



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

July 14th, 2024
Fifteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time



*“Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave.
Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you,
leave there and shake the dust off your feet
in testimony against them.” Mark 6:10*

*“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-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Sean Magaldi, Pastor

Father Joe Lobo-Associate Pastor

Father Dennis Gannon-Associate Pastor

Deacon John Keenan

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

BUSINESS MANAGER

Virginia Portanova

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 631-584-3204

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 1-3

Charlotte Czujko~cczujko@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 4-6

Barbara Luna~bluna@sspj.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Grades 7-8

Dominick Avento~davento@sspj.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Margaret Adams

COORDINATOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Lynn Sisti

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Sandra Rago

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

John Cordes

SSPJ SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Diane M. Anderson

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

TRUSTEES

Brendan McGovern ~ Tina Cafaro

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Sharkey, Lou Guerra, Cynthia Lombardi, Paul Damato
Lisa Keane, Maureen Burke, Nancy Sanders, Peter Suski, Sheila Cavooris

LIVE-STREAMING THE 8:00AM SUNDAY MASS

The Sunday at 8:am is available to view on our SSPJ Church Facebook page, while it is live at the 8am mass, it can be recalled at any time.

Collections: ~

Thanking you for your generosity

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

\$16,700

Weekly Collection: Sunday, July 7th, 2024:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$10,117.

Mail Collections: \$1,955.

Faith Direct(126Participants) WEEKLY \$3,374.04.

Total Collection: \$15,446.04

FAITH DIRECT: VISIT SSPJ.ORG CLICK ON FAITH DIRECT ICON: USING
SSPJ PARISH CODE: NY232

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— Monday 1:30pm -7pm

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE FOR US IN YOUR PRAYERS



LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN
CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN
CAPT. MICHAEL T. DOLAN- JR. -D.O, US ARMY
LT. COL. JOHN KAIREZ
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
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY
MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
KYLE ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-US ARMY
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, COL.-USAF
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC
PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG
KYLE J. GRUNER -US ARMY
MARK GIORDANO—US COASTGUARD
KELLI MCLAUGHLIN— LT. US ARMY NATL.GUARD
1 LT MICHAEL J BANG—MILITARY INTELLIGENCE US ARMY
MATTHEW PATRICK GALLAGHER US ARMY
LT. COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER SHANK MD
MIDN ERIN NICASTRO, USNA
MLDN KATE NICASTRO, USNA
MAJ. BRENDAN JOHNSTON-USAF
CHRISTOPHER A. HIONIDIS-USAF
EMMETT MOLONEY -USN
HANK MOLONEY—USAF
CARL JOSEPHSON-USAF
DANIEL JOSEPHSON-USAF
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON-USAF
RICHARD WULFORST, III USA ANG

Father Sean's Letter

My Dear Friends in Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother,

I decided to enter the seminary in May of 2010. As it got closer to moving in, my friend Joe invited me to a concert at a beach. He told me it was an AC/DC cover band, and the tickets were \$50. I had seen the actual AC/DC in concert for \$90, so it wasn't worth it to me. His attempt to convince me to go was bordering on desperation. He told me a family friend would give us the "VIP treatment," whatever that meant. I didn't want to spend one of my last summer nights at an overpriced concert. My brother could see the look on my face and said, "Just go; it will be fun." Not wanting to disappoint my brother, I said fine.

The night of the concert, we pulled up to my friend's house to get him, and he invited me into the back because he had to change. As I walked into the backyard, I saw many family and friends and realized I wasn't going to a concert; I was at a surprise party, and it was for me. One of my friends even drove up from Philadelphia to be there. I'm so happy I didn't put up a fight and listened to my brother. It was a great night, and it will remain a wonderful memory.

We rarely know the specifics of God's plan for us, so we need to trust. When Philip told Nathaniel they had found the Messiah, Nathaniel responded, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip responded very simply and said, "Come and see" (Jn 1:46). Our faith journey can often be complicated. When Jesus invites us to follow Him, He doesn't outline what that means with precision. We don't know what Jesus has in store for us, but we know He won't abandon us. Jesus will be with us on the journey.

When my buddy Joe invited me to the concert, I wanted to say no with every fiber of my being, but when my brother encouraged me to go, I agreed because I trusted him. Had I not listened, they would have had to tell me it was a party, and they would have ruined a beautiful surprise. Following Jesus contains many beautiful surprises; although it can sometimes be scary, we need not be afraid. We may wonder, "Can anything good come out of this?" But we need to listen to the words of St. Philip and come and see for ourselves.

In Christ,

Fr. Sean

Mass Intentions, For the week of July 14th, 2024



We Pray for those who are ill...

*All powerful God and ever living God, the lasting health of all who believe in your, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick, restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church.
Amen*

Please contact the Office of Parish Social ministry, 631-584-5454, to include the name of a brother or sister in need of prayer

Alan Piscak

Alfred Fox

Amanda Rose Critella

Benito Fernandez

Bob Remhild & Family

Brenden Toomey

Brian Carr

Carmela Montesano

Donna Fabrizio

Ed Ceraso

Jessie Lokai

Kathleen Martin

Larry Baldwin

Mia Mednick

Patrice Henry

Peter Portanova

Tina Cafaro

Tonia Perdue

Tom Foccone

Saturday July 13th Cantor: Feeney	President: Father Gannon Lector: Franco/Merlino EM: Damato/Drechsler/ Duffy/Toto/Conti	9:15am 5:00pm	William Maccaro Robert Del Monte
Sunday July 14th Cantor: Cazzaniga	President: Father Sam Lector: Czujko/Merlino EM: Rizzo/Ramos/Sica/M&P Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor Lohmann	President: Father Sean Lector: O'Connor/Lombardi EM: Suski/Clarke/Luna/ Mulhall/Sotomayer/Keane	10:00am	Patricia Hoenig
Cantor: Stefanowski	<u>Collective Mass</u> President: Father Joe Lector: Kenton/DeRosa EM: Samson/Latino/Bleggi/ Orlando	12:00pm	John DeLorenzo Maria Fazio Msgr. D. Picciano Marie William & Lauren Csorny Aaron Brogna
Monday July 15th <i>St. Bonaventure</i>	<i>Adoration 1:30-7pm In the Church</i>	7:30am 9:15am	Steven Giacoppo William Olsen
Tuesday July 16th	<i>Our Lady of Mt. Carmel</i>	7:30am 9:15am	Anne M. Childs A Holy Soul In Purgatory
Wednesday July 17th		7:30am 9:15am	John J. Kelly Joey Morda
Thursday July 18th		7:30am 9:15am	Peter John Oliva <u>Collective Mass:</u> Anthony Hurtado & Robert Miller
Friday July 19th	<i>St. Camillus de Lellis</i>	7:30am 9:15am	Grace Caruso Mary Sposato Palamara
Saturday July 20th Cantor: McCulloh <i>St. Apollineris</i>	President: Father Bishop Peter Paul Lector: Kieran/Merlino EM: Taurassi/Mantia/ Anderson/Duffy/Urce	9:15am 5:00pm	Mario Mignone Margaret O'Brien
Sunday July 21st Cantor: Stefanowski	President: Father Sam Lector: Dervan/Sehne EM: Dervan/Diaz/Rizzo/Sica/ Tully	8:00am	For the People of SSPJ Parish
Cantor: Meringolo	President: Father Bishop Peter Paul Lector: Tomasino/Rubano EM: Amen/Parish/Clarke/ Keane/Sotomayer/McKie	10:00am	Valerie Linder
Cantor: Meringolo	<u>Collective Mass</u> President: Father Gannon Lector: Doran/Suski EM: Margaret/C&V Rubano/ Settineri	12:00pm	Kenneth Rathjen Louis Sicurella Patrick J. Kelly Claudia Chandler



We are blessed to welcome Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha, from Father's Joe's hometown, Mangalore India , on his cordial visit to SSPJ Parish next weekend, July 20th and 21st!

Let Us offer to him our warmest SSPJ WELCOME!

Most. Rev. Peter Paul Saldanha, Bishop of the Roman catholic diocese of Mangalore – India (Fr. Joe's home diocese) Bishop Salhanha will celebrate mass on Saturday, July 20th at 5pm and 10:00am mass on Sunday July 21st. We wish him a happy stay with us and a safe travel back to his Diocese.

SSPJ Prays abundant blessings in your wonderful ministry to the people of God in the diocese of Mangalore and thanks you for sharing the blessing of Father Joe with us!

We Welcome Our Newly Baptized Children and Families



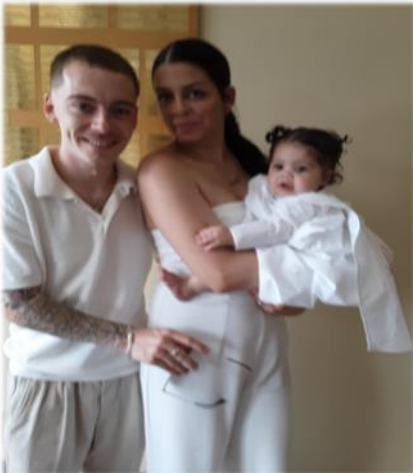
Welcome The Zisa Family
Baby Holly and Mom & Dad on
Sunday June 23rd, 2024



Welcome The Vagario Family
Baby Mariana and Mom & Dad on
Sunday , June 23rd, 2024



Welcome The Buffolino Family
Baby Chloe and Mom & Dad on
Sunday, June 23rd, 2024




Welcome to the Winters Family
Baby Brigid Michelle and Mom & Dad on July 7th, 2024





NURSERY-8TH GRADE **ST. JAMES, NEW YORK**



FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

- EXCEPTIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM
- SMALL CLASS SIZES
- INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Students Graduate With Two Regent Courses, Algebra I & Living Environment
- ACADEMY ELECTIVE PROGRAM
- AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Schedule a Tour Today With Principal Anderson & come see all the good things SSPJ has to offer!

DANDERSON@SSPJSCHOOL.NET



sspjschool.net @SSPJAcademyandSchool

(631) 584-7896 @SSPJSchool

359 CLINTON AVENUE, ST. JAMES, NY 11780



A place where students learn and grow in their faith, strive to answer their call of being an Apostles of Hope, and become active members in their faith community



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

To avoid a last-minute scramble, assembling backpacks with the students' requirements, and to enable you to take advantage of 'sales', we are beginning our school supply drive this weekend. We have children in our community in need of teacher mandated items.

If you can help, kindly take a school supply card from the baskets in the back of the church. You may return your UNWRAPPED donation, along with the card, to the parish office during the week, or items may be placed in the St. Anthony's Bread Closet, also in the back of the church.

As always, thank you for all you do to help Parish Social Ministry.



**Bulletins will be posted on the sspj.org website shortly...
On line page is under repair.**

Sister T's Reflection for Us All This Week and Always...

Dear Friends,

I spent this past week with a group of ten people who signed up for the retreat I was giving on Enders Island in Mystic CT. We were using parts of Joyce Rupp's book "The Cup of our Life". If you are not familiar with the book the cup serves as a powerful symbol representing various aspects of one's spiritual journey and inner life. We talked about the 'Open cup'; 'The Chipped Cup'; 'The Broken Cup'; 'The Cup of Compassion'; and 'The Blessing Cup'.

Under the 'The chipped cup' there was a reflection on the 'stained' cup. One of the retreatants shared with us her reflection on the 'stained' cup and it struck a chord. So, I asked permission to share it with you in my weekly reflection. Brenda Whelan RSM wrote the following that I am so privileged to share with you.

Is My Cup Stained?

How could my cup not be stained when it is only a child's cup that is empty of stain? I think it is true that the older we get, the more stains we collect. The question is, do the stains that build add to my life by way of flavor building upon flavor, or do the stains leave a bitterness of heart?

I think it can be both!

The stains that come between myself and the one that calls me Beloved are stains of bitterness that can be not only seen, but felt in the core of my being, my heart!

The stain of judgement and unrest, the stain of jealousy and greed, the stain of wanting more but not wanting to invest in it, the stain of anger and misunderstanding, the stain of giving up and not being present.

Ah, yes, being present! I have had to learn this lesson a hundred times over! This is my stain remover. Being in the now, slowly chips away at the stains in my cup and allows me to drink more fully.

Every day, I am offered a new cup. Not without flaws or cracks, but free from stain. Do I choose to accept the cup, or do I go back and pick up the old one because it is familiar?

For today, my choice is to pick up the chipped and broken cup that is stain free and calls me to be present!

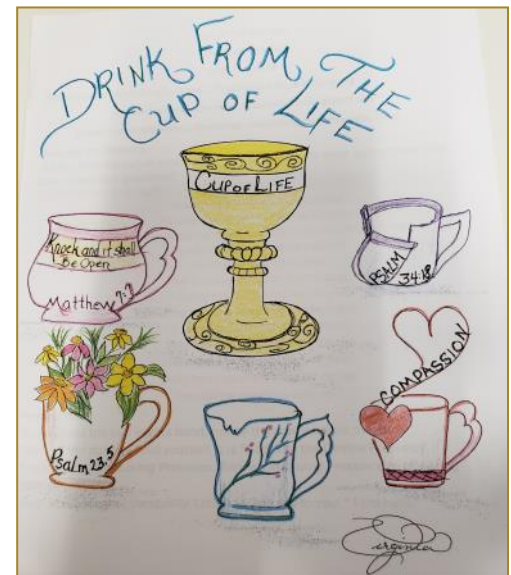
During this week, pick up your favorite cup and check to see if it is stained and if so, what are the stains?

Can the stains be removed, and how do I deal with them? If you want to pray over it more, you may want to invest in purchasing Joyce's book. May your week be filled with Cleaning up the stains of your cup and loving those that cannot be removed.

Till next week

Sister T

Illustration by none other than,
Virginia Portanova





REGISTRATION FOR OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PROGRAM FOR THE 2024/25 SEASON
WILL BEGIN ON JUNE 9, 2024

SCAN ME!

THIS YEAR, FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, ALL GRADE LEVEL REGISTRATIONS, AS WELL AS PAYMENTS, WILL BE COMPLETED / SUBMITTED ON-LINE.

Upon completion of the registration forms please click the "New" or "Renew" registration tab to submit payment via **Faith Direct**. While on-line registration is open 24/7, please direct any inquiries to the Religious Ed office during business hours.

Please note that our First Communion program is a two-year program...all first graders should register as soon as possible. First and Second Grade will continue to be taught on-site. All other grade levels will continue via Google Classroom.

Upon receipt of all completed forms and payment you will be notified of your child's(ren) placement in a class (grades 1 & 2) or access to google classroom.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Please direct any concerns to the parish office, we will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to guiding your child(ren) in developing a relationship with Jesus and understanding of our faith. Wishing you all a fun-filled summer!



The Diocese of Rockville Center is hosting its annual Camp Quo Vadis for youth in grades 8 through 12 on July 27th at St. Anthony's High School. This initiative helps high school students better understand the question, "Where are you going?" The day includes Mass with Bishop Barres, inspiring talks, lunch, games, and Holy Hour. To register for this worthy experience, please visit campquovadis.com.

FAITH SHARING GROUP!

Meets Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11 o'clock in the Philip and James room beginning July 10. For the first four weeks, they will be discussing

Matthew Kelly's book *Holy Moments*

July 17th sharing Chapter 2 of Holy Moments...

Any questions, please call the parish center office at 631-584-5454

A free community lecture **Little Talked About Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease**

**Monday, July 15, 2024
12:30 – 2 pm**

St. Charles Hospital
Wisdom Conference Center
200 Belle Terre Road
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD
Chief Mission Officer
American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA)
National Office
Staten Island, NY



A light lunch will be provided.

Registration required.
Seating limited.

To register, call the APDA
information and referral center of
Suffolk County at (631) 862-3560.

Please include your phone number
to confirm your reservation.



chsli.org/st-charles-hospital

THANKYOU MUSIC MINISTRY ENJOY THE SUMMER!

This weekend's theme is welcome in not out.

All Are Welcome, the gathering hymn tells us that we are all welcome in God's house. We need to Open Our Eyes so we can see God's face, hear his voice and live like him. This told to us by the Presentation hymn.

I would like to thank and recognize the instrumentalists and cantors who play and sing through the summer.

Cantors – Adults Teens

Barbara Meringolo
Katelyn Feeney
Jane Lohmann
Kaeley Murtha
Jeannie Hill
Madison McCulloh
Laura Lupinacci
Nicole LoCastro
Grace Cazzaniga
Lynette Stefanowski
Susan Ricci~ Flute
Tim Adams~ Guitar

These members play and sing all year long. The parish thanks them for the time, dedication and commitment they give to this ministry.

Thank You!

A graphic consisting of several horizontal brushstrokes in various colors including blue, purple, pink, red, and yellow, creating a rainbow-like effect.

Parish Social Ministry

We remember,

Josephine Costello

Safely home in the arms of Jesus



IT'S EASY TO MAKE CHANGES

Toxic Chemicals.

Most homes contain detergents, degreasers, stain removers, pesticides, and a variety of hazardous chemicals. Even when used properly, they eventually return to the environment, contaminating groundwater, lakes, and oceans. The solution is to use natural, eco-friendly products.

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE...

Would like to remind all during these very dangerously hot and humid days to please drink plenty of fluids, stay in air conditioning to keep cool. If you do not have any A/C go to the public library, the mall, or other public places. Please check in on family/neighbors especially the elderly and very young to offer help as needed.

Our Food Pantry Needs:

We are fully stocked!!

Thank you so very much!



SSPJ SENIORS

The next meeting of the Seniors will be on July 22nd from 1:30 -3:30
In the Sts. Philip & James Room.
New members are always WELCOME!
Please join us for an afternoon of faith, fun, and friendship.

Helpful Phone Numbers~ YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Dept. of Social Services: 631-854-2300
Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124
Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827
Alzheimer's Disease: 631-954-2323
American Red Cross L.I.: 516-747-3500
Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900
Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800
Brookhaven Youth Counseling: 631-451-8011
Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546
Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480
Children's Community: 631-585-2020, 631-476-9698
www.childrenscommunityhs.org
Domestic Violence Hotline (Vibes): 631-360-3607
Elder Abuse: 631-761-7470
Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547
Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542
Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758
Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030
In Home Care- Home Instead: 631-724-2273
LI Against Domestic Violence: 631-666-8833
LI Head Start: 631-732-7100
L.I. Women's Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833
Memory Care in NY: www.memorycare.com
Mental Health Emergency: 631-952-3333
Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
Nassau/Suffolk Law: 631-232-2400
National Aging in place-L.I. Chapter: 631-383-4341
National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-784-2433
Office for the Aging: 631-853-8200
Overeaters Anonymous 631-260-6615 www.SuffolkOA.org
Rachel's Hope (Post Abortion): 888-456-4673
Response Crisis Center: (Suicide Hotline): 631-751-7500
The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200



Katie's Way

Collecting new and gently used baby items and delivering them to the Life Center of Long Island. These items benefit mothers, children, and expectant mothers in need. Your donations build a community that supports mothers who choose life for their unborn children under difficult circumstances. Suggested donation items: Diapers, wipes, bottles. Gently used baby and toddler items such as car seats, high chairs, strollers, clothing, toys, etc. New baby and toddler items, including diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, clothing, etc. PLEASE DROP OFF AT: 56 TILLOTSON AVENUE, ST.JAMES, NY

**SPECIAL REQUEST: SUMMER CLOTHES
SIZE 2T-4T BOYS AND GIRLS**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

STS. PHILIP & JAMES COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN CONCERT WITH STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL PRESENT THE INAUGURAL MID-SUMMER GOLF CLASSIC

MID-SUMMER GOLF CLASSIC

JULY 17, 2024

CRAB MEADOW GOLF COURSE. NORTHPORT

REGISTRATION 12:00PM-SHOTGUN START 1:30PM

BBQ LUNCH, DINNER, BEER, WINE, *RAFFLE PRIZES*



Honorees Arthur Dunn & Jack Steele



Proceeds to benefit Sts. Philip & James Knights of Columbus Charity Outreach Efforts and Sts. Philip & James School



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Number of Players: ___ \$200.00 per person
 ___ \$ 750.00 per foursome

(Includes Driving Range, Cart, Lunch, Dinner)

Dinner only: ___ \$90 per person

SPONSORSHIPS

___ Prizes @ \$2,500 (2 Available)

___ Dinner @ \$2,000 (2 Available)

___ Lunch @ \$1,500 (2 Available)

___ Driving Range @ \$500 (2 Available)

___ Tee Signs @ \$100 each

___ Putting Green @ \$500 (2 Available)

___ Pin Flag @ \$125 (18 Available)

Sponsor Information

Please Make Checks Out To:
 Sts. Philip & James K of C Council #12839
 PO Box 201 St. James, NY 11780
 Credit Card & More Info: Scan QR Code



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT : TOM SICA (631)521-4771
 SIKACHU45@HOTMAIL.COM



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

WE ARE AT 71% OF GOAL

TOTALS RECEIVED AS OF

July 2nd, 2024

GOAL: \$102,000

PLEDGES: \$72,575. PAYMENTS: \$58,178.



Dear Friends:

As we continue to celebrate our National Eucharistic Revival, we are bringing true love into the world by sharing and supporting opportunities for the faithful to fall deeper in love with Jesus in the Eucharist and to cast nets of Eucharistic charity to all of Long Island and to the world.

In our Diocese, the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps us to cast these nets. From Elmont to Montauk, because of this Appeal, the Church is present in each community helping those in need.

Our Parish Social Ministry programs assist those in the community with basic necessities like food, clothing or just a helping hand. Catholic Charities assists our fellow Long Islanders with housing, substance abuse issues and maternity management. It supports seminarians through their discernment and formation and ensures that our young people can continue to grow in their knowledge and love of our Catholic faith.

The Catholic Church on Long Island serves the mission of the Church and the common good by assisting so many people spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

At the recent Eucharistic Pilgrimage that brought the Blessed Sacrament in a Monstrance from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine in lower Manhattan across the Brooklyn Bridge in view of the Statue of Liberty, I was inspired by the many people, a mosaic of many faces and ages, witnessing to the truths of our faith and encouraging those who are inactive in their faith to rekindle their love for the Eucharist and the Mass.

Your gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal are integral to this Eucharistic mission. If you have not done so already, I ask you to please consider making a gift to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres

Good News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 21, 2024: Jer 23:1-6 | Ps 23:1-6 | Eph 2:13-18
| Mk 6:30-34

Pray: Lord Jesus, help us prioritize prayer over activity and seek balance in our lives. Amen.

Jesus invites His disciples to rest in Him.

This Sunday's Gospel speaks volumes about Jesus' tender care of His apostles as they came bursting in from their first successful missionary excursion. After shadowing Him for so long, Jesus sent His disciples out on their own to preach, teach, heal, and drive out demons. Exhausted and full of excitement, can you imagine all the stories they had to share? Many people followed them and begged for their attention. Jesus loved the passionate hearts of His new missionaries, but He also knew what they needed most before sending them back out to serve. They needed to step away and physically and spiritually rest with Him.



This is a vital lesson for all Christians actively serving in ministry. Like the apostles, we need time with Jesus. No matter how many good works we do, loving God and others through our actions alone is not enough. We must reserve time to nurture our interior life as we seek divine union with Him. Nourishing our souls with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist also brings us oneness with the Lord. Prayer helps us remember that God is in power and control, not ourselves, and builds our trust in Him. It can be unhealthy and even

dangerous for our souls if we fail to put our relationship with Christ before everything else. We need personal, contemplative time with Jesus, the lover of our souls.

As the Holy Eucharist is the summit of our faith, our interior life – our personal relationship with God – is the foundation of our faith. It is here that we can truly know and love God. We can also share our joys, sorrows, and questions in prayer. We can ask the Holy Spirit to continue guiding and molding our hearts and actions into the same heart as Jesus. In prayer, we can sit in His presence – in praise, worship, and grace – and listen for God's Holy Will as He speaks to our hearts. This rest and renewal of our souls is like putting gas in our spiritual tanks to fuel more of God's love and action through us. We should prioritize our contemplative life – falling deeper into knowing and loving God – as this is the life we will one day enjoy in heaven. Our active life of love and service will naturally flow from this as we learn to see God more clearly in others.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What are you doing to deepen your interior life with God?
- † In what ways can too much service and not enough prayer time be a problem?
- † How can physical and spiritual rest help your relationship with God and others?

SACRED PERMISSION TO BE IN AGONY

We live this life “*mourning and weeping in a valley of tears.*” This was part of a prayer my parents prayed every day of their adult lives, as did many others in their generation. In the light of contemporary sensitivities (and one-sided spiritualities) this might sound morbid. Are we to understand our lives as time of grieving in a world that cannot deliver happiness? Is this really what God wants of us?

Taken without nuance, this can indeed be morbid. God didn’t put us into this world to suffer in order to go to heaven. No. God is a good parent. Good parents bring children into this world with the intent that they should flourish and find happiness. So why might our Christian faith ask us to understand ourselves as mourning and weeping in a valley of tears?

For my parents, that phrase brought a certain consolation, namely, that their lives didn’t have to deliver the full symphony, heaven right now. It gave them sacred permission to accept that in life there will be disappointments, suffering, poverty, sickness, loss, frustrated dreams, heartbreak, misunderstanding, and death. They never over-expected and understood that it is normal to experience pain and disappointment. Paradoxically, by accepting this limitation, they were able to give themselves permission to thoroughly enjoy life’s good moments without guilt.

My fear is that we are not equipping ourselves nor the next generation with the tools needed to undergo frustration, disappointment, and heartbreak without breaking down in faith (and sometimes too in psyche and body). Today, for the most part, our normal expectation is that we shouldn’t be finding ourselves mourning and weeping, but rather that life should be delivering a full symphony. We no longer feel that we have sacred permission to be weeping.

The spirituality we breathe in today from our churches, theologians, and spiritual writers has many strong points (just as the one my parents breathed in had its weaknesses). However, to my mind, for the most part spiritualities today do not leave sufficient space for grieving, a lacuna shared by most of the secular world.

We are not making enough space for grief, either in our churches or in our lives. We are not giving people the tools they need to handle frustration, loss, and heartbreak, nor how to grieve when they are beset by them. Outside of our funeral rituals, we make very little room for grief. Worse still, we tend to give the impression that there is something wrong in our lives if there are tears. What’s the place and value of grieving?

First, as Karl Rahner poetically explains, it is a way of accepting *that in the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we ultimately learn that here in this life there is no finished symphony.* Grieving is also, as Rachel Naomi Remen writes, a critical way of self-care. Not to grieve, she submits, is a denial of our own wholeness. *People burn out because they don’t grieve.* British novelist Anita Brookner repeats a particular refrain in several of her books. Commenting on marriage, she suggests that *the first task in a marriage is for the couple to console each other for the fact that they cannot not disappoint each other.*”

My parents had not read Karl Rahner, Rachel Naomi Remen, or Anita Brookner, but in their daily prayer they reminded themselves that in this life there is no finished symphony, that grieving is healthy self-care, and that it’s consoling to accept that neither of them could ever be quite enough for the other since only God can provide that.

What do we need to grieve? Our human condition and all that comes with it, namely, impermanence, the loss of our youth, the loss of a youthful body, wounds, betrayals, frustrated dreams, heartbreaks, the loss of loved ones, the death of our honeymoons, the perennial flow through our lives of people, places, and institutions and then disappearing, our incapacity to not be disappointing to others, the loss of our health, and our eventual deaths, that’s what we need to grieve.

And how do we grieve? Jesus left us a template for this when he grieved in the garden of Gethsemane. What did he do when, as the Gospels say, he was reduced to “sweating blood” as he faced his own imminent death? He prayed, prayed a prayer that openly and honestly expressed his agony, that recognized his distance from others inside this suffering, which acknowledged his own helplessness to do anything to change the situation, that repeatedly begged God to alter things, but that expressed a trust in God despite the present darkness. That’s the way Jesus wept.

If Jesus wept, so must we. The disciple is never superior to the master. Moreover, we can learn from Jesus that mourning and weeping in our lives do not necessarily mean that there is something wrong. It might well mean that this is where we are meant to be.

We have sacred permission to sometimes be in agony.