



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

May 5th, 2024

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

*“Jesus
said to his
disciples:
“As the
Father
loves me,
so I also
love you.
Remain in
my love”
John 15:9*



*“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-6pm

Open Thursday 9am-6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

CLERGY

Father Tom Haggerty, Pastor
Father Joe Lobo-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

Dominick Avento

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

Collections: ~

Thanking you for your generosity

Financial Support Needed weekly to meet Parish budget:

\$16,700

Weekly Collection: Sunday, April 28th, 2024:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$10,924.

Mail Collections: \$638.

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

Total Collection: \$14,936.04

**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, USN.
MAJ. BRENDAN JOHNSTON-USAF
CHRISTOPHER A. HIONIDIS-USAF
EMMETT MOLONEY -USN
HANK MOLONEY—USAF
CARL JOSEPHSON-USAF
DANIEL JOSEPHSON-USAF
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON-USAF

LIVE-STREAMING THE 8:00AM SUNDAY MASS

The Sunday mass 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.

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

*“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.
Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,
for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ
from the time you first heard it until now.
And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you,
will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”
(Philippians 1:3-6)*

St. Paul's words capture what's in my heart as I prepare myself for the next chapter of my life, retirement, which commences June 26th. It has been an honor, a joy, and a privilege to have shared faith with you over the last eleven years. You, Apostles of Hope, have brought Christ to life for me and have filled me with so many, many happy memories.

I'm happy to let you know that Bishop Barres has appointed Father Sean Magaldi as the new pastor of SSPJ. I have spoken with him, and he is VERY excited about coming here. Currently he is the Diocesan Director of Vocations and Chaplain at Stony Brook University. He's ordained 19 years which makes him younger than Father Joe! Fr. Joe will be remaining at SSPJ.

I'm excited about the many possibilities opening up for me and look forward to sharing these next two months with you. Again, I repeat, I so treasure the life we have shared together. You will always be in my prayers and in my heart. I ask you to keep me and SSPJ Parish in your prayers.

This weekend we will begin celebrating First Communions at 9:15 Saturday morning Mass. The children are encouraged to continue to wear their communion outfits to Mass during May and June. When you see a First Communicant, please be sure to congratulate them and let them know how pleased we are to welcome them to the Lord's table.

This Thursday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, a holy day of obligation. Can you imagine how Jesus' disciples felt at that time? After the devastation of his death and the joy of his resurrection, Jesus was leaving them – though he promises they will not be alone. He will be with them - and us - always, in a new and deeper way. Must have sounded strange to the disciples. Yet, such “absence and presence” is part of our human experience. Fr. Ron Rolheiser calls it “the mystery of saying good-bye”. Have you experienced “the mystery of saying good-bye”? of having to let go of one aspect of a relationship to allow new aspects to emerge? Perhaps this might be something to reflect on with Jesus this Ascension Thursday.

During May we honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus. One of Mary's many titles is Queen of Peace. Each day of May let's say an extra prayer - perhaps when praying grace - asking Mary to help us to bring peace to our world and to our families. So much violence fills our newspapers and our media. May Mary guide us to non-violent alternatives for resolving conflicts and expressing emotions.

And finally, the month of May can bring an onset of spring fever. It happened to these boys:

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, “Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper.” Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: “First Question: Which tire was flat?”

Peace,

Father Tom

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

Mass Intentions, For the week of May 5th, 2024

*All are invited
To spend quiet moments
With our Lord and Savior, Jesus
Christ
Eucharistic Adoration is held
Monday's from 1:30-7pm
In church*



We Pray for those who are ill...

Alan Piscak
Andy
Anna Capizzio
Anna Maria
Alfred Fox
Antonette Sabatino
Angie Mingione
Angela Amoroso
Arthur Gureck
Austin Rocky
Baby Ben
Baby Penny Grace
Candela
Barbara Bombace
Brian
Mattia Rose Lubrano
Barbara Sammarco
Belinda Groneman
Benito Fernandez
Betty DiSimone
Brian Carr
Bob DelCiello
Rob Remhild
Brenden Toomey
Carol
Carmela Montesano
Carolyn Nehl
Cathleen Henchey
Chase Addonizio
Christella Stewart
David Beleck
David McCue
Deirdre W.
Diane LaPorte
Donna Patrissi
Dorothy Mitchell
Ed Ceraso
Eleanor Bayley
Elizabeth Martin
Elizabeth Smith
Eileen
Emily Schiaratta
Emily Souders
Flo Donohue
Gail Lumley
Gloria Montesano
Ginny & John Rief
Gregory Parker
Helen
Harold Scott
Jack Donohue
Jakob King
Jamie Accardi
Jean Saladino
Jenny Bonanno
Jerry
Jessie Lokai
Joelle Nicholas
Joni Deleo
John Capizzio
John Cronin
John DeStefano
John Maynes
John Mattia
Joseph
Joe Benaburger

Joseph Domizzio
Judy Rampola
Joe Dorrian
Joseph Costa
Joseph Domizzio
Kaitlyn Remhild
Kathleen Draper
Kathleen N.
Kerry
Karl Walz
Kitty Cronin
Kristin Galetta
Larry Baldwin
Lauretta Prague
Laura Bode
Leon Donach
Lola Santangelo
Lori Cearney
Marjorie Fox
Mary Monte
Margaret Remhild
Mark Hildreth
Mark Wagner
Mary Ryan
Marie Feicco
Maria Clark
Maria Collaro
Marie del Ciello
Maureen Litten
Mary Ann Cesarski
Mary Beth McGovern
Matthew Parrella
Michael Fisher
Mike Lofaro
Michael
Nick Lella
Patrice Henry
Patricia Acker
Pasquale Savarese
Pat McCumber
Peter Donach
Peter Portanova
Ricardo Buffit
Rob Remhild & Family
Riordan Cavooris
Rogelio Martinez
Ronnie Paciella
Rose
Ryan Duffy
Sara Jean Andersen
Stanley Stura
Stephen Dolce
Susanne Smith
Tonia Perdue
Tara Cesarski
Teresa Mattered
Tina Cafaro
Tiffany Lochan
Thomas Liffrieri
Tom Ryan
Tom Focone
Vivien & John
Cordes
Wayne Smith Sr.

Saturday May 4th Cantor: LoCastro	<i>Presider: Father Joe Lector: DeRosa/Thompson EM: Duffy/Sisti/Anderson/ Byrne/Taurassi</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Mary Catherine Jensen Lauren Csorny</i>
Sunday May 5th Cantor: Meringolo	<i>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Sehne/Cavooris EM: Clarke/Dervan/Diaz/ Koke/LaSerra</i>	8:00am	<i>For the People of SSPJ Parish</i>
Cantor: Hill	<i>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Contrino/Baker EM: Licari/Calderone/ Consenz/Amen/Luna/ Sotomayer</i>	10:00am	<i>Harry Schrader and Sharon Dorsathe Schrader and family</i>
Cantor: Hill	<u>Collective Mass</u> <i>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Franco/Geier EM: Chilton/Napolitano/ Settineri/Stack</i>	12:00pm	<i>Msgr. Charles Guarino Msgr. Clarence Murphy Thomas O'Brien Maria Fazio</i>
Monday May 6th		7:30am 9:15am	<i>Rita Schifilliti Jacquelyn Harvey</i>
Tuesday May 7th		7:30am 9:15am	<i>Jack Steele Anthony Hurtado</i>
Wednesday May 8th		7:30am 9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Living~Emily Jensen Jack Steele Living~Desiree D. Keefe</i>
Thursday May 9th	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	7:30am 9:15am 7:00pm	<i>Martin Rizzo <u>Collective Mass:</u> Gregoria Diaz Living~Virginia Portanova</i>
Friday May 10th	<i>St. John of Avila</i>	7:30am 9:15am	<i>Joan & John Purcell Gregory Mattia</i>
Saturday May 11th Cantor: Keeney	<i>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Grimaldi/Merlino EM: Damato/Drechsler/ Duffy/Toto/Conti</i>	9:15am 5:00pm	<i>Jack Consenz Mother's Day Novena</i>
Sunday May 12th Cantor: Lohman	<i>Presider: Father Tom Lector: Czujko/Dervan EM: Rizzo/Ramos/Sica/M&P Tully</i>	8:00am	<i>For the People of SSPJ Parish</i>
Cantor: Lupinacci	<i>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Dobres/Rubano EM: Suski/Clarke/Luna/ Mulhall/Sotomayer/Keane</i>	10:00am	<i>Mother's Day Novena</i>
Cantor: Hill	<u>Collective Mass</u> <i>Presider: Father Joe Lector: Suski/Just EM: Samson/Latino/ Bleggi/Orlando</i>	12:00pm	<i>Mother's Day Novena</i>

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND ~
MAY 4TH AND MAY 5TH**



**Invest in the Future
of Our Church!**

Support Catholic education
on Long Island!

100% of your donation supports Catholic school students. Half goes directly to your local Catholic school, and half supports scholarships for students throughout Long Island attending our Catholic schools.



**SECOND COLLECTION
NEXT WEEK:
MAY 11TH & 12TH**

Next week our special collection supports the Catholic Communications Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Your support helps spread the Gospel message!

Give to the Second Collection during Mass:
Saturday, May 4th | Sunday, May 5th



**THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
CELEBRATED AT 5:00PM ON WEDNESDAY MAY 8TH
AND ON
THURSDAY, MAY 9TH
AT 7:30AM/ 9:15AM/ AND 7:00PM**



**HIS WORDS.
YOUR JOURNEY.
TOGETHER.**

"The fruitfulness of our life depends on prayer. We can ask to think like him, to act like him, to see the world and things with the eyes of Jesus. And in this way, love our brothers and sisters, starting from the poorest and those who suffer most, like he did, loving them with his heart and bringing to the world fruits of goodness, fruits of charity, fruits of peace."

Music Notes...

Happy May!

May is the month of Mary so a Mary hymn will be included in a couple of our weekend Masses. This weekend is Immaculate Mary at the Presentation. Think and pray to our Blessed Mother for peace in the world as Mary is the Queen of peace. As our Gathering hymn, All Are Welcome, states, we are all welcome in God's house. It's a house where love can dwell, prophets speak, love is found, hands will reach and all are heard.

Praise God for His many blessings



A Reflection from Sister T

Dear Friends,

May, can you believe it? There are several special days in May, Mother's Day for example. The month of May is also dedicated to Mary. During this month pray to Mary for all mothers as we are living in challenging times.

Several years ago, while living in DesPlaines, IL I attended Mass at Northwestern University (Sheil Catholic Center). As I waited for Mass to start, an elderly gentleman wheeled in his frail wife to a front pew. The gentleness and care with which he transferred her to her seat was breathtaking. Each movement was like a dance, nothing rushed, and nothing hurried, just pure gentleness. It was then I said, 'this is what Mother's Day is all about.' This man treated his wife, the mother of his children with a compassion and gentleness I had not seen for some time. The thought came to me, how do I treat others? Am I put off by their lack of keeping up, or physical handicaps? I am not always so gentle and kind. But I will tell you that I will have that image in my mind for a long time. Hopefully it will influence the way I treat people.

Turning to Mary, I want to share with you a beautiful prayer one of our sisters shared with me. I share part of it with you in the hopes that it will lead to reflection and lift your spirits. I am sorry that I don't have the author of this piece so if anyone is familiar with it please advise me. Here is the prayer:

**... In awe Mary listened, with the firm beat of her heart, she listened.
With the deep stroke of her breadth, she listened, listened for Yahweh in
stillness.**

**The Spirit streamed into her being, greeting the core of her soul.
Hearing, she stretched for the life source, embracing the quickening call.
"How is this? I know not!" she responded. Stumbling in God's desert of
time.**

**"But you speak, and all things come together. I will...as you say...LET IT
BE!"**

**Her lifetime of shadowy knowing was confirmed in the quieting joy.
Summoning cadences, ancient and deep, echoed the call of God's peace.
Mary arose and went out. Holding the knowledge of change, went out.
Accepting the newness of challenge, went out. Went out to begin the task.
In the warmth of those arms, she knew, ancient pathways opening before
her, she knew.**

**Words of her people streamed from her mouth; she knew. Available,
knowing her God lived within her**

...
May gentleness, peace and wonder fill your week as we remember and honor our mothers and Mary. To all moms Happy Mother's Day on May 12th. May Mary be your model.

Till next week, Sister T

SSPJ Youth Group Meeting

Seventh and Eighth Graders: Assemble!

We will be putting our faith in action by **assembling** hygiene kits for mothers living in a local shelter as well as sorting clothing items for veterans in need.

When: Saturday, May 11th

Time: 3:30pm-4:45pm, followed by 5:00pm Mass

Location: SSPJ School Auditorium

Please contact Sandy Rago with any questions at srago@sspj.org.

----- CUT ALONG THIS LINE -----

Please detach this page and return to SSPJ Parish or School by Thursday, May 9th.

My child _____
will be attending Youth Group on Saturday,
May 11th.

My child is in:

7th Grade

8th Grade

Please check all that apply. My child will be staying for:

Youth Group Meeting (3:30-4:45pm)

Mass (5:00pm-6:00pm)

Primary Contact

Name: _____

Mobile: _____

Home number: _____

Relation to child: _____

My child will be picked up by:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Allergies or medical concerns: _____



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 8, 2024
The Annunciation of the Lord

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We know that the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy can seem insurmountable. This is especially true when it feels like there is no support for a pregnant woman struggling to appreciate the precious gift of life she carries and may compel her towards a regrettable decision. But genuine empowerment of women comes only through recognizing the dignity of the human person at every stage of life and this is most poignantly illuminated through the blessings of motherhood.

In this, it is with great joy that I announce the **FIAT Pregnancy Support Program** at Catholic Health. This program, in partnership with the Diocese of Rockville Centre, comprises a dedicated help line designed to assist women access the **counsel, resources, and encouragement needed to choose life** when facing a pregnancy with unexpected or difficult circumstances. **The Pregnancy Support Team is available 24x7, 365 days of the year** to assist callers in accessing the services needed to help them see that every new life is a blessing, even when there are challenges.

Any expectant woman in need of help can call the FIAT Pregnancy Support Program and be confident that, **regardless of age, religion, immigration status or ability to pay**, she will receive compassionate, non-judgmental, and *life-affirming* care. Most of all, she can be assured that she will not be alone through her pregnancy, and she will not be abandoned after she delivers her child. If she is overwhelmed by an unexpected pregnancy, contemplating abortion pills on her college campus, distressed with an adverse prenatal diagnosis, experiencing a miscarriage, worried about feeding her child, regretting a past abortion or other pregnancy-related distress, FIAT is there to help her sort things out and get the care she needs. It only takes the courage of a phone call to find real hope: 631-476-LOVE (5683).

It is my prayer that the **FIAT Pregnancy Support Program** be recognized across the Diocese of Rockville Centre as the first step a woman takes when facing challenging circumstances during pregnancy. There are promotional materials available at every parish and on-line, but we ask for your help to make this resource known widely through your prayers, your witness, and your word-of-mouth, for every one of us has an important and serious responsibility to spread the Gospel of Life. Let FIAT lead the way.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre



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



Parish Social Ministry

Our Food Pantry Needs:

FULLY STOCKED
AT THE MOMENT

Thank you so very much!



Caring for Our Creation

Through climate change, humans have irrevocably upset the balance of nature – now species are undergoing the greatest extinction rate in more than 60 million years. If we don't act now, extinction may be humanity's most enduring legacy. In a future committed to protecting both wildlife and humanity, this preservation of biodiversity is one of the many solutions to the climate crisis.

SSPJ SENIOR GATHERING

Seniors will meet on May 13 in the Sts. Philip & James room. Our meetings are from 1:30 to 3:30. Please join us for an afternoon of faith, fun, and friendship.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The Respect Life Committee invites you to pray the Rosary with them for all life. We pray at 8AM weekday mornings in the Prayer Room of the church. Please join us.



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**

Are you struggling with your grief?
The road through grief has many of bumps and detours. Join our conversation as we share our stories of grief and hope. Please call the Rectory Office to register.
Meeting will be held in the Bethany Center on Thursday, May 16 at 1PM.

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

We are at 59% of Goal!

TOTALS RECEIVED AS OF

April 30th, 2024

GOAL: \$102,000

PLEDGES: \$60,865. PAYMENTS: \$42,889.



Happy Mother's Day! As we join together to celebrate the wonderful Moms in our lives, let's also take time to remember and pray for all the thousands of Moms who worry about how they are going to put food on the table for their children this week.



Please consider supporting the work of the **Catholic Ministries Appeal** so that we can continue to care for God's children and their families through our Parish Outreach programs and Catholic Charities.

Our hope is that each family will make a gift. We cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift, but after prayer and reflection, each family is invited to make a gift in response to God's generosity in their lives.

No gift is too small and all gifts make a difference in the lives of others!

For more information visit catholicministriesappeal.org

or call 516-678-5800- ext. 296 **Thank You!**

LIVING PSALM 98

Come on
and create something new,
for God does wonderful things.
God's strength provides victory.
The Victory of God is renowned.
To the nations, God's justice is known.

God recalls the covenant love
promised to Israel and to all
inhabitants of the Earth.
Get Happy, Get loud—Go ahead
and leap and sing and Dance.
Scream praises and bang drums
and rock out.

Start a beat, and clap your
hands—clap them loud for God.
The Oceans Roar with praise and
every creature under and above
her waves shout with joy.
Rivers and Mountains Shake and
Laugh with Joy

God, the God of warring angels is
coming to set this right. God will
see through every guise, the God
of Justice and Equity is coming!

—*Bec Cranford*. Living Psalms are
*psalms in the form of words and art,
reborn in the specific contexts of our
world, privileging the voices of
historically marginalized
communities and those acting in
solidarity with them*

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**ACADEMY AWARD PRODUCTION
BY THE SSPJ SCHOOL ENSEMBLE!!**

Congratulations SSPJ Drama Club on two OUTSTANDING performances of Into The Woods Jr.



A great big THANK YOU to Mrs. Falco & Mrs. Skoblicki for moderating the Drama Club and thank you to all the parents and families that supported this wonderful event.



Good News INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 | Ps
98:1-4 | 1 Jn 4:7-10 | Jn 15:9-17

Pray: My Lord and my God, abide in me, dwell in me, work with me, and love others through me so my joy will be complete. Amen.

Know Christ, Love Christ, and Love Christ in Others.

“Love one another as I have loved you,” says Jesus. At the heart of all Christian faith are the words of the apostle John, who says that God’s very being is love. “God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.” In today’s Gospel, Jesus says, “You are to love one another....it is I who chose you.”

Has God chosen us to love everyone? Some people are easy to love, especially those who act and think like us. At times, though, it can be difficult to show love towards family and friends we generally like, let alone those outside our circle of friendship. Why is this? The main reason we have trouble loving others is sin, both ours and the sin of those we are trying to love. Without the power and grace of God, we can be very selfish. Without God’s grace, it’s easier for us to love ourselves and prioritize our own time, wants, needs, and narrow-minded wills than to love others through the eyes of God, whose holy will is always in our best interest.

Jesus never promised that love would be easy. He showed love and compassion to everyone, even those who mocked and hated Him. He embodied love in all His words and deeds, showing love back to those who hurt Him and those nobody else seemed to care about. He especially loved the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded. Jesus was unafraid to show love by setting



healthy boundaries, sharing hard truths with the lost, and giving correction and forgiveness to those who repented to direct them on the right path.

God’s love is divine, and we are mere humans with too much reliance on our feelings and selfish

attitudes, so how can we possibly love everyone as God commands? God demonstrated His love for us through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, His only Son, who suffered, died, and rose again to save us. He showed us that love is a sacrifice of ourselves for others. The more we know Jesus, the more we love Him, and we will want to love Christ as reflected in the faces of others. Every time we receive Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist and we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us, Jesus strengthens us to love as He loves.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How have you experienced God’s love for you? How have you seen God’s love revealed in the lives of others?
- † How can you give the love of Christ to someone this week? How can we love others by sharing Christ’s truth and hope?
- † How does loving others fulfill our joy in the Lord?
- † How does receiving the Eucharist help us to love others better?

WHO ARE OUR REAL FAITH COMPANIONS?

I work and move within church circles and find that most of the people there are honest, committed, and for the most part radiate their faith positively. Most churchgoers aren't hypocrites. What I do find disturbing in church circles though is that many of us can be bitter, mean-spirited, and judgmental in terms of defending the very values that we hold most dear.

It was Henri Nouwen who first highlighted this, commenting with sadness that many of the bitter and ideologically driven people he knew, he had met inside of church circles and places of ministry. Within church circles, it sometimes seems, almost everyone is angry about something. Moreover, within church circles, it is all too easy to rationalize that in the name of prophecy, as a righteous passion for truth and morals.

The algebra works this way: because I am sincerely concerned about an important moral, ecclesial, or justice issue, I can excuse a certain amount of anger, elitism, and negative judgment, because I can rationalize that my cause, dogmatic or moral, is so important that it justifies my mean spirit, that is, I have a right to be cold and harsh because this is such an important truth.

And so we justify a mean spirit by giving it a prophetic cloak, believing that we are warriors for God, truth, and morals when, in fact, we are struggling equally with our own wounds, insecurities, and fears. Hence we often look at others, even whole churches made up of sincere persons trying to live the gospel, and instead of seeing brothers and sisters struggling, like us, to follow Jesus, we see "people in error", "dangerous relativists", "new age pagans", "religious flakes", and in our more generous moments, "poor misguided souls". But seldom do we look at what this kind of judgment is saying about us, about our own health of soul and our own following of Jesus.

Don't get me wrong: Truth is not relative, moral issues are important, and right truth and proper morals, like all kingdoms, are under perpetual siege and need to be defended. Not all moral judgments are created equal, and neither are all churches.

But the truth of that doesn't override everything else and give us an excuse to rationalize a mean spirit. We must defend truth, defend those who cannot defend themselves, and be faithful in the traditions of our own churches. However, right truth and right morals don't all alone make us disciples of Jesus. What does?

What makes us genuine disciples of Jesus is living inside his Spirit, the Holy Spirit, and this is not something abstract and vague. If one were searching for a single formula to determine who is Christian and who isn't, one might look at the Epistle to the Galatians, Chapter 5. In it, St. Paul tells us that we can live according to either the spirit of the flesh or of the Holy Spirit.

We live according to the spirit of the flesh when we live in bitterness, judgment of our neighbor, factionalism, and non-forgiveness. When these things characterize our lives, we shouldn't delude ourselves and think that we are living inside of the Holy Spirit.

Conversely, we live inside of the Holy Spirit when our lives are characterized by *charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, constancy, faith, gentleness, and chastity*. If these do not characterize our lives, we should not nurse the illusion that we are inside of God's Spirit, irrespective of our passion for truth, dogma, or justice.

This may be a cruel thing to say, and perhaps more cruel not to say, but I sometimes see more charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, and gentleness among persons who are Unitarian or New Age (people who are often judged by other churches as being wishy-washy and as not standing for anything) than I see among those of us who do stand so strongly for certain ecclesial and moral issues that we become mean-spirited and non-charitable inside of those convictions. Given the choice of whom I'd like as a neighbor or, more deeply, the choice of whom I might want to spend eternity with, I am sometimes conflicted about the choice. Who is my real faith companion? The mean-spirited zealot at war for Jesus or cause, or the gentler soul who is branded wishy-washy or "new age"? At the end of the day, who is living more inside the Holy Spirit?

We need, I believe, to be more self-critical vis-a-vis our anger, harsh judgments, mean-spirit, exclusiveness, and disdain for other ecclesial and moral paths. As T.S. Eliot once said: The last temptation that's the greatest treason is to do the right thing for the wrong reason. We may have truth and right morals on our side, but our anger and harsh judgments towards those who don't share our truth and morals may well have us standing outside the Father's house, like the older brother of the prodigal son, bitter both at God's mercy and at those who are, seemingly without merit, receiving it.