

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 11, 2018



"Let my tongue be silenced, If | ever forget you!"

Psalm 137

"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

Father Patrick Osei-Poku

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

Margaret Adams

Virginia Portanova

John Cordes

Lvnn Sisti

Charlotte Czujko

Barbara Luna

Dominick Avento

Suzanne Fitzgibbon

Frank Brancaccio



Pastor

Associate Pastor

Deacon

Deacon

Deacon

Director of Music

Business Manager

Director of Facilities

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 1-2

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 3-6

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-8

Religious Education Administrator

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

<u>Trustees</u>

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

SSPJ School—Principal Ruth E. Testa

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

Sacraments

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

<u>Marriage</u>—Couples are asked to contact the Pastoral Center before visiting the reception hall. The Marriage Preparation process is nine months before your proposed wedding date.

<u>Confirmation-</u>Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

<u>Reconciliation</u>— Available Saturdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Church or by contacting the Parish Center for an appointment.

<u>Anointing of the Sick</u>— 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,

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally was known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare is Latin for "joy". In a season of fasting, prayer and abstinence, it's easy to forget that one of the liturgical prayers we pray at Mass thanks God, saying, "each year you give us this joyful season." The Lenten season recalls the fact that God chooses to restore, heal, forgive, raise up and save rather than what we might expect: punish for sin. God's plan which we hear today is "that the world might be saved through Christ." All of Lent then, is not about our making up for the sins of the past (they are forgiven), nor trying to persuade God to love us (we are loved beyond all telling), but Lent is a joyful preparation to celebrate and take in the freedom Christ has won for us. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God."

This weekend we join in prayer for those couples in the parish preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage who are participating in Pre Cana. They will receive a blessing at the 12 pm Mass and are assured of our prayers as their journey toward Marriage continues.

We are very happy to congratulate the Girls Scouts who have been awarded the Jesus Loves Me Award and the Regina Coeli Award. We will be blessing these awards at the 10:00am mass. The girl's names are listed a little further in the bulletin. Kudos, girls! We are so proud of your accomplishments!

Please take note of the inspirational works of some of our Religious Education Students as they reflect upon the question: "*How do you shine your light*?" Found on the Religious Education page, their responses are quite encouraging.

As you can see the thermostat is rising on our CMA thermometer. Many thanks to all who have already pledged to be the Hands of Mercy. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we have always been able to Be the Light, our Lenten theme, and foster so many good works throughout Nassau and Suffolk. If you are able, please help us reach our goal by Easter.

And, a joke to perhaps be offered up for Lent?

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,

'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.

'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

Peace,

Father Tom

SECOND COLLECTION: THIS WEEKEND:MARCH 10TH & 11TH, FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Today, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here

home and abroad.

Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise.

Learn more about the collection at

www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

It's Time!! For the Catholic Daughters Annual St. Patrick's Bake Sale! This weekend, March 10th & 11th after all



Attention Extraordinary Ministers

Attention Extraordinan
of Holy Commun

If you are able to assist at
any of our Palm Sunday on
Easter Sunday masses,
Kindly sign up on the sign in
sheet located inside the closet
door of the prayer room.

Many thanks for yor
time, and dedicor'

Whas earned the Regina Coeli Award

his award will be presented by the Bishop at the
Convocation On May 5, 2018
as your parish family are so very proud of
rd work, dedication and faith! Great

Many thanks for your generosity,



Our Lenten Journey ... "Be the Light" ~ Reflections

We have asked a few Youth Ministry members to offer a few words to encourage us all to "Be Light" this Lenten season

Every year on the Youth Group's annual retreat, we do a candle walk from the main lodge to the cafeteria. And somehow, it always seems to end up on a cold and windy night. This is always on of my favorite moments of the entire year because it reminds me of what we are supposed to be like in life. The wind blowing out your is like you straying from the path of God. "Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going." -John 12:35

When we get swept up in the craziness of our lives, it is really easy to lose sight of what really matters. For the candle walk, that may just be the ground in front of you, but in life, we can become distant from God.

However, there are people who are going to help us. On retreat, the people next to us are more than willing to help a friend, or even somebody they don't know yet, by using their own candle to relight another's.

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." - James Keller

They simply have nothing to lose from helping somebody out. There people in our lives who are more than willing to help us, to guide us back to the way of the Lord. Most of these times, these people are friends and family, but they don't have to be. You have nothing to lose by offering your help to a stranger.

God does his work through us, his children. This means that we are beacons of his light for those who don't know his love yet.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" -Psalm 119:105

If we spread the word of the Lord, we can help another find the path that God created for them. Those who are lost, wandering in the dark, can find their way home. Our kindness, our love, is God's light.

This Lenten season, I encourage you to find new ways to "Be the Light". If we all shine with God's light, just imagine how bright the world will become.

Michael McCreesh

Youth Leader ~ Senior Smithtown High School East

Lent A Time To Prepare ...

Stations of the Cross Friday evenings at 7:30pm in the Church

Friday, March 16th The Cross and Human Hungers

(Praying with those hungering for food, for work, for security, for companionship, for hope)

Friday, March 23rd The Cross and the World Around Us

(Praying amidst violence and peace, hunger and abundance, prejudice and respect, poverty and hope)

Friday, March 30th The Cross and Jesus

(The Youth Group guides us through "The Living Stations", as we pray to journey

with Jesus In the way Jesus did

With faith, with love, with commitment to others)

O God, you are my God --for you I long! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, Like a land parched, lifeless, and without water. So I look to you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory. For your love is better than life; my lips offer you worship! I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name. My soul shall savor the rich banquet of praise, with joyous lips my mouth shall honor you!

Psalm 63

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday Evenings

At 8PM In The Church

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



Court Anna Theresa #1074

Saturday, March 24th

From 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Sts. Philip & James School Playground

Ages 2-8

Join in games and activities!

Family Name	
Child's Name and Age	
Child's Name and Age	,
Contact Number	
Parent's Signature	

Please return form in an envelope marked "JCDA Egg Hunt" to the Parish Center by March 19th

As we all know sometimes weather doesn't agree with our plans. Unfortunately, the event will be cancelled if inclement weather occurs. Parents/Guardians, please supervise your children as items in eggs may be a choking/allergy hazard.

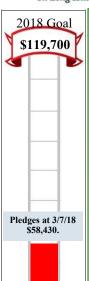
For more information please contact Patricia Custodio at patcusto@optonline.net

2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES

Supporting Dramatic Missionary Growth on Long Island and Beyond

Hands of Christ's Mercy







Hands of Christ's Mercy

Christ encourages us to be willing stewards of the gifts with which He has blessed us and willing servants of His compassion, hope and love. He wants us to serve the poor and all those in crisis. He wants us to be Good Samaritans of mercy and forgiveness. He wants us to be instruments of *Dramatic Missionary Growth*.

Your gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal help us to be the **Hands of Christ's Mercy** by helping our Church expand our services to the disadvantaged and underserved, enhance our children's religious and academic educations, support vocations, and strengthen our services to families.

"Each of us must respond to the gift of mercy in our hearts by getting up and putting mercy into action."

- Pope Francis

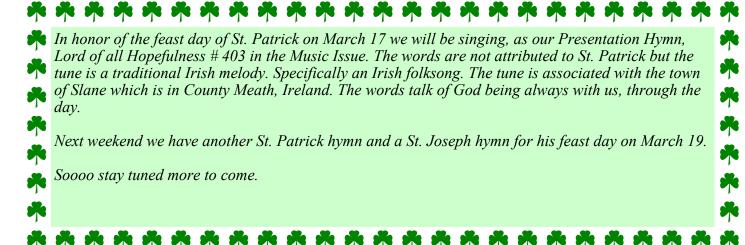
For more information on any of the Ways to Give, please call the CMA office at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Checks should be made payable to the "Catholic Ministries Appeal."

Diocese of Rockville Centre PO Box 4000 Rockville Centre, NY 11571-4000

For More Information please visit: http://www.catholicministriesappeal.org/

Music Ministry



Camps R' Us Next Open House, April 22nd, 2018



Happenings Around Town

Christ the King Roman Catholic Church 2 Indian Hill Road Commack

> Lenten Concert Seven Last Words of Christ

Sunday, March 18, 2018 7pm in church

Free will donation Info: 631-864-1623

Learn to be Tobacco Free

St Catherine of Siena Nursing Center

March 13, 20 & 27 April 3, 10 & 17 and May 1.

6-7pm

Info: 631-853-2928

SSPJ 2018 Parish Lenten Project: "Raise the Roof" We are the Light

During this Season of Lent,

Any donations made to the Children's Jug will be donated to our "Raise the Roof" Lenten project!

Thank you to all our children and families who support this effort!

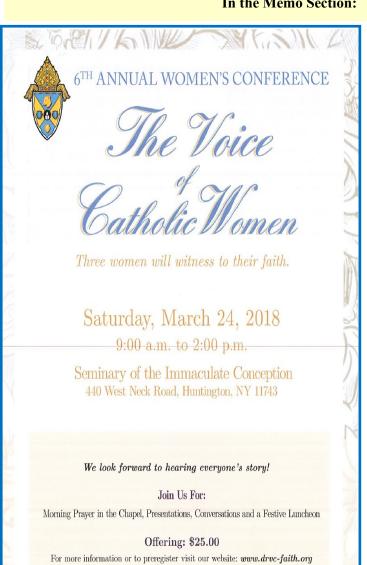




Let us "Light the Way" for our brothers and sisters in Nahinso, Ghana by helping them to place a roof upon the substation church that they began building in 2014.

Our very own, Father Patrick began this effort before he left Ghana. Since he left, they have been unable to obtain the needed support to continue this very important effort. If you wish to contribute to this effort:

Checks are made payable to: SSPJ PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY
In the Memo Section: WRITE: GHANA



Just a thought...
How about recycling bottles and donating to "Raise the Roof"



Help Is Needed at:

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Located in: St. James Catholic Church, Setauket

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:

A COOK FOR THE SUNDAY MEAL WHEN:

EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

If interested, kindly contact: Dan Liddy at 631-751-2869

Religious Education News for the Week of March 11th, 2018

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Saturday, April 14th, 2018 At Sts. Philip & James at 11am and 2pm Please pray for our Candidates and their Sponsors and Families as they approach this blessed day.

Communion I & II (Grades 1&2) Lenten Celebration WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 7:00PM IN THE CHURCH

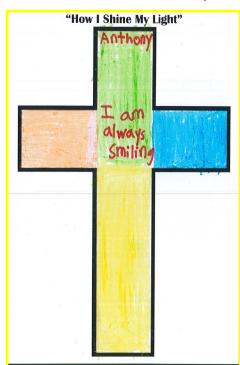


Some Lessons on "Being The Light" From our Religious Education Students!!!

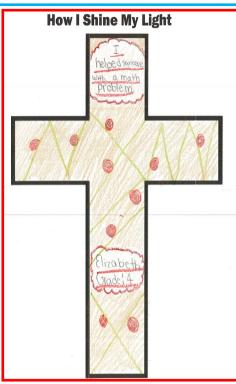
Are You Shining Your Light?

our Religious Education Students who are certainly "Shining their Light!"













SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of March 11th, 2018

Sunday, March 11th, 2018

CDA St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale Pre-Cana Weekend 7:30 am 8:30am School Lobby Auditorium 8:30am RCIAPhilip & James Rm 10:00am Children's Liturgy School Multi-purpose Rm Stained Glass Wkshp 11:00am Stained Glass Club 6;00pm Youth Ministry Stations Rehearsal Church/Aud. 7:00pm AA Meeting Philip & James Room

Monday, March 12th, 2018

1:15pmSenior Group MeetingPhilip & James Rm7:00pmBoy Scout Troop 7 MeetingAuditorium7:00pmYouth Ministry Music PracticeBethany Ctr LL Rm#4

Tuesday, March 13th, 2018:

1:30pm Spirit of Love Prayer Group
4:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal Choir Loft
7:00pm St. Monica Prayer Group
7:30pm Chords of Faith Rehearsal Choir Loft
7:30pm Respect Life Committee Meeting
7:30pm Impact Auditorium
8:00pm Boy Scout Leadership Meeting Monte Building

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018:

10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Philip & James Rm 4:30pm REO 6th Grade Stations of the Cross Church 7:00pm Youth Ministry Auditorium 7:00pm REO Grade 1&2 Lenten Celebration Church

Thursday, March 15th, 2018

2:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church 6:00pm Jr. Catholic Daughters Meeting Philip & James Rm 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal Choir Loft

Friday, March 16th, 2018:

3:00pm Stained Glass Club
7:00pm AA Meeting Philip & James Room
7:30pm Stations of the Cross Church
8:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church

Saturday, March 17th, 2018:

5:00pm Children's Liturgy of the Word Church/Auditorium

Weekly Collection:

Sunday March 4th, 2018
Many thanks for your
generous support of,
Sts. Philip & James Parish

Sunday Collection: \$17,149 Faith Direct: \$3,823. Children's Jug: \$50.

Total Collection: \$21,022

The Altar Candles

For the Week of March 11th, 2018

Are burning In Memory of

Frank Lombardo

We Miss You and Love You,

Jean & Family

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 AT 10AM IN THE SSPJ ROOM

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND! LESSONS ARE ALWAYS PROVIDED. PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CREATE BLANKETS AND SHAWLS OF HEALING TO THOSE WHO ARE ILL.

ANY QUESTIONS, KINDLY CONTACT MARGE AT 631-439-0468



Lenten Regulations 2018

Traditionally, the Lenten Season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday:

These are days of *Fast and Abstinence from meat*. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive. **Days of Abstinence:** (All Fridays in Lent):

All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

Mass Intentions, For the week of March 11th, 2018

Saturday, March 10th, 2018

5:00pm Mark Robert Guglielmo

Sunday, March 11th, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am Margaret Castiglie

12:00Noon Collective Mass:

Peter, Sarah & Mary Cole Steven Gerard Carr Edward Corvi Sally Washburn Sean Winters (Living)

Monday, March 12th, 2018 7:30am Katie Farrell

9:15am Margaret Castiglie

Tuesday, March 13th, 2018

7:30am

9:15am Kevin Bernard

We Ask You to Remember Our Brothers & Sisters In your Prayers those who are ill...

Anna Capizzio Angela Amoroso Angela Boccio McComb AnnMarie M. Baby Mattia Lubrano Betty Schmidt Brett Dowling Brennan Steinorth

Bryan Van Colt
Carole Hennessy
Carol Walz
Catherine Burseind

Christel DeBlasio Christopher Gerver ChristopherTallarico

Daisy Abruzzo Dawn Kopel Dylan Lauro Eileen Zink Elinor Glasser

Faith VanGostein Florence Donahue Ginny McAuley Greg

Hillary Boehme James Gietzen Jeanine Esposito Tansey Joseph Perconti
Joe Alberigo
John Capizzio
John Hernandez
Julianne
Kathleen N.
Kitty Cronin,
Kylie Quigley
Laura Andrucki & family
Louis Giordano
Marie DelCiello,
Marie Fabry

Marie Fabry
Marie Loughlin
Mary McDonough
Nancy Fornabia
Pasquale Campano
Pasquale Santoro
Patricia Casey
Patricia Fontana
Robin Graham Denis
Raymond Fox
Rosemary Morgan
Sean Winters

Sean winters
Suzanne McCue
Terence Hobbes
Teresa Orlik
Vivien Cordes

Safely Home, We Remember...

Magdalen Brekne Gerard W. Dempsey

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

Amen

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

7:30am Adeline Noonan

9:15am Louise Kelly

Thursday, March 15th, 2018

7:30am

9:15am Collective Mass

Friday, March 16th, 2018

7:30am

9:15am John Kelly

Saturday, March 17th, 2018 ~ St. Patricks Day

9:15am Michelina Martino

5:00pm Jack Duffy

Sunday, March 18th, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am John Pavelka

12:00Noon <u>Collective Mass</u>:

Evelyn D. Gill Paul Winski Philip Ruggiero

Richard & Grace Ehmann

We Pray for those Who Serve



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
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

PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELI
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. BYAN M. SHOWELLS N.

RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO, U.S.M.C. ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS U.S.N. STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE U.S.M.C. DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT. LT.COL.USAF

SSPJ School News



Students saying extra prayers and doing loving deeds to show Jesus how much they love him. Every good deed puts a blossom on the class tree.



Miss Hannah showed the second graders some of her toys from the 1800's!

Congratulations to SSPJ School High School Honor Roll Students

Chaminade High School:

Machado E. Rodriguez—Freshman Paul R. Caruso - Sophomore Juniors:



Mark A Cirelli
Noah K. Hoonhout
John G. McKie
Brian M. Willman
John M. Bennett—Senior

Kellenberg Memorial High School

Emma D'Amelia Matthew D'Amelia Ava Kaiser



Our Lady of Mercy

Freshman

Alexandra DeVito Erin Nicastro Claire Wos

Sophomore

Elizabeth Cirelli Hannah Collett Coleen Duffy

Senior Lauren Shank



Congratulations your Parish Family is very proud of you!



The second graders finished reading

Flat Stanley...

Stay tuned...to see what adventures Flat

Stanley went on!



STS. PHILIP & JAMES CYO TRACK & FIELD TEAM

Registration is OPEN for the SSPJ CYO Track & Field Team.

All boys & girls in grades 1-8 are invited to join. You do not need to be a member of the school or the parish in order to become a member.

Please visit our website <u>www.sspjtrack.com</u> for information about the 2018 season as well as registration forms and fees.

Any questions/comments please contact: MaryBeth Dearie: (631) 675-6072

info@sspjtrack.com



Sts. Philip and James Dine Around

Monday, April 30th SSPJ Auditorium 7:00 pm \$35.00 per person

This is an event you won't
want to miss!!!
Come dine with friends and enjoy a sampling of what
our local restaurants have to offer,
as well as live music, beer and wine!!

Ticket Sales

Reserve	Seats at \$35 each: \$	
Name:	Pho	ne#

Checks payable to SSPJ School Guild Tickets available via mail, at the rectory or the school lobby.



Save the Date! SSPJ School Gala Saturday, May 19, 2018





SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES COUNCIL COUNCIL #12839

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018



Smithtown Landing Country Club 495 Landing Avenue • Smithtown, NY 11787



This Year's Honoree:

Mike Tully



Contact: Thomas Sica (631) 521 – 4771 <u>sikachu45@hotmail.com</u>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Registration: 8:30 am Shotgun Tee Off: 10 am

Breakfast Sponsored By: Doda's Gold Shield Catering



NAME:	_
Address:	
Phone:	
E-Mail:	

Number of Players: ____ \$175.00 per person (includes Golf Cart, Lunch, Cocktail Hour, Dinner)

Dinner only: ____ \$75.00 per person

Number attending:

Please Make Checks Out To:

Sts. Philp & James K of C Council #12839 P.O Box 201 St. James, NY 11780

For Credit Card or PayPal:
Please Visit Our Home Page / Website:
www.kofcsspj.org

Pin Flag Sponsorship (18)	@ \$125 each
Sponsorship Information:	

Cart Sponsorship (1) \$300
Putting Green Sponsorship (4) @ \$250 each

Dinner Sponsorship @ \$1,000 - (2 Available) Lunch Sponsorship @ \$500 - (2 Available) Driving Range Sponsorship @ \$500 (2 Available) Tee Signs Sponsorship @ \$100 each

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, March 19, 2018

Sponsorship:

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Fr. Sean Magaldi, Associate Pastor at St. Patrick's, Smithtown,
- Gerard Magaldi, (his father) Candidate in the Permanent Deacon Program (Rockville Centre)
- TOPIC: "The Family and Vocations"

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







Celebrating the Liturgy-With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR March 17th & 18th, 2018

Saturday, March 17, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, March 18, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, March 18, 2018 12:00 MASS
Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty
Deacon Ron			

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE - FOR March 17th & 18th, 2018

Saturday, March 17, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018
5:00 PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:OO AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
R. Byrne	K. Rapp	M. Dolce	M. Laub
D. Doran	E. Sica	C. Donnelly	E. Sotomayer
J. Duffy	T. Sica	A. Henchel	E. Law
A. Dunn	P. Martin	L. Keane	M. Peykar
D. Earl	M. Kenney	O. Laiz	P. Roman
M. Fox	W. Haff	J. Lavan	C. Rubano
E. Kaleita, Jr.	J. Harvey	D. Mulhall	V. Rubano
P. Kaleita	R. Fabian	C. Napolitano	C. Zito
G. Alfano	L. Beisel	G. Patalano	G. Zito
T. Laiz	K. Consenz	L. Patalano	B. Chandler

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR March 17th & 18th, 2018

Saturday, March 17, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
C. Nigro	K. Illari	S. Cheeseman	P. Mazzola
S. Nigro	T. Illari	K. Tomasic	G. Lombardi
M. Page	E. Nicastro	M. Tomasic	J. Lombardi
S. Page	K. Nicastro	O. Jacobs	S. Glen
R. Green		E. Anderson	

LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR March 17th & 18th, 2018

Saturday, March 17, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018	Sunday, March 18, 2018
5:00 PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
G. Priebe	C. Czujko	P. O'Hara	E. Nicastro
M. Cashman	A. Kaiser	A. Mondrone	J. Iaquinto

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

March 18th—5th Sunday of Lent—Cycle B

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 Celebration

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 Psalm 51 John 12:20-33

It's so easy to remain aloof, unattached, and uninvolved. We see problems and needs on all sides, but too often we do not see them as our problems and our needs. We rationalize these as God's concern, not ours.

Today's readings speak of covenant relationships. People relate to God by relating to one another. To worship God is to meet the needs of God's people. God's concern is our concern.

Jeremiah's message of hope in today's first reading was originally addressed to the northern kingdom of Israel during the time of national revival — around 624 B.C. The prophet believed things had gotten so bad that only Yahweh's intervention could save the day. Yahweh would bring about a profound interior change among the people. The change would result from God's intention to forgive and forget human sinfulness. Jeremiah announced people's sinfulness and God's willingness to forgive. Jeremiah made God's problem his problem.

The author of Hebrews discusses the high priesthood of Jesus. As high priest, Jesus represents people before God and intercedes for them. Jesus makes God's problem (salvation) his problem, despite pain, frustration, and death.

For John, the word "hour" embraces the entire process of crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus is willing to lay down his life. This moment, however, is also a temptation for Jesus to do his own will rather than God's. Jesus learns in suffering that accepting the hour will result in exaltation, making God's concern that of the Son, also.

Response to these readings means examining our relationships in our families, neighborhoods, parishes, and at work. If we are on good terms with these people, we are on good terms with God. If those around us are hurting, then God is concerned and so must we be. Like Jesus and Jeremiah, we are tempted to run from this pain. Like them we must reject temptation and embrace the needs and hurts of all, being one then with God and the Church.

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For reflection...

The "hour" of Jesus brings pain and suffering leading to glory and new life. What helps Jesus to remain faithful during this time? What helps you to remain faithful during times of suffering or doubt or confusion?

When the grain of wheat dies, it is transformed and new life emerges. What signs of transformation and new life have you experienced in your life? What sign of transformation and new life do you see present in our parish?

What might be obstacles to new life, new hope, in our families? our parish? our world? How might these obstacles be overcome?

In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks of a new covenant, where God's ways are written on hearts. How does Jesus witness to this covenant? How do you?

Are you willing to get as close to God as God is willing to get close to you?

Spiritual Reflection by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

OUR ACHE FOR EARTHLY IMMORTALITY

No community should botch its deaths. Last month a wonderful leader within the faith community in Canada died and it could profit us all to more fully receive his spirit. How do we do that? It can be helpful for us, I believe, to highlight those places where his life, his energy, and his leadership more particularly helped steady us in our faith and helped us to use our own gifts more fully to serve God. Who was this man? *Joseph Neil MacNeil*, Emeritus Archbishop of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

I was lucky enough to have had him as my bishop for the first eighteen years of my priesthood. He was a good mentor and I needed one. I had just finished seminary and, not unlike many a naïve young man just turned loose in ministry, I had overly-rigid views on what was wrong with the world and how to fix that, views rooted more in personal immaturity than in prudence, views in need of a lot of leveling out. He was a guiding hand, not just for me but for many others.

And this was a time as well where the church as a whole was struggling for a deeper maturity. The church was just engaging the reforms of Vatican II, wondering whether it was going too far or not far enough, and reeling at the same time from the radical cultural and sexual changes of the late 1960s. Change was everywhere. Nothing, church-wise or otherwise, was as before. We were a pioneer generation ecclesially in need of new leadership.

He led us well, nothing too daring, nothing reactionary, just good, steady, charitable leadership that helped us, among other things, be more pastorally sensitive, more ecumenical, less self-absorbed, less clerical, more open to lay involvement, and more sensitive to the place of women. He kept things steady but inching forward, even while properly honoring the past.

Among his many gifts, *three* qualities of his leadership, for me, particularly stand out as a challenge for us all to live out our own discipleship more deeply.

First, he could live with ambiguity and not panic when tension seemed everywhere. He was not frightened or put off by polarization and criticism. He sorted them through with patience and charity. That helped create space for a more-inclusive church, one within which people of different temperaments and ecclesiologies could still be within the same community. He kept his eyes on the big picture and not on the various side-shows, skirmishes that so easily deflect attention away from what's important. Good people carry tension so as to not let it spell over unnecessarily onto others. Good leaders put up with ambiguity so as to not resolve tensions prematurely. He was a good person and a good leader. He could be patient with unresolved tension.

Second, he understood the innate tension that comes from our baptism wherein we are perennially torn between two loyalties, that is, the tension between being loyal to the church and its dogmas and rules on the one hand, and being loyal at the same time to the fact that we are also meant to be universal instruments of salvation who radiate God's compassion to everyone within all the churches and within the world at large. Here's one example of that: In the face of a very messy and painful pastoral situation, I once phoned him asking him what I should do. His answer properly interfaced law and mercy: "Father, you know the mind of the church, you know canon law, you know my mind, and so you know what ideally should be done here ... but you also know the principle of *Epikeia*, you are standing before the pain of these people, and God has put you there. You need to bring all of this together and make a decision based on that. Tell me afterwards what you decide and then I'll tell you whether I agree or not." I did make a decision, phoned him afterwards, he didn't agree with me, but he thanked me for doing what I did.

Finally, as a faith leader he understood the difference between catechesis and theology and he honored and defended the special place of each of them. Catechesis is needed to ground us; theology is needed to stretch us. He understood that. As a former President of a University who had done graduate work at the University of Chicago, he wasn't threatened by theologians and generally came to our defense when we were attacked. One of his pet sayings when one of his theological faculty came under scrutiny or attack was simply: "They're theologians! They speculate. That's what theologians do. They aren't catechists." He offered an equal defense for his catechists.

In church parlance, a bishop, an archbishop, a cardinal, or a pope is considered *A Prince of the Church*. He was that, a Prince of the Church ... not because the church anointed him as such, but because he had the intelligence, grace, and heart of a leader.