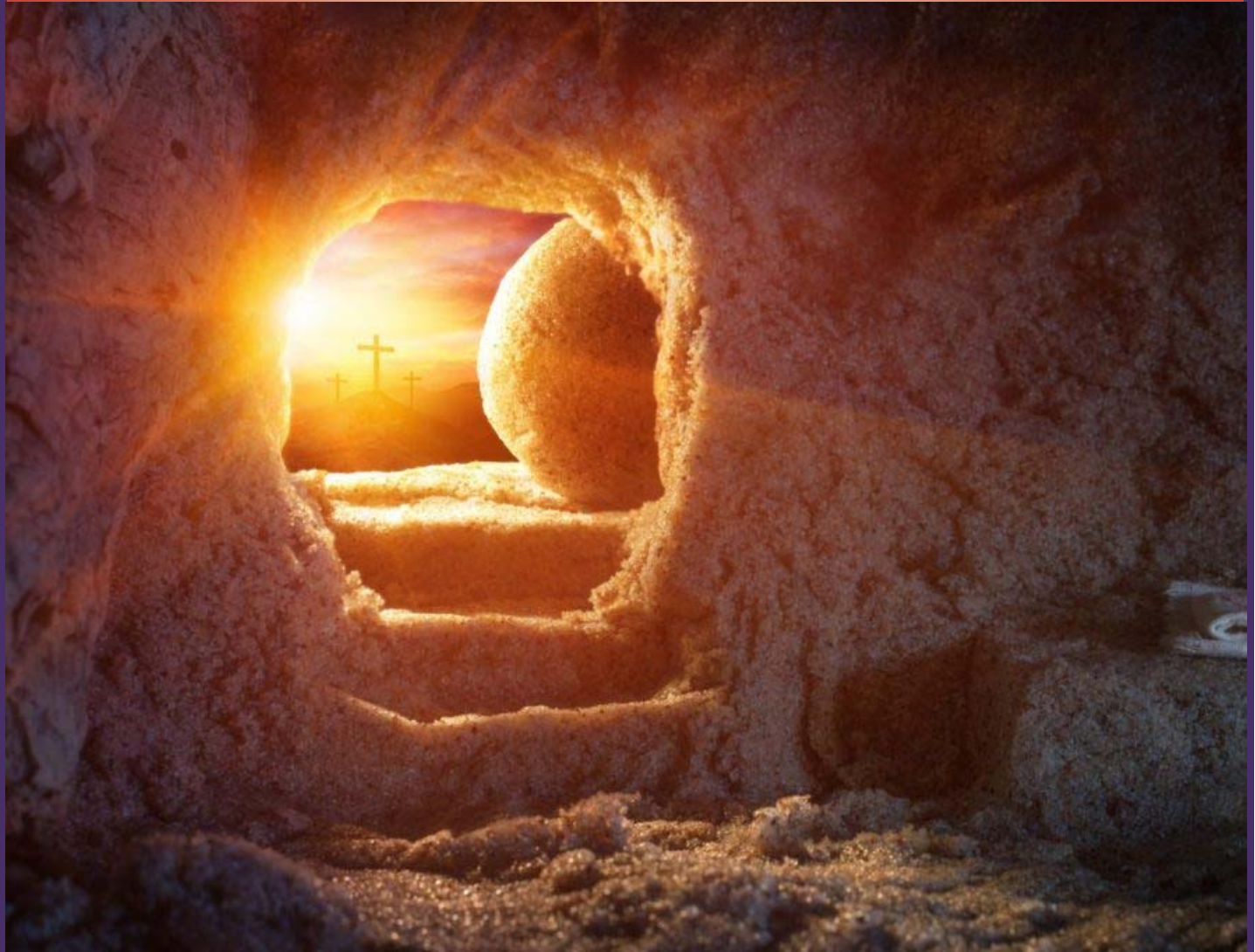


St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

A community praying, growing, serving & welcoming in Jesus Christ.



Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here.

April 1, 2018
Easter Sunday
of the Resurrection of the Lord

We Celebrate!

Eucharist:

Weekends: Sat: 5pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am & 11am Holy Days as announced

Weekdays: M, Tu, Th and Fr: Mass in the Parish Center @ 8:30am

Baptisms: Celebrated on pre-determined Sunday afternoons. ***Prior to making plans,*** call the Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 12 noon or by appointment.

Confirmation: In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office.

Marriage: Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm, Saturday @ 10:30am & 2:30pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick: Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass for those needing surgery, or serious medical treatment, or seeking spiritual healing.

We are here for you!

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Thomas W. Coby, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Deacon Frank Rivera

Theresa Ellner, Business Manager

Michael Lofaro, Faith Formation Administrator

Frances McMahon, Faith Formation Director

Justin McMahon, Parish Social Ministry Director

Lori Zito, Stewardship Director

Office Information

Parish Office: (631)475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631)475-1057 email: parishoffice@stsyvesterli.org
M, Tu, W ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th, Fri ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Su ~ 9:30am - 12:30pm

Faith Formation Office: (631)475-4506 ext. 118 email: faithformation@stsyvesterli.org
Please call (631)475-4506 ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Clare House: (631)475-4506; Fax (631)475-6058

M & W ~ 9:30am-12pm, 1pm-3:30pm Wed Night~ 5:30pm-7:30pm Fr ~ 9:30am-11:30am

Thrift Shop: (631)475-4506

Tu, Wed & Th ~ 10am - 3pm; Sat ~ 10am - 1pm

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary McMahon, LCSW, Director.

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being—or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Visit our website at: www.stsyvesterli.org

We Pray

MASS INTENTIONS

Easter Vigil ~ March 31, 2018

7:30pm For the People of St. Sylvester

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

7:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

9:00am For the People of St. Sylvester

11:00am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

8:30am Daniel Cawley

Friday, April 6, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, April 7, 2018

5:00pm Zofia Soltys (1st Anniversary)

Cristino Gomez II

The Dupont, Kocher, Chin-Sang &

Acevedo Families

Freda Phelan

Jeff Walker

Frank Micucci

Sunday, April 8, 2018

7:30am Toscano & Cesarino Families

Robert Fontana

9:00am Ellen Cribier (4th Anniversary)

11:00am Matteo, Caravana & LoCascio Families

(Living & Deceased)

We pray for all who are sick, especially . . .

Eva D'Amato, Robert Orłowski, Nina Caravana, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Jessica Deck, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Roger Chin-Sang, Sasha Medile, Baby Elliot Garay, Nef Nieves, Joanne Clarke, Richard Gross, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzozzo, Ann Vidal, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Martha Benvenuto, Olivia Grace DeFeo, Joel Rivera, Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Diana Erickson, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Jack Frey, Michael Dolan, Baby Valentina Brescia, The Abano Family, Iris DeValle, Hilda Gonzalez, John Bennett, Julian Atz, Richard Broderick, Jim Dietz, Eric Bedell, Charles Lunstrum, Baby Madison Angamarca, JoAnn Brandi, Helen Gallagher, Donyell Gilkes

We pray for all who have died, especially . . .

Dean Foster, Marie Tarantino

There are still Masses available in the 2018 Mass Book. Please make arrangements for Masses and Weekend Memorials through the Parish Office. The 2019 Mass Book will open the first week of June.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

4/2:	Acts 2:14, 22-23 Mt 28:8-15	Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11
4/3:	Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
4/4:	Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	Ps 105:1-4, 6-9
4/5:	Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	Ps 8:2, 5-9
4/6:	Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27
4/7:	Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15 Mk 16:1-7	Ps 118:1, 14-21
4/8:	Acts 4:32-35 1 Jn 5:1-6	Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Jn 20:19-31

The Bread & Wine

used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
the Zatwarnicki Family
in loving memory of
Edward & Gloria Vannuci



The Candles

used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
The Zatwarnicki Family
in loving memory of
Edward Zatwarnicki
&
Betty Zatwarnicki



First Saturday Devotion



Come join us for
song and prayer
as we pray the
Rosary

next Saturday, April 7 at 9am
in the Worship Room.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

March 25, 2018

Regular ~ \$10,909

Renovation ~ \$181 Solar ~ \$18

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$40,216.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	61.1%
Number of Donors to Date:	102

Reflection

Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of faith if, like St. Paul, we share the good news whenever and wherever we can.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards whose lives reflect the joy of Christ's Resurrection.

Faith Direct

It's Easy It's Safe

It's the Way to Give!

To learn about or enroll in this automated giving program, just log onto www.faithdirect.net and use our Church code NY285

You'll never have to worry about forgetting an envelope again!!!

BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAM SEEKING ADDITIONAL TEAMMATES

Do you have a strong faith? Are you willing to share your faith with our parish's parents and godparents? Do you believe that the initiation sacrament of Baptism is an important part of our Christian call to action?

Our Baptismal Preparation Team is seeking additional teammates to assist in preparing our families for Baptism. Team members take turns speaking at our monthly Baptism meetings which are normally held on the first Monday evening of every month, so the commitment would be for one evening every few months. The ministry, overseen by our Deacons and Baptismal Coordinator, Joanne Barry, involves welcoming the parents and godparents and sharing your Catholic faith with those in attendance from a personal perspective. Team members usually work in pairs, making it an ideal opportunity for married couples or friends to minister together, but it is not necessary.

If you feel you are being called to this important and rewarding ministry, please contact Joanne Barry in the parish office at 631-475-4506, ext. 102.



Stewardship

Resurrections of the Human Spirit

Today we celebrate Easter, the Resurrection of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. Most of us have a pre-set image of Christ in our heads, whether it be the sweet infant in the manger, the benevolent shepherd or the patient preacher and teacher. These are all valid images for us, ones that we have held since childhood and can easily understand and accept. However, it pays to remember that Jesus was not crucified because He was the fuzzy, loving, Good Shepherd — He was put to death because He was considered a radical and a threat to the status quo.



Today, as Catholic Christians, we really celebrate the resurrection of an outspoken revolutionary who challenged and changed humankind with his teachings about God and how we should live our lives and treat one another. His message was, and is, not a simple one to embrace. *The Parable of the Good Samaritan* instructs us to offer help to those who need it, despite where they are from. In the *Our Father*, Jesus tells us to forgive those who have sinned against us. We are not only to forgive, but to turn the other cheek, be peacemakers, to use our talents, not bury them — the list goes on and on. How is it that we can recognize Jesus' lessons as the ultimate good that God expects from His children (us), and yet sometimes condemn, ignore or walk away from these issues in modern life?

Mary is the Mother of the Church, Mary Magdalene was the first to discover that Jesus had risen, and many of the early Christian communities were run by women, and yet, 2,000+ years later, women are still not considered as men's equals in many institutions around the world. Gun violence is rampant throughout our country and our children go to school in fear, and yet we allow it to perpetuate by our indifference or silence, and sometimes even discredit our young people and others who speak out. We know as Christians we have an obligation to help the poor, the marginalized, the different — and yet we as one nation, *under God*, often turn our backs and pretend not to see. Years ago I was watching a TV show about Harry Chapin, the singer and founder of *Long Island Cares*, and he said something that always stuck with me in referring to helping the less fortunate that "the rich won't do it, the poor can't do it, so it's up to you and me to get the job done." Harry may be gone, *but are we getting the job done?*

This Easter season, let's work on little resurrections. Our lives are stressful and harried, but deep down we know that true peace only comes through the Lord. Maybe we can each do one thing, take one small step, to create a society and world worthy of the children of God that He truly wants us to be. If we follow Jesus the radical, it won't be easy — but it *will* be worthwhile. It is up to all of us to heal the divisions among our communities, our nation and the world and foster a more joyful, just and peaceful way of living using one talent at a time. This is what our baptism calls us to and what our Catholic faith expects of us.

"We must examine our consciences as individuals, as a Church and as a society, asking for a healing of our own past sins against the sacredness of human life and our failures to recognize the dignity of others who, like us, are created in the image and likeness of God."

~ Bishop John Barres, *"The Dream and Our Deepest Truest Selves"*

EASTER BLESSINGS TO ALL!

Lori Zito, Stewardship Director

Parish Social Ministry

FRANCIS CLEARS WAY FOR ROMERO TO BE CANONIZED LATER THIS YEAR

by Joshua J. McElwee
Published on *National Catholic Reporter*
March 7, 2018 at 3:17am

People participate in a 2017 procession to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the killing of Blessed Oscar Romero in San Salvador, El Salvador. (CNS photo/Rodrigro Sura, EPA)



Vatican City — Pope Francis has cleared the way for slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero to be made a saint later this year or early next, with the Vatican announcing March 7 that the pontiff has approved the declaration of a miracle attributed to the late prelate's intercession. The move, while expected in recent months, nonetheless represents the culmination of one of the clearest turnabouts of Francis' nearly five-year papacy. The cause for Romero, who was shot dead while celebrating Mass in 1980, had languished for decades under Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. But less than two years after his election as pontiff, Francis placed Romero firmly on the sainthood track, formally decreeing in February 2015 that the archbishop was assassinated as a martyr for the Catholic faith. He then authorized his beatification, the last step before sainthood, in May of that year.

Now, Francis has decreed that Romero was responsible for help in the healing of Cecilia Maribel Flores, who was facing near-certain death towards the end of a difficult pregnancy before praying to the late archbishop for his intercession. Francis also approved a miracle for Blessed Pope Paul VI, opening the path to sainthood for the pontiff who shepherded the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, created the system of the Synod of Bishops, and also upheld the church's ban on birth control in his 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Announcement of Romero and Paul VI's canonizations are now a matter of formality: the pope needs only hold a consistory, or meeting, of the cardinals in Rome to set a date for the ceremony or ceremonies. Recent rumors indicate Francis is considering one joint canonization ceremony: to be held in Rome in October, during the upcoming meeting of the Synod of Bishops on young people.

Romero became archbishop of San Salvador in February 1977, as his country was in turmoil over a presidential election marked by intimidation carried out by government-sponsored paramilitary forces. As the situation deteriorated in following years, the prelate became more and more vocal in his denunciations of government killings and kidnappings that would eventually lead to El Salvador's bloody, 12-year civil war. Where John Paul and Benedict had expressed unease with Romero's denunciations, fearing the influence of liberation theology in his writings and homilies, Francis, originally from Argentina, praises a model of a bishop caring for his people. In a letter read aloud at Romero's 2015 beatification ceremony, the pope said the prelate "knew how to lead, defend and protect his flock." Italian Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, the postulator, or official promoter, of Romero's cause has called the archbishop "a martyr of the church of the Second Vatican Council." In a February 2015 talk, he said Romero "chose to live with the poor to defend them from oppression."

Theologians and experts who knew Romero or have studied his life deeply said that by setting up the prelate's canonization Francis is essentially putting forward a model for how to be a bishop. Julian Filochowski, the chair of the UK-based Archbishop Romero Trust, said the pope is setting up an icon that other bishops can look to in determining how to go about their ministry. "If you set up an icon, then that's what it is," said Filochowski, who knew Romero and helped draw global attention to the situation in El Salvador during the prelate's life. "It's someone you've got affection for, you've got admiration for, you've got pride in, and you're trying to follow and live." "He not only talked the talk, he walked the walk," the trust director said of Romero. "That's what it's very difficult to find in bishops today. Romero stands there as icon." Jesuit Fr. Martin Maier, a liberation theologian who lived in El Salvador in the 1980s and now works at the Jesuit European Social Centre in Brussels, called Romero the proto-model of a Francis-style bishop. "He's a bishop who goes to the peripheries, who reaches out to the poor and the marginalized," said Maier, the secretary for European affairs at the Centre. "A bishop who gave his life for his people."

Before becoming archbishop, Romero had served as the secretary of the Salvadoran bishops' conference, as an auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, and as the bishop of Santiago de María, a small diocese to the east of the capital. He was installed as archbishop on Feb. 23, 1977, three days after the controversial election of Gen. Carlos Humberto Romero as president. On Feb. 28, protestors demonstrating against the president-elect in central San Salvador were shot at by security forces, leading to the deaths of hundreds. On March 12, Jesuit Fr. Rutilio Grande, who Romero had known for about a decade, was killed. Grande, two laymen, and three younger children were traveling in a car as groups of men surrounded the vehicle, shooting inside and killing the priest, Manuel Solorzano, and Nelson Lemusas as they protected the children. Hearing of the assassinations, Romero left San Salvador for the rural area where the killing had taken place. He later told Grande's Jesuit provincial, Fr. Cesar Jerez, that while looking at the dead priest he thought, "If they killed him for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path."

Parish Social Ministry

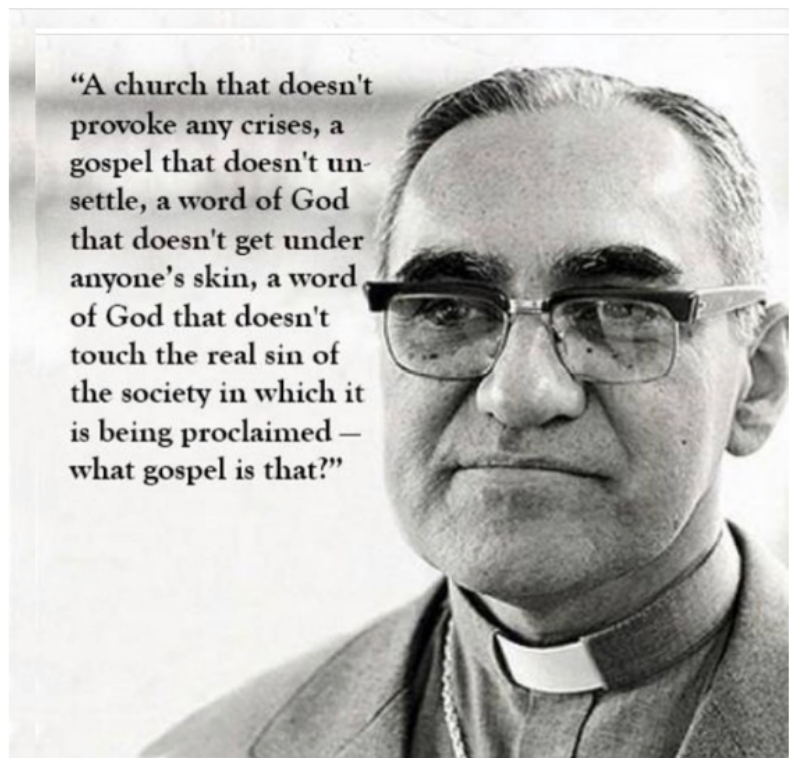
Jaime Alfredo Miranda, El Salvador's current vice minister for foreign affairs, told a February conference in Rome examining Grande's witness that the priest's death was a "determinative point" in Romero's life. Miranda, who grew up in the same area of the country where Grande lived and said he knew the priest "fairly well," noted how Romero decided after the Jesuit's death to no longer partake in state occasions "to protest the barbarity" of the killing. The government official also noted that the archbishop decreed after the death that the only Mass to be celebrated in San Salvador the following Sunday would take place at the cathedral, leading much of the city's entire Catholic population to gather in one place. "Grande represented an exemplary example of Christian witness that sparked a radical movement in Romero," said Miranda. Mercy Sr. Ana María Pineda, a theologian at Santa Clara University who wrote a 2016 book on the relationship between Romero and Grande, said that the archbishop had considered the priest almost like a younger brother and that Grande's death played a role in a lifelong process of conversion for Romero. "When Rutilio is killed ... [Romero] gets a moment of tremendous insight because he had great affection for Rutilio," said Pineda, author of *Romero & Grande: Companions on the Journey*. "When he sees this man, who had a reputation for being a good man, he might have asked himself, 'If they're killing him, this is saying something for what he was doing,' which was defending the poor," she said.

Maier, who came to El Salvador in 1989 just before the killings of six other Jesuits and two other laypeople, said Romero's response to Grande's death could be a model for other bishops in their work to interpret what the Second Vatican Council called "the signs of the times." The theologian noted the way that Romero would begin his weekly Sunday homilies with a rundown of what he called the "events of the week" — normally a summary of those who had suffered violence in some form in the preceding days. Maier referred to one 1977 homily, given in the parish in Aguilares where Grande had served. The archbishop started the sermon by saying that as bishop he had the task of "gathering up the bodies of those who have been abused, the victims of this persecution." "That's tremendous on a theological level," said the theologian. "When he mentioned the events of the week ... it was to consider what was happening in the past week as signs of the times, meaning signs of where God is speaking, acting, pointing." "For me, that's a key category to understand Romero theologically," he said. "That he gave a lot of importance to the signs of the times. He was looking for the presence and the plans of God in history." 'Outstanding example' of Christian nonviolence

A military coup brought an end to Gen. Carlos Romero's presidency of El Salvador in October 1979. But the new government proved unstable, falling apart in January 1980 before another military junta took control. On Jan. 22, the Salvadoran National Guard opened fire on a peaceful demonstration, leaving dozens dead and hundreds wounded. Archbishop Romero continued to speak publicly against the violence. On Feb. 17 he wrote an open letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, asking him to reject Defense Department proposals to provide military aid to the Salvadoran junta government. "It would be unjust and deplorable that by the interference of foreign powers the Salvadoran people were frustrated, they were repressed, and impeded in deciding with autonomy over the economic and political trajectory that our country should follow," the archbishop told Carter. On March 23, the fifth Sunday of Lent that year, Romero gave what would prove to be his most consequential homily. After detailing many of the incidents of violence that had taken place in prior months, he said he wanted to make a direct appeal to the members of the National Guard. "In the name of this suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven each day more tumultuous, I beg you, I beseech you, I order you in the name of God: stop the repression!" Romero told them, in words transmitted over national radio. The next day, March 24, Romero celebrated an evening Mass at a hospital chapel. As he finished his homily and began to walk towards the altar, a vehicle stopped on the street in front of the building. A gunman stepped out, shot the archbishop in the chest, got back in the car and sped off. Photos taken shortly after the incident show the dead archbishop collapsed on the floor just behind the altar, blood covering his vestments.

Filochowski, the director of the Archbishop Romero Trust, said the coming canonization has special significance during a time of numerous conflicts that Francis has called "a world war fought piecemeal." The Briton, who Romero described as a friend in his published diaries, said that while the archbishop does not give any sort of "magic recipe" for world peace that he left behind an example of Christian witness and action. "He remained steadfastly an agent of nonviolence," said the trust director. "The model for today is: don't be tempted into violent answers. The church has to stand out." Noting the pope's approval of a declaration that Romero interceded to provide a miracle, Filochowski said: "One would hope the real miracles of Romero are not cures ... but a change of heart, a change of mind, a change of approach." Maier, the liberation theologian, called Romero an "outstanding example" of the witness of Christian nonviolence. He said that while the archbishop studied the conflict in El Salvador from many angles "he left no doubt that for him violence is not an option." "On the one hand, he confronted, he analyzed, he denounced structural violence," said the Jesuit. "On the other hand for him it was clear he would not accept counter-violence as a solution." Pineda, a native Salvadoran, said the archbishop is a model not only for other bishops but for all Christians. "Romero for me is a model of how one lives with that fragility and what one does with your humanity and your limitations," she said. "Romero is very conscious of his limitations," said the theologian. "He doesn't arrive to this preferential option for the poor, or any part of how he lives his Christian life, overnight. It's a journey." "If one were to read his spiritual diary, you see constantly how he's asking God to be a better person," she continued. "He's asking God to please help him forgive, to be a more patient person."

"A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?"



Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy Of the Word

We are happy to announce that we will be having Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass on **April 8th and 22nd**.



Follow the directions of the priest when he calls the children forward to be sent to the Worship Room in the Parish Center. Any child in Level 1 or above is invited to participate.



The Children's Choir will rehearse in the Worship Room next Sunday, **April 8th** at 9:45am and sing at the 11am Mass. If you have any questions, please call Teresa Balducci at (516) 662-2831.

Attention Parents

*Registration will begin the week of April 16, 2018 for the coming year.
(Please see next page for details)*

Do not wait until the last minute to complete the following requirements as they are not easy to make up at a moment's notice!

In order for you to register your child for the next Level your child is expected, with your assistance, to complete the following:

Mass Reflection Forms

4 Mass Reflection Forms for Level 1

6 Mass Reflection Forms for Levels 2 – 7

Masses are every weekend:

Saturday at 5pm; Sunday at 7:30am, 9am & 11am



Reconciliation

Celebration of Reconciliation at least 1 time each year for Levels 2 – 7

Reconciliation is every Saturday at 12 p.m. in the Church.

Reconciliation cards are available in the Faith Formation Office & the Church.

We ask you to work with us in making sure your child has completed the above requirements so that they can move up to the next level.

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call the Faith Formation Office at 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

Faith Formation

Frequently Asked Questions About Faith Formation:

When should I register my child in Faith Formation for First Holy Communion?

Preparation for FHC is a two year process that begins when your child is in First Grade in School, so be sure to register them the Spring before. See days and times below.

Can my child switch from another parish to St. Sylvester Faith Formation Program?

Yes. It is necessary to bring a letter of completion on the other parish's letterhead indicating the years attended.

What if my child has missed a couple of years of Faith Formation and now we want to get started again?

No problem. Call the Faith Formation Office at 631-457-4506 x 118 and we will be happy to help you.

In Addition. . .

A **baptismal certificate** is required for all first time registrations. We will be unable to process your registration without this required certificate, so please be sure to bring it with you when you come to register.

If you are not yet registered with St. Sylvester Parish, please register in **The Parish Office** before registering your child in Faith Formation. The Parish Office hours are:
Monday—Wednesday 9am-12pm & 1pm-8:30pm; Thursday & Friday 9am-12pm & 1pm-5pm; Sunday 9:30am-12:30pm.

Registration Dates & Times



Faith Formation
Registration

Monday, April 16	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Tuesday, April 17	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 18	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 19	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

On-Line Registration

will begin April 16th and run through April 29th

Please go to www.stsylvesterli.org and click on Faith Formation and then Registration.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Faith Formation Ministry as a teacher/ catechist, please call 631-475-4506 x 118 or e-mail: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org for more information.

Faith Formation

Congratulations & Easter Blessings!

*After many months of preparation
Christopher Connolly, Stefanie Lomuto, Barbara Kedenburg & Miyhosi Schleicher
were admitted to the
Easter Sacraments of Initiation
(Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)
on March 31, 2018 at the Easter Vigil*

Julianna Sagginario celebrated Confirmation



RCIA is for those who. . .

- Have never been baptized and are interested in becoming Catholic.
- Are baptized non-Catholic but would like to become a member of the Catholic community.
- Are baptized Catholic but never received Communion and/or Confirmation.
- Are struggling with questions about life, death, suffering, hope, forgiveness, love, God . . .
- Are Catholic and would like to be a member of the Team and help by sharing your faith, being a sponsor, or setting up hospitality.

If you would like more information, please speak with Fran at 475-4506 ext 107.

Altar Servers



If you are a boy or girl in Fourth Grade or older and if you are interested in helping at Mass, consider becoming an Altar Server. Altar Servers serve one or two times a month, at the Mass your family usually attends. Altar Servers serve in pairs or sometimes three at a Mass. Duties of an Altar Server include carrying the Cross in the opening and closing Processions and leading the gifts to the Altar, holding the book for the Priest, assisting with Communion and other items that may come up seasonally. You will receive training. If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please call the Parish Office at 631-475-4506 ext. 118 and leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted.

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Happy Easter!

Monday ~ April 2, 2018

All Offices Closed

Tuesday ~ April 3, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ April 4, 2018

Painting Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ 10am ~ East Wing

Cancer Support Group ~ 1pm ~ Worship Room

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ April 5, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Social Justice Committee ~ 7pm ~ Clare House

Friday ~ April 6, 2018

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, April 7, 2018

First Saturday Devotion ~ 9am ~ WR

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH



May 3 at 6pm

Patricia Desmond Hall

Come sample the delicious food from some great restaurants in Medford plus surrounding towns. Bring your appetite!

Tickets are \$25 pp. Look in next week's bulletin for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities for our 2nd annual "A Taste of Medford Plus"

This is a great opportunity to fulfill service hour requirements for Confirmation, National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society. Come be a part of this great night! Event time will be 2 hours. You can volunteer for all or part of that time. Opportunities include: *Servers, Set up, Clean up, Bakers for Dessert, Drivers to pick up food and Raffle Table.*

If interested, please call Lori at 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or e-mail lzito@stsyvesterli.org



There will be NO 8:30am Mass on Monday, April 2nd and Thursday, April 5th. The 8:30am Mass on Tuesday and Friday, April 3rd and 6th will be celebrated in the Church.

Please note that all offices will be closed Monday, April 2nd.

Hospitality Sunday

NEXT SUNDAY, April 8th

after the 9am & 11am Masses.



Come one, Come all!

Enjoy delicious refreshments as you chat with friends, meet new ones and catch up on what's happening.

From Our Bishop



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2018

Dear Friends:

Truly the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

Today we speak these words which echo back to the first days of Christ's resurrection. After walking with Christ on the road to Calvary, we now joyfully go forth as the disciples did on the road to Emmaus with hearts burning within us. We celebrate the moment when Christ conquered death and gave us all hope of new life.

Even after nearly 2,000 years, that moment of the Resurrection has not lost any of its power. While myths and stories eventually fade, we celebrate a historical fact, a living Person who left behind lasting evidence of his wonders, evidence that the world still seeks to understand.

This is especially true today, as we find ourselves in an historic moment—archeologists have uncovered the site of Jesus' resurrection for the first time in nearly 500 years. Within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, scholars have restored and conducted research on the tomb of Jesus, also known as the Aedicule. Preliminary findings confirm that the heart of the structure is the same tomb that Roman Christians discovered and venerated as early as 326AD.

These findings offer us a great source of confidence in our faith. Scientific progress, rather than finding evidence against what we believe, through missionary archeology has given us a stronger connection with the place of Christ's burial and resurrection. Further, it provides a powerful image as we reflect upon our own spiritual lives this Easter.

In its 2,000-year history, Christ's tomb has endured many trials. It was covered over by slabs of stone, it withstood earthquakes, fires and the destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and many believed it had been lost. So too the life of Christ in our hearts can experience highs and lows—it may be covered over with our worries and concerns, it may be jeopardized in times of doubt and confusion, or we may even believe it has faded away.

Yet just as archeologists have opened up this holy site today, we are called this Easter to open our hearts once again to the power of Christ's love and mercy. We are called to remove the barriers from our hearts and allow Christ's glorified wounds to touch our wounds and the wounds of all humanity.

We profoundly experience this reality at the Easter Vigil. In the darkness of the night and in the darkness of our lives, the light of Christ is ignited. Beginning with the Paschal candle, that light is passed on from person to person until the Church is made radiant. The darkness in our hearts is dispelled, and even more beautifully, it is dispelled by the light that is shared by our brothers and sisters in faith. We see in a deeply moving way that Christ's light is spread by each of us who carry him with us. In that moment of unity and love, as the Exsultet proclaims, the Church shakes with joy.

Continued 

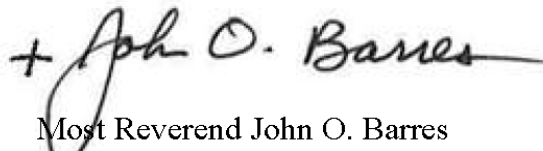
From Our Bishop

The excitement of that evening is not limited to one day, but extends throughout the eight-day Easter Octave. Each day we are given another story of the Risen Christ, another reason to rejoice. We witness the sorrow of the devoted women at the tomb transform into joy, we see the despair of Christ's disciples transform into hope, and we watch the doubt of St. Thomas transform into faith. And on Divine Mercy Sunday, we celebrate the gift of God's mercy that touches the struggles of our own lives and transforms them into opportunities to grow in holiness. On that day we celebrate the true source of joy in the Gospel, the Good News: we are forgiven our sins and are called by God to strive for sanctity.

During this joyous season then, we recognize that the Risen Christ's presence, his touch, his personal words of assurance tangibly changed the lives of his followers, as they can change our own lives even today. Though Christ ascended into heaven, we remember that we can still have a personal relationship with him through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Church which were given at Pentecost. His presence has never left us.

Indeed most powerfully, Christ's presence remains in the Eucharist. While history tells us Christ lived 2,000 years ago, we know he still lives today. He is waiting in our Churches for us to come spend time with him. He is waiting in our tabernacles for us to come adore him. He is waiting for us to join him at the Mass each Sunday, where we can share in his suffering, death, and resurrection as if we were by his side those many years ago.

We are challenged this Easter to allow Christ to change our lives by his healing touch which gives faith, hope, and love. We commit ourselves to a radical fidelity to Sunday Mass, where Christ can enter our hearts and begin to transform them. And transformed, our hearts will burn within us, driving us all to spread the light of Christ and bring about *dramatic missionary growth* here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre and beyond.



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Post Office Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023 • phone 516.678.5800 • fax 516.678.3138 • bishopsoffice@drvc.org

Diocesan News

Golden Wedding Jubilee Liturgy ~ This spring, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at a Mass on Sunday, April 29th at the Church of St. Rose of Lima in Massapequa. Mass will begin at 2:30pm. To register, call our parish office at 631-475-4506 ext. 101 by April 13th.

A Prayer Service Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will take place Wednesday, April 4th, 7:30pm, at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre. Prayer, witness talks, Gospel, spirituals and homily by Bishop John O. Barres.

Community News

Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts featuring the Bay Area Chorus presents in concert “*The Gift of Life*” today, Sunday, April 8, 4pm, at the United Methodist Church of Patchogue. Selections by John Rutter include “*The Gift of Life—Six Canticles of Creation*”. Free will donations accepted.

Preparing for Marriage? ~ Engaged Encounter is an effective *Pre-Cana* program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Couples are given the opportunity to explore many aspects of their relationship through a series of presentations, writings and dialog. There are no group discussions. Our next weekend will be at the Montfort Spirituality Center in Bay Shore, April 13–15, 2018. For information/registration please call Lenny & Pat Walker at 631-563-1032 or visit www.engagedencounterli.org

11th Annual Great Brookhaven Cleanup, part of the Great American Cleanup™, the nation’s largest organized cleanup, beautification and community improvement program, will take place Saturday, May 19th. Once again, individuals and groups can participate. Join *good* people doing *great* things . . . and help us fight dirty!! Please register online at brookhavenny.gov or call 631-451-TOWN to explore your best option or participating in this worthy community event.

The Patchogue unit of the *Steuben Society* is seeking new membership. We partake in social events, educational programs and offer scholarships while cultivating & celebrating our Germanic heritage. Anyone interested may call the society at 631-730-5151 or e-mail: steubensocietynatl@yahoo.com

A Day for Wise Women! ~ at the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma, Saturday, April 21 from 10:30am—4pm. In the second half of our lives we honor one another and the wisdom we hold within. Come join us as we pray together and celebrate who we are, and who we have become. You must be at least the glorious age of 60 to participate!! Presented by Sr. Mary Spratt and Valerie Dunne. Offering is \$50, lunch included. Call 631-588-8366 for more information or to register.

Bereavement Support Group ~ St. Mary’s Parish in East Islip is offering a free 8 week support group for adults who are struggling to cope with the death of a loved one, which begins on Wednesday, May 9th from 7pm–9pm. Registration is required. Call 631-581-4266 ext 100. In order to participate in this group, the death must have occurred prior to February 21, 2018.

In the age of high cost health insurance, *Hope House Ministries* in Port Jefferson offers free individual, couple, family and group counseling services by licensed professionals and interns. We also offer psychiatric evaluations for medications. In addition, Sr. Mary Ann Bazata, S.S.N.D offers free spiritual direction. If interested, please call 631-928-2377.

Send Me an Angel Workshop ~ Sunday, April 29 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Ronkonkoma. We all have a guardian Angel! This workshop will be a healing time of spiritual alignment as we place our hopes, prayers and questions upon angels wings. Through the integration of music, prayer and meditation, we will connect with the love messages and wisdom of God and explore questions at the center of our hearts. Presented by Paul Alexander, LCSW. Offering is \$35. Call 631-588-8366 to register.

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