

August 8 – 9, 2020 The Year of Doing Things Differently!

In a year when it seems we have done just about everything differently than usual – for good reason—it makes sense that we had to do the Mission Co–op Appeal differently, too. As our priests mentioned at Mass last weekend, our scheduled missionary—Fr. John Tigatiga—could not be with us. He and I spoke early last week and decided it would be best if he did not travel to our parish at this time. I did invite him to come and visit us at some later date when things get back to normal.

That said, I want to thank everyone who supported this year’s Mission Co–op Appeal. Many of you sent in envelopes ahead of time or gave online—and many others took advantage of the boxes in the Church last Sunday. Thanks—one and all—for your usual generous support of the missions. The overall amount collected will be posted and updated elsewhere in the bulletin.

Speaking of missionaries, one way that many of you have shared the faith with others is by referring them to the RCIA. As most of you know, RCIA is the process by which prospective converts enter the Catholic Church. It is a series of meetings and presentations—accompanied by prayer and liturgical rites—that educate people about the Faith and help them prepare to be Baptized or received into the Church. It is also suitable for adults who were Baptized as infants—but never received Confirmation or First Holy Communion.

A couple of people have asked me if we will have RCIA this year—and the answer is absolutely YES! We will start in early October and have meetings—with proper distancing, etc.—for those who wish to come. Deacon Rob—who is part of our RCIA team—has offered to do zoom or virtual presentations for those who feel more comfortable attending from home. He will even help you learn how to do this (I hope he can help me with it, too!).

Indeed, I always look forward to RCIA. In fact, some of last year’s participants – who could not be Baptized this past Easter—will be Baptized and/or Confirmed at upcoming Sunday Masses. Just one more thing we are doing differently this year!

Here’s another thing we are going to do a bit differently. Rather than the usual coffee and donuts after Mass routine, Fr. Wojciech will say a few words at each Mass the weekend of August 22–23. It will be his way of saying good bye—at least for now. After speaking about this together—and considering a couple of options—he and I concluded this would be the safest thing to do right now.

I made him promise that he will come back to visit us for Penance Services during Lent and Advent—as do many of our former priests. I am sure we could also invite him for some other parish activities—once things get back to

normal. Again, just another thing we will do differently this year!

My personal suggestion is that people who want to wish Fr. Wojciech well can write him a personal note. You can send these to him directly—or to the parish office. We will be happy to forward them to him.

Many of you know that this coming Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, is the Solemn Feast of the Assumption. While normally a Holy Day of Obligation, it is not observed as such this year since it falls on a Saturday. This stems from a decision by the Bishops of our country to dispense us from attending Mass on most Holy Days that fall on a Saturday or Monday. It is a bit of a moot point this year since we are currently dispensed from Mass due to the pandemic.

Of course, it would be a good idea to honor our Blessed Mother this Saturday just the same. Those who are able to do so could attend the Daily Mass at 8 AM that day—which will be the Mass of the Assumption. Others could pray a Rosary, or some prayer in honor of our Blessed Mother. You could also spend some time reading and meditating on a Gospel story about Mary (I might suggest John 2:1–11 or Luke 1:26–45)—asking God what you can learn from her. Any of these would be good ways to honor our Blessed Mother as we celebrate her assumption into Heaven.

In the meantime, please keep me in your prayers—at least one Hail Mary a day. Let’s also pray for Fr. Wojciech as he prepares to move, and for our new priest—whoever he is! Let’s keep praying for the sick, those caring for them, and for peace.

Have a great week!

Fr. John

### ***THE PRAYER CORNER***

#### ***A PRAYER FOR THE FRUSTRATED***

Lord, I am so frustrated. I want to make sure I have what my family needs during this time. I see people not taking this pandemic seriously, and I see other people hoarding supplies so that others can’t get what they need. Help me with my attitude towards these people. Help me to hold my tongue on social media, to be a light and an encourager, not a sharp tongued slanderer. Remind me that we all want to keep our families safe, and we all react differently to fear. Remind me to pray for those who are causing frustration, not to be angry with them. Help me to be an example by following the guidelines set forth by our authorities, and by putting the needs of others before my own by offering to help my neighbors if they are in need. Amen.

## **WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!**

Last weekend we welcomed into the Parish Family, through the Sacrament of Baptism, Andrew Arteaga-Fuentef son of Mr. & Mrs. Jaime Arteaga Salomon.



St. Philip & St. James School  
137 Roseberry Street  
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Follow us at:  
[facebook.com/sspjschool](https://www.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.

### **SCHOOL OPENING INFORMATION!**

As parents know what is best for their own children, Saints Philip and James is happy to offer families two educational options for Catholic education, as we begin the 2020-2021 school year on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Families may prayerfully choose the best option for their children. This comprehensive plan will be-in-effect for the first marking period and will be reevaluated regularly and adjusted when necessary. Families may choose the 5 day in person option or the 5 day virtual learning option. Please contact Mrs. Kucinski @ [Kucinski.donna@spsj.org](mailto:Kucinski.donna@spsj.org) for your selection.

### **TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR!**

Visit [sspjnj.org](http://sspjnj.org) and click on Virtual Open House to tour Saints Philip & James School. Interested in further discussing your student's education? We are now offering Zoom meetings to learn more about our school. Please contact Mrs. Kucinski at [Kucinski.donna@spsj.org](mailto:Kucinski.donna@spsj.org) to schedule your meeting.

### **SCRIP!**

Scrip is still for sale! Looking for a way to effortlessly support the school while doing your everyday shopping? Purchasing SCRIP gift cards, at no additional cost to you, the school receives a percentage of funds back. To learn more, contact Diane Charnak at [charnak.diane@spsj.org](mailto:charnak.diane@spsj.org). She can assist you with getting your SCRIP account set up. Gift cards are available for hundreds of stores, and can even be purchased on your phone.

## **CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

I am happy to announce that the Reverend Mr. David Edward Keyes, who has served in our parish, has been called by the Most Reverend James F. Checchio, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, to the Order of Priesthood. He will be ordained on Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 10:30am at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. Please keep him in your prayers.

### **CONFIRMATION PICTURES:**

Confirmation pictures are ready for pickup at the Church Office. Please stop by during normal business hours to pick them up.

### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY**

August's needs are: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, tuna fish, canned soups, canned meat, canned fruit, toothpaste, soap, laundry detergent and deodorant. Life Choices is in need of diapers, formula, and children's items. Perishable items should not be left at the Church, but they can be dropped off at the Food Pantry, Monday-Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm. If you would like to make a monetary donation please place it in an envelope and mark it "Food for the Needy" and place in the collection basket or mail it to the church office 430 So. Main St. Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

### **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, Thursday 10am - 3pm Friday 1pm - 3pm. Please call 908-859-5447 before you plan to arrive.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Volunteers are vital to the ministry of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen as they continue to offer assistance and create hope for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Social Service Center, 387 So. Main St., Phillipsburg is seeking volunteers to be salespersons in the Thrift Store. The main components of the job description include service to customers and sorting and arranging donated items for sale. Help is needed Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 4pm. The day and time you are able to serve as a Thrift Store Volunteer are flexible. Safety precautions recommended by NK and the CDC for retail businesses have been implemented for the Thrift Store. Please call 908-859-5447, if you require more information or wish an application.

### ***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.

### ***SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS***

“He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.” (Matthew 14:29)

When you hear Jesus calling, do you respond immediately and trust that He knows what He’s doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say “yes” to Jesus, we feel the power of His presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen to how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has intended for you.

### ***FIRST COMMUNION***

First Communion Parents, please remember to call the church office to schedule your child’s First Communion.

### ***FOOD FOR THE NEEDY***

“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9) *Remember – “Food for the Needy” Collection - First Sunday of each month.*

### ***LEGION OF MARY LIBRARY***

July is the month of the Precious Blood. 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 where similar resources can be found.

### ***PRAY THE ROSARY FOR PEACE***

At Fatima during the First World War, Our Blessed Mother said that through the Rosary & Scapular, She will save the world. Remember to keep praying the Rosary every day, especially at this time when there is so much unrest in the world. Even if you can only say a decade (10 Hail Mary’s & 1 Our Father), in 5 days you will have said a whole Rosary. For Rosary meditations, go to: <http://www.how-to-pray-the-rosary-everyday.com/meditations-on-the-rosary.html> or <https://catholicexchange.com/rosary-meditations-for-prayer-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

### ***WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE LATELY?***

You are invited to a virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience....

#### ***RESTORE REKINDLE RENEW***

Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight evening sessions presented on Monday and Thursdays from August 31 to September 24 (due to Labor Day, one session will be on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>). The only requirement is a computer, iPad or table with access to the internet. No prior knowledge of Zoom is necessary. Workbooks and hand-outs will be sent to you before the start of the series. Married couples, priests and religious can register for this program at [aweekendforyourmarriage.org](http://aweekendforyourmarriage.org) or by calling Tom & Ruth DeFalco at 732-904-9636. A \$50 application fee covers most of the cost, however, you will be invited to make a good faith offering at the end of the program. The fee will be waived for anyone with financial strains.

### ***ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL***

The AQUINAS Start Committee of St. Thomas Aquinas High School is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School for Rocco DiMaggio. The directives for safety and social distancing regarding COVID-19, dictate that the dinner will be TAKE OUT ONLY AND NON-CONTACT PICK UP. The dinner servings begin at 4:30pm and continue until 6:30pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and \$4 for children under 12. The STA Aquinas Star Committee is proud to announce that Rocco DeMagio is the 2020-2021 Aquinas Star. Rocco DiMaggio is 3 years old and has been diagnosed with Advanced Stage 4 High Risk Neuroblastoma. He lives in Staten Island, NY with his brother Carmine (10 months old) and his dad and mom, Rocco and Gabriella. Rocco is the cousin of alumni Amanda Montali-Nortesano '98. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 732-321-8815.

**+ MASSES FOR THE WEEK +**

**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**

7:00 – Carl & Rita Tarpey Allspaw by Patricia Mazza  
9:00 – Angelo & Helen Nicolosi by Ann Nicolosi-Foose  
11:00 - Mary & Thomas Carroll (A) by Speer Family  
1:00 (SP) – For the People of the Parish  
5:30pm – Frank Gasparovic by Ayala Family

**MONDAY, AUG. 10**

6:45 – \*Sp. Int. Martha Richline by Pat & Millie  
8:00 – John & Ruth Tolotta by Frank & Grace Stettner  
12:10 – Dominic Bronico by Graziosi family  
7:00pm – Mass Association

**TUESDAY, AUG. 11**

6:45 – \*Sp. Int. Ann Foose by Pat Verdon  
8:00 – Edwin Vega by Wife & Family  
12:10pm – Anne Harrison by Mary Duaime

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12**

6:45 – Patrick Sweeney by Michael Sweeney  
8:00 – Ron Allenbach by George & Charolette Gazzana  
12:10pm – Elfrieda Pergosky by Fran & Tom Bronico

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**

6:45 – Rose Viscomi Heater by Honey Bladies  
8:00 – Eugene Woolley by JoAnne Woolley  
12:10 – Grace D'Urso by Fr. John Barbella

**FRIDAY, AUG. 14**

6:45 – Joanna Malopolska by Family  
8:00 – Deceased members of the Bronico family by Tom & Fran  
12:10 – John J. Natisin, Sr. by Wife

**SATURDAY, AUG. 15**

8:00 – Valerie Marie Bates (A) by Mother Camille  
4:30 – John Mitzak by Karen & John Mitzak

**SUNDAY, AUG. 16**

7:00 – Joseph Varga by Family  
9:00 – Jack & Ann Nehila by Gino Angelozzi  
11:00 – John Titolo by Camille & Frank Rapinesi  
1:00 (SP) – For the People of the Parish  
5:30 – Dr. Nicola Aversa & Rosita Aversa by Gomes Aversa family

**+ MASS ASSOCIATION INTENTIONS +**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 10 7:00pm**

Josie Bacskai by JoAnn Harrison  
Catherine Savin by Anthony & Mary Celia  
Anna & Tom Shaneberger by Terri & Danny Starosciak  
Gail & Bob Reilly by Terri & Danny Starosciak  
Joseph & Elanor Zemba by Terri & Danny Starosciak  
Noreen Lorenzo by Edward & Frances McDevitt  
Neil Louis Hoefling by Lynn Hernandez  
Charlene Hummel by Rosemay & Brian Patti  
Jerry Clymer by the McBride Family  
Charlene Hummel by Dolly & Tony

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**Aug. 15 and Aug. 16**

**Saturday, August 15**

|               |                 |                        |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>4:30pm</b> | <b>Lector</b>   | <b>Lisa DeGerolamo</b> |
|               | <b>Minister</b> | <b>Melody Talpas</b>   |

**Sunday, August 16**

|                |                 |                           |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>7:00am</b>  | <b>Lector</b>   | <b>Lucas Anmolsingh</b>   |
| <b>9:00am</b>  | <b>Lector</b>   | <b>Henrietta Schupper</b> |
|                | <b>Minister</b> | <b>Fran Ludwig</b>        |
| <b>11:00am</b> | <b>Lector</b>   | <b>Denise Kassick</b>     |
|                | <b>Minister</b> | <b>Kevin Kassick</b>      |
| <b>5:30pm</b>  | <b>Lector</b>   | <b>Kathy Fulse</b>        |

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Aug. 2, 2020: \$ 6,899.00  
Mission Co-op - \$1,370.00  
July Online Contributions: \$14,226.50

**Parish Capital Campaign**

Total Pledged as of 6/5/2020 \$1,522,431.22  
Total Collected as of 6/5/2020: \$1,150,686.74  
*Have you considered online giving?*  
*If interested in signing up for online giving, please go to: <https://spsj.churchgiving.com>*

**NURSING HOME TEAMS**

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

**Mass Celebrants for Aug. 15 and Aug. 16**

**4:30pm – Fr. John**  
**7:00am – Fr. John**  
**9:00am – Fr. Pat**  
**11:00am – Fr. Pat**  
**1:00pm – Fr. Wojciech**  
**5:30pm – Fr. Wojciech**