

May 3 – 4, 2020: Good things still happening.

One of the things that is helping me get through this current pandemic is noticing all the good things that are still happening. I thought I would spend some time in this week's article sharing some of those good things with you.

The first is our parish soup kitchen – which is still operating on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. While we cannot host and feed people in Mercy Hall as we usually do, the Soup Kitchen's dedicated volunteers have been distributing takeout food in the parking lot. As you can imagine, their efforts are very much appreciated by the local poor who rely on their services.

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Metuchen – also asked us to remind everyone that their local food pantry on South Main Street is still open. You can call ahead (908 – 859 – 5447) to check on hours. You can also make donations at their garage on Spruce Alley (#387).

Some of the Boy Scouts in our parish troop are working – online – to earn the Pope Pius XII Award. This is one of the harder Catholic Awards to earn in scouting, and I am very proud that a number of our boys are working on it. I will be meeting with them in a zoom meeting this week as part of their preparation.

Our parish prayer list is still active – and many people have added names to our list. Our secretary keeps the list up to date and makes sure I have it with me when I offer Mass privately and on line. I also make a point of including the intentions on our prayer list in my daily Rosary. Please include them in your prayers, too.

Last week I told you that May is the Month of Mary. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, issued a beautiful letter about this recently. He asked that families make a point of praying the Rosary together daily this month – or at least as often as they can. Pope Francis also asks that each family add a little prayer for the sick, those caring for them, and for an end to this pandemic to their daily prayers. Praying at home is all the more important this year, when we cannot gather for devotions like the May Crowning.

I'm sure most of you know the basics of praying the Rosary – or you can go on line and learn it quickly. It is a beautiful way to force yourself to spend time with our Lord and His Blessed Mother in prayer. On a personal note, I have found the Rosary to be very helpful to me during the current pandemic.

Also, we have begun posting the bulletin in both in English and Spanish on our website. Just go to the section marked EVENTS and scroll down to the bulletin and you can see the options. Also, when you click on any event listed in the events section, you will now have the choice of reading the information in either language. We are doing

this to keep everyone in our parish as informed as possible during this time.

Those are some of the good things going on right now – things that give us hope and lift our spirits while we wait, pray, and do what we can to help get things back to normal.

Unfortunately, there are bad things, too! Many of you may have seen the message in last week's bulletin about online scams and frauds – which have increased markedly at this time. Please be careful! Remember that I – and our parish – will never ask you for 'a favor' online or via a phone text. Any communication from us will come via the mail on regular parish stationary – or via the bulletin in Church or the parish website. If you have any doubt at all, give us a call. We take these things seriously and report any fishy stuff that comes to our attention.

Finally, one of the best things we can all do right now is pray! I continue to ask you to pray at least one Hail Mary for me each day – and thank all of those who do. I know many of you pray for me much more than that – and I appreciate it very much. Let's all be sure to add a prayer for those who are suffering – and for the end of this pandemic – to our prayers each day.

Have a great week!

Fr. John

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

April 26, 2020: \$4,719.50

Easter 2020: \$22,454.00

Holy Thursday: \$918.00

Holy Land: \$820.00

Easter Decorations: \$523.00

Retired Clergy: \$941.00

Debt Reduction: \$1650.00

Mother's Day: \$252.00

March On-Line Contributions: \$12,056.50

### **Parish Capital Campaign**

Total Pledged as of 4/3/2020 \$1,522,370.90

Total Collected as of 4/3/2020: \$1,096,299.57

*Have you considered on-line giving?*

*If interested in signing up for on-line giving, please*

*go to: <https://spsj.churchgiving.com>*

### **NURSING HOME TEAMS**

**All Care Centers are currently under quarantine. No services will be held.**

### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

The priests are offering Masses privately for all the Mass Intentions that are scheduled thru May 31st.



St. Philip & St. James School  
137 Roseberry Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 (908) 859-1244 – <http://sspjnj.org/>  
Follow us at:  
[facebook.com/sspjschool](https://facebook.com/sspjschool)

### **SAINTS UPDATE:**

Enrolling now! Sts. Philip & James School educates students as young as 2, 3, and 4 years old through grade 8. We pride ourselves on providing a safe learning environment where your student receives individualized attention from certified teachers. We have a special education program for students who need extra assistance in reading and/or math. We stay up to date with the latest technology by using Google Classroom and STREAM programming. Come discover why it is GREAT to be a Saint.

### **Referral Incentive**

We are thrilled to announce we will once again be offering a referral incentive for our current families. How does it work? Refer a family, and if that family enrolls and completes the 2020-2021 school year, your family will receive \$500 off your tuition in May of 2021. Please note only one family may receive credit for each new enrolling family. This is a great way to defer the cost.

### **Showcasing our First Responders, Healthcare Professionals, & Essential Workers**

Thank God for First Responders, Healthcare Professionals, & Essential Workers! We would like to showcase pictures of all of these great individuals that are working on the front line every day to help us through this pandemic. If you would like to share a picture of any of these outstanding people from our SSPJ school family, please send a photo to Sierra Fenton at [fenton.sierra@spsj.org](mailto:fenton.sierra@spsj.org) so that we can share them on social media and on our website. We applaud them & pray that they stay safe!

### **Saints Video Contest Winner!**

Thank you to all of the students that submitted a video for our *Why It Is Great to Be A Saint Contest*. They were all fantastic! Look for all of these videos on our school's Facebook Page and on Instagram. Congratulations to Gino Siano (Grade 1) and Charlotte Salvatore, (Pre-K2) winners of the video contest!

### **Save the Date!**

We are excited to announce that our Saints Sprint 5K run, walk, and children's fun run will take place Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration is now open on Pretzel City Sports. We will also be hosting a FREE fun run for the kids following the 5K run/walk. Following the morning's activities, we will be hosting a day long festival complete with performances by Billy Bauer Band, Jimmy and the Parrots, and more.

### **50/50 Raffle**

We were able to extend the cash raffle until October 3, 2020 (at the Saints Sprint and Octoberfest). Raffle tickets may be purchased and returned until that day! Please email Mrs. Kucinski if more raffle tickets are needed.

### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY**

Forget to bring groceries to the Food for the Needy Collection? Drop a gift card from a local grocery store into next week's collection. Mark it "Food for the Needy." Remember – "Food for the Needy" Collection - First Sunday of each month.

### **LEGION OF MARY LIBRARY**

April is the month of the Blessed Sacrament. Legion of Mary Library has a wonderful selection of books & videos for the entire family to choose from. Although the library is currently not opened, please see information on [formed.org](http://formed.org) below where similar resources can be found.

### **FORMED...A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH!**

FORMED is a collection of Catholic Bible studies, talks, movies, and other programs for people who want to learn more about their Catholic Faith. Anyone in our parish can access it by following three simple steps: (1) Google [formed.org](http://formed.org). (2) Scroll down to where it asks if your parish already subscribes and indicate yes. It will ask you to enter your parish code, which is GMKZ4Q (all capitals). (3) You will then be asked to set up your own account by establishing your own password.

### **COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?**

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with JESUS in the BLESSED SACRAMENT..." St. Padre Pio.  
Eucharistic Adoration hours currently in need: Mondays at 2pm, 3pm, & 5pm; Tuesdays at 3pm, 5pm & 10pm; Wednesdays at noon; Thursdays at 4pm & 6pm. Fridays at noon, 2pm, & 10pm; Saturdays at 8am, 9am, 10am, 3pm & 6pm; and Sundays at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm...or an hour of your choice and/or on our substitute list. Phone Camille at 908-319-2719.

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...'" (Acts 2:38)  
The word "repent" means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline, and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news-we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

### **24 HOUR PRAYER LINE**

Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a 24 hour prayer line for those who desire prayer for special needs. If you, a family member, or friend would like to be remembered in prayer for a temporary or permanent illness, please call us and leave a detailed message at 732-765-6431 or send an email to our office:  
[catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com](mailto:catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com)

## **THE PRAYER CORNER**

### **FOR THOSE INFECTED**

I never imagined that I would get this virus. I trust you, but I confess I'm afraid of the unknown. I don't know how bad my symptoms will get, and I hate knowing I might have infected other people before I knew I was sick. You are the Great Physician, and so I pray for healing. I pray I don't end up in the hospital and I pray that I didn't spread this to other people. Give me courage to face the day. Give me the self-discipline to rest and take care of my body while I'm recovering. Help me to praise you, even in this storm. Help me to glorify you with my attitude even in this trial. Help me to spread hope not fear. Remind me that while I don't know what my future holds, I know who holds my future. Amen.

### **A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the safety and health of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

### **PART TIME HELP NEEDED**

We are currently seeking part time janitorial help. Please call 908-454-0112 and speak to Cindy DePillo or Bill Casey for more information.

### **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

In Celebration of the life of Cathy Steigerwalt, we are proud to announce the opening of Cathy's Garden. This garden will be located in front of the church office. Anyone wishing to donate a single perennial flower can bring it to the church office Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> thru Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

We will plant the flowers on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> or Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>, so that the garden is ready for her first Anniversary on May 11<sup>th</sup>

## **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY/CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

The monthly Food for the Needy Collection will continue to be held the first weekend of every month. However, **please consider giving as often and as generously as you are able as the need continues to grow. Sadly, the pantry shelves are quite empty, and the need for food and personal care items is at an all-time high.**

Catholic Charities is asking everyone who donates food during this pandemic to please bring his or her donations directly to the back door of the donation center. This is located on Spruce Alley between So. Main St. and Sitgreaves Street between Stockton and Jersey Streets. Once there, you will see a white garage door with number 387 on it. To the left of the garage door there is a doorbell; ring the bell and someone will open the garage for you to leave your donation inside the garage. **Due to health department regulations, no donations are to be left at the front door of Catholic Charities at this time.**

Donations can be dropped off during Catholic Charities business hours. Please indicate that you are from St. Philip & St. James.

Also, we were asked to notify everyone that the thrift store is closed at this time and **the only donations being accepted are food and personal care items.**

If you have any questions, or to verify hours of operation, please call Catholic Charities at 908-859-5447.

Thank you for your continued generosity! God Bless.

### **MOTHER'S DAY**

Please find in the church "A Book of Mother's Prayer" and a bookmark entitled "A Mother's Day Blessing". Please feel free to pick one up and pass it along to your Mom, Grandmother, Godmother, or a friend. Along with these will be the Mother's Day Church Envelopes for your use. If you have any questions please call the church office at 908-454-0112.

### **\*WARREN COUNTY RESIDENTS, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU\***

The Food Pantry is Open & Curbside Pick-up is Available

387 South Main Street, Phillipsburg  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am - 3pm  
Friday 1pm - 3pm

Please call 908-859-5447

**Before You Plan to Arrive**

## ***DIOCESE OF METUCHEN SCAM ALERT!***

We have been alerted once again that many parishioners of the Diocese have been targeted by fraudsters and it's not just happening in New Jersey. The Diocese of Scranton, PA and the Archdiocese of Miami, FL and others also have reported the scam and the Texas attorney general issued a consumer alert about it. The alert indicates that the scammers are probably using information found on church websites or in online parish bulletins to trick parish members into parting with their cash. Fraudsters using Facebook messenger have even gone so far as to include a priest's profile picture, captured from Facebook or another online source, to make their correspondence appear more authentic.

### **Don't fall for it! Here's what to know and do:**

- First, your pastor or associate pastor will never contact a parishioner directly with an emergency request for cash or gift cards. Messages asking parishioners to help fulfill a need would come through the parish's or the diocese's official communication channels or be accomplished through a collection approved by the diocese. If you're not sure about a text or email you've received, do not engage or respond and call your parish office right away to notify a staff member. In addition, please note that neither your parish nor the diocese will ever sell or give away parishioner's personal information.
- Oftentimes with text messages, a scam can be identified by looking at the phone number.
- If you are contacted by a scammer, report it to your parish. If you can, capture screen shots of the correspondence on your phone or laptop and email those to the parish. File a report through the Federal Trade Commission's Complaint Assistant which helps the FTC detect patterns of fraud and abuse.
- If you suspect that your Facebook account has been hacked, CBS News offers these tips on how to tell if your account's been hacked and what to do about it, and Facebook offers these action steps for hacked and fake accounts.

### **Other resources for reporting fraud and scams**

How to report things on Facebook

Scams and Safety (FBI)

5 Signs of a Scam (from the Texas Attorney General's Office)

**If you spot any of these tactics, stop and walk away. You're probably being scammed.**

### **They contacted you**

When you contact a business, you know who's on the other end of the line. But when someone contacts you first, you can't be certain they're telling the truth. You don't know if they are whom they say they are. And remember, email addresses and caller ID information can be faked.

### **They dangle bait – usually money**

Let's face it: People simply don't give away large sums of money easily. If someone dangles bait in front of you—a big prize, a shopping spree, an easy loan-for nothing, they're probably lying.

### **They want your personal information**

Anytime anyone asks for your personal information—bank accounts, social security number etc. - you should be on alert. Don't give it away quickly or easily, especially to someone you don't know. You may become a victim of identity theft.

### **You have to pay them first**

If someone offers you a prize, debt relief, or employment – but first you have to pay an upfront fee to get it—you're probably being scammed.

### **You have to wire money or send gift cards**

If you're about to wire money or send gift cards to someone in order to receive a prize, or pay off a debt collector that contacts you...STOP! This may be a scammer trying to take your money.

### **Additional resources**

Scammers pose as pastors in email, ask faithful to buy gift cards (National Catholic Reporter, May 2019)

Do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Be assured of our prayer and support.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano

Episcopal Vicar for Administration

**+ MASSES FOR THE WEEK +**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3**

7:00 – Clarence Dalrymple by Carol, Vic, Melissa  
9:00 – Rustay Family by Ann Nicolosi-Foose  
11:00 – Charlene Jiorle by Dave Jiorle  
1:00 (SP) – For the People  
5:30pm – Robert Volk by Scott, Colleen & Jack Sordoal

**MONDAY, MAY 4**

6:45 – Kathryn Finlan by Paul & Donna Kucinski  
8:00 – Augusta & Stella Pasquini children, nephew & Grandsons by Jean Pasquini  
12:10 – Anne Harrison  
7:00pm – Mass Association Intentions

**TUESDAY, MAY 5**

6:45 – Marion Rafferty by LouAnn Natoli  
8:00 – Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kupcha by Granddaughters  
12:10pm – Greg Sharkey by Socci Family

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

6:45 – Grace M. Young by Family  
8:00 – Elaine Mulrine by Merrie Mulrine  
12:10 – Mike Smith by Mike Smith

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

6:45 – Richard Kirvy by Verdon Family  
8:00 – Margaret T. Brogan by Mary Brogan  
12:10 – Claudio Pengue by DePillo Family

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

6:45 – Jennie & Anthony Bladies & Sons  
8:00 – Deceased members of the O'Donnell Family by Family of Bud Lilly  
12:10 – Nicolas Reda, Jr. by Leone Family

**SATURDAY, MAY 9**

8:00 – Frank & Virginia Rossnagle by Patrick Rossnagle, Son  
4:30 – Alayna Smulick by Family

**SUNDAY, MAY 10**

7:00 – Julia Mudden by Family  
9:00 – Angelo & Helen Nicolosi by Ann Nicolosi-Foose  
11:00 – Mother's Day Novena  
1:00 (SP) – For the People  
5:30 – Ann Nehila by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hassick, Fr. & Judith Hassick

**+ MASS ASSOCIATION INTENTIONS +**

**MONDAY, MAY 4 7:00pm**

Rose Gammino by Rosalie & John Spiller  
Rosemarie Shakal by Family  
Anthony "Tony" Stefano by Bess Boos  
Joseph Merlo by Staff of Phillipsburg Pharmacy  
Reenie Miller by Debbie & Joe Stefano  
Donna Fleming by Debbie & Joe Stefano  
Anna Marie Cervasi by Debbie & Joe Stefano  
Deceased members of the Loiacono Family  
William Roth by Dolly & Tony Loiacono  
Anthony Celia by Dolly & Tony Loiacono  
Deceased members of the Simonetta Family by Dolly & Tony Loiacono

**St. Philip & St. James Church  
Prayer Intentions**

Prayer is needed now more than ever. Let us know how we can pray for you today. Your intentions will be lifted up in prayer by our religious as we face these uncertain times.

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Please submit your prayer intention(s) in a few brief sentences and email them to [secretary@spsj.org](mailto:secretary@spsj.org) or mail them to St. Philip & St. James Church, 430 So. Main St., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 and mark the envelope as "Prayer Intentions."

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6**