



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

May 24th, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter



"I pray for them"

John 17:9

"With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be
Apostles of Hope"

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

STS. PHILIP & JAMES PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Center Phone: 631-584-5454 Parish Fax: 631-862-9675

Website—www.sspj.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Open Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 9am-8pm

Open Thursday 9am-5pm

Open Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Friday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor

Father Patrick Osei-Poku-Associate Pastor

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

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Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

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Catherine Darrow

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Charlotte Czujko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 3-6

Barbara Luna

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

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Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Dominick Avento

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

TRUSTEES

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato
Martin Marut, Maureen Burke, Erin Nicastro



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 8:00am mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

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

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN

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CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.

LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES

SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON

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KEVIN JONES-USCG

PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG

GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY

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PAUL MUMOLO-USN

VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY

MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD

KELLI MCLAUGHLIN- 2ND LT. US ARMY NATL.

GUARD

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

Weekly Collection: Sunday, May 17h, 2020

\$ 8,189.

\$17,800.

Faith Direct :

3,035.

Total Weekly Collection:

\$11,224.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

Do you remember the popular saying, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life"? It always seemed to me to be an encouraging, uplifting saying. We can begin again! I wonder, though, if the early disciples gathered after Jesus' ascension had different feelings.

The disciples of Jesus have a whole new life ahead of them. Acts tells us today that they returned to the upper room where the men and women followers of Jesus gathered in prayer. They would need that prayer as they pondered the next steps they would take. Their old life was over; their new life just beginning. ... The disciples aren't sure what's coming, but we know. The Spirit will come upon them and they will launch out into the world to proclaim Jesus Christ. There is something else we know that the gathered disciples don't. The road ahead of them is going to be rough.

(from "First Impressions: 7th Sunday of Easter, Cycle A)

This really seems to hit home today! Old ways over; new ways beginning. We aren't sure how and when "re-opening" will come, but we do know the Spirit will be present. The road ahead will be rough, but we are never alone. We know that the disciples met rough challenges, and grew in wisdom, courage and understanding. Today, during this pandemic, we too are meeting rough challenges as disciples of Jesus. Hopefully we too pray, seeking God's guidance and God's strength. And, as with the early disciples, God responds. There is no part of our lives, or the world's, that we need be afraid to look at, no matter how dark and scary. For in Christ, we can find hope and new life. With Jesus, today is the first day of the rest of our lives as we journey together through this pandemic.

As I mentioned last week, many of our special celebrations have had to be postponed. Weddings, baptisms, funerals and more. This week I'd like to send a message to some of our young people dealing with postponements - those awaiting First Communion, or Confirmation, or graduation.

To the boys and girls preparing for First Communion - I know you've been getting ready for this special day, and I know you've been growing closer and closer to Jesus. I wonder, might you be willing to write a letter to Jesus, telling him how you feel about receiving First Communion, how you've been getting ready, and what you hope that day and experience will be like? You could keep this letter in a special place. You could share the letter with your parents, and, if you wish, you could send me a copy. I would love to hear your thoughts and feelings about Jesus, and I will remember you in my prayers every day.

Parents, we have printed in the bulletin some suggestions for helping your child deal with the postponement of First Communion. These suggestions come from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

To the young people preparing for Confirmation: I am praying for you, hoping that the time you have spent preparing has in fact helped you know deep within yourselves that as St. Paul wrote long ago, ***you are God's work of art***. Please know God's deepest hope is that you believe in the voice within, which is sometimes silent, sometimes whispering, and sometimes clear. God begs you to hear! ***You are Mine!*** Please know you are valued and trust you are a God's prayer to the world. Be that "best version of yourself". We look forward to sealing you at Confirmation as God's vaccine. Be the antidote to mean spiritedness and apathy. Know and trust the Advocate, the Holy Spirit sent to you, telling you: ***don't be afraid to shine, to stand out, to be Christ!***

To the graduates - from pre-K through grad school - as you know, another word for graduation is commencement. You are transitioning into a new phase of life. You've met many challenges, and will meet many more. Though the manner of celebrating you and your achievements is very different this year, we do celebrate you! We pray with and for you, and will continue to pray as your journeys continue.

Here's a prayer of Mother Teresa's. Let's pray for our First Communicants, Confirmandi, graduates, and all of us:

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.

Next Sunday we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. Although we won't be gathering in church, I encourage everyone at home to wear something **RED** to remind us of the Holy Spirit who empowers and encourages us. We'll be reminded that we are blessed with "different gifts, but the same Spirit", and that these gifts are given us for the good of the community. How have you and the community been blessed by the gifts of the Spirit given you? Take a picture displaying your **RED** outfits. Post it on your refrigerator as a reminder of the Spirit's presence in your life.

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Helpful Resources for Families during this time...

Talking Points for Parents Talking with Children about Delayed First Communion

<https://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/offices/Catechesis/TalkingPointsforParents-FirstCommunion.pdf>

Video to help children discuss postponed First Communion

<https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/coronavirus-resources/waitingforfirstcommunion.htm>

Communion Bread

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryL3xLPAPqk&t=18>

Weight of the Mass

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICDdm-NqtoQ&feature=youtu.be>

For Adults preparing Children **Sacraments 101**

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/eucharist>

Sacraments 201

<https://bustedhalo.com/video/sacraments-201-eucharist-what-we-believe>

The Lords Supper - Quiz for adults and kids

https://www.catechist.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CAT.Nov-Dec2019_CatholicIQ_web.pdf

As you know our parish runs on donations, contributions and offerings made through the generosity of our parishioners. If you are able to continue financial support, offerings may be mailed to SSPJ - 1 Carow Place. They may also be dropped into the mail slot at the side of the office entrance door. You may choose to sign-up with Faith Direct, there is a link on our opening webpage. The Diocese of Rockville Centre has established a Text-to-Give program as an alternative way to financially support your parish. You may choose this option for a one-time payment or set a schedule.

TEXT TO GIVE PROGRAM:
ONLINE OFFERTORY GIVING
TEXT: 148parishssphilipandjames
TO: 516-271-3338



Online Offertory Giving
Text: 148parishssphilipandjames
To: 516-271-3338

FAITH DIRECT:
GO TO SSPJ.ORG

CLICK ON THE FAITH DIRECT ICON

Creating a Faith Direct account is easy, just click on the Faith Direct logo, and use

Parish of Saints Philip and James account code

NY232 when signing up

We remain grateful for your generosity and support



flocknote

We invite ALL parishioners to join Flocknote – there is no charge to the parishioner.

This is a quick and efficient means of communication for our Pastor, Fr. Tom, and our parish staff to Get messages and updates out to you as efficiently as possible.

Your information is secure and will never be shared with anyone.

We have been trying to keep open communication via our website, our bulletin and our facebook page. This is another means of communication. We can communicate via Text messaging.

We have been using it with our Religious Ed families and can notify them (all 900 of them) within minutes of a change in schedule, a cancellation of a particular class, a friendly reminder of upcoming events or share vital information with them - All in a stroke on the keyboard.

Please text “SSPJParish” to 84576 - you will automatically be registered as an SSPJ parishioner – please follow the prompts to complete the sign-up.

During this uncertain time of COVID-19 it is important for Fr. Tom and the parish to have a quick and efficient means to communicate with you.

Thank you for your assistance



2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

So blessed we are to say, we have received pledges as of May 12, 2020 in the amount of \$81,035. toward our 2020 CMA Goal of \$111,000.

During this very difficult time, it is with great appreciation and gratitude for your sacrifices and generosity.

If you wish to donate to the Catholic Ministries Appeal:
Diocese of Rockville Centre | Catholic Ministries Appeal | 516-678-5800 ext. 296
<http://www.drvc.org/CMA>

Dear Parishioners,

Heartfelt thanks to all who are reaching out feeding our extended family...our hearts are filled with gratitude.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

Toilet Paper

Gift Cards King Kullen,
Stop & Shop

Gas Gift Cards

Any donations may be left in the Church Prayer Room or the St. Anthony's Bread Closet.

Today, May 24, marks the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical "[Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home](#)."

In a video message to all of us he said, "I renew my urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis,". "The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor cannot continue. Let's take care of creation, a gift of our good Creator God. Let's celebrate Laudato Si' Week together."



COMMON PRAYER for the 5th anniversary of **Laudato Si'**

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them.
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs
not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future
generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources
that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into
hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic.
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that
are needed in search of the common good.
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of
a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Quarantine....Sister T....Students of SSPJand A Wonderful Spiritual Journey....Song of the Seed

During this time of shelter in place the SSPJ Parish has offered it's parishioners an outstanding opportunity. In talking with Fr. Tom I shared with him an idea I had about a book I had used for my retreat and am now 'Zoom sharing' with several friends. The title of the book is The Song of the Seed by Macrina Wiederkehr.

Using the theme of the Sower and the Seed, the author helps us through Scripture and reflection questions and stories to revive a deep yearning for God in our soul. We get to reflect on the Good Seed that is deep within our soul and ready to grow.

Parishioners were encouraged to purchase the book and if they so wished gather some friends and ZOOM share their reflections. You see pictured here a group of friends and catechists who Nicole Northorn gathered to do exactly that. Thanks for taking the time to experience this valuable opportunity. If anyone else is interested in forming a group or doing it individually please feel free to email Me, Sister T at srtheresita@sspj.org

I will be happy to engage and assist you. Maybe more news next week. Keep up those positive attitudes.

Sister T



**Top left Annie Craine, Claudia Pira, Claudia Ticas & Kay Kuccia & Denise Adamko, Suzie Menzies
Bottom Row Laura Moyer, Deb Rizzo, Nicole Northorn, Linda Cervini**

Mass Intentions, For the week of May 24th, 2020

Saturday, May 23rd, 2020
5:00pm Mario Mignone

Sunday, May 24th, 2020
8:00am For the People of SSPJ
10:00am John Tramontana
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Joann Ruf
Edward John Wilko
Evelyn Eustace
John Cortese
Living~ Michael Vacirea

Monday, May 25th, 2020~St. Bede
7:30am
9:15am John Tramontana

Tuesday, Wednesday, May 26th, 2020~St. Philip Neri
7:30am Philip Alaimo, Jr.
9:15am Anthony & Hedwig Zielinski

Wednesday, May 27th, 2020~St. Augustine
7:30am Harrison Thrasher, Jr.
9:15am Rose Marie Kiernan



An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself

wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Thursday, May 28th, 2020
7:30am
9:15am Collective Mass:

Friday, May 29th, 2020
7:30am Salvatore Groe
9:15am Jack Kelly

Saturday, May 30th, 2020
9:15am Roland Guercia
5:00pm John Taratunio

Sunday, May 31st, 2020
8:00am For the People of SSPJ
10:00am John Pavelka
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Arthurs S. Moran, Sr.
The Portanova Family

Remembering in Our Prayers~

Adrian Erias
Angela Amoroso
Arthur Gureck
Anna Capizzio
Barbara Bombace
Baby Mattia Rose Lubrano
Belinda Groneman
Belinda Vega
Bob Keenan
Claudia Chandler
Daniel Radice
Deirdre W.
Diana C.
Dorothy E. Mitchell
Donalea Donach
Ellie Walsh
Frank Cotoia
Gladys Blake
Gregory Parker
Joan Kranz
Jim McLean
John DeStefano
J.C.

And for all the prayers
intentions in our hearts

Joseph S.
Joseph G.
Joyce Wiggins
Judy Contrino
Kathleen N.
Kitty Cronin
Leon Donach
Maria Clark
Marie del Cielo
Matthew Parrella
Melissa C.
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Patricia Acker
Peter Donach
P.I.
Philip G
Ricardo Buffit
Richard Cembrale
Sara Jean Andersen
Tim Cavooris
Vivien Cordes
Vicki Archdeacon
William Quinn

For our Nation in time of
crisis

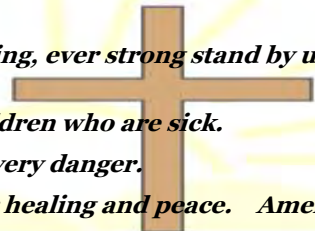
Prayer for the Sick

God of love, ever caring, ever strong stand by us in our
time of need.

Watch over your children who are sick.

Look after them in every danger.

And grant them your healing and peace. Amen





National Junior Honor Society

Apostles of Hope Chapter

May 13, 2020



Grade 8

Aidan Cazalet
Gianna Moss
Kate Nicastro
Maeve O'Connor
Daniel Regan
Emma Ryan
Ronan Shortell

Grade 7

Rylan Baxter
Victoria Caputo
Jonah Carlson
Natalie Kwee
Samuel Rennie
Katelynn Sandbichler
Matthew Williams
Elyse Vos

Grade 6

Emma Beam
Adelina Hughes
Brendan Kieran
Nicole LoCastro
Claire O'Connor



Congratulations to the students of SSPJ School who
continue to **'RISE UP'** during this difficult time.

God Bless You All!

June 7, 2020 • Holy Trinity • Year A

God Is For Everyone

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9 - Renewal of the tablets
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 - Farewell
- ▶ John 3:16-18 - Belief in the Son sent by the Father

On this feast of the Most Holy Trinity, otherwise known as Trinity Sunday, each reading points to different aspects of God's identity. The first reading recounts the glimpse of the creator God whom Moses encountered on Mount Sinai: a "merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Paul's Letter to the Corinthians reminds us of the gifts that each person of the Trinity has to offer us: "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit." In the Gospel reading, John tells us of a God who loves us so much that he allowed his Son to leave his side and come into our world to experience human life.

The Gospel passage begins with the famous verse referenced on placards in the crowds at popular sporting events: John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Martin Luther, the force behind the Protestant Reformation, called this verse "the Gospel in miniature."



Note that John's view of God's love and desire for salvation extends to the entire world. God so loved *all of humanity* that he sent his only Son, not "God so loved the Jews," or the "early Jewish-Christians," or the "Christians" who came after the Resurrection. This was



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"God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Sheepish Question:

What can I do each day to embrace God's love and understand salvation in Jesus?

a new way of thinking for many believers in Jesus' time who were locked into a mindset of an "in group" and an "out group." Even today, many religious traditions can be very exclusive. If you are in the "out group" there isn't much chance of working your way into the "in group" except through exacting work.

This passage suggests differently. God wants all people to be saved, and God will welcome all who live in the light (as John goes on to explain a few verses later). God didn't send Jesus to condemn anyone, but some people choose against Jesus and God, thereby "condemning" themselves. God doesn't act as a judge; individuals choose for themselves to accept or reject God.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What does verse 3:16 mean to you: "For God so loved the world..."?
- 2 Which way of thinking do you tend to lean toward—believing that God is our judge or that we choose our own eternal destiny by how we choose to live our lives? Please explain.

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Facing our Tough Hours

Discernment isn't an easy thing. Take this dilemma: When we find ourselves in a situation that's causing us deep interior anguish, do we walk away, assuming that the presence of such pain is an indication that this isn't the right place for us, that something's terminally wrong here? Or, like Jesus, do we accept to stay, saying to ourselves, our loved ones, and our God: "What shall I say, save me from this hour?"

At the very moment that Jesus was facing a humiliating death by crucifixion, the Gospel of John hints that he was offered an opportunity to escape. A delegation of Greeks, through the apostle Philip, offer Jesus an invitation to leave with them, to go to a group that would receive him and his message. So Jesus has a choice: Endure anguish, humiliation, and death inside his own community or abandon that community for one that will accept him. What does he do? He asks himself this question: "What shall I say, save me from this hour?"

Although this is phrased as a question, it's an answer. He is choosing to stay, to face the anguish, humiliation, and pain because he sees it as the precise fidelity he is called to within the very dynamic of the love he is preaching. He came to earth to incarnate and teach what real love is and now, when the cost of that is humiliation and interior anguish, he knows and accepts that this is what's now being asked of him. The pain is not telling him that he's doing something wrong, is at the wrong place, or that this community is not worth this suffering. To the contrary: The pain is understood to be calling him to a deeper fidelity at the very heart of his mission and vocation. Until this moment, only words were asked of him, now he is being asked to back them up in reality; he needs to swallow hard to do it.

What shall I say, save me from this hour? Do we have the wisdom and the generosity to say those words when, inside our own commitments, we are challenged to endure searing interior anguish? When Jesus asks himself this question, what he is facing is a near-perfect mirror for situations we will all find ourselves in sometimes. In most every commitment we make, if we are faithful, an hour will come when we are suffering interior anguish (and often times exterior misunderstanding as well) and are faced with a tough decision: Is this pain and misunderstanding (and even my own immaturity as I stand inside it) an indication that I'm in the wrong place, should leave, and find someone or some other community that wants me? Or, inside this interior anguish, exterior misunderstanding, and personal immaturity, am I called to say: *What shall I say, save me from this hour? This is what I'm called to! I was born for this!*

I think the question is critical because often anguishing pain can shake our commitments and tempt us to walk away from them. Marriages, consecrated religious vocations, commitments to work for justice, commitments to our church communities, and commitments to family and friends, can be abandoned on the belief that nobody is called to live inside such anguish, desolation, and misunderstanding. Indeed, today the presence of pain, desolation, and misunderstanding is generally taken as a sign to abandon a commitment and find someone else or some other group that will affirm us rather than as an indication that now, just now, in this hour, inside this particular pain and misunderstanding, we have a chance to bring a life-giving grace into this commitment.

I have seen people leave marriages, leave family, leave priesthood, leave religious life, leave their church community, leave long-cherished friendships, and leave commitments to work for justice and peace because, at a point, they experienced a lot of pain and misunderstanding. And, in many of those cases, I also saw that it was in fact a good thing. The situation they were in was not life-giving for them or for others. They needed to be saved from that "hour". In some cases though the opposite was true. They were in excruciating pain, but that pain was an invitation to a deeper, more life-giving place inside their commitment. They left, just when they should have stayed.

Granted, discernment is difficult. It's not always for lack of generosity that people walk away from a commitment. Some of the most generous and unselfish people I know have left a marriage or the priesthood or religious life or their churches. But I write this because, today, so much trusted psychological and spiritual literature does not sufficiently highlight the challenge to, like Jesus, stand inside excruciating pain and humiliating misunderstanding and instead of walking away to someone or some group that offers us the acceptance and understanding we crave, we instead accept that it is more life-giving to say: *What shall I say, save me from this hour?*

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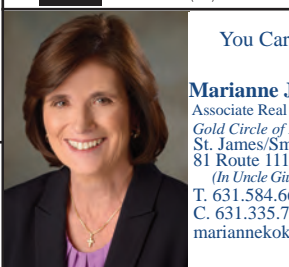
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