



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

July 7, 2024
Fourteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time



*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor."*

Luke 4:18

*"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, June 30th, 2024:

Collections from Weekend masses: \$9,061.

Mail Collections: \$1,142.

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

Total Collection: \$13,577.04

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,

Thank you all for the very warm welcome I experienced this weekend. You truly made me feel at home. In my homily, I referenced Philip and his conversation with Jesus in John 14:8. He said, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus wants to help us know His Father and the love His Father has for us. Through Jesus' death and resurrection and our baptism, we are now adopted sons and daughters of the Father. Understanding the importance of knowing God the Father enlightens us and inspires us in our spiritual journey.

It can sometimes be difficult for us to know God the Father or be close to Him. Why is that? Is it a complicated relationship with our biological father? Is it just that we live in a world where we constantly need to perform for other's approval? Maybe it combines many factors, but a solid relationship with our heavenly Father is a significant aspect of our spiritual lives.

Pope Benedict tells us, "Father- with this word I express my certainty that someone is there who hears me, who never leaves me alone, who is always present...His greatness does not overwhelm me, does not reject me as insignificant and unimportant...I am so important to him, I belong so closely to him, that I can rightly address him as 'Father.' My being born is not a mistake, then, but a grace." What the pope is telling us is that although we may have moments in our lives when we feel unlovable, or that God doesn't care about us, or even that he has abandoned us, we can reject those ideas as lies from the enemy.

The Lord calls us to start by knowing that He is a foundation on which we can build the rest of our lives. This reassurance of God's love and presence is a source of great comfort and security in our spiritual journey. Like St. Philip, we can look to Christ in prayer and ask Him to show us His Father, and that will be enough for us.

In Christ,

Fr. Sean

Mass Intentions, For the week of July 7th, 2024



**Our Bread & Wine
Are dedicated to:**

Father Tom Haggerty

**For the blessing of his
Priesthood in our parish.**

God be with you!

The O'Hara Family

**We Pray for those who are
ill...**

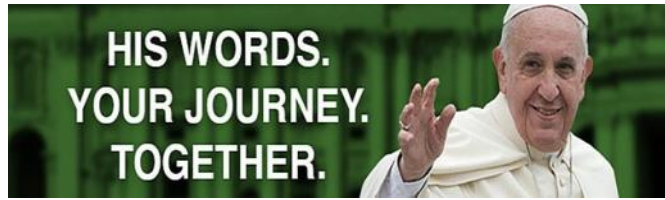
**All powerful God and ever
living God, the lasting health
of all who believe in your,
hear us as we ask your loving
help for the sick, restore their
health, that they may again
offer joyful thanks in your
church.**

**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
Amanda Rose Critella
Benito Fernandez
Bob Remhild & Family
Brenden Toomey
Brian Carr
Carmela Montesano
Donna Fabrizio
Ed Ceraso
Eric Slone
Jessie Lokai
Kathleen Martin
Larry Baldwin
Mia Mednick
Patrice Henry

Tina Cafaro

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|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Saturday July 6th Cantor: Murtha | Presider: Father Joe Lector: Dreschler/Gebbia EM: Duffy/Sisti/Anderson/ Byrne/Parish | 9:15am 5:00pm | John DeLorenzo A Holy Soul in Purgatory |
| Sunday July 7th Cantor: Hill | Presider: Father Joe Lector: Cavoris/Luna EM: Clarke/Dervan/Diaz/ Koke/LaSerra | 8:00am | For the People of SSPJ Parish |
| Cantor Hill | Presider: Father Gannon Lector: Baker/Koke EM: Rizzo/Calderone/ Consenz/Amen/Luna | 10:00am | Charles Salomon |
| Cantor: Stefanowski | <u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Sean Lector: Cullen/Latino EM: Licari/Napolitano/ Settineri/Stack | 12:00pm | Rev. William Duhigg Mary McDermotte & Joe Keane Dr. Frank Blazich |
| Monday July 8th | Adoration 1:30-7pm In the Church | 7:30am 9:15am | Jack Halligan Jack Duffy |
| Tuesday July 9th | St. Augustine | 7:30am 9:15am | Francis Holt Mark Woods |
| Wednesday July 10th | | 7:30am 9:15am | Joan & John Purcell Carol Napolitano |
| Thursday July 11th | St. Benedict Abbot | 7:30am 9:15am | Edward Balsamo Collective Mass: Patricia Brennan Patricia Crowley Living ~ Ruth Diaz |
| Friday July 12th | | 7:30am 9:15am | Patrick Kelly Patricia Thompson |
| Saturday July 13th Cantor: Feeney | Presider: Father Lector: Franco/Merlino EM: Damato/Dreschler/ Duffy/Toto/Conti | 9:15am 5:00pm | William Maccaro Robert Del Monte |
| Sunday July 14th Cantor: Cazzaniga | Presider: Father Lector: Czujko/Marino EM: Rizzo/Ramos/Sica/ M&P Tully | 8:00am | For the People of SSPJ Parish |
| Cantor: Lohmann | Presider: Father Lector: O'Connor/Lombardi EM: Suski/Clarke/Luna/ Mulhall/Sotomayer | 10:00am | Patricia Hoenig |
| Cantor: Stefanowski | <u>Collective Mass</u> Presider: Father Lector: Kenten/DeRosa EM: Samson/Latino/ Bleggi/Orlando | 12:00pm | John DeLorenzo Maria Fazio Msgr. D. Picciano Marie William & Lauren Csorny Aaron Brogna |



JULY 3RD, 2024

"As we know, Jesus came to bring the Gospel to the world, that is, the good news of God's love for each one of us. Therefore, he is telling us that the Gospel is like a fire, because it is a message that, when it erupts into history, burns the old balances of living, challenges us to come out of our individualism, challenges us to overcome selfishness, challenges us to shift from the slavery of sin and death to the new life of the Risen One, of the Risen Jesus."

MUCH APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE ANNUAL SSPJ FAMILY FESTIVAL.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SSPJ FAMILY FESTIVAL SPONSOR:

ISLAND INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

THANK YOU TO OUR RIDE SPONSORS:

Saint James Funeral Home, Inc. and the Maher family
Scott Kreppein
The Kieran family
Three Village Women's Health, PC
The Bucaro family

THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILY FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

The Taurassi Family
True Innovations, LLC
TriState Transportation Group, Inc.
The Mormile family
Miss Lora's Tots
The Todesco Family
Hurtado and Zeman families
EDDIE'S POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.
Ocean Janitorial Supply

Thank you all for making this event a success!! See you next year!

CARNIVAL

NURSERY-8TH GRADE



ST. JAMES, NEW YORK



WHY STS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL & ACADEMY?

- For over 100 years, SSPJ has offered academic excellence, which fosters individual growth and development according to time-tested, Catholic faith-based models of teaching and learning.
- SSPJ's primary commitment is to integrate the Gospel message with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of students, enabling them to become the leaders of tomorrow.
- SSPJ cultivates a robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church.
- SSPJ provides a safe and supportive community that recognizes the dignity of every person and promotes human flourishing in a familial atmosphere.

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
 (631) 584-7896

 @SSPJAcademyandSchool
 @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



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

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

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the 248th year of our independence from England I started looking up different definitions of the word **'freedom'**. As a Catholic Christian I found some definitions that referred to the teachings of Jesus Christ. In essence 'freedom' gives us the ability to choose good and live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Of course we need to be guided by a well-informed conscience.

Just as "peace is not the absence of conflict but the ability to cope with it", "true freedom is not the absence of constraints but choosing to do the right thing that helps us live in harmony with God's plan". Freedom carries along with-it responsibilities such as:

- Respecting others' Freedom
- Moral Accountability
- Personal Responsibility
- Promotion of Justice
- Self-Discipline
- Spiritual Growth

Just to name a few. Sadly, for some it can mean I can do what I want, when I want, and how I want it to be, taking no one else into consideration. This is a far cry from what freedom really is. How do I live out my freedom? Do I realize that I am free and have responsibilities? Am I willing to help others who lack freedom to obtain it? Do I respect the rights of others? Do my life choices take others into consideration?

During this week observe how you honor your freedom. Do you pray for those less fortunate? Keep in mind all those who have helped us keep our freedom, whisper a prayer for them. Have a good week.

Till next week,

Sister Theresita

Let freedom ring



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!

Will be meeting 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***

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 effect.

Parish Social Ministry

We remember,

Charles F. Ruf

Safely home in the arms of Jesus



IT'S EASY TO MAKE CHANGES

Wasting Electricity. Power plants are the biggest polluters on the planet. When we leave lights and appliances on unnecessarily, heat or cool unoccupied rooms, or fail to insulate homes and water heaters, we add to the pollution.

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

In two years, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Will we recognize our country as securing the right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness? Please pray with us as we try to protect these rights especially for the unborn and please pray the Rosary every day for all life.



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**

Our Food Pantry Needs:

**Canned Potatoes
Canned Fruit**

Thank you so very much!



SSPJ SENIORS

The next meeting of the Seniors will be on
July 8th 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



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: \$57,313.



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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

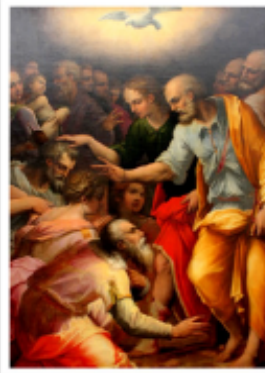
July 14, 2024: Am 7:12-15 | Ps 85:8-14
Eph 1:3-14 | Mk 6:7-13

Pray: Lord, help me surrender in trust and live out my Christian calling to do your Holy Will.

The Holy Spirit empowers Christ's disciples to carry out His mission of mercy and love.

Through baptism, Christians are called to courageously teach and share the Good News of Christ, heal the sick and suffering, and even cast away demons in the footsteps of Jesus and the first twelve apostles. The mission territory was rough for Jesus' disciples as they walked side-by-side with Him in the lead. People kept asking who this Jesus was who preached against the grain of their everyday society. It was not any easier after Christ had ascended to heaven and left them to carry on his mission. Jesus never said it would be easy for any of His disciples, but He promised to send His divine Advocate to help, and the Holy Spirit is here to help all who call upon Him.

God created each of us for a particular time, place, and purpose to fulfill tasks only we can do to make a positive, loving impact on the world. It is no coincidence that we are planted where we are today. Everyone is unique, and the Holy Spirit gives each of us gifts to help us achieve the potential God has for us to help carry out the mission we have been given. Some are responsible for big mission territories, as leaders of a large group of people or even nations. For others, the mission territory may be as small as reaching out to one person at a time who needs God's mercy and love.



Religion and cultural worldviews have vastly changed over the years. Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen saw the beginning of today's crisis in 1974 when he said, "We are at the end of Christendom." He correctly warned of the demise of political, economic, educational, and social life inspired by Christian principles. We are living in a culture throughout much of the world that glorifies freedom by ignoring natural law and discarding the teachings of Christ. We are surrounded by the disintegration of the family unit, divorce, abortion, immorality, self-centeredness, and greed. The world is begging for a savior – the very savior it seems to reject.

Remember, just as God called the apostles, He chose us for this time and this place! We did not call ourselves. God chose us and will empower us to share the wonders of His merciful love with the world around us. Just like the apostles commissioned by Christ, God gives us the grace to cure others in His name through our prayers, loving actions, kindness, encouragement, forgiveness, and second chances. Through our Christ-like love and compassion, we can even cast out demons that often take the form of fear, worry, anxiety, and guilt. The Holy Spirit is ready to help us in this new Apostolic Age of renewal.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone to help someone, and how is the Holy Spirit equipping you for this?
- † How have you felt like the apostles being sent "two by two" to carry the mission to those in need or struggling for whatever reason?
- † What is the wisdom in going two by two in ministry?

PRAYING WHEN IT SEEMS USELESS

Prayer is most needed just when it seems most useless. Michael J. Buckley, one of the major spiritual mentors in my life, wrote those words. What does he mean by them?

In the face of so many problems we can get the feeling that praying about them is useless. For example, in the face of the discouragement and helplessness we feel before some of the mega problems in our world, it is easy to feel that praying about them is useless. What will my prayer do vis-à-vis the wars raging in different parts of the world? What's the value of my prayer in the face of injustice, famine, racism, and sexism? What will my prayer do vis-à-vis the divisions and hatred now dividing our communities? It is easy to feel that praying about these situations is useless.

The same holds true about how we often feel about the value of prayer when serious illnesses beset us. Will prayer bring about a cure for someone with terminal cancer? Do we really expect a miraculous cure? Mostly, we don't, but we continue to pray despite the feeling that our prayer won't in fact change the situation. Why?

Why pray when it seems useless to do so? Theologians and spiritual writers have given us various perspectives on this which are helpful, though not adequate. Prayer, they say, is not meant to change the mind of God, but to change the mind of the person who is praying. We don't pray to put God on our side; we pray to put ourselves on God's side. As well, we have been taught that the reason it might seem that God doesn't answer our prayers is that God, like a loving parent, knows what is good for us and answers our prayers by giving us what we really need rather than what we naively want. C.S. Lewis once said that we will spend a lot of time in eternity thanking God for those prayers that God didn't answer.

All of this is true and important. God's ways are not our ways. Faith asks us to give God the space and time to be God, without having to conform to our very limited expectations and habitual impatience. We can indeed be grateful that God doesn't answer many of our prayers according to our expectations.

But still, still ... when Jesus invited us to pray, he didn't do so with a caveat: *but you need to ask for the right things if you expect me to answer your prayer.* No, he simply said: *Ask and you will receive.* He also said that *some demons are only cast out by prayer and fasting.*

So, how might the demons of violence, division, hatred, war, hunger, global warming, famine, racism, sexism, cancer, heart disease, and the like be cast out by prayer? How is prayer useful in any practical way in the face of these issues?

In brief, prayer doesn't just change the person who is praying, *it also changes the situation.* When you pray you are in fact part of the situation about which you are praying. *Sincere prayer helps you become the change you are praying to bring about.* For example, praying for peace helps you to calm your own heart and bring a more peaceful heart into the world.

While this is true, there is also a deeper reality at play. More deeply, when we pray there is something happening that goes beyond how we normally imagine the simple interplay between cause and effect. By changing ourselves we are changing the situation; yes, but in a deeper way than we normally imagine.

As Christians, we believe that we are part of a body, the Body of Christ, and that our union there with each other is more than some idealized corporate community. Rather, we are part of a living organism in which every part affects every other part, just as in a physical body. Because of this, for us, there is no such a thing as a private act – good or bad. I hesitate to suggest that this is analogous to the immune system inside the human body because this is more than an analogy. It's real, organic. Just as in a human body there is an immune system which protects the health of the overall body by killing off cells and viruses that are endangering its health, so too inside the Body of Christ. At all times, we are either healthy cells bringing strength to the immune system inside the Body of Christ or we are a virus or cancerous cell threatening its health. Praying about an issue makes a difference because it helps strengthen the immune system inside the Body of Christ – precisely as it is dealing with the issue about which we are praying. While on the surface prayer can sometimes feel useless, it is doing something vital underneath – something most needed precisely when we feel that our prayer is useless.