

# ST. JUDE JOURNAL

## MAY 2026

### IN THIS ISSUE

*From the Rector*

*Vestry Views*

*Vestry Highlights*

*Treasurer's Report*

*Parish Picnic*

*PRIDE Pizza Dinner*

*Lots of Pictures*

*...and more!*

### MAY CALENDAR

\* \* \*

**Parish Office**

**526-221-2505**

**Mon.–Thu.**

**9:30am–1:30pm**

\* \* \*

### HEALING SERVICE 2<sup>nd</sup> WED

11:00 A.M.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. HE

10:15 A.M. HE



## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parish,

As we move through this season together, I am grateful for the many ways our parish continues to show up for worship, fellowship, and service. I'd like to share a few highlights and invitations for the months ahead.

### **Parish Picnic**

Please mark your calendar for our Parish Picnic on **May 17, 2026** - one of the best opportunities we have to enjoy one another's company, welcome newcomers, and strengthen the bonds that make our community home.

### **Looking ahead: milestones and planning**

We are celebrating our **70th anniversary** this year at our parish picnic with cake, and maybe even a "burning of the mortgage! And while 2031 may feel far off, it will be our **75th anniversary**, and that kind of milestone is worth preparing for thoughtfully. As we get a wee bit closer, we will begin forming a planning team, and I hope you will consider lending your ideas, energy, and talents as we start imagining how we can celebrate faithfully and joyfully.

### **Vestry Retreat: "Something New—Something Brought Back"**

Our Vestry Retreat generated new ideas and renewed hopes for parish life. Three initiatives we are especially excited about include the return of the **Wednesday Healing Service with Eucharist**, as well as opportunities for **Conversation & Dinner** and **Bible Study**. These will begin in **September**, and you can find more details in the "Something New – Something Brought Back" information on page 12 of the Journal.

As we work to sustain both new and returning ministries, the Vestry and I will need your input—and at times, your help. Please be watching for ways to participate, and don't hesitate to reach out with questions, encouragement, or a willingness to serve.

With gratitude for you and for our life together in Christ,  
Mo. Jimmie Sue



### VESTRY VIEWS



Back next month 😊



### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Treasurer's Report:** Brian presents updated Treasurer's Report.

- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report. **Unanimous approval.**

**Business:**

- The roof and gutter has been repaired. Next is painting the Columbarium Hallway. Other Hallways will be repainted over the course of the next couple of months

**Action Item:**

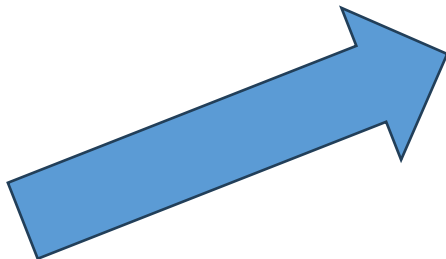
- N/A.

**Rector's Report:**

- I made pastoral care calls and visits.
- Thank you to everyone for decorating the church for Easter Sunday.
- Thank you to everyone for donations towards the mortgage payoff.
- We need to meet to plan the Strawberry Festivities for September's Church Picnic.
- On August 9<sup>th</sup> MJS will hold a planning session at noon for the Healing Mass with Eucharist. First is September 9<sup>th</sup> and second is October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- September 16<sup>th</sup> at Miller's Ale House there will be a "Conversation and Dinner" for faith discussions.
- Zoom Bible Study at 7:30 on Revelations: September 23rd, October 21st and November 18.

## TREASURER'S REPORT By Brian Quinn

- March Net Operating Income deficit of **\$12,170**
  - Snow removal was \$5,655 for the year to date (includes the major snow storm)
- March YTD Net Income surplus of \$10,234
  - Includes other funds such as VBS, LGBTQAI, COVID, FMM & Loan Payoff Fund, Insurance Repair Funds
  - Insurance received \$15,155 to date
- Loan stands at \$37,645 at March EOM
  - No early payoff penalty from Flagstar (looking for it in writing)
  - Donation of \$20k last year which covers loan expenses for 2026
  - \$14,225 collected for 2026
  - Campaign goal recently initiated target of \$8k with \$4,225 collected
- Pledge Status:
  - Pledge ahead of target \$68,493 thru March projected would be \$61,446
- Audit needs to be scheduled



We are so close!!



**ST. JUDE'S**

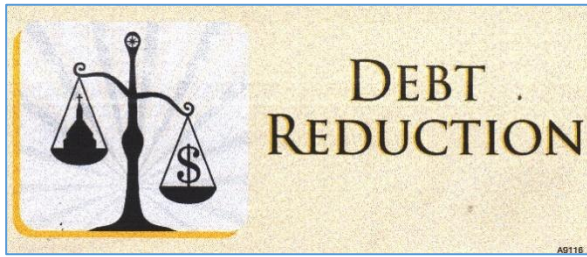
**MORTGAGE**  
*Payoff*

**GOAL: \$8000**

WE ARE SEEKING TO RAISE ABOUT \$8,000 TO FUND THE PAYOFF OF OUR MORTGAGE. PLEASE USE YOUR "DEBT REDUCTION" ENVELOPE OR MARK THE DONATION FOR "DEBT REDUCTION" AND BRING IT TO CHURCH AND PLACE IT IN THE COLLECTION.

ANY FUNDS RAISED OVER THE \$8,000 WILL BE PUT TOWARD OUR FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS SPECIAL FUND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

## CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

A screenshot of a Tithe.ly donation interface. At the top, it displays "\$ 0.00". Below that, there is a dropdown menu for "Fund" with "Mortgage Payoff Campaign Donation" selected. Underneath is a "+ Add Another Gift" button. There are five buttons for frequency: "One Time" (highlighted in black), "Weekly", "Bi-weekly", "1st & 15th", and "Monthly". At the bottom, there is a dark grey button that says "Give \$0.00" with a lock icon on the right.

More than thirty years ago, following a successful fundraising campaign, our parish took a bold step of faith and began construction of our Parish Hall, moving out of a temporary space and into a home built for community. Because pledges were spread over five years and construction needed to begin right away, we secured loans from banks and from the Diocese’s investment fund. Along the way, despite everyone’s best intentions, some pledges could not be fully met — and with perseverance and care, we have steadily worked to reduce our remaining mortgage.

Today, we are delighted to share truly wonderful news. At our most recent parish Finance Committee meeting, we learned that we are now under **\$4,000 away** from fully paying off our mortgage. This remarkable progress is due in large part to the quiet generosity of several anonymous contributors, whose gifts have brought us to the threshold of a moment many of us have long hoped for.

With a final, shared effort, we can cross that line together. Reaching this goal will allow us to become completely debt-free and to direct our resources fully toward ministry, service, and the life of our parish. We are especially hopeful to celebrate this milestone with a joyful mortgage burning at our end-of-year picnic in May — a visible sign of gratitude, unity, and God’s faithfulness throughout this journey.

If you are able to help us reach the finish line, please contribute using the envelope pictured above with “mortgage payoff” in the memo line of your check, or by giving through Tithe.ly using the fund noted above. Every gift, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to this shared celebration.

Thank you for walking this journey with us and for helping make this hopeful moment a reality.

Ted Gerbracht, for the Finance Committee

## MARCH 2026 Financial Summary



	<b>Yearly</b>	<b>Mar Actuals</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	312,120	84,908
Altar Donations	3,813	1,378
Special Offerings	3,490	773
Miscellaneous Contributions	21,740	891
Building Use	1,300	700
Outreach & Mission Income	4,100	1,910
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>346,563</b>	<b>90,560</b>
 <b>Expense</b>		
Worship	4,493	2,106
Formation	870	18
Outreach & Mission	30,180	7,180
Stewardship	2,690	0
Hospitality	1,000	0
Building Maintenance	53,010	20,854
Rectory Maintenance	9,525	2,963
Loans and Bank Fees	200	94
Office & Office Supplies	9,955	2,147
Insurance	39,871	10,383
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,300	24
Personnel	214,582	54,305
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>370,146</b>	<b>100,074</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(23,583)</b>	<b>9,514</b>



### CLOTHING COLLECTION BIN



We are collecting used clothing and shoes in our Collection Bin. St. Jude's receives ten cents per pound of any items donated and receive a check on a weekly basis. None of the donations are made into rags.

Please share with your family and friends about our Clothing Collection Bin – every pound counts.



### HEALING SERVICES

11:00 am to 11:30 am Healing Service will be on Wednesday, May 13th in the Chapel with Ken Norian and Chris Vanenburg.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL by Barbara Arnold

Alleluia! He is Risen!

In the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday the students and teachers come together to serve. On Palm Sunday students and teachers, marched around the church with the congregation waving their palms. After a chapel lesson, the older youth prepared a lesson "Jesus and the terrible horrible no good very bad week." Zoe T. made a fabulous poster. The activity was followed with a craft in the parish hall. Agape coffee hour followed the service, a variety of Mediterranean foods were laid across the table for all to enjoy. Thank you to all donated.

The students uncovered the Alleluia poster that remained hidden during Lent. It is displayed in the chapel.

We will be celebrating the end of the Sunday school year at Recognition Sunday on May 17th.

### Vacation Bible School Registration

This summer join us for an exciting adventure filled with science, crafts, games, music and stories. VBS is a great way to make new friends and reconnect with old ones!



Register online:

<https://www.myvbs.org/churchofstjude/>

Open to children in PreK- 6th grade.

If you have questions please email Barbara Arnold at [stjudewantaghvbs@gmail.com](mailto:stjudewantaghvbs@gmail.com)



## **HOSPITALITY REPORT** By Kathy Hecht



Thank you to our April Coffee Hour hosts! May's schedule is already filled (thank you in advance, future hosts!) The first two weeks in June are still available. Please sign up. Even if you can't host, contributions to the donation basket are needed to keep the kitchen stocked with coffee, tea, juice, cookies, disposable utensils and paper goods. Thank you to all who contribute.



The big news is that it's Picnic time! Mark your calendars for May 17 th. After Mass and Sunday School Recognition Day, we will head for the Rectory yard for food, fun and fellowship. Volunteer lists are posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall. Please sign up for a volunteer activity and a donation item. Burgers, dogs, meat

alternatives, cheese, charcoal and paper goods will be provided by St. Jude. Those items are getting increasingly expensive, so there will be a Picnic Donation jar on the table for the next few weeks. Please be generous. Thank you.



We are often asked if any items are needed for Coffee Hour. Lately we seem to be using heavy duty plastic forks a lot. Coffee is always welcome. Everything else is good at the moment. Thank you in advance.



## **THANK YOU'S**



- Thank you to everyone who helped decorate for Easter Sunday!
- Thank you to everyone whose brought in Easter Candy and Egg Shells! Thank you to everyone who decorated the Cascarones!
- Thank you to everyone who served and read Passion readings

during Holy Week!

- A special thank you to the Flower Guild and Altar Guild for all their extra preparations 😊
- Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to our Mortgage Fundraiser!!
- Thank you in advance for Parish Picnic donations!
- Thank you to the parents for bringing your kiddos to Sunday School 😊
- Thank you to the teachers for sharing Jesus' gospel with our kiddos 😊

## ST. JUDE'S LGBTQAI+ GROUP

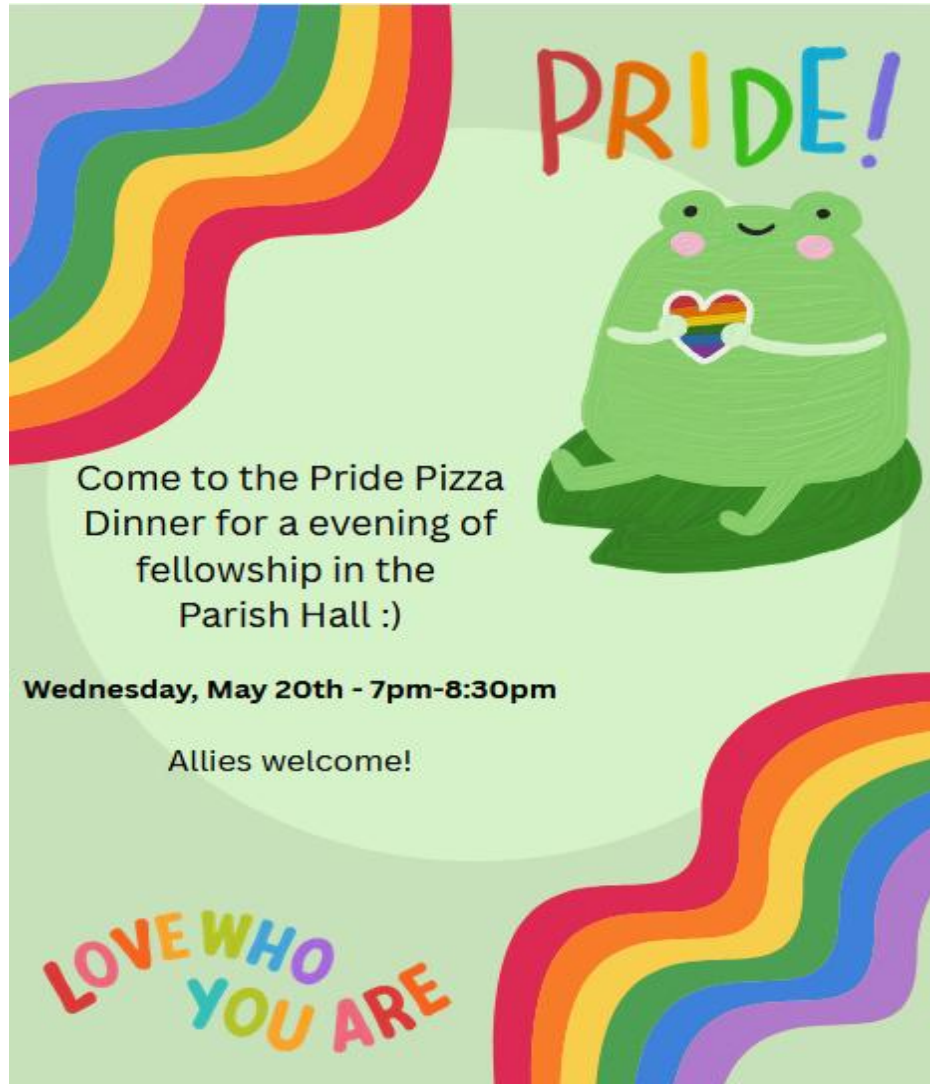
### What our group is about



We get together for discussions and events celebrating, discussing, and helping each other complete the connection between God and the LGBTQAI+ community in the Church.

Remember ALL are welcome, the A stands for Ally! You are already a member of our group if you are a member of St. Jude's welcoming

community of faith!



## **ST. JUDE'S SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM**

The Social Justice Team is a group of parishioners who are interested in finding ways to support the marginalized and vulnerable in our communities. We explore how we can work towards meeting their needs, and also work toward a society that promotes dignity and due process for all people?

We meet every other Sunday following Coffee Hour. Please feel free to join us when your schedule allows.



### **Countdown to the Yard Sale on June 6th: How You Can Help This Month**

June 6<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner, and the excitement is building! Our St. Jude Yard Sale is almost here — a morning of community, conversation, and great finds, all in support of our parish's mission. But it doesn't happen without you.

This month, we're asking every parishioner to consider one of the many ways to pitch in. If you haven't already, look through your house to see if you have any items to donate. If you've already set aside your items, thank you — now consider volunteering your time on Friday evening for drop off or Saturday morning during the sale. We need friendly faces to help set up tables, assist shoppers, handle pricing, and manage checkout.

Just looking to shop? Join us at 9am to find the treasures that await you!

Not able to be there in person? You can still help by spreading the word. Share the details with neighbors, co-workers, and friends. Post about it on social media. Put the flyer on your office bulletin board. Every person you invite is a potential customer who supports our community. Finally, if you or your business would like to sponsor refreshments for the event, we would love to hear from you. A table of Lemonade and cookies would keep the energy high and the shoppers happy — and your generosity will be acknowledged on the day.

#### **Get Involved**

Volunteer Sign-Up: Contact Barbara Thompson

Donation Drop-Off: June 5th, 3pm to 9pm at the parish hall.

Event Date: June 6

Refreshment Sponsorships: Reach out to Jenn Garbowski to get involved.

## MISSION CENTER



The St. Jude Mission Center at the Little Red Barn currently serves 15-20 families every other week. If you are interested in volunteering for the Mission Center, we're always happy to discuss those opportunities. Please contact Mother Jimmie Sue, Barbara Rice Thompson, or Patty Doll.

**Dates Open:** The Mission Center is open at St. Jude's on 5/3, 5/17 and 5/31. We are open from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Looking ahead to June the dates are 6/14 and 6/28

### **Donations Needed:**

- Diapers, Baby wipes      One-pound packages of rice, Black beans
- Canned fruit      School snacks for kids (protein bars, cookies, chips)



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- Happy Mother's Day – May 10th
- Healing Service – May 13th @ 11am
- Parish Picnic & 70th Anniversary of St. Jude's – May 17th
- PRIDE Pizza Dinner – May 20th @ 7-8:30pm
- **June Journal Deadline** – May 25th



## THANK YOU "EASTER DECORATORS" FROM THE FLOWER GUILD

Thank you to the following people for all of your help decorating for Easter Sunday!

Bill O'Keefe / June & Ted Gerbracht / Laura Loud

Chris Vanenburg / Rick & Jeanne Gomez-Nieto / Adrienne Comito

Grace / Amy & Mo. Jimmie Sue / Jon Mortagua / Kris Stone



## **SOMETHING NEW – SOMETHING BROUGHT BACK** **STARTING IN SEPTEMBER**

### **CONVERSATION & DINNER**



The idea is to get together and have conversations. The format is simple: food, conversation, and God. Come bring your questions (and not too worry – I’ll have questions at the ready), your curiosity, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious and philosophical perspectives and life experiences. You’ll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way.

**Location:** Miller’s Ale House located at [3046 Hempstead Tpke. Levittown, NY 11756](#)

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Date:** Wednesday, September 16



### **WEDNESDAY EVENING HEALING EUCHARIST**

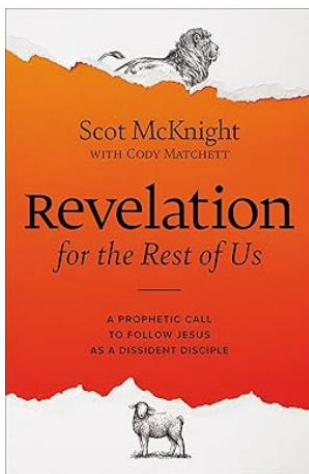


I have had feedback that there is a desire to hold a Wednesday evening Healing Eucharist. In order to bring this service back I will need helpers. I will hold a planning meeting on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm. I’m looking forward to planning and shaping the Healing Service together.

In anticipation of a positive response to resuming the Healing Service, I’ve reserved two dates: September 9th & October 14th in the Chapel at 7:30pm.



### **BIBLE STUDY - THE BOOK OF REVELATION**



What the book is about:

“The last book of the Bible frustrates and frightens many people with its imagery and apocalyptic tone. In *Revelation for the Rest of Us*, Scot McKnight with Cody Matchett explore the key message of Revelation and how it:

- Calls us to be faithful and hopeful witnesses to Jesus.
- Stimulates our imagination to see the world through the eyes of God and excite our faith.
- Challenges us to stand against the militarism, economic exploitation, oppression, and injustice of worldly authorities.

McKnight addresses the popular misconceptions about the book, explaining what John means in his use of the images of dragons, lambs, and beasts; and how the symbolism of Revelation spoke in the days of Rome and still speaks powerfully to the present day — though not in the way most people think.”

### **DETAILS:**

- We’ll meet on the following Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm via Zoom
  - September 23<sup>rd</sup> + October 21<sup>st</sup> + November 18<sup>th</sup>
- Before our first meeting please read Part 1: Reading Revelation as if for the First Time
- At the September meeting we will discuss the pace with which we want to read and discuss this book together.

### **Zoom Link for the Wednesday Evening Bible Study:**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88271703032?pwd=dG6awFH5rUdhnDID0kTf7kOWK2Y1da.1>

Meeting ID: 882 7170 3032

Passcode: 051385



### **THE NEWLY ELECTED 9TH BISHOP OF LONG ISLAND**



**The Rev. Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker** was elected the ninth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island on April 18 by nearly 300 clergy and lay delegates, meeting at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York.

Shoemaker was elected on the fourth ballot by 95 votes in the clergy order and 76 votes in the lay order. The election required a majority in both orders on the same ballot, in accordance with the diocesan constitution.

Shoemaker said, “I am deeply humbled by the trust this convention has placed in me and accept the call to serve as your next diocesan bishop with hope and faith in what God will do among us. I look forward to laboring together across the Diocese of Long Island as one body in Christ, and I ask your prayers as we begin this new chapter together.”

Shoemaker serves as rector of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. He has previously ministered in congregations in North Carolina and Massachusetts and served as a missionary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

An Egyptian-American raised in Huntington, New York, he was formed in the Episcopal Church at St. John’s, Huntington, and Trinity Church, Northport. He is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary, where he met his wife, the Rev. Courtney Davis-Shoemaker. Together they have three school-aged children: Malcolm, Aubrey, and Hannah.

Deeply rooted in a diverse family heritage, he maintains strong connections with extended family in Egypt and has a particular interest in language and culture. He speaks advanced Portuguese and basic Spanish.

The bishop-elect will succeed the Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano, who has served as bishop since 2009. Pending the required consent of a majority of the Episcopal Church's diocesan standing committees and bishops with jurisdiction, Shoemaker will be ordained and consecrated on September 19, 2026, at the Tilles Center in Greenvale, New York.



### **ST. JUDE'S at 70<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup>**

At our May 17th parish picnic we'll have a big cake to celebrate St. Jude's at 70!



In 2031 St. Jude's turns 75!! We will have a big celebration for our 75 years of serving God, each other, and our community 😊 As we get closer to 2031, we will put together a Planning Team.



### **FIND ST. JUDE'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Instagram:** search for @stjudeepiscopal

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/StJudeWantagh/>

**YouTube:** Search for @stjudeepiscopal

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjudeepiscopal>

A simple way to boost our online presence is to like and share all the wonderful events and pictures we post. Please consider giving us a "like" and a "follow".

### **CHURCH OFFICE CORNER**

2026 Sanctuary Lamps/ Altar Flowers (Live or silk)/ Altar Candles / Mass Cards signup is online or call the office: <https://forms.gle/Q7DqqaCHm5LrvLFX6>

Please print the name of the individual(s) you wish to remember or honor. If looking for a whole month, please choose the month-long option; or for a specific date choose this instead. Please make a new form for each month (all December on one form) or choose a specific Sunday.

**THE BISHOP**

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano

**THE BISHOP-ELECT**

The Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker

**THE RECTOR**

The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe

**WARDENS**

Charles Garbowski (2028)	Alan Hecht (2027), Clerk
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**VESTRY**

Michael Nersesian (2028)	Adrienne Comito (2028)
June Gerbracht (2027)	Maria Smith (2029)
Jon Mortagua (2029)	Janine Scarlatos (2027)
Laura Anne Loud (2027)	Lauren Wangner (2029)
Ken Norian (2028)	Brian Quinn, Treasurer

**STAFF**

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Walter H. Fuller
Music Director: Shira Fishkin
Parish Administrator: Susan Heilig
Sunday School Coordinator: Barbara Arnold





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>8am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Worship</b>	4 CAP P.H. 7pm	5 AA 7:30pm	6	7 AA 7:30pm	8 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	9
10 <b>8am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Worship</b> 	11 CAP P.H. 7pm	12 AA 7:30pm	13 <b>11am Lay led Healing Service - Chapel</b>	14 AA 7:30pm	15 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	16
17 <b>8am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Worship</b> <b>Recognition Sunday</b>  <b>70th Anniversary of St. Jude's</b>	18 CAP P.H. 7pm	19 AA 7:30pm  <b>7:30pm Vestry Meeting</b>	20  <b>7pm-8:30pm PRIDE PIZZA DINNER</b>	21 AA 7:30pm	22 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	23
24 <b>8am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Worship</b>	25 CAP P.H. 7pm  <b>Journal Deadline</b>	26 AA 7:30pm	27	28 AA 7:30pm	29 9:30am Mice Makers  AA 7:00pm	30
31 <b>8am Worship</b> <b>10:15am Worship</b>						

## **SJ CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Happy Mother's Day – May 10th
- Healing Service – May 13th @ 11am
- Parish Picnic & 70th Anniversary of St. Jude's – May 17th
- PRIDE Pizza Dinner – May 20th @ 7-8:30pm
- **June Journal Deadline** – May 25th

The Church Office is open from 9:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Thursday; at other times please call the office and leave a message - 516-221-2505. You can always email the office. at [SJWantagh1@gmail.com](mailto:SJWantagh1@gmail.com).

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### **CHURCH OF ST. JUDE (EPISCOPAL)**

3606 Lufberry Avenue

Wantagh, NY 11793

O: 516-221-2505

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**CELEBRATING ST. JUDE'S IN PICTURES**  
**PALM SUNDAY**





**EASTER EGG HUNT & CASCARONES**



