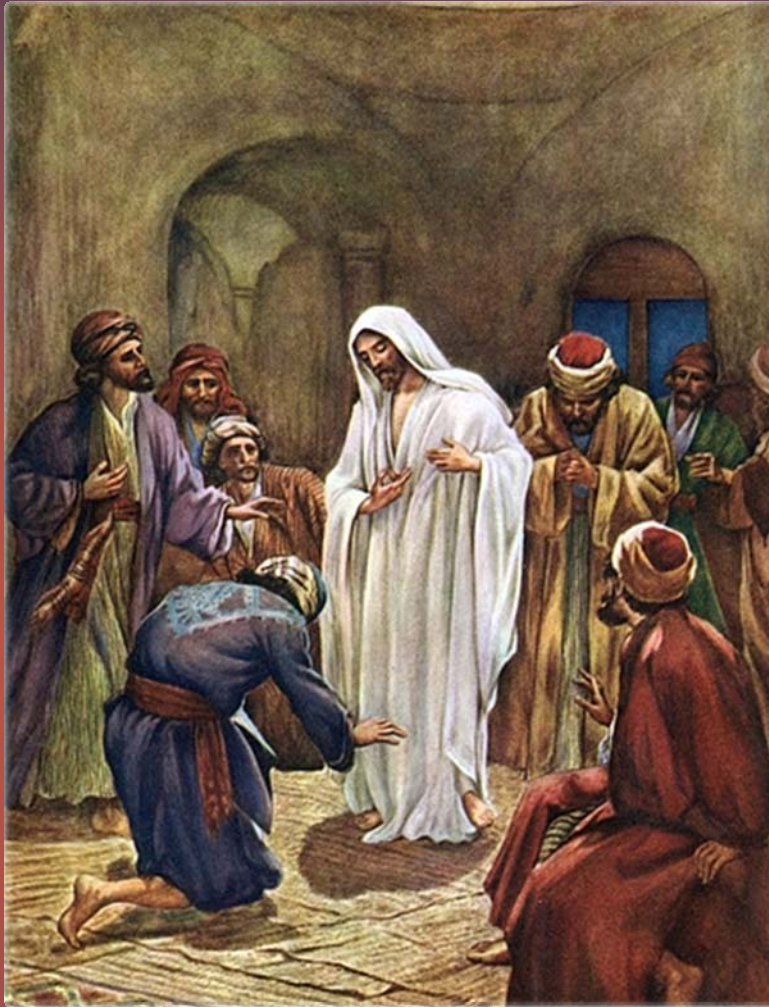


St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



*He stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.”*

April 15, 2018
3rd Sunday of Easter

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 McMahan, Faith Formation Director

Justin McMahan, 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 McMahan, 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

Saturday, April 14, 2018

5:00pm Tom Stephens
Marilyn McKee
Aloysius Donaghy
Catherine Holzmann
Robert Plowman
Fred & Dolores Mark

Sunday, April 15, 2018

7:30am Luigi Russo & Family
9:00am Manuel & Rosa Esteves
11:00am Sr. Alice Flood, FSP (19th Anniversary)

Monday, April 16, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

8:30am John Vasko

Thursday, April 19, 2018

8:30am Tom Stephens

Friday, April 20, 2018

8:30am Tom Stephens

Saturday, April 21, 2018

5:00pm Paul King, Jr.
Samantha Catello
Maura Breheny
Mary McGeown
Elizabeth Dodorico
Dean Foster
Matthew Coleman (Living)

Sunday, April 22, 2018

7:30am Luigi Russo & Family
9:00am Angelo Rega
11:00am Mary F. O'Grady (30th Anniversary)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

4/16:	Acts 6:8-15 Jn 6:22-29	Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
4/17:	Acts 7:51—8:1 Jn 6:30-35	Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21
4/18:	Acts 8:1-8 Jn 6:35-40	Ps 66:1-7
4/19:	Acts 8:26-40 Jn 6:44-51	Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20
4/20:	Acts 9:1-20 Jn 6:52-59	Ps 117:1-2
4/21:	Acts 9:31-42 Jn 6:60-69	Ps 116:12-17
4/22:	Acts 4:8-12 1 Jn 3:1-2	Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 Jn 10:11-18

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

Scott A. Wilson, Antoinette Vidal

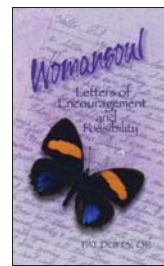
Women's Prayer Group

The next gathering of our *Spiritual Book Club* will be Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 7pm in the Worship Room. Please join us as we delve into Sr. Pat Duffy's Book: Womansoul.

Sr. Pat says, "In these letters I offer you something of my soul as a gift. I pray that through my sharing you will be encouraged to enter more deeply into your own soul. There, through the truth of your life, may you grow in grace, peace, and the love of your God."

So many of us have been encouraged and enlightened by Sr. Pat's spoken words at retreats and parish missions. Come and find the same in her written words.

*Spread the word and bring a friend!
Books are available at the gathering.*



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

Eva D'Amato, Robert Orlowski, 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, Nef Nieves, Joanne Clarke, Richard Gross, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzzone, 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, Joan Zerafa, Deidre Edwards, Theresa Baker, Ed Rafferty

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

Parish Social Ministry



The goal of Parish Social Ministry is to engage parishioners in social justice and outreach activities that allow us to live out the Gospel call to serve others and to build the Kingdom of God. Clare House is a community space where we exchange resources, offer assistance, and build relationships.

The Outreach Ministry at Clare House offers direct service to community members facing difficulties of all kinds. We strive to build authentic relationships with every individual who walks through the door and commit to journey in solidarity with them. We offer assistance to alleviate immediate needs. Clients receive access to: food pantry, thrift shop, case management, advocacy, information and referral, and other resources.

The Social Justice Ministry at Clare House works to expand our understanding and application of Catholic Social Justice through the use of praxis. We employ the "See, Judge, Act" Method to examine pressing social problems. By utilizing education, advocacy, and community organizing we put our faith in action to address structural issues and eliminate systemic injustice. We feed the hungry and ask why they are hungry. The Social Justice Committee normally meets first Thursdays at 7pm in Clare House. ALL ARE WELCOME! PLEASE RSVP.

I welcome your calls, emails, and letters to express feedback - positive or negative - on any aspect of our PSM program. Dialogue is essential for clarification of thought. Thank you to those of you who have contacted me. I look forward to continuing the conversation!

Constructive Feedback?

Justin McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry
631-475-4506 x121 jmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Outreach Ministry:

631-475-4506 x122
clarehouse@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Social Justice Ministry:

631-475-4506 press 5+2
jmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org



Stand Up For The Homeless Project

Our Level 5 Faith Formation classes will be assembling wash kits for the homeless in April.

For this to be a success, we need travel-size items:
(the type you may bring home after staying in a hotel)

- ✓ Soap
- ✓ Shampoo
- ✓ Conditioner
- ✓ Toothbrushes
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Mouthwash
- ✓ Lotion
- ✓ Deodorant
- ✓ Washcloths

The last day to collect these items is
Sunday, April 22nd, 2018.

Please help us meet our goal of 800 wash kits!

All items should be placed in Church lobby before mass or brought to the Parish Center before faith formation classes. On Monday morning volunteers should bring these items to the church basement.

Thank You!

Parish Social Ministry



Chapter 5: Healthcare and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing are foundational to the success and continued growth of our communities and our nation. In our current system, it is all but impossible to receive medical services without health insurance and avoid medical debt. Both research and personal stories teach us that without health insurance, people are less likely to receive medical care. Understanding who has and who lacks access to affordable health insurance is a key part of understanding the intersection of healthcare and 21st century poverty. But there is still more to the story, because even with insurance health outcomes vary by income level, race, and gender. Health and poverty both intersect and influence each other. High medical costs can cause any family or individual to experience poverty with one diagnosis, while low-income communities experience disproportionate health disparities.

Seeing the connection between health and poverty cannot simply be an academic exercise for us; this issue has real life consequences. In the United States, life expectancy in the lowest-income neighborhoods is 10 years shorter than in the richest neighborhoods.¹ Black men have the shortest life expectancy (72.5 years) compared to other groups.² Additionally, infant mortality is significantly higher for Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native infants compared to white infants.³

Some of these disparities stem from the fact that in our current reality, healthcare is primarily obtained through an employer. For many possible reasons, this may not always benefit an individual or family: an employer may not offer employer-sponsored coverage, a worker might not be eligible, or someone could be experiencing a period of unemployment.⁴ Most uninsured people have at least one working member of their family, despite the common belief that employment should be the key factor in determining one's access to healthcare. Moreover, because of the connection between health insurance coverage and work, some ascribe the same incorrect beliefs about work and poverty to health and poverty. The reality is more complicated. In some situations when a worker is offered employer-sponsored healthcare, or an individual qualifies for subsidies in the marketplace, insurance costs can still be prohibitive.

The passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 allowed states to expand Medicaid for adults who previously earned too much income to qualify but were still struggling financially, established health insurance exchanges with subsidies for individuals and families to purchase their own health insurance, and more. This resulted in a significant decrease in uninsured people in our nation, from 44 million in 2013 to less than 28 million as of the end of 2016.⁴ Unfortunately, much of this success is being rolled back as President Trump and Congressional Republicans work to dismantle the legislation. In the last quarter of 2017, the uninsured rate began rising again, adding 3.2 million people. Healthcare is a human right, and it is both a personal and political fault that millions of our sisters and brothers lack access to necessary, life-giving care in the 21st century.

Facts and Figures

- 6 million people were uninsured in the United States in 2016.⁴
- 45% of uninsured adults remained uninsured because the cost of coverage was too high in 2016.⁴
- One in five uninsured adults in 2016 went without needed medical care due to cost.⁴
- 9% of Asian adults, 22% of Latinx adults, 14% of Black adults, and 9% of white adults were uninsured in 2016.⁵
- 75% of uninsured people had at least one full-time worker in their family, and an additional 11% had a part-time worker in their family.⁴

Reflection Questions

1. What is the significance of Jesus acting as a healer throughout the Gospels? How does that call us to live?
2. How does lack of adequate healthcare affect our ability to thrive as members of a society?
3. In what ways do we treat healthcare as a privilege instead of a right in our country?

Sources:

1. Irwin, Neil and Bui, Quoc Trung. *The Rich Live Longer Everywhere. For the Poor, Geography Matters*. New York Times. April 11, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/04/11/upshot/for-the-poor-geography-is-life-and-death.html>
2. Arias, Elizabeth, Heron, Melonie, and Xu, Jiaquan. *National Vital Statistics Reports: United States Life Tables*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. August 14, 2017, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_04.pdf
3. Ubri, Petry and Artiga, Samantha. *Disparities in Health and Health Care: Five Key Questions and Answers*. Kaiser Family Foundation. August 12, 2016, <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/disparities-in-health-and-health-care-five-key-questions-and-answers/>
4. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Key Facts about the Uninsured Population*. November 29, 2017, <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/fact-sheet/key-facts-about-the-uninsured-population/>
5. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Health Coverage by Race and Ethnicity: Changes Under the ACA*. Jan 26, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/report-section/health-coverage-by-race-and-ethnicity-changes-under-the-aca-issue-brief/>

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

\$26,813

April 8, 2018

Regular ~ \$11,362

Renovation ~ \$354

Solar ~ \$155

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$45,221.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	68.7%
Number of Donors to Date:	123

Reflection

The disciples in today's Gospel come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we too will discover Jesus in our midst.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who, imitating the example of Jesus, reach out to others by bringing the Eucharist to the sick, hospitalized, homebound and elderly.

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Garden Ministry

Looking for Green Thumbs

Our Garden Ministry here at St. Sylvester is once again getting ready for the spring planting season, preparing to transform our parish grounds into a park-like setting.

Do you have a green thumb and love to work with the earth? Do you excitedly wait for the frost season to end so you can start planning your planting? Perhaps you feel closest to the Lord among the flowers? If so, our gardeners welcome you to join them! Or...

Maybe you're the type that loves being around flowers, but can't grow or plant them, due to stiff knees or a black thumb. If this is the case, perhaps you would like to offer the gift of your time and assist with the setting up and selling at our annual **Spring Flower Sale**, which will be **May 11th – 13th**.

Please contact Lori Zito in Stewardship Office if you are interested in helping us "bring in the spring."



Stewardship



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. The Catholic Ministries Appeal offers us a unique opportunity to be the Hands of Christ's Mercy and His instrument of *Dramatic Missionary Growth* on Long Island and beyond, as it supports so many good works we accomplish together as Church.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal supports works of evangelization and ministries that provide spiritual, educational and charitable assistance to hundreds of thousands of men, women and children across our Diocese. So much of the vital work of our Church would not be possible if not for your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis said: "...Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy." The Catholic Ministries Appeal is a critical part of that calling, making it possible for Christ's mercy to reach throughout our entire Diocese.

We see it in the smiles and laughter from our seniors at our community centers who, maybe for the first time in a long time, are socializing and sharing a hot meal with others. We see it the faces of those who, because of Catholic Charities, have long term sobriety and are reunited with their families. We see it in the joy of a seminarian as he completes his studies, and is ordained to the priesthood, and we see it in the excitement of a college student, away from home for the first time, finding faith-filled friends through a Catholic Campus Ministry program.

Through your prayerful consideration and reflection, I invite you to once again take part in the work of our Church by making a sacrificial gift to the 2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Together we can continue to be agents of Jesus' mercy.

Thank you for your love for the mission of the Church. I will be keeping you and your family daily in my Masses and prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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

Register
this week!

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.

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Monday ~ April 16, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

Spanish Legion of Mary ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 4

Faith Formation Registration~4:30pm—7:30pm

Tuesday ~ April 17, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Faith Formation Registration~4:30pm—7:30pm

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Women's Prayer Group ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room

Wednesday ~ April 18, 2018

Painting Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

Faith Formation Registration:4:30pm—7:30pm

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ April 19, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Faith Formation Registration:9:30am—11:30am

Moving On Peer Support ~ 2:30pm ~ East Wing

Faith Formation Registration:1:30pm—4:30pm

Friday ~ April 20, 2018

Carmelite Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room

Carmelite Meeting ~ 8pm ~ EW

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ Church

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ East Wing

Community Dance ~ 7pm ~ PDH

"Moving On" Peer Support Group

Losing a lifetime partner can have you feeling lost and without purpose. "Moving On" is a group of widows and widowers who come together once a month to help each other find that purpose. Through discussion and prayerful contemplation, we support one another in our attempts to get on with our lives in a meaningful way. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 19 at 2:30 pm in the East Wing. Please join us then. *Eileen & Martha ~ Coordinators*



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. and are available for purchase in the parish office starting Monday, April 9th and after Masses April 21/22 and April 28/29.

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@stsylvesterli.org

Community Events

Spring High Tea at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Ronkonkoma on Sunday, May 6th at 1:45pm. Scones, Tea Sandwiches and Sweets. Bring your own tea cup. Tickets are \$15. Call 631-585-9291 to purchase.

Patchogue-Medford High School PTSA is hosting their **24th Annual Basket Auction** on Friday, April 27th, in the cafeteria of the Pat-Med High School, 181 Buffalo Ave, Medford. Doors open at 6pm, calling begins at 7:30pm. Admission is \$10 & includes 25 pink tickets, coffee & dessert. Pizza and refreshments will be sold. 100's of great prizes!! For more information call 631-758-3402

Bunco Night ~ hosted by the Columbiettes, will take place this Friday, April 20th at the Knights of Columbus Hall/VFW Hall, 507 Long Island Ave, Medford. Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$10 each or \$30 for a group of 4 and can be purchased in St. Sylvester's Parish Office.

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.

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.

The Retrouvaille Program is for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. It is a marriage program that helps couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. The next Retrouvaille Weekend will take place May 4-6, 2018 at Immaculate Conception in Huntington. Call 800-470-2230 or go to www.helpourmarriage.org 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.

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

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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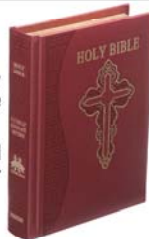
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