

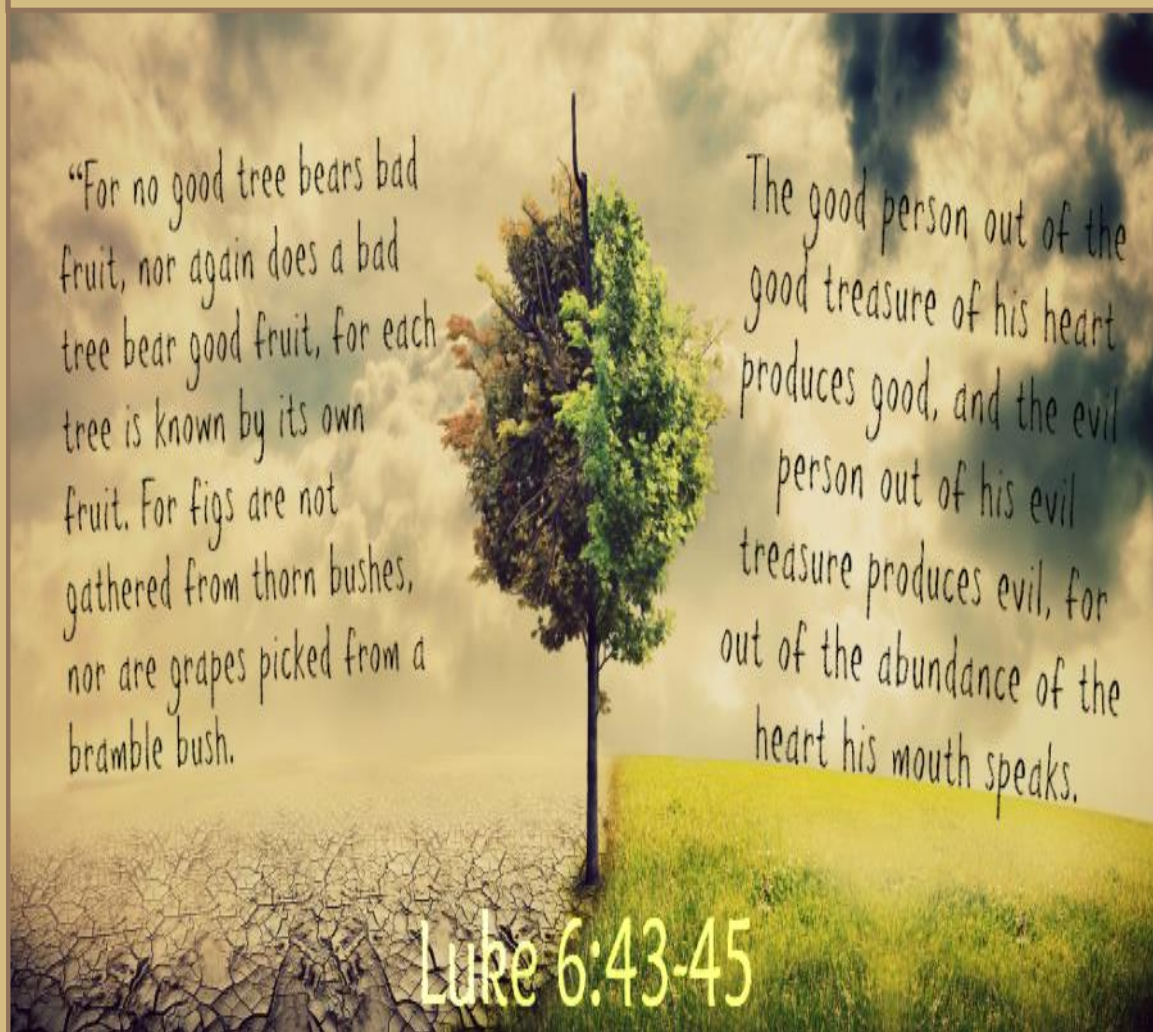


The Parish of Saints Philip and James  
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

March 3, 2019

## Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time



"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

**Luke 6:43-45**

*"Lord, it is good to give thanks to you"*

*Psalm 92*

*"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

*Sunday ~ Closed*

*Monday: 9am-8pm*

*Parish Center office Hours*

*Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-8pm*

*Thursday: 9am-5pm*

*Friday: Closed*

*Saturday: 10am-2pm*

*Parish Center Phone ~ 631-584-5454*

*Parish Center Fax~ 631-862-9675*

*Web ~ [www.sspj.org](http://www.sspj.org)*

*Pastoral Team*

Father Tom Haggerty  
Father Patrick Osei-Poku  
Deacon Ronald Blasius  
Deacon John Keenan  
Deacon Ken Maher  
Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN  
Margaret Adams  
Virginia Portanova  
John Cordes  
Lynn Sisti  
Charlotte Czujko  
Barbara Luna  
Dominick Avento  
Catherine Darrow  
Frank Brancaccio

Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Pastoral Associate  
Music Director  
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*

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

*Trustees*

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

*SSPJ School—Principal Diane M. Anderson*

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

*Sacraments*

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

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

*Confirmation*—Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

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

*Anointing of the Sick*— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 12:00mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

*R.C.I.A.*— Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (non-Catholic adults desiring to become Catholic) are asked to contact the Parish Center Office.

*Eucharistic Adoration In The Church*— Thursday 2-4pm Friday 8-9pm



## Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Have you ever found yourself singing the refrain of a recently heard song? Perhaps even the refrain of a song heard at Mass? It happens to me – and I hope might happen to you this Lent. During Lent, which begins this Wednesday, we will be singing in both English and Spanish, “I say Yes, my Lord... Digo SI, Senor... to every word you speak”. This will be our Lenten theme. The words will be on the bracelets we will be encouraged to wear during the 40 days. And on the inside of the bracelet will be our prayer, “Let me be part of the solution!”

Perhaps like me, you can still parrot back the old definition of prayer memorized years ago from the old catechism: “prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God.” I think, though, I may have been absent on the day when others learned that it is GOD who does the lifting, the raising, the making all things new. It is GOD who takes the initiative with Abraham and Sarah, with Moses, with David, with Mary, with Joseph, with Jesus, and with you and with me! Do we want to learn the new refrains God taught and sang within our ancestors in faith, giving them all a new voice, a new heart, a new understanding? Do we want to allow God to lift up our minds and hearts to reveal ways to be like Jesus - an Apostle of Hope? Just maybe the best Lenten sacrifice is to let our stirred hearts be led to where our minds tempt us at times to avoid going – those new relational places where God appeals to us to be Apostles of a new Hope!

I encourage you to get out during the Lenten season and allow one of the many parish offerings to capture your heart and give you a new voice as an Apostle of Hope. Perhaps you'll reconnect with praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday evening. The mixture of times of quiet and repeated chants offered in an hour of Taize prayer may open up new experiences of God. Participating in one of the retreat offerings, daily Mass or adoration might lead to a new intimacy with God. Gathering at our soup supper provides an occasion to offer hope to those beyond a Parish. Participating in the rituals of Holy Week leads to an ever deepening experience of the resurrection of Jesus, carrying us through the 50 days of Easter and beyond. May we all allow God to lift up our minds and our hearts to wonder and hope, as we sing, “I say YES, my Lord”.....Let me be part of your solution!

Thank you for the generous initial response to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. All pledges and donations are vital in helping to assist the many diocesan efforts to help those in need. We still hope to meet our pledge goal by Easter.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming evening presentations on the Spirituality of Fr. Richard Rohr. Dr. Tom Petriano, who was so well received here last fall, is returning to teach and engage us. The first evening is Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, on the topic “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life”. Further details are in today's bulletin.

I hope you'll take us up on the offer to join in the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper during which we will present the movie “Forgiveness”. This is a great way to begin the Lenten season and to become familiar with FORMED, an online resource. Perhaps this might be a wonderful Lenten opportunity to watch and share about a religious movie together as a family.

Peace,



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

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:  
MARCH 9TH & 10TH  
FOR THE CHURCH IN NEED

On March 10, 2019 a collection will be taken for "The Church in Need." The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is a particular need for help:

**Church in Central and Eastern Europe** - the funds collected provide support for pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region.

- **The Church in Latin America** - your support of the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.
- **The Church in Africa** - the fund supports pastoral projects that strengthen communities in their faith and foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension.

Thank you for your generosity.



**ASH WEDNESDAY IS  
MARCH 6TH, 2019**

Ashes will be distributed during the:

7:30am Mass  
9:15am Mass  
12:00 Noon Word Service  
3:00 Word Service  
5:00 Word Service  
7:00pm Mass

**The 2020 Mass Book**

Will be open to receive Mass Intentions for 2020  
Beginning Monday, March 11, 2019  
At 9:00am in the Parish Center Office.

The contribution for a mass intention is \$20.



**Lenten Regulations 2019**

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.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ST PATRICKS DAY**

**BAKE SALE  
NEXT WEEKEND:**

**MARCH 9TH & 10TH  
AFTER ALL MASSES**



**THREE EVENINGS ON THE SPIRITUALITY  
OF RICHARD ROHR**

IN THE BETHANY CENTER FROM 7PM-9PM

**Tuesday, March 12th -**

**"Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life."**

**Tuesday, March 26th -**

**"Breathing Underwater: A Spirituality of the Twelve Steps"**

**Tuesday April 23rd -**

**"Everything Belongs: Praying and Living Contemplatively"**

Fr. Richard Rohr is a globally recognized author, speaker, and spiritual teacher. He is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fr. Rohr's teaching is grounded in the Franciscan tradition, the teachings of the mystics, and the Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux. This three week program will explore three major themes of Fr.

Richard's teaching,

Falling Upward - A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life,  
Breathing Underwater, A Spirituality Based on the Twelve Steps, and Everything Belongs - Praying and Living Contemplatively.

All are welcome to join in any or all of the three sessions.

Moderated by Thomas Petriano

Professor and Chair of Religious Studies

St. Joseph's College

**Suggested Offering: \$10**

*Parish Social Ministry ~ Lenten Soup Supper  
Ash Wednesday~ All Are Invited!*



Begin Lent in the spirit of fasting and prayer

Join us for a traditional "Simple"

**LENTEN SOUP & BREAD SUPPER**

**Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

In the SSPJ Auditorium from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Before the 7 PM Mass & Ash Distribution

Free Will Offerings will be accepted for the benefit of

**FORWARD IN HEALTH CLINIC, HAITI**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

**Donations of homemade meatless soups in a pot or crockpot.**

**To donate soup, please contact the Parish Center office at 631-584-5454**

*Please leave your name and type of soup you will donate*

**TOP 8 REASONS TO BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY**

Lent is a time to share and give of ourselves – this is a great way to do so with your parish family.

You can enjoy an effortless meal before attending the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

It's better than staying at home and watching TV.

You will have a great time!

You will enjoy fellowship with friends and make some new friends.

You will be able to taste an assortment of hot, delicious homemade soups.

By attending, you are an example of Christ.

You will have a great time! (It bears repeating!)





## Parish Lenten Retreat

March 18-20, 2019

### Open the Door to Your Heart

(An inward journey to the real you)

Presented by

Sister Theresita Donach

Our Pastoral Associate

Conferences in the morning after the 9:15 Mass

Conferences in the evening will be at 7:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

You are welcome to share your thoughts on the retreat or some scripture readings with Sister T. There will be a sign up sheet available in the back of the church with times listed. Any questions please call Sister T at 631-584-5454 ext. 214

\*\*\*\*\*

Open the door of your heart so that the Lord may fill you with the courage and wisdom you need to be your best self!



All Are Invited to Attend a short presentation from FORMED, entitled: "Forgiven-Where are You?" at the Lenten Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday at 5:30pm  
Also on each Friday of Lent the Formed video presentation for that week will be shown at 10 am in the Bethany center, beginning on 3/8 through 4/12.  
A great addition to our Lenten journey.

## A Life-Changing Study for the Whole Parish!

### FORGIVEN

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF CONFESSION

Join us for a 3-week, video-based study on [formed.org](http://formed.org). *Forgiven* is a beautiful presentation of the transforming power of Confession. No matter what you have done, no matter how long you have been away, Jesus is waiting for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and search for *Forgiven*.



Use the Leader Guide for discussion

- ▶ Week One: 3-10-2019  
Where Are You?
- ▶ Week Two: 3-17-2019  
An Encounter with Mercy
- ▶ Week Three: 3-24-2019  
Embraced in Mercy: The Rite Explained

NOT ON FORMED YET? IT'S EASY AND FREE TO REGISTER!

- 1 Go to [sspj.formed.org](http://sspj.formed.org)
- 2 Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3 Go to Study, then Forgiven
- 4 Use the Leader Guide for discussion



*Hearts of Women Gathering  
Preparing for Resurrection  
Nourishing the Spirit of  
Christ Within Us*

**Monday, March 11th, 2019**

**At 7:00pm**

**In the Bethany Center**

**Presented by:  
Sister Pat Mahoney CSJ  
and  
Tina Cafaro**

**Including an Introduction to :  
The Song of the Seed  
Written by: Macrina Wiederkehr  
(Available on Amazon)**

**"Tending the Sacred Rest of the Soul" ~**

**To be continued at the next Hearts of Women Gathering on  
Monday, April 8th, 2019  
at 7pm in the Bethany Center**

**All Are Invited-Please bring a friend...**

**Faith Formation Religious  
Studies Program**

**Father Patrick Osei-Poku will  
continue  
his Basic Adult Religious Education  
Courses  
On Tuesday March 5th .**

**Interested persons should contact the  
Parish Center 631-584-5454 for  
enrollment or reach**

**Fr. Patrick by his email  
([patosepo.21661@gmail.com](mailto:patosepo.21661@gmail.com)) for further  
information. Kindly find below  
the detail schedules for the courses:**

**New Testament~**

**Tuesday: March 5th and 12th  
Thursday March 21st and 28th.**

**Thursday April 4, 2019**

**Participants are introduced to the basic  
principles in the New Testament.**

**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 4, 2019**

**Speaker: Mr. Anthony Gentile, Organization: Totus Tuus Ministries  
Title of Talk: Men and the Theology of the Body**

According to his biographer, the most significant yet underappreciated contribution that St. Pope John Paul II bequeathed to the Church of the 21st Century is his "Theology of the Body." Developed by this great Pontiff in his Wednesday audiences over a number of years, this theology of the human person and human sexuality is grounded in a reading of the Genesis story of Adam and Eve in light of the mystery of Jesus Christ, and its vision of what men and women are truly called to be for one another has led to the conversions of many young adults disillusioned by the sexual revolution. Our culture has many contentions, to put it mildly, regarding the Church's teaching on sexual matters, but the "Theology of the Body" can 'flip the thinking' and challenge the assumptions of how we should view all things sexual. Please join us for this needed introduction by noted local lay evangelist Anthony Gentile.

**LOCATION:** Main Church: 359 Clinton Avenue, 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!**

**Website: [www.sspjmensforum.org](http://www.sspjmensforum.org)**



**Eucharistic Retreat Day**

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**

**The Missionaries of The Most Holy Eucharist**

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

*Come abide with Him  
on this day which includes*

*Hot Breakfast & Lunch*

*Spiritual Meditations*

*Holy Mass*

*Confession, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet*

*Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction*

**The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception  
440 West Neck Road, Huntington**

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

To register, please use this link <https://goo.gl/forms/5dE3pajLaN2TPPs1> or  
call Alison Ferrara at 631-896-0870. Please state your name, email address,  
home address, parish and phone number.

For questions, please send e-mail to [MostHolyEucharist@gmail.com](mailto:MostHolyEucharist@gmail.com)

**Advance registration is required and registration using the link is preferred.**

*\$35 Fee: Cash or Check made out to the  
Seminary of the Immaculate Conception  
will be collected at the door.*

**CHURCH of SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES**

359 Clinton Avenue • St. James, NY 11780 • 631-584-5454 • [www.sspj.org](http://www.sspj.org)





# Lent A Time To Prepare - Stations of the Cross

*It has been a Lenten tradition to pray the Stations of the Cross as a community on Friday evenings during Lent.*

*As we continue the tradition this year, we will focus on connecting the cross and suffering of Jesus with the crosses and sufferings so many may be experiencing in life.*

*Our Stations are simple and low-key, taking about a half hour.*

*With the cross of Christ always at the center, all are invited to gather to pray the Stations.*

**Friday, March 8th- The Cross and Family Challenges**

**Friday, March 15th- The Cross and Grief**

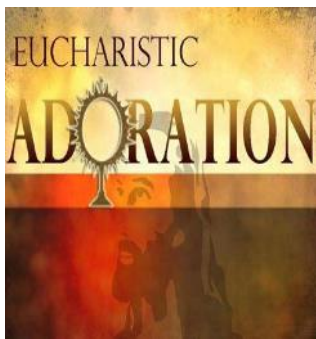
**Friday, March 22nd- The Cross and Times of Crisis**

**Friday, March 29th- The Cross and Illness**

**Friday, April 5th- The Cross and Human Hungers**

**Friday, April 12th- The Cross and the World Around Us**

**Stations are prayed in the Church Friday's in Lent at 7:30pm**



*Moreover, I want to encourage everyone to visit – if possible, every day – especially amid life's difficulties, the Blessed Sacrament of the infinite love of Christ and His mercy, preserved in our churches, and often abandoned, to speak filially with Him, to listen to Him in silence, and to peacefully entrust yourself to Him."*

**Pope Francis**

**Eucharistic  
Adoration  
Thursday at 2pm**

**Friday Evenings**

**At 8PM In The  
Church**

## ***Wash Kit Gang Will be Meeting on Friday, March 8th***



### **Saints Philip and James Parish**

#### **Wash Kit Gang**

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

### **SIGN UP SHEET**

SSPJ "Wash Kit Gang" is a ministry of Saints Philip and James Parish. Our goal is to provide wash kits to homeless shelters throughout Long Island. If you are interested in volunteering, **PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO THE PASTORAL OFFICE.** We offer community service hours for those interested.

Anyone who is not pre-registered may not be accommodated.

**WHEN?** FRIDAY MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

**TIME?** 7:00-8:00PM

**WHERE?** AUDITORIUM

**\*\*VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED TO BRING ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW\*\***

- Wash colthes, Ziploc Bags (sandwich, freezer, gallon sizes)
- Band Aids, Bar Soaps (Small, trial size)
- Shampoo (Trial size), Candy (Individually wrapped) all sorts
- Conditioner (Trial size), Hand Lotion (Trial size), Toothpaste (Trial size) & (Full Size)

**\*\*\*\*\*Monetary Donations are always welcome\*\*\*\*\***

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

VOLUNTEER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUNTEER DATE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME# \_\_\_\_\_ CELL# \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN: PRINTNAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



# Music Ministry

*On Saturday, March 2nd, we welcomed, Cantor Michael Voelker at the 5:00pm mass who beautifully sang *The Cloud's Veil* at the Presentation, *Lady of Knock* as a special Communion Hymn and *May the Road Rise up to Meet You* for our Sending Forth. Each of these traditional Irish songs represented the opening of our Parish Magic of Ireland Celebration.* 

*This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, March 6th. You will notice some changes in the Liturgy. We are now entering the season of Lent. Purple is the color for Lent and the priests wear purple vestments. The music also changes.*

*No Gloria is sung or spoken, and no alleluias are sung. The parts of the Mass will change to the **Mass of Resurrection**. In the Music Issue, #'s 855, 858, 859, 860.*

*There will be No gathering hymn. We will start in silence, and new this year, we will be singing *I Say "Yes" Lord* by Donna Pena. This is our parish theme. It will be sung at the **Presentation** for the five weeks of Lent to remind us of our willingness to say "Yes" to all the Lord needs us to do. You can listen to the song on line as well. To add a little twist, we will be singing the echo parts of the song in Spanish, which is how the song is written. Something different. Its nice to sing in a different language. It tells of our connection. No matter what the language, we are all one body in the Lord.*

## *A Note From Sister T*

NCSW is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8-14. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. It's our chance to recognize all they have done for us. It's also our hope that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example.

National Catholic Sisters Week, a branch of National Catholic Sisters Project headquartered at Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisc., is headquartered at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minn., and is held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

They serve God through a diversity of ministries. Some live cloistered lives in contemplative prayer, while others work on the frontlines of global change, striving to improve various aspects of society, from environmental change to healthcare reform to human rights issues. All find ways to make the world a better place. They may have had a positive impact in your life through their work in your community, even if you didn't know they were women religious. We invite you to learn more and get to know the sisters near you!

How about writing a thank you note to a "Sister" that touched your life!

## ***The Magic of Ireland~ Thanks Our Sponsors:***

### ***ST. PATRICK SPONSOR'S ~ \$1,000.***



*Jerry Linder ~ In Memory Of,  
Mary Maroney Linder and Valerie Scally Linder  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Posè  
Deacon Ken Maher~ St. James Funeral Home, Inc  
John F. Romanelli MD  
The Winters Family  
Catherine Smith & Family*



### ***SHAMROCK SPONSOR'S ~ \$500.***

*Bill & Patricia Martin    Dr. Michael & Barbara Cesa    Dr. & Mrs. Augustus Mantia  
Jane & Nick Gargiulo    Michael & Stacey Gargiulo*

### ***Celtic Sponsor 's~ \$250.***



*Branch Funeral Home ~ The Vigilante Family  
Long Island Hearing~The Kent Family  
Smithtown Orthodontics ~ Duanne S. Shank DDS  
Maryjane Kenney  
Spages Pharmacy  
The Hensen Family*

*Mr. & Mrs. Peter Portanova  
The Sica Family  
Marianne Koke-Daniel Gale SIR  
The Zito Family  
The Tully Family  
John & Pam Primavera*

*"In Memory of Mommy Angel" ~ Katie Farrell*

### ***Leprechaun Sponsor's ~ \$100.***



*Paula Klee Parish—Yoga & You Studio  
Sequa Deli & Caterers-St. James  
Villa Sorrento Restaurant & Caterers  
O Sole Mio Restaurant Stony Brook  
SSPJ School Faculty  
Irish Coffee House*

*In thanks for "Grandpa Angel"  
Margaret & Tim Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wehman  
Larry & Patty Ayers  
Ron & Debbie Trezza*



*We Wish to thank our local businesses and our  
Parishioners who contributed a basket to our  
Magic of Ireland Event*

*Hither Brook Floral and  
Gift Boutique*

*Alpine Bakery*

*BLT Café*

*Gray's Jewelers*

*Grape Culture*

*The Petrocelli Family ~ Soul Brew*

*Tara Ryan Ferina for Estee Lauder*

*Spuntino*

*Touch of Class Car Wash*

*Mercep Brothers Meats*

*The Carey Family*

*The Portanova Family*

*The Romanelli Family*

*The Inserra Family*

*The Shank Family*

*The Posè Family*

*The Farrell Family*

*The Koke Family*

*The Stevens Family*

*The Garvey Family*

*The Hoonhout Family*

*The Rannazzisi Family*

*The Zito Family*

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your  
fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*



# 2019 SSPJ GOAL ~ \$119,700.00

## 2019 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Supporting *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in Our Community



Witnessing Forgiving Loving Helping Teaching Igniting Evangelizing  
Teaching Igniting Evangelizing Forgiving Loving Helping Witnessing

## Caring *Teaching* Loving *Forgiving* Helping *Igniting* Evangelizing

**You can make a difference in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal**

### Every Gift Counts!

**A gift of \$25** may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.

**A gift of \$50** from an emergency fund may help pay the electric bill in a cold winter month for a family in need.

**A gift of \$100** may help care for a newborn infant in Catholic Charities Regina Residence.

**A gift of \$250** may help subsidize a home for an adult who is developmentally disabled.

**A gift of \$1,000** may help support a Seminarian's education.

Because of you, every year we are able to serve more than 600,000 people in our Long Island Community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve the community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit [CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org](http://CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org) or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Make checks payable to:  
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



*Religious Education Ministry : For Week of March 3rd, 2019*  
*A Note to Parents from Father Tom*

Dear Parents,

This year the season of Lent will begin with the observance of Ash Wednesday on March 6, 2019. This day marks the beginning of a season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**Because of the importance of this day and the season it ushers in, we are cancelling all Religious Education classes the week of March 4<sup>th</sup>.** We would like for you and your family to take the time to attend one of the many opportunities our Parish offers to receive ashes and perhaps join us for the Lenten Soup Supper which begins after the 5:00pm Word Service in the Auditorium.

The schedule for the distribution of ashes is as follows:

7:30 am	Mass
9:15 am	Mass
12 noon	Word Service
3:00 pm	Word Service
5:00 pm	Word Service
7:00 pm	Mass

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Haggerty



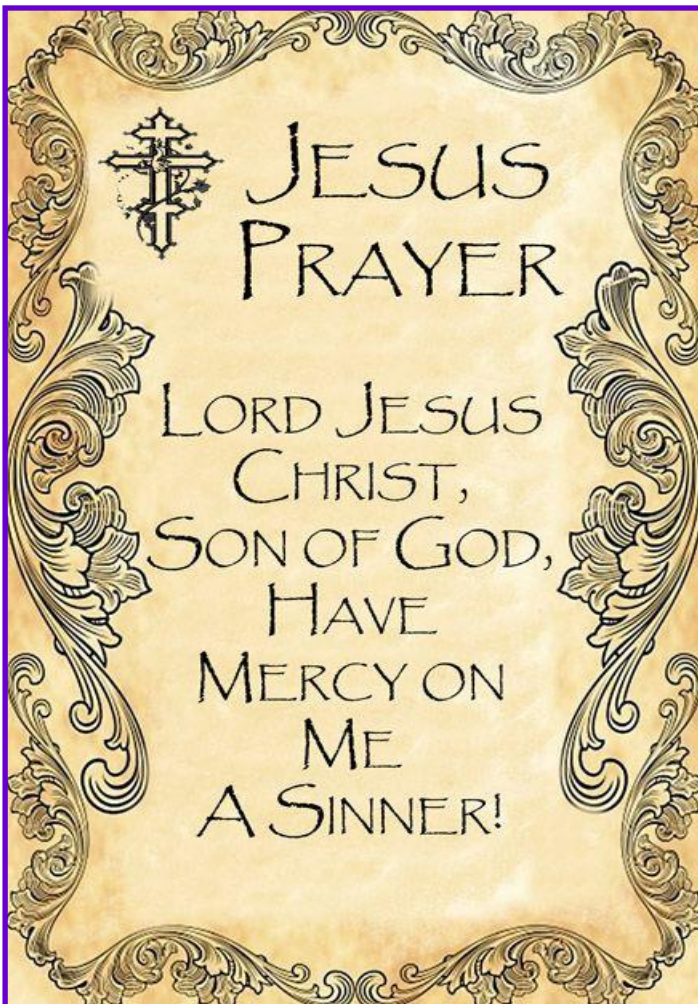
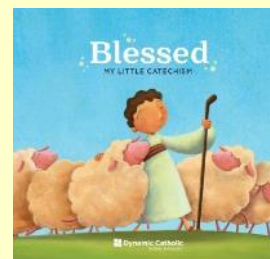
**A REMINDER REGARDING  
FIRST GRADE LESSONS WITH  
MISS CHARLOTTE:**

**There will not be class on:  
TUESDAY MARCH 5TH OR  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 6TH**

**FIRST GRADE PARENT WORKSHOP**

***Thursday March 7th  
At either 10:00am or 7:00pm  
In the Bethany Center***

***(This meeting is only for the Parents of  
children WHO DO NOT  
attend Lessons with  
Miss Charlotte.)***





March 3rd, 2019

Welcome to the Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time

DUE: March 10th, 2019

If you did not attend Children's Liturgy of the Word



My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_

I Am In Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

My Catechist "Teacher's" Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_

**"Gospel: Luke 6:39-45**

**"Jesus teaches us we are his disciples when we do good deeds."**

*In today's Gospel reading we learn that a good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit.*

**What kind of fruit tree do you want to be?**

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**Why did you pick that kind of tree?**

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**How can you show others that you have a kind and generous heart?**

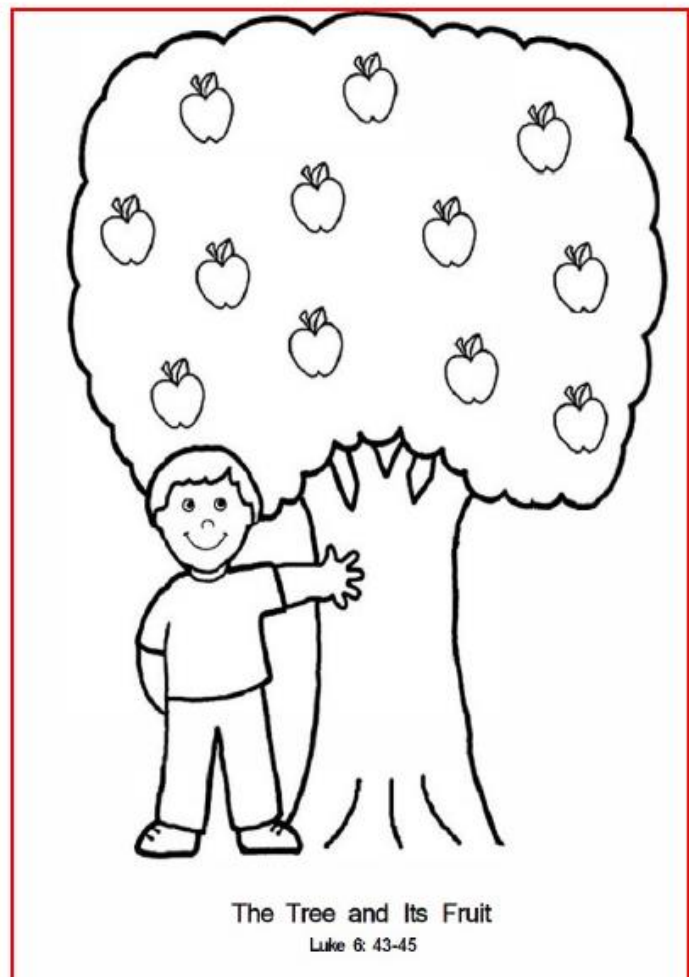
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*Please Color*



The Tree and Its Fruit  
Luke 6: 43-45

**We Pray:**

*Jesus, we want to be identified as a good tree, producing good fruit. Help us to do the things we know are pleasing to you.*

*Amen*





March 3rd, 2019

DUE March 10th, 2019

Welcome to the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Luke 6: 43-44

"A Good Tree Bears Good fruit"



My Name IS: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM IN GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

MY TEACHERS NAME IS: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gospel Background:*

*Jesus teaches us to focus on our own behavior rather than focusing our attention on judging others.*

**TEST:**

Point your pointer finger straight ahead  
Turn your hand to the right, notice there  
are 3 fingers pointing right back at YOU!

**LESSON:**

"Don't judge others"

What is an example of judging others?

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We are good disciples when we model Christian  
love and make good , moral choices.

Give an example of when you made  
a good moral choice?

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How did it make you feel?

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

In today's Gospel Jesus said we should remove the :

Circle the correct answer:

**Basketball**

**Apple**

**Wooden Beam**

Before we remove the splinter from our Brother's eye?



**Saints Philip and James RC Church**  
1 Carow Place, St. James, New York 11780  
(631) 584-5454



**SUNDAY MASS REFLECTIONS**  
Confirmation I & II (Grades 7 & 8)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher/Catechist: \_\_\_\_\_

*The **EIGHTH SUNDAY** in **ORDINARY TIME**, March 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019*  
**PLACE COMPLETED PAPER IN THE "APOSTLE OF HOPE BASKET" AT MASS NEXT WEEKEND (Mar 9 / 10)**  
(Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39:42)



#### **From the fullness of the Heart the Mouth**

**Speaks** The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Sirach 27:4-7. The author was a wise and pious Jew who lived about 200 B.C. His purpose in writing was to encourage his fellow Jews to live devout lives following the Law of Moses and the pious traditions handed down to them. He treats of the individual, of the family and of the community, of their relations with one another and with God. In these verses he emphasizes how a man's speech shows up his character and his religious outlook.

The **second reading** is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58. St. Paul is speaking of the resurrection of the dead which the death and resurrection of Christ have won for us. In these verses St. Paul ends his discussion on death and resurrection with a hymn of triumph.

The **Gospel** is taken from St. Luke (6:39-45). These statements of Christ spoken centuries ago to his fellow Jews of Palestine are as true and as crystal clear today as they were in the year 29 A.D. They are the words of him who was the Truth. They are put before us today for there are few amongst us who do not need to be reminded of their lesson. We are all so prone to see the neighbor's faults and shortcomings and so inclined to cover up or deny our own.

#### **Reflection**

1. Using a dictionary, find the word hypocrisy and write its definition below:

**Hypocrisy is defined:**

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2. In your experience of the world, give some examples of "types of people" you would think to be 'hypocrites' according to the dictionary and Jesus' examples (telling **you** how to do something and then not doing it themselves), and why.

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3. Why is "practicing what we preach", so important.

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# Great Job SSPJ ~ February Apostles of HOPE!

## *Sts. Philip and James School*

*February*

### *Apostles of Hope*

#### Nursery

**Viviana Danza** is an Apostle of Hope. Viviana plays so nicely with all of her fellow classmates. She is always looking to lend a helping hand and she loves saying her prayers and going to church. Viviana's love and kindness makes her a wonderful disciple of Jesus.

**Connor Regan** is an Apostle of Hope. Connor is a great friend to all of his classmates. He is a caring student who loves to help out his friends and teachers. Connor spreads the joy of Jesus through his kindness and his bright smile.

#### Pre-Kindergarten

**Grace Johnson** is an Apostle of Hope because she has a caring heart. Grace is a great friend to everyone in the pre-k classroom and includes everyone. Keep up the great work, Grace!

**Tegan Mahoney** is an Apostle of Hope because she follows all of the classroom rules. Tegan tries her best every day and always has a smile on her face. Great job, Tegan!

**Ella Schwalb** is an Apostle of Hope because she is a helpful friend to her classmates. Ella always uses kind words and shares with her friends. Keep up the good work, Ella!

**Aaron Stramiello** is an Apostle of Hope because he always shows others how much he cares about them. Aaron is a friend to all in the pre-k class by sharing and playing with everyone. Great job, Aaron!

#### Kindergarten

**Ryan Ferri** is an Apostle of Hope. Ryan comes in every day excited for school and learning! He has been working very hard on his sight words, handwriting, and organizational skills. Ryan is very helpful when it comes to keeping the classroom clean and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

#### First Grade

**Rocco Tomasino** is an Apostles of Hope. Rocco has been working extremely hard each and everyday. Rocco enjoys participating in class especially during Math. He is a prime example to the other students in the class and continues to follow in Jesus footsteps.

#### Second Grade

**Mason Ring** is an Apostle of Hope. Mason always uses good manners when he is in the classroom. He loves to read stories about Jesus and his life. Mason tries to be the best friend he can to all.

**Anjali Caliendo** is an Apostle of Hope. Anjali comes to school with a smile on her face each day. She is helpful and friendly to all her classmates. Anjali reads the Bible and makes good choices every day.

#### Third Grade

**Ryan Hulbert** is an Apostle of Hope. He is kind and friendly to all his classmates. Ryan always does his best work and is always willing to share ideas and participate in class.

**Sarah Franco** is an Apostle of Hope. She is a kind friend who enjoys spending time with her classmates. Sarah has a very positive attitude about school and is an excellent student.



#### Fourth Grade

**Liam Regan** is an Apostle of Hope. Liam is a hard working student who is kind and helpful to his classmates. He shows goodness, gentleness, and patience when working with his peers. Liam spreads peace and joy in the classroom and all around him.

**Annabelle Cassimatis** is an Apostle of Hope. Annabelle is friendly to all of her teachers and peers. She is hard-working and she displays gentleness, modesty, and faithfulness. Annabelle spreads kindness and happiness to those around her.

#### Fifth Grade

**Brendan Kieran** is an Apostle of Hope. In addition to submitting his weekly reflections, Brendan can be seen as an Alter Server at weekly Masses. In the classroom, Brendan is always ready and willing to help his teachers and fellow classmates.

**Claire O'Connor** is an Apostle of Hope. Claire is a friend to all in the classroom. She is always ready and willing to assist her teachers and fellow classmates. In addition to submitting her reflections every week, Claire can also be found as a monitor in the early childhood classrooms.

#### Sixth Grade

**Katherine Hunt** is an Apostle of Hope. She is a caring and motivated student. Kate is always eager to lend a hand, or offer help to a friend. She constantly keeps the feelings of others in mind throughout the day. Kate is a shining example of an Apostle of Hope

#### Seventh Grade

**Emma Ryan** is an Apostle of Hope. Emma strives to be the best version of herself. In addition to being conscientious about her schoolwork, she displays acts of kindness to her classmates by volunteering to write up assignments for those who are absent from school and is always eager to help out with the class chromebooks. Emma is a member of various clubs including CMSAA, where she is a member of the girls basketball team and stained glass club. Emma consistently submits her weekly reflection sheets and is attentive to her PreK prayer buddies at school Masses.

#### Eighth Grade

**Brendan Tobin** is an Apostle of Hope. Brendan is an altar server and recently became a lector for Sts. Philip and James. Brendan regularly hands in his Confirmation Reflections from mass. In addition to his service to the church, Brendan is a great student and is always willing to help out when needed.



# SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of March 3rd, 2019

## Sunday, March 3rd, 2019:

8:30am	RCIA	Cantina
11:00am	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshop
4:00pm	Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner	Auditorium
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

## Monday, March 4th, 2019:

1:00pm	Rosary Makers	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Boy Scout Meeting	Auditorium
7:30pm	Men's Forum	Bethany Center

## Tuesday, March 5th, 2019:

1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Prayer Room Church
4:30pm	Adult Formation Classes	Philip & James Room
7:30pm	Chords of Faith	Church & Choir Loft
7:30pm	KOC Officer Meeting	Philip & James Room

## Wednesday, March 6th, 2019:

5:30pm	LENTEN SOUP SUPPER	AUDITORIUM
7:00pm	Youth Ministry	Bethany Center

## Thursday, March 7th, 2019 :

10:00am	REO 1ST GRADE PARENT MEETING	Philip & James Rm
2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	REO 1st GRADE PARENT MEETING	Philip & James Rm
7:30pm	Adult Choir	Church & Choir Loft
7:30pm	Pre-Baptism Class	Bethany Center

## Friday, March 8th, 2019:

10:00am	FORMED LENTEN PRESENTATION	Bethany Center
3:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Workshop
7:00pm	Wash Kit Gang	School-St. Philip Room
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

## Saturday, March 9th, 2019:

5:00pm	Catholic Daughter's Bake Sale	School Lobby
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## Sunday, March 10th, 2019:

8:00am	CDA Bake Sale	School Lobby
8:30am	RCIA	Cantina
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

### Weekly Collection:

Sunday February 23, 2019

Sunday Collection: \$11,808.

Faith Direct: \$2,730

Children's Jug: \$103.

Total Collection: \$14,641.

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

*We Remember...*

*Frank A Locorriere, Sr.*

*With  
Sympathy*

**Our Bread & Wine**

**For the Week of**

**March 3rd, 2019**

**Are Offered**

**In Loving Memory of,**

**Robert Gross**

**From,**

**Louis & Gail**

**The Pro Life Rose**

**For the Week of**

**March 3rd, 2019**

**Is Dedicated**

**"For My Dear Daughter,"**

**Andrea Jean Martin,**

**54th Birthday in Heaven**

**Love,**

**Mommy**

**Wedding Banns**

Third

Phillip Hornberger  
SSPJ

To

Nicole Megale

St. Boniface



# Mass Intentions, For the week of March 3rd, 2019

## Saturday, March 2nd, 2019

5:00pm Thomas J. Collins

## Sunday, March 3rd, 2019

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am Thomas J. Collins

12:00 Noon Collective Mass:

James Ditta, Sr.

Michael Kaplon

Virginia Kelly

Burke Samson

Eileen Mallins

Doreen Delaney

## Monday, March 4th, 2019

7:30am Eileen Mallins

9:15am Cecelia Murray

## Tuesday, March 5th, 2019

7:30am Patricia McNulty

9:15am Gasper Rodriguez

## Wednesday, March 6th, 2019

7:30am

9:15am

Srecko Olic

## Thursday, March 7th, 2019

7:30am

9:15am

Elizabeth Becchina

Collective Mass:

## Friday, March 8th, 2019

7:30am

9:15am

Toni Donals

Dave Boylan

## Saturday, March 9th, 2019

9:15am

5:00pm

John O'Loughlin

## Sunday, March 10th, 2019

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ

10:00am

12:00 Noon

Margaret Castiglie

Collective Mass:

Peter, Sarah, & Mary Cole

Helen Falcone

Margaret Castiglie

Filomena Mauceri

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

Anna Capizzio  
Angela Amoroso  
Angelo Peluso  
Angela Boccio McComb  
AnnMarie M.  
Baby Mattia Lubrano  
Betty Schmidt  
Brett Dowling  
Brennan Steinorth  
Bryan Van Colt  
Camden Bailey  
Carmela Massaro  
Carole Hennessy  
Catherine Burseind  
Charlie Keenan  
Christel DeBlasio  
Christina Meringolo  
Christopher Paul  
Daisy Abruzzo  
David Shankles  
Dawn Kopel  
Dolores Weisenreider  
Dominic Pace  
Dylan Lauro  
Eileen Zink  
Elinor Glasser  
Eugene Krug  
Florence Donahue  
Frank Orlik  
Frank DeFranco  
Gerard Duffy  
Ginny McAuley  
Greg  
Helen McDowell  
Hillary Boehme  
James Gietzen  
James P. Klouda  
Jane Prato  
Jane Wigutow  
Jeanine Esposito Tansey  
Jim Kelly  
Joseph  
Joseph Perconti  
Joe Alberigo  
John Capizzio  
Jean McCue  
John Harney  
John Hernandez  
Jordan Marvelli

Madeline Ursillo  
Kellie Sexton  
Abbott R Morgan  
Marie Clarke  
Monica Ursillo  
Kellie Sexton  
Kathleen Newill  
Marty Caltabiano  
Joann Boccia  
Zachary Esposito  
-Tansey

Julianne  
Joan Ward  
Kathleen N.  
Kathleen Corcoran  
Kitty Cronin  
Krista Farley  
Kylie Quigley  
Joseph  
Lance Mallamo  
Laura Andrucki & family  
Linda Sue  
Livia Parrella  
Louis Giordano  
Mark Montesano  
Marie DelCielo,  
Marie Fabry  
Mary McDonough  
Michael LaVecchia  
Michael Vasiento  
Nancy Fornabia  
Nicole Theresa  
Nicole Devlin  
Pam Brandon  
Pasquale Santoro  
Patricia Casey  
Pat Corey  
Patricia Fontana  
Patricia Monetti  
Patricia Thompson  
Paulette Agolia  
Regina Powers  
Richard Cembrale  
Roe Hetterich  
Russell Caiola  
Robert & Madeline  
Gaude  
Robin Graham Denis  
Rosemary Morgan  
Sean Winters  
Suzanne McCue  
Terence Hobbes  
Teresa Orlik  
Thomas McKay  
Thomasine Morrison  
Tim Kelly  
Tim Cavooris  
Terry Pace  
Vivien Cordes



## 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  
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  
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN  
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC  
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, LT.COL.-USAF  
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC  
PAUL MUMOLO-USN  
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG  
KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY  
MARK GIORDANO-US COASTGUARD

# Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

## *PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR March 9th & 10th, 2019*

Saturday, March 9, 2019 5:00 PM	Sunday, March 10, 2019 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, March 10, 2019 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, March 10, 2019 12:00 MASS
Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty
Deacon Ron	Deacon Ron	Deacon John	Deacon John

## *EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE -FOR March 9th & 10th, 2019*

Saturday, March 9th, 2019	Sunday, March 10th, 2019	Sunday, March 10th, 2019	Sunday, March 10th, 2019
5:00 PM	8:00 AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
B. Carey	P. Martin	J. Kirdahy	S. McKie
D. Anderson	W. Ramos	O. Laiz	C. Rubano
K. Consenz	K. Rapp	M. Latino	V. Rubano
J. Giacalone	E. Sica	J. Lavan	B. Chandler
P. Damato	T. Sica	C. Lombardi	D. LaVecchia
D. Doran	L. Tepedino	D. Mulhall	M. Lebrun
J. Duffy	W. Van Gostein	C. Napolitano	J. Linder
D. Earl	J. Harvey	L. Keane	M. Napoli
G. Priebe	P. Kanuika	W. Rodriguez	T. Pace
D. Toto	M. Kenney	P. Schfilliti	A. Santo

## *ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE -FOR March 9th & 10th, 2019*

Saturday, March 9, 2019	Sunday, March 10, 2019	Sunday, March 10, 2019	Sunday, March 10, 2019
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
S. McCalvin	E. Nicastro	B. Kieran	A. Miloscia
B. Tobin	K.. Nicastro	C. Donnelly	M. Miloscia
J. Scomillio	J. Saladino	S. Donnelly	M. Bennett
R. Laro	M. Saladino	B. Roberts	N. Stephens

## *LECTOR SCHEDULE -FOR March 9th & 10th, 2019*

Saturday, March 9, 2019	Sunday, March 10, 2019	Sunday, March 10, 2019	Sunday, March 10, 2019
5:00PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
M. Dreschler	E. Dobres	M. D'Amelia	B. O'Leary
	A. Mantia	P. Suski	E. Wittish



# Preparing for Next Sunday

March 10, 2019 • 1st Sunday of Lent • Year C

## Giving "First Fruits"

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- Deuteronomy 26:4-10 - Thanksgiving for the Lord's goodness
- Romans 10:8-13 - The faith of the Christian
- Luke 4:1-13 - Temptation in the desert

The first reading is one among many in the Old Testament with a "first fruits" theme. Moses instructs the Israelites to give gifts of thanksgiving in response to all that God has done for them. He is very particular that they should offer "*the first of the fruit of the ground* that you, O Lord, have given me." This model of giving "from the top" is the basis of a "first fruits" theology.

For the ancient Israelites, this meant offering the first grapes of their harvest, or the first figs from their tree, or the firstborn goat or sheep of the spring. From a contemporary viewpoint, first fruits giving means *intentionally* giving of your time, talent, and treasure. It might mean literally giving the first fruits from your garden to a food bank, or buying school supplies for a child in need when you buy them for your own children. It might mean offering your guest bedroom as a place of hospitality for others, putting your car to good use by driving an elderly neighbor to doctor appointments, or volunteering to coach a local soccer team. As we move into Lent, thinking about how we share our gifts from a first fruits perspective is especially appropriate.

Often, we begin Lent with lofty plans for how we will re-orient our lives back to God, grow into a deeper prayer life, or adopt new habits of self-discipline or generosity. Maybe that's how Jesus felt after he was baptized and was "full of the Holy Spirit." Probably he was eager and



WE ALL HAVE TEMPTATIONS, BUT THEY'RE NOT SIN UNLESS WE GIVE IN TO THEM!

I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...

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"One believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved."

**Sheepish Questions:**  
What temptations do I least want to face right now? Why?

motivated to begin the work he had been sent to do: preach justice and peace, heal the sick, and offer freedom to those "imprisoned" by so many factors in their lives. But then, instead of beginning his ministry immediately, he was led into the desert where the devil tempted him.

These 40 days of Lent can be a time of practicing humility. Like Jesus, we will experience plenty of temptations that come our way and we will need to fall back on God's grace to resist them.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 In what area of your life might you be more intentional about giving of your "first fruits"?
- 2 What actions will you commit to for Lent this year, particularly in the areas of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?

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## STRUGGLING INSIDE OUR OWN SKIN

I've been both blessed and cursed by a congenital restlessness that hasn't always made my life easy. I remember as a young boy restlessly wandering the house, the yard, and then the open pastures of my family's farm on the prairies. Our family was close, my life was protected and secure, and I was raised in a solid religious faith. That should have made for a peaceful and stable childhood and, for the most part, it did. I count myself lucky.

But all of this stability, at least for me, didn't preclude an unsettling restlessness. More superficially, I felt this in the isolation of growing up in a rural community that seemed far removed from life in the big cities. The lives I saw on television and read about in the newspapers and magazines appeared to me to be much bigger, more exciting, and more significant than my own. My life, by comparison, paled, seemed small, insignificant, and second-best. I longed to live in a big city, away from what I felt to be the deprivations of rural life. My life, it seemed, was always away from everything that was important.

Beyond that, I tormented myself by comparing my life, my body, and my anonymity to the grace, attractiveness, and fame of the professional athletes, movie stars, and other celebrities I admired and whose names were household words. For me, they had real lives, ones I could only envy. Moreover, I felt a deeper restlessness that had to do with my soul. Despite the genuine intimacy of a close family and a close-knit community within which I had dozens of friends and relatives, I ached for a singular, erotic intimacy with a soulmate. Finally, I lived with an inchoate anxiety that I didn't understand and which mostly translated itself into fear, fear of not measuring up and fear of how I was living life in face of the eternal.

That was the cursed part, but all of this also brought a blessing. Inside the cauldron of that disquiet I discerned (heard) a call to religious life which I fought for a long time because it seemed the antithesis of everything I longed for. How can a burning restlessness, filled with eros, be a call to celibacy? How can an egotistical desire for fame, fortune, and recognition be an invitation to join a religious order whose charism is to live with the poor? It didn't make sense, and, paradoxically, that's why, finally, it was the only thing that did make sense. I gave in to its nudging and it was right for me.

It landed me inside religious life and what I've lived and learned there has helped me, slowly through the years, to process my own restlessness and begin to live inside my own skin. Beyond prayer and spiritual guidance, two intellectual giants in particular helped me. As a student, aged 19, I began to study Saint Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. My mind was still young and unformed but I grasped enough of what I was reading to begin to befriend the restless complexities inside my own soul – and inside the human soul in general. Even at age 19 (maybe particularly at 19) one can existentially understand Augustine's dictum: *You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*

And then there was Thomas Aquinas who asked: *What is the adequate object of the human intellect and will?* In short, what would we have to know and be in love with in order to satisfy every flame of restlessness within us? His answer: Everything! The adequate object of the human intellect and will is Being as such – God, all people, all nature. Only that would satisfy us.

Except ... that's not what we mostly think. The particular restlessness that I experienced in my youth is today in fact a near-universal disease. Virtually all of us believe that the good life is had only by those who live elsewhere, away from our own limited, ordinary, insignificant, and small-town lives. Our culture has colonized us to believe that wealth, celebrity, and comfort are the adequate object of the human intellect and will. They are, for us, "Being as such". In our culture's current perception, we look at the beautiful bodies, celebrity status, and wealth of our athletes, movie stars, television hosts, and successful entrepreneurs and believe that they have the good life and we don't. We're on the outside, looking in. We're now, in effect, all farm kids in the outback envying life in the big city, a life accessible only to a highly select few, while we're crucified by the false belief that life is only exciting elsewhere, not where we live.

But our problem is, as Rainer Marie Rilke once pointed out to an aspiring young poet who believed that his own humble surroundings didn't provide him with the inspiration he needed for poetry, that if we can't see the richness in the life we're actually living then we aren't poets.