



**FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**
February 5, 2023

Monday, February 6

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, February 7

12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate
Preceded by Holy Hour at 11:00 am

Wednesday, February 8

12:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Bill Allard

Thursday, February 9

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Sayward Family
by Carolyn, Jane & Nick

Friday, February 10 – St. Scholastica, Virgin

12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Saturday, February 11

4:30pm (SE) - Colleen Bryant by Nancy & Paul Kullman

Sunday, February 12

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo
10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers
by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of February 6

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2, 27-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday: Sir15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



St Philip of Jesus parish hall
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass
All are welcome
Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar
February 26 - Lent
March 26 - Easter

SANCTUARY CANDLE
February 5—February 11, 2023



St. Elizabeth's Church
**For the protection of preborn
and vulnerable**

by Mr & Mrs Harold Bean

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 28
Envelopes: \$667.25; Plate: \$61.00
Total: \$728.25
Respect Life Collection: \$10.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 29
Envelopes: \$595.00; Plate: \$63.00
Total: \$658.00
Respect Life Collection: \$10.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 40
Envelopes: \$675.00; Plate: \$119.00
Fuel: \$100.00
Total: \$894.00

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The monthly fuel collection will take place next weekend.
Thank you in advance for your anticipated generosity.

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Today's readings remind me of Pope Francis. Our faith isn't just rituals done right and staying in our comfort zone. Our faith and worship must lead us out to others and reach out to the poor, the hungry, those who are on the margins. It is our good deeds done out of love for God that others will see, leading them to glorify our heavenly Father. We are called to *be salt of the earth and the light of the world*, but that means we must *go out* to the world and not hide our faith from others. (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)



LENTEN ACTIVITIES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH

LENTEN BOOK GROUP

The Art of Living
The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love
by Edward Sri

When: Every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass starting February 26, 2023

Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

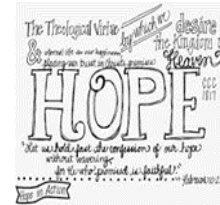
1st Sunday we'll start with- Part One: Virtue & Friendship
** Please pick up a FREE Copy at any of our parish churches

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass. We have a great lineup of movies scheduled. **Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.** More details to follow in the coming weeks.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Hope is the second in the list of three Theological virtues. The secular definition of hope is more synonymous with wish – “I hope you have a good day” – but that is not how Christians understand it. Hope is the virtue by which we desire and seek our ultimate good and happiness which is eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. When everything else is going wrong all around us on Earth, it is hope that keeps us focused on the eternal goal beyond this life. It enables us to trust in all of Christ's promises. As we work to perfect our lives in holiness as He directed us, we do so because of the virtue of hope which promises us there is something better ahead for us. It is the virtue of hope that propels us in our practice of fortitude as we persevere through the obstacles and trials in living out our Christian faith. Hope gives us the ability to do God's will even when it is hard because we know we will be rewarded for doing so. When circumstances or sufferings tempt us toward despair, it is the virtue of hope that fights against our temptation. We were not made to suffer or despair because those are not of God or His goodness. So, hope changes us and gives us a new perspective. Our end is not here on this earth but is, instead in heaven where there is no suffering or despair. It is a perfection of the virtue of hope which caused the Saints to express sheer joy amidst their sufferings and it is what we are called to as well. Let our Hope rekindle our Faith and lead us to Charity.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

REMINDER...

Envelopes: May I kindly request all who are using our parish regular weekend envelopes to use the envelopes that are placed on your pews or at the back of the Church **until March**. Please feel free to take as many as you want and please don't worry about your number. Just be kind enough to write your name on it and the office will take care of it. Thank you for your understanding and support towards the parish.

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.
Body of Christ, save us.
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.
O good Jesus, hear us.
Within your wounds, hide us.
Let us never be separated from you.
From the malignant enemy, defend us.
In the hour of our death, call us,
And bid us come to you,
That with your saints we may praise you
Forever and ever. Amen.

WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE?

(By Peggy Webber)

What would you take from your home if you had only a few minutes and no guarantee of returning? I posed that question in my book *Enough as you are*, as a talking point for a chapter on what matters in life and how sometimes we get consumed with material things. When I answered my own question, I began to realize that a lot of things are just that—things. However, some “stuff” does matter. When I pose the question, most people say they would grab religious statues, photographs, or valuable documents. Well, that is the whole idea—figuring out what matters, what lasts, in the midst of all the stuff. One thing I would grab would be a small, Waterford crystal baseball. Perhaps you are rolling your eyes right now. You might think, “Of all the things to grab, why would you take an easily breakable piece of glass?” But the more I held it and looked at it, I realized that it meant so much more than a shiny object. My children and husband purchased it for me at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. It was a wonderful family trip, and we still laugh about the quirky motel and the foggy ride in upstate New York. The baseball is also a symbol of our family's love for the game of baseball. More importantly, it has the logo of the Boston Red Sox etched into the ball. Now, this was given to me almost a decade before the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004. So, this ball meant loyalty to a team that had not won in more than 80 years. And if that were not enough, this ball was made from Waterford crystal. It was from Ireland, the home of all of my ancestors. It represented the legacy of my grandfather, who arrived at Ellis Island at the turn of the 20th century with \$10 in his pocket. This ball was an homage to my grandmother, who had lost both her parents by the time she was 20. She worked as domestic help, saved for her fare to America, and then managed, through the years, to bring all seven of her younger brothers and sisters to the States. The ball means family, loyalty, and perseverance. I know it is just a piece of glass. But for me it is a great reminder of so many good things in my life.

Take a look around your house. Ask yourself:

- ◆ What would you take (one thing) if you had to leave your house?
- ◆ Why does the item you hold mean to you?
- ◆ What qualities does it represent?
- ◆ Have you lost focus on what is important?
- ◆ How can you see things each day with a renewed vision of what matters?

And if you really have to get out, then just run. The gift of your **LIFE** is the best “**thing**” of all. After all through our life we glorify God, who is the source of all “Life.”

Things to Ponder.....

**Speak only with good purpose...
...and think before you speak.**





SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 12, 2023

Monday, February 13

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, February 14

Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop

12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate

Preceded by Holy Hour at 11:00 am

Wednesday, February 15

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the McGlinchy &
Reiss Families by Peter McGlinchy

Thursday, February 16

12:00pm (SPJ) - Finn Jaquish by Jack & Judy Hamms &
Patti Jaquish Benway

Friday, February 17

12:00pm (SPN) - Jim Dawson by the Hoskins Family

Saturday, February 18

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

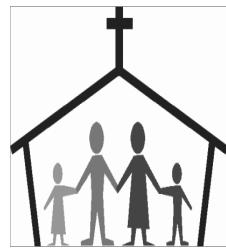
Sunday, February 19

8:30am (SPN) - Russell Paquette by Chris & Mark Carpenter
10:30am (SPJ) - Richard Sheehan by Peg & Connor Sheehan

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of February 13

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1, 8, 16-17, 2021/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-23, 29/Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-15/Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday: Heb 11:1-7/Ps 145:2-5, 10-11/Mk 9:2-13
Next Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

St Philip of Jesus parish hall
Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass

All are welcome

Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

February 26 - Lent
March 26 - Easter

U.S. SISTERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



February 8, the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a slave turned saint is also an International Day of Prayer and a call to an awareness of global trafficking.



Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 28
Envelopes: \$471.25; Plate: \$98.00
Total: \$569.25

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 22
Envelopes: \$310.00; Plate: \$450.00
Fuel: \$10.00
Total: \$770.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 40
Envelopes: \$1,645.00; Plate: \$258.00
Total: \$1,903.00

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10
Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Today's gospel speaks about not just external observance of the law, but also about conforming our interior lives to God's will. It is easy to put on a good show so that from the outside we look like good Christians. Faith should not be reduced to just an empty routine. Can we truly worship God and be in communion with him when we look down on those He loves as not good enough or not worthy? We are called to conform our heart and will to his and to love all whom he loves... Is there someone with whom you need to reconcile? (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)



LENTEN ACTIVITIES ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH

LENTEN BOOK GROUP

The Art of Living
The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love
by Edward Sri

When: Every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass starting February 26, 2023

Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

1st Sunday we'll start with- Part One:

Virtue & Friendship

** Please pick up a FREE Copy at any of our parish churches

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass starting February 23rd. We have a great lineup of movies scheduled. **Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.** More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Things to Ponder.....

Try to make someone happy...

...each and every day!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Charity, or Love, is the third Theological virtue that allows us to fulfill the two greatest commandments revealed by Jesus. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments," Charity is the highest virtue because any other virtue that you exhibit is necessarily driven by charity, either toward God or toward your neighbor. Authentic love is to recognize God's love for you and all of His creation and to reflect that love back into the world. It is to honor everyone and everything as He does. Jesus crucified is the perfect example of this authentic love and whenever we have any questions about how to act in charity, all we need to do is gaze upon a crucifix. Jesus put our ultimate well-being ahead of his own immediate well-being, suffering so that we might be saved from our own sins. Choosing charity and love when it is difficult or undeserved is what we are called to do in the practice of this virtue and, while extremely fruitful, it is often difficult when done correctly. Knowing the difficulty that can exist here, we can again remember to rely on God and His grace and ask Him, in prayer, to increase our capacity for true and authentic charity, so that we may live more closely in accordance with his will for us. As I reflect on this beautiful virtue of Love, Wishing you all a very **Happy Valentine's Day...**

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

REMINDER...

Envelopes: May I kindly request all who are using our parish regular weekend envelopes to use the envelopes that are placed on your pews or at the back of the Church **until March.** Please feel free to take as many as you want and please don't worry about your number. Just be kind enough to write your name on it and the office will take care of it. Thank you for your understanding and support towards the parish.

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify us.
Body of Christ, save us.
Blood of Christ, inebriate us.
Water from the side of Christ, wash us.
Passion of Christ, strengthen us.
O good Jesus, hear us.
Within your wounds, hide us.
Let us never be separated from you.
From the malignant enemy, defend us.
In the hour of our death, call us,
And bid us come to you,
That with your saints we may praise you
Forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSED ARE YOU.....

As we had reflected on the Beatitudes couple of weekends ago and soon preparing to enter into the Holy Season of Lent, it is worth bringing into your mind or paying an extra attention to the Beatitudes. For they are the real path leading us in our call and growth to Holiness. The Beatitudes are an insider's guide to the Christian life, inasmuch as they describe and show what it's like to be on mission in the world as true followers of Christ. Every customary marker of success, Jesus suggests, is wrong—and what appears to be difficult may in fact be a sign of fidelity to building God's kingdom. For instance, I imagine what it might be like to be part of a great team embarking on a hoped-for championship season. The coach tells the team members of the hardships they will face, the struggles they will have to overcome in order to achieve victory. A good coach will be honest about what the team members must face so that they will not lose heart when, inevitably, things don't always go as hoped.

In the Beatitudes, Christ takes a similar approach, suggesting that the distant hope for building the kingdom will involve highs and lows. He tells his disciples that this mission will be arduous but that the reward will be heaven itself. Whose good Christ is calling you to serve? Are you willing to be reviled for the work to which Christ has called you? Are you willing to take a stand on behalf of those who have not the power to stand for themselves especially the unborn and elderly, and work tirelessly in the face of harassment? If so, Jesus says, you are blessed.

ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT

FEB 23 EDITH STEIN, THE SEVENTH CHAMBER
Ignatius Press 2010 Not Rated
Drama, documentary, war
1 hr 50 minutes

This is a moving, artistic portrayal of the life of Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert and Carmelite martyr, Edith Stein, capturing the interior struggles of this extraordinary woman, as well as the great conflicts from her decision to convert to Catholicism. Deeply influenced by the writings of St. Teresa of Avila, she joined the Carmelites and took the name of Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and was put to death in Auschwitz in 1942, and canonized by John Paul II in 1998. This film shows how two worlds were united within her, the Jew and the Christian, in absolute coherence in her search for truth. She has become one of the most beautiful symbols in a horrifying period of history who sought to transform her sufferings under the Nazis into a journey through the "interior castle" as the way to mystical union with God. One phrase, "Love Conquers Fear" embodies her philosophy of life. Shot in a kind of a rich expressionist realism, it's backed by poignant chant music that makes every frame haunting and alive. Actress Maia Morgenstern (The Passion of the Christ) stars in a powerful performance as Stein.





SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 19, 2023

Monday, February 20

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, February 21

12:00pm (SE) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Preceded by Holy Hour at 11:00 am

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday

9:00am (SE) - Intention of the Celebrant

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family
by John & Sue Carver

4:30pm (SPN) - Intention of the Celebrant

Thursday, February 23 – Soup Supper & Movie Night

5:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the McGlinchy &
Reiss Families by Peter McGlinchy

Friday, February 24

12:00pm (SPN) - Amady N. & Gertrude Clark Montville
Families by Nancy Montville

Saturday, February 25

4:30pm (SE) - Special Intentions of the Family
by Cheryl Hutchins

Sunday, February 26

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Thomas G Knibbs by Deb & Bob Bouyea

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of February 20

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

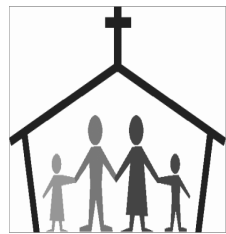
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17
Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Next Sunday—Feb 26—LENT

St Philip of Jesus parish hall

Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass

All are welcome

Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

March 26 - Easter

April—Peace

ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP

Many thanks to the thrift shop for their donation to St Elizabeth's Church in the amount of \$912.90. As always, we express our gratitude to the volunteers, those who shop and those who donate.



Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth— Attendance: 28
Envelopes: \$483.25; Plate: \$165.00
Fuel: \$233.00
Total: \$881.25

Saint Philip Neri— Attendance: 30
Envelopes: \$1,980.00; Plate: \$68.00
Fuel: \$176.00
Total: \$2,224.00

St Philip of Jesus— Attendance: 36
Envelopes: \$590.00; Plate: \$168.00
Fuel: \$270.00
Total: \$1,028.00

40 DAYS TO PRAY, FAST AND GROW IN CHARITY

We need this time each year to step back and reexamine our lives, to turn away from our sins and to grow in the virtues God so deeply desires to bestow upon us. The 40 days of Lent are to be an imitation of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. In fact, we are called not only to "imitate" Jesus' time in the desert, but we are also called to live this time with Him, in Him and through Him. Jesus did not personally need to spend 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert so as to obtain a deeper holiness. He is Holiness Itself and the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity. But Jesus entered into the desert to fast and pray so as to invite us to join Him and to receive the transforming qualities He manifested in His human nature as He endured the suffering of those 40 days. Are we ready for our 40 days in the desert with our Lord? While in the desert, Jesus manifested every perfection within His human nature. During these 40 days, we must **PRAY**. Properly speaking, prayer means we communicate with God on an interior level. We do more than attend Mass or speak prayers aloud. Prayer is first and foremost a secret and interior *communication* with God. We speak, but more than that, we listen, hear, understand, and respond. Without all four of these qualities, prayer is not prayer. It's not "communication." It's only us talking to ourselves. During these 40 days, we must **FAST**. Especially in our day and age, our five senses are overwhelmed with activity and noise. Our eyes and ears are often dazzled by TV, radio, computers, etc. Our taste buds are constantly satiated with fine foods, sweets and comfort foods, often to excess. Our five senses need a break from the bombardment of the delights of the world so as to turn to the deeper delights of a life of union with God. During these 40 days, we must **GIVE**. Greed often takes hold of us without us even realizing the extent of its grip. We want this and that. We consume more and more material things. And we do so because we seek satisfaction from the world. We need to detach from all that distracts us from God, and generosity is one of the best ways to achieve this detachment.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday (including the days of Holy Week), and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous years. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, and penance. Wishing you all a very Blessed Lent.

With Love and Prayers.... Fr. J.T.



LENTEN ACTIVITIES ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH LENTEN BOOK GROUP

The Art of Living
The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love
by Edward Sri

When: Every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass
starting February 26, 2023

Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

1st Sunday we'll start with- Part One:
Virtue & Friendship

** Please pick up a FREE Copy at any of our churches

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass **starting February 23rd. Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.**

February 23 Edith Stein, The Seventh Chamber
March 2 Show Me the Father
March 9 Philip Neri Part 1
March 16 Philip Neri Part 2
March 23 Pilgrim's Progress
March 30 Purgatory

From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

A personal and societal condition has become increasingly evident. We are forgetting who we are, where we come from and where we are headed. Such amnesia is causing us to lose our bearings. The ramifications are becoming increasingly obvious and alarming. The remedy for such memory loss is not to be found in any pharmaceutical elixir. It's found in strengthening our relationship with the God who made us, loves us to death, His death on the Cross, and promises eternal life to those who would follow Him.

Pope Benedict XVI once wrote: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." By taking the time to listen and reflect on the Word of God, I learn more about my personal identity, both who I am and Whose I am. Our personal encounter with Jesus Christ is crucial. This Lent we want to re-energize our faith and develop an even more intimate relationship with Jesus through personal prayer and public worship. Prayer is not an activity of the human person but is God working within the prayerer. That's why our prayer is so powerful and is critical in replacing the darkness of the world with life directed to the heavenly horizon.

As we begin this Holy Season of Lent, I encourage you to reflect on your relationship with Jesus and with the members of His Body, the Church. We recommit ourselves to the mission of the Church as passionate disciples in mission. We want to stay focused on our Diocesan Priorities of: Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones.

Our efforts in addressing these priorities will help us answer questions of identity and mission. I encourage you to look for new ways to be active participants in the life of your parish. Thank you for being a source of loving support for your priests.

May the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey of faith towards the light of Easter. Mary, Mother of our Redeemer, pray for us!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Love your enemies. Today's gospel calls us to go beyond the minimum requirements of the Ten Commandments and go the extra mile. We are called to be generous with our possessions, our forgiveness and our love. We are called to love others as God has loved us. In today's society, the norm is to see what's in it for me. We are called to go beyond the minimum and love unconditionally as Christ has loved us. This is not easy, but *we belong to Christ* and with God all things are possible. (from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)





FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 26, 2023

Monday, February 27

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family
by John & Sue Carver

Tuesday, February 28

No Scheduled Mass

Wednesday, March 1

12:00pm (SE) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Thursday, March 2—Soup Supper & Movie Night

5:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Peg Sheehan

Friday, March 3

12:00pm (SPN) - Herbert K & Mary Dowdle Clark Families
by Nancy Montville

Saturday, March 4

4:30pm (SE) - Colleen Bryant by Nancy & Paul Kullman

Sunday, March 5

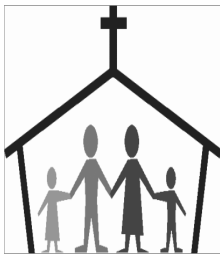
8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Gerald Sheehan by Peg & Connor Sheehan

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of February 27

Monday: Lv19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
2 Tim 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

TODAY—Feb 26—LENT

St Philip of Jesus parish hall

Immediately Follows 10:30am Mass

All are welcome

Upcoming Dates - Mark Your Calendar

March 26 - Easter

April—Peace

CHRISM MASS...MARK YOUR CALENDAR



All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of our Diocese. This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. **The Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023** at 11:00am at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, New York. The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 24
Envelopes: \$715.25; Plate: \$90.00
Fuel: \$20.00
Total: \$825.25

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 30
Envelopes: \$607.00; Plate: \$71.00
Total: \$678.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 40
Envelopes: \$355.00; Plate: \$228.00
Fuel: \$25.00
Total: \$608.00

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19
or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Isn't it amazing that Adam, living in the abundance of the Garden of Eden, was tempted by the serpent to eat of the one tree of which God told him not to eat? Contrast this with our Gospel today, where Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert, a place of desolation, to provide for himself food, safety and power, yet resists the temptation. Jesus, the new Adam, reverses the original sin of the old Adam. We, amid our abundance, are also often tempted. We think, if only I had more than enough, I wouldn't be tempted. Yet it is in denying ourselves that we receive the grace to fight temptation. It is when we go into the desert that we come out stronger. This is the discipline of lent. Pray: keep your eyes on Jesus. Fast: deny yourself some of the abundant goods. Give alms: give away what you give up.



LENTEN ACTIVITIES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS CHURCH
LENTEN BOOK GROUP

The Art of Living

The Cardinal Virtues and Freedom to Love
by Edward Sri

When: Every Sunday of Lent after 10:30am Mass **starting February 26, 2023**

Where: Join us in the Willsboro Rectory: light lunch and lively discussion.

1st Sunday we'll start with- Part One: Virtue & Friendship

** Please pick up a FREE Copy at any of our churches

THURSDAY SOUP AND MOVIE NIGHT

Please plan to join us for this spiritually enriching evening. Soup and movie will follow 5:00pm Mass. **Volunteers needed to provide soup & bread each week, sign up at back of St. Philip of Jesus church.**


March 2 Show Me the Father
March 9 Philip Neri Part 1
March 16 Philip Neri Part 2
March 23 Pilgrim's Progress
March 30 Purgatory



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Most practicing Catholics know what is expected and required of us during the Season of Lent. We talk about giving something up for Lent. We want to make Lent special. Most Catholics want Lent to be a spiritual experience, a truly life changing experience as we prepare to approach Easter Sunday with hearts overflowing with love for God and a raised awareness and ardent appreciation of the great sacrifice Jesus made for us. In a way we go into our own desert for 40 days as Jesus did. To have a virtuous Lenten experience it's necessary to know and follow **The Three Pillars of Lent. Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.** If we desire to get closer to Our Lord, it's important to increase our prayer life. There are many ways to add prayer to our daily prayer routine. It's up to us to evaluate how much we pray and decide what we can add. Consider finding time to pray with others at home or at church such as the Rosary. Come into the church at least 10 minutes before Mass rather than the last minute, kneeling or sitting before the Blessed Sacrament silently meditating and praying. Prayer is extremely important. Prayer bonds us to God. When we pray, we learn to feel God's love in our hearts and strengthens us to face our challenges and temptations. The more we pray from the heart, the more we want to pray, and the greater will be our ability to feel the presence of God. Remember our prayer is the holy covenant relationship between God and us.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

HOLY HOUR

Tuesdays: Elizabethtown @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions

Fridays: Westport @ 11 am
with Litany of Passion & Confessions

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Willsboro: After Noon Mass on **Mondays**
Westport: After Noon Mass on **Fridays**
Elizabethtown: Fridays at **6.30 pm**

PILGRIMAGE TO BIBLICAL TURKEY
Hosted by Fr. Donald Robinson

12 Days-Oct 9-20, 2023.

* Istanbul * Ankara * Cappadocia * Pamukkale *

* Ephesus * Izmir * Pergamum * Canakkale *

Hosted by Fr. Donald Robinson. \$2,999 from NY
For more info, please contact Fr. Robinson
Ph: 315-782-1143 or email: donrob4@twcny.rr.com



EXPRESSIONS OF PRAYER.....

Many years ago, a group of seminarians were gathered and their Novice Master instructed them, "Now remember, you are not allowed to chew gum while you are praying." One of the seminarians asked, "But, Father, is it okay to pray while we're chewing gum?" "Of course," the Novice Master replied, leaving them wondering just how to follow these contradictory instructions. This story illustrates that prayer is both an activity on its own as well as a way of living out one's entire life. Prayer is communicating with God. Just as we talk and share with our best friends what is happening in our lives, so we talk and share with God. Just as we listen to our friends, so we listen to God. As in human communication, our communication with God can be expressed in a variety of ways. We communicate with God using words and songs, in imagination and silence, and ritually or spontaneously. One of the characteristics of prayer we as Catholics believe is that with the right intention every moment of the day—all our hopes, works, joys, and sufferings—can become our prayer. Catholics pray in different ways. The Catechism names **three major expressions** of prayer: vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer.

Vocal Prayer

Vocal prayer is giving voice to what is stirring in our hearts and in our souls. Vocal prayer can be as simple and uplifting as "Thank you, God, for this beautiful morning." It can be as formal as a Mass celebrating a very special occasion. It can be as intense and immediate as the prayer Jesus uttered in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will, but yours be done." At Mass the presider invites each one of us to "Lift up your hearts." When we honestly say, "We lift them up to the Lord," we know we are truly praying, for that is what prayer is—lifting our hearts to God.

Meditation

To meditate is to reflect on or think about God. When we meditate, we keep our attention and focus on God so that we can recognize his presence in our daily lives and respond to what God is asking of us. When we meditate, a variety of things can help us to concentrate and to spark our imaginations. We may use Scripture, particularly the Gospels; traditional prayers; writings of the spiritual fathers; religious images; or history—the page on which the "today" of God is written. Meditation, also known as reflective prayer, leads us to conversation with God. Remembering that we are in God's presence, we can listen to him speak to us. We enter into God's sacred time and space and know that he is with us at all times and in all places.

Contemplative Prayer

When we rest quietly in God's presence, we engage in contemplation. In contemplation we spend time with God in wordless silence, aware that he is with us. To understand how contemplation occurs, we can compare it with thinking on—or contemplating—a beautiful sunset. We are conscious of its impact, but our reaction is wordless. When we experience God personally, we feel his love and wait for him to speak to us in his own way. The key is to make time to relax and listen in God's presence, to seek union with the God who loves us.