29th, 2017:

9:00am	Camp SSPJ	School
2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Friday, June 30th, 2017:

9:00am	Camp SSPJ	School
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Monte Building
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, July 1st, 2017:

10:00am	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshop

Weekly Collection:

Sunday, June 18th, 2017

Sunday Collection: $15,605.
Faith Direct: $3,823.
Children's Jug: $ 48.
Total Collection: $19,476.

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

Banns of Marriage

First
Mark Posluszny-St Jude, CT
To
Samantha Tusa-SSPJ

Second
Daniel Darrow –SSPJ
To
Allison Stephens

Second
Vincent Taurassi-SSPJ
To
Lorraine Touchette
Our Lady of the Lake, MA

Third
Theodore Wojcik -SSPJ
To
Lisa Sorrentino -SSPJ

Third
Jonathan Joseph Imbriana - Infant Jesus, PJ
To
Erica Lynn Tremano -SSPJ

Next Weekend: July 1st & 2nd, 2017 Second Collection

Next week our diocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his most important charitable works.

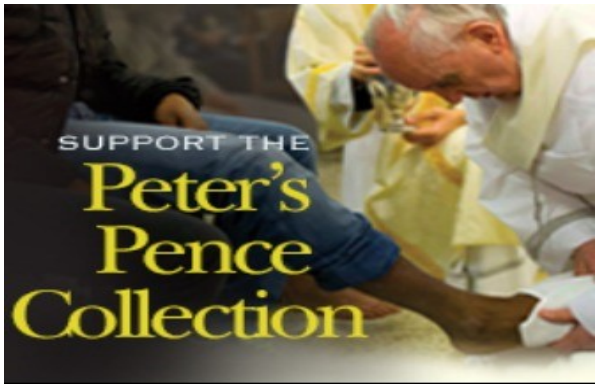
The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Through your generosity, we can cast the peace of Christ upon the world.

There will be a Second Collection This Weekend:

June 24th & June 25th, 2017

To help defray the cost of Summer Air Conditioning

Your understanding and generosity are always appreciated.



A Note From Our Music Ministry

This weekend is the last weekend for our parish choirs. They are off for the summer for a much-needed rest. We still have music throughout the summer. So, your job is not done. You need to sing even more at Mass now that the choirs are off.

The summer is a good time to think about the music ministry and pray about joining one of our three groups or help in the music ministry in other ways. During the summer, there will be little 'music'notes in the bulletin on ways you can participate in the music ministry. I hope you consider joining us.

So, I thank the choirs for all the time, dedication and commitment they give to the SSPJ Music Ministry. It is much appreciated.

A special thank you to our cantors from the adult choir, Barbara Meringolo, Jane Lohmann, Jeannie Hill, Barbara O'Donnell and Susan Pace. Our teen cantors from the Chords of Faith, Megan Ferguson, who graduated from High School and will be leaving for college in September, Grace Cazzaninga, and Katie Keese. They will continue to sing during the summer. Our accompanist Meghan Williams, and instrumentalists, Susan Ricci, Jim Scully, Tim Adams and Steve O'Donnell, will continue to play at Masses during the summer.

All their extra time, dedication and commitment to the music ministry is greatly appreciated.

A restful and peaceful summer to all and remember 'sing your praise to God'.

Margaret Adams
Director of Music

Religious Education Department is now Offering ON-LINE REGISTRATION!!!

The Religious Education Office is accepting on-line Registration. Please visit the Parish website at: **www. sspj.org** and follow the instructions to enroll your child/children into our Religious Education Program for the 2017-2018 school year.

You may register on-line or print the form and return it to the Religious Education Office.

The deadline for registration is June 30th, 2017.

Any family, who is registering a

- **FIRST GRADER**
- **A CHILD NEW TO OUR PARISH**

MUST REGISTER IN PERSON AT THE PARISH CENTER .

If your child was not baptized at SSPJ, it will be necessary for you to submit a copy of your child's baptism certificate.
Also, please provide any previous religious education transcripts if your child has attended Religious Education in another parish.

Growing Together in Faith

The fees for registration are:
$160.00 for one child
$210.00 for two children
$250.00 for three or more children.
Catechist family fee is $100.00.

Religious Education

Would You Please, Prayerfully, Consider Becoming a Catechist?

Catechist are needed in every grade level. If you are interested, please contact the Religious Education Office at 631-584-3204.

Please note the Religious Education Office's hours for July: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM If you have any questions please call the office at 631-584-3204

Check us out on Facebook: Sts. Philip & James Religious Education

Mass Intentions, For Week of June 25th,2017

Saturday, June 24th, 2017

5:00pm	John Salomon, Jr.

Sunday June 25th, 2017

8:00am	Father's Day Novena
10:00am	Evelyn M. McGreevy
12:00noon	Collective Mass:
	Kelly Anne Grummer
	Aida Diaz
	Virginia Koop
	Kevin Clark
	Marilyn Ferrera

Monday, June 26th, 2017

7:30am	Father's Day Novena
9:15am	Richard Ryan

Tuesday, June 27th, 2017

7:30am	Linda Heneghan
9:15am	Father Greg Rannazzisi (Living)

Wednesday, June 28th, 2017

7:30am	John Reese
9:15am	Jack Skolnick

Thursday, June 29th 2017

7:30am	Msgr. Guarino
9:15am	Collective Mass:
	Marie DeIorio
	Marie Malena

Friday, June 30th, 2017

7:30am	John Opoku
9:15am	Lillian Finocchiaro

Saturday, July 1st, 2017

9:15am	Edith Kiernan
5:00pm	Marie & Bob Merz

Sunday, July 2nd, 2017

8:00am	Constance Pandolfi
10:00am	John Salomon
12:00noon	Collective Mass:
	Lora Nasti
	Rev. William Duhigg
	Tony Tercha
	Gladys Maher
	Raffaela Finazzo

Keeping You In Our Prayers....

For those who are ill...

John Flemming, Daniel Radice,, Eva Alaimo, Kitty Cronin, Vivien Cordes Raymond Fox, Joe Alberigo, Eileen Zink, Louis Giordano, Grace Giordano, Barbara Bombace ,Ed Burrows, Karl Walz, Anna Capizzio, Mary Ann C., Julie Scott, Robert Ashton, Helen McDowell, Norman Godfrey

Sympathy

Together, we mourn the passing of,

Henry Monetti
Vincent Troisi
Anthony DeCicco

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN
CAPT. WILSON MARKS, USN
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN, JR.
LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI (US ARMY)
CAPT. JOHN TULLY, USN
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY, US ARMY
JOSEPH SAGGIO, USNC
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON,
SR AIRMAN E4 ALEXANDER PARRELLA
RICHARD SOTOMAYER, USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT, USMC
LCPL. DANIEL P. STEELE, USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH, USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
JOHN VINCENT KNOBLOCH, USMC
STEVEN CAVA, USN
ERIC SEELIN, USMC
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
LANCE CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY, USMC
GREGORY DEVANEY, USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY, US ARMY
KEVIN JONES, U.S.C.G.
RICHARD MAIER, U.S.M.C.
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN, USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-U.S. ARMY
PFC. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA
MARIO CATANIA, USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO, U.S.M.C.

Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE–FOR July 1st & 2nd,2017

Saturday, July 1, 2017 5:00 PM	Sunday, July 2, 2017 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, July 2, 2017 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday July 2, 2017 12:00 MASS
Father Leo Praveen	**Father Tom Haggerty**	**Father Leo Praveen**	**Father Leo Praveen**
Deacon John	**Deacon John**	**Deacon Ron**	**Deacon Ron**

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR July 1st & 2nd, 2017

Saturday, July 1, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017
5:00 PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:OO AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
B. Carey	C. Czujko	G. Amen	P. Agoglia
H. Collins	M. Dunn	D. Bleggi	M. Laub
N. Locastro	R. Fabian	R. Bleggi	P. Rizzo
K. Consenz	C. Haff	T. Boboris	C. Zito
J. Giacalone	W. Haff	T. Cafaro	G. Zito
W. Van Gostein	J. Harvey	M. Dolce	J. Hanrahan
M. Latino	P. Kanuika	B. Gill	J. Linder
C. Lombardi	H. Keenan	J. Lavan	M. Napoli
P. Schfilliti	M. Kenney	G. Patalano	T. Pace
J. Primavera	W. Ramos	L. Patalano	A. Santo

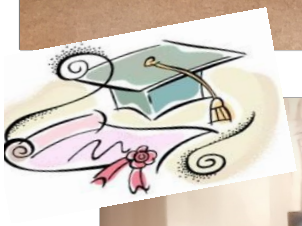
ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR July 1st & 2nd, 2017

Saturday, July 1, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017
5:00PM MASS	**8:00AM MASS**	**10:00 AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
** Unavailable at bulletin submission date			

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR July 1st & 2nd, 2017

Saturday, July 1, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017	Sunday, July 2, 2017
5:00 PM MASS	**8:00 AM MASS**	**10:00AM MASS**	**12:00 NOON MASS**
L. Schor	G. Fitzpatrick	G. Hoonhout	B. O'Leary
D. Quadrino	M. Sehne	E. D'Amelia	C. Rubano

Congratulations to 2017 SSPJ 8th Grade Graduates!



On Friday, June 16th, 2017 after Mass celebrated by Father Tom, the graduation ceremony was held for the 8th grade students at SSPJ.

The ceremony included the presentation of Graduation awards, subject awards, honor awards and various scholarships.

Many of the graduates have attended SSPJ since Pre K, and have many fond memories of their years at SSPJ where they have grown academically as well as spiritually.

As the students go on to high school, we wish them congratulations for their success and God's blessings as they begin the next chapter in their education.

May God's blessing follow you all as you find new journeys to travel. May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams.
May his gentle hand guide the decisions you will make and the passions that you follow.
May your hearts and lives always reflect his love and truth,
And may hope be a light within you that you carry into each new day.

Amen.

SSPJ CAMP STARTS THIS WEEK!!!

CAMP SSPJ
ST. JAMES, NY

June 26– August 11, 2017

Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Each day campers participate in sports, arts & crafts, music, drama, dance, games and community service projects!
We strive to make your child's summer a memorable one filled with tons of faith and fun!
Each week campers also embark on a field trip, which includes: Splish Splash, Adventureland,
the Long Island Children's Museum, the Riverhead Aquarium and more!
Teen Camp goes on two trips per week!

Before Care is available from 7:30-9:00am After Care is available from 4:00-6:00pm
Before & After Care is an additional cost of $8.00 per hour

Register your child before May 1st and receive The Early Bird Discount!
**Family Discount*: $25 one time deduction for each additional child of the same family for the regular weekly rate only.
Family discount cannot be applied to the Early Bird weekly rate or the Seven Week Special.

Prices below include Friday lunch of pizza, snack and a drink.

	Early Bird Weekly Registration ($30 Discount)	Early Bird 7 Week Special ($350 Discount)	Regular Weekly Rate (After May 1st)	Daily Price (No discounts can be applied)
Grades K-5 →	$270 (Week 2 $205)	$1,680	$300 (Week 2 $230)	$75
Teen Camp Grades 6-9 →	$310 (Week 2 $245)	$1,960	$340 (Week 2 $260)	$90

*Week 2 is a three-day week in observance of July 4th.
**Tuition must be paid in full prior to your child's first day of camp. **

SSPJ VACATION BIBLE CAMP

BIBLE CAMP

Vacation Bible Camp
July 24th – August 4, 2017
9:30am – 12:30pm

Ages 4-7 years old.
$125 for the two-week session

One week of VBC is available at a cost of $100.
*Family Discount: $25 deduction for each for a 2nd or 3rd child of the same family.
This only applies for children enrolled in the full two-week program.

Please go sspjyouth.com for all camp forms or e-mail us at campsspj@yahoo.com

God's abundant blessings upon our Campers, Our Counselors and Our Camp Organizers for a wonderful, safe fun-filled

Our Parish Family congratulates all graduates! We continue to pray that your journeys are paved by Gods will and abundant blessings!!!

Congratulations to the following SSPJ Students at St. Anthony's High School for their honor roll achievements!

James Antretter
Emma Balfe
Meghan Bowden
Kerrie Bowden
Nicole Brucaleri
John Calisi
Cate Cappelmann
Richard Cooke
Samantha Cooke
Samuel Dobkowski
Devon Dodge
Cameron Dunn
Amanda Fox
Christopher Gaug
Colin Geier
Angela Greco
Emma Greco
Nicole Harkin
Nicole Kaczmarski
Brady Keneally
Patrick Killilea
Michael Kneessy
Aidan Krumholz
Brooke LaCava
Gregory Law
Daniel Leber
Alexander Lehr
Nicholas Lepre
Nicolette Mango
Madison McAvoy
Ashley McDowell
Meghan O'Leary
Daniel O'Leary
Theresa Paparella
Brett Petersen
Beatrix Petervary
Joanna Pettit
Tatiana Porteus
Charlese Profeta
Nicholas Rigole
Margaret Riley
Hunter Roman
Michael Russo
Stephanie Russo
Ava Scatoni
Dutch Schultz
Casey Sherlock
Samantha Stabile
Andrew Stange
Christopher Stange
Lauren Tirado
Jessica Tobin
Anthony Verdone
Sean Williams

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

July 2nd - 13th 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

2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16 Psalm 89
Romans 6:3-4;8-11 Matthew 10:37-42

Human judgment about the value of an individual is not necessarily God's judgment. Sometimes we look at others in terms of what they have accomplished or in terms of what they are able to accomplish for us. Today's Scripture readings give a different measure, a measure of divine priorities.

Elisha was a prophet in the ninth century B.C. The wealthy woman from the town of Shunem in the northern kingdom of Israel discovers more than a great personality in Elisha. She describes him to her husband as a holy man of God. She sees beyond externals to detect the presence of God. The guest room symbolizes this perception. Elisha is God's emissary and so is worthy of respect and charity.

Paul emphasizes the transformation experience of death and resurrection. Through baptism, the Christian dies with Christ and is buried with him. The Christian also shares in Jesus' Resurrection, since, as a result, the Christian is called upon to live a new life. At the same time the Christian looks forward to the Parousia, the Second Coming. For Paul this transformation means that the person is nothing less then a new creation. All distinctions based on race, social status, and sex are leveled. To appraise a Christian is to measure that person's overwhelming dignity. God is the measure of values.

Matthew concludes his missionary discourse by lining up the members of his community: apostles, prophets, holy people, and lowly ones. To accept any one of these is to accept Jesus. Their value derives from Jesus. Thus, even a glass of cold water has great value because the giver recognizes the dignity of the person.

The emancipation proclamation of Paul is challenging. We must not evaluate people on the basis of ethnic origin, social status, or gender. The nondiscriminatory message of Matthew's Jesus may upset us. The modern versions of "lowly ones" are not always high on our list of preferred associates. Our God's criteria for value must be our measure, a message as revolutionary today as it was in Jesus' time.

- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.
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Whoever welcomes you welcomes me.

Mt 10:40

For reflection…

Who is blessed, the one who gives the help or the one who receives it? Are you always the giver or do you need to receive at times?

Humility and meekness often have a bearing on a person's approachability. How approachable are you?

Could this quote from today's Gospel: "And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink, … " relate to the problem of safe drinking water that Pope Francis speaks of in his encyclical, Laudato Si? Is there anything you can do to give someone in a poor country a cup of cold, safe, water?

Think of ways God might use you if your attitude is Christ's and you put yourself at the disposal of God's saving work in the world? In other words, how are you (can you be) an Apostle of Hope in today's world?

Accepting all…Accepting Jesus…

Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Being Good-Hearted is Not Enough

Charity is about being good-hearted, but justice is about something more. Individual sympathy is good and virtuous, but it doesn't necessarily change the social, economic, and political structures that unfairly victimize some people and unduly privilege others. We need to be fair and good of heart, but we also need to have fair and good policies.

Jim Wallis, speaking more-specifically about racism, puts it this way: When we protest that we are not implicated in unjust systems by saying things like: "I have black friends", we need to challenge ourselves: *It's not just what's in our hearts that's at issue; it's also what's at the heart of public policy.* We can have black friends but if our policies are racist there's still no justice in land. Individual good will alone doesn't always make for a system that's fair to everyone.

And it's precisely on this point where we see the crucial distinction between charity and justice, between being good-hearted as individuals and trying as a community to ensure that our social, economic, and political systems are not themselves the cause of the very things we are trying to respond to in charity. What causes poverty, racism, economic disparity, lack of fair access to education and health care, and the irresponsibility with which we often treat nature? Individual attitudes, true. But injustice is also the result of social, economic, and political policies that, whatever their other merits, help produce the conditions that spawn poverty, inequality, racism, privilege, and the lack of conscientious concern for the air we breathe.

Most of us, I suspect, are familiar with a story that's often used to distinguish between charity and justice. It runs this way: There was a town built alongside a river, but situated around a bend so that the townsfolk could see only that part of the river that bordered their town. One day a few of the children were playing by the river when they saw five bodies floating in the water. They quickly ran for help and the townspeople they alerted did what any responsible persons would do in that situation. They took care of the bodies. Pulling them from the river they found that two were dead and they buried them. Three were still alive. One was a child for whom they quickly found a foster home; another was a severely ill woman, her they put in a hospital; the last was a young man and, for him, they found a job and a place to live.

But the story didn't end there. The next day more bodies appeared and, again, the townsfolk responded as before. They took care of the bodies. They buried the dead, placed the sick in hospitals, found foster homes for the children, and jobs and places to live for the adults. And so it went on for years so that taking care of the bodies that they found each day became a normal feature of their lives and became part of the life of their churches and their community. A few altruistically motivated people even made it their life's work to take care of those bodies.

But … and this is the point, nobody ever went up the river to see from where and for what reasons those bodies kept appearing each day in the river. They just remained good-hearted and generous in their response to the bodies that found their way to their town.

The lesson is clear enough: It's one thing (needed, good, and Christian) to take care of the needy bodies we find on our doorsteps, but it's another thing (also needed, good, and Christian) to go upstream to try to change the things that are causing those bodies to be in the river. That's the difference between good-hearted charity and acting for social justice.

Sadly though, as good church-going Christians we have been too slow to grasp this and consequently have not brought the demands of Jesus and faith to bear as strongly upon the question of social justice as we have been to bring them to bear upon charity. Too many, good, good-hearted, church-going, charitable women and men simply do not see the demands of justice as being anything beyond the demands of private charity and good-heartedness. And so we are often good-hearted enough that we will, literally, give a needy person the shirt off our back even as we refuse to look at why our closets are overfull while some others don't have a shirt.

But this should not be misunderstood. The gospel-demand that we act for justice does not in any way denigrate the virtue of charity. Charity is still the ultimate virtue and, sometimes, the only positive difference we can make in our world is precisely the, one-to-one, love and respect that we give to each other. Our own individual goodness is sometimes the only

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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