

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



I

Am

The Good Shepherd

*I will lay down my life
for the sheep.*

April 22, 2018

4th 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 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)

Monday, April 23, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

8:30am Arthur Pollaci

Thursday, April 26, 2018

8:30am Tom Stephens

Friday, April 27, 2018

8:30am Catherine Holzmann

Saturday, April 28, 2018

5:00pm Edward Leitgeb (2nd Anniversary)
Rhina Silva
Frank Silvestri
Edward Mowat
Charles Polla

Sunday, April 29, 2018

7:30am John B. Coppola
9:00am Larry Dillingham, Sr.
11:00am William Mahony (4th Anniversary)
All Living & Deceased members of the Mahony Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

4/23:	Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:1-10	Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
4/24:	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30	Ps 87:1-7
4/25:	1 Pt 5:5-14 Mk 16:15-20	Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17
4/26:	Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20	Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
4/27:	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6	Ps 2:6-11
4/28:	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14	Ps 98:1-4
4/29:	Acts 9:26-31 1 Jn 3:18-24	Ps 22:26-28, 30-32 Jn 15:1-8

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

Scott A. Wilson, Antoinette Vidal, Keith Ferro

Prayer Groups

Adoration

2nd Friday of the month ~ 8pm
Worship Room

Charismatic Prayer Group

1st, 3rd & 4th Fridays of the month ~ 8pm
Worship Room

Women's Prayer Group

3rd Tuesday of the month ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Legion of Mary

Every Tuesday ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Spanish Legion of Mary

Every Monday ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 4

Carmelites

3rd Friday of the month
Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room
Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing

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, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Martha Benvenuto, Joel Rivera, Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Diana Erickson, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Michael Dolan, Baby Valentina Brescia, The Abano Family, Iris DelValle, 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, Lisa Conklin, Barbara Vattiato

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

Why Does the Church Care About Global Climate Change?

At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both 'the human environment' and the natural environment. (Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good, US Catholic Bishops, 2001)

Introduction

There is increasing discussion of global climate change, also called "global warming," which refers to long-term increases in average global temperatures that result from natural variation and human activities. Although some uncertainty still exists as to the exact nature and effects of global climate change, a broad scientific consensus has developed that some significant warming has occurred, brought about in part by human activities. As the U.S. bishops expressed in their 2001 pastoral statement on climate change, this issue "...is about the future of God's creation and the one human family." To help us address contemporary questions, such as climate change, Catholics bring a long tradition of applying our Church's social teachings to complex issues.

Sacred Scripture calls believers to care for God's creation and all of God's children. As creation unfolded under God's loving hand, God saw all that He had made and found it "very good" (Genesis 1: 31). God created the human person in His "divine image" placing the human creature at the summit of the created order. "Being in the image of God, the human individual possesses the dignity of a person who is not just something but someone." 1 God also blesses the other creatures who share the earth and makes clear the connection that exists between all living things (Genesis 1:27-31). God calls us as His stewards to care for the garden He created. The natural world serves as a source of inspiration for our faith and our love for the Creator. Through Biblical stories, psalms and parables, and the beauty of the natural world, we can come to know God more fully.

Catholic social teaching, which is rooted in Scripture and the tradition of the Church, is an instrument of evangelization 2 and expresses the social doctrine of the Church outlining ethical principles to guide the development of a morally just society. These principles are particularly applicable to the many challenging social, political, economic and ecological questions of our times.

There are three themes from Catholic Social Teaching that apply in a particular way to the Church's concern for the environment. First, concern for the environment calls us to respect human life and dignity. Second, as the world becomes increasingly interdependent, we have a call to promote the common good and the virtue of solidarity. Finally, in caring for the environment, we have a special responsibility to the poor and vulnerable, who are most affected and least heard. 3

Parish Social Ministry



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Stewardship and the Common Good

"The fundamental message of Sacred Scripture proclaims that the human person is a creature of God, and sees in his being in the image of God the element that characterizes and distinguishes him." 4 Because humans are social beings, they can find their fulfillment and pursue their individual good when they "come together in stable groups with the purpose of attaining a common good." 5 In light of the human person's unique dignity and pre-eminent place within creation, "the relationship of man with the world is a constitutive part of his identity. 6 As the US Catholic bishops point out in their statement, *Renewing the Earth*, as stewards, "we seek to explore the links between concern for the person and for the earth, between natural ecology and social ecology. The web of life is one."

In examining environmental questions, the concept of the "common good" is central in promoting the dignity, unity, and equality of all people. 7 Achieving the common good requires us to recognize that we exist "with and for" others and that we act in such a way that respects and protects the fundamental rights of all humans. The common good also requires a concern for not only the people of today but for future generations as well. It compels us to work towards worldwide cooperation on issues of global concern. 8

Special Concern for the Poor

God also calls His children to care for one another, most particularly the poor and those who cannot care fully for themselves. Our responsibility to the poor and vulnerable requires that we open our hands and hearts to those in need, taking special care to aid and comfort them (Deut. 15:7-11). We see the face of Christ in the poor, the vulnerable, and those living on the margins of society. By caring for them, we draw closer to the Lord, fulfilling and spreading the message of His love. We will be judged by our responsibility to the least of these. (Matthew 25:35-40). As part of one body in Christ, each believer has an obligation to use our God-given talents for the improvement of the human condition and the attainment of the common good (I Cor. 12:7, 12).

Poverty and Authentic Human Development

Global climate change poses one of the greatest threats to the most vulnerable among us. Because of poverty, age, health, and location, the poor are especially susceptible to the potential negative impacts of global climate change. The poor and vulnerable often do not have the economic and technological resources to either adapt to or ward off the expected impacts of climate change. Heat waves, droughts, and storms and consequent economic costs will fall most heavily upon the poor. 9 Since the "least of these" are most at risk from the climate change, Christians have a particular duty to address the moral and human implications of climate change.

"Caring for the environment is a challenge for all of humanity. It is a matter of a common and universal duty, that of respecting the common good." 10 Every individual and institution must accept responsibility for caring for God's creation, and "[I]t is a responsibility that must mature on a basis of the global dimension of the present ecological crisis and the consequent necessity to meet it on a worldwide level, since all beings are interdependent in the universal order established by the Creator." 11 Every creature depends upon the same global ecology, a series of separate yet interdependent systems that provide air, food, water, and basic resources. The planetary commons, comprised of these shared resources, are easily exploited when we fail to recognize the interconnected nature of God's creation. Therefore, common effort is required to preserve God's gifts to us. 12

This attention to the environment also must reflect the special concern for the poorest members of the human community, as poverty and environmental degradation often go hand in hand. 13 God created the bounty of the earth to be shared among all of his children, equitably and justly, and he commands us to be stewards of this great creation. To embrace our role as stewards of God's creation, we must employ "restraint and moderation in the use of material goods, so we [do] not allow our desire to possess more material things to overtake our concern for the basic needs of people and the environment." 14 In fulfilling these duties, we promote a focus on authentic development, encouraging the economic and spiritual advancement of the poorest people on earth as a means to living out our Catholic faith.

The Virtue of Prudence

The virtue of prudence is required in both the dialogue and in our response to the challenges posed by global climate change. As the bishops said in their June 2001 statement, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, "Prudence not only helps us identify the principles at stake in a given issue, but also moves us to adopt courses of action to protect the common good. ... It is not simply a cautious and safe approach, but rather a thoughtful, deliberate, and reasoned basis for taking or avoiding action to achieve a moral good." In the case of global climate change, we know enough to understand that scientific arguments for action on the reduction of greenhouse gases cannot be easily dismissed. It seems prudent then, not only to continue to research and monitor this phenomenon, but to take steps now to mitigate possible negative effects in the future. The efforts of our Church then are focused on the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, as inaction and inadequate or misguided responses to climate change may potentially pose greater burdens on the poor, particularly the poor in developing nations.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

April 15, 2018

Regular ~ \$8,711

Renovation ~ \$155

Solar ~ \$85

Faith Direct April Contributions

Regular ~ \$11,052

Easter ~ \$1,725

Renovation ~ \$1,158

Solar ~ \$214

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

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$46,221.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	70.2%
Number of Donors to Date:	127

Reflection

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who stand ready to assist their neighbors through attendance and support for community activities such as police, fire and rescue.

"As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling." ~ Pope Francis

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

As a Stewardship Parish, we recognize that *everything* we have is given to us by God — including the earth. Today, we celebrate Earth Day, recognizing that along with the appreciation we have for what we have been generously given comes a responsibility to care for all of God's creation. Part of being a responsible Christian steward is tending to the earth and its natural resources. Many today use the term "Stewardship" in solely financial terms, meaning to take care of something by supporting it monetarily. While this is a *part* of living Stewardship daily as a way of life (what we refer to as the Stewardship of Treasure), *God expects us to do much more* — to take individual, concrete actions to preserve our country and our world.

When my oldest daughter was small, we attended an Earth Day festival at Heckscher Park and were given a little pine tree to plant. Some 16 or so years later, that little tree has grown to be a beautiful pine tree which graces my backyard. All these years later, we still talk about the day we planted that baby pine tree and it has become both my personal symbol and reminder of the importance of environmental Stewardship.

Planting that tree with my daughter was just a small gesture at the time. At the risk of sounding corny, I want to point out that if everyone just increases their awareness and does one little thing, together we can make a tremendous difference in sustaining God's gift of the earth. Do we use re-usable bags whenever possible and recycle as much as we can? Do we look for and purchase eco-friendly cleaners and locally grown and/or organic produce? Has that leaky faucet been fixed yet? Can we be more mindful of how much printer paper we waste in our offices, schools and homes?

I invite you to spend some time outside this weekend as I will and appreciate the beauty which surrounds us here on Long Island — the parks, the beaches, the farms, the forests. They have been lovingly given to us — all we need to do is take baby steps together to ensure that they remain for future generations.

Happy Earth Day!

Lori Zito
Stewardship Director



Stewardship



"I knew something was wrong as soon as I saw him..."

For Long Island's homebound seniors, **Meals-on-Wheels** is a lifesaver. Every weekday, the program delivers hot, nutritious meals to seniors in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Meals-on-Wheels case managers also assist these seniors in accessing other services they might need.

"I knew something was wrong as soon as I saw him," explains Steve, a driver for Catholic Charities' Meals-on-Wheels. Steve had been delivering meals to Ed for several years and upon arriving that fateful day, immediately observed that he seemed disoriented.

Steve knew Ed was diabetic, so he checked his blood sugar and saw that it was low. He poured him some orange juice but sensed there was something more serious going on. *"I kept asking him to let me call 911 but he resisted. I couldn't accept that so I just casually stuck around, making my case. He finally admitted that he didn't have anyone to care for his dog if he was hospitalized, so I promised I would, and that's when he gave me the green light to call."*

It was a good thing, too. At the hospital Ed was diagnosed with a serious blood infection that kept him there for nearly four months. In the meantime, Steve cared for the dog until Ed's sister arrived from out of town.

Your gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal support so many programs that help us to serve our seniors and others who come to us for help each day.

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in the lives of others.



Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish St. Sylvester Church Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

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City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

THANK YOU!

Faith Formation

Registration Information 2018/2019

All children need to be registered each year.
Please note that classes are filled on a first come, first served basis.

You may **register online** through April 29th. Please go to the Parish's website:

<http://stsylvesterli.org>

Go to the Faith Formation Registration link below the picture of the Church on the Home Page and follow the directions.

Registration will be held in the Parish Center on:

Monday, May 14 ~ 2pm—5pm

Wednesday, May 23 ~ 2pm—5pm

or call 631-475-4506 ext 118 for an appointment.



FIRST TIME REGISTRATIONS

(For First Graders and children new to the program.)

Please note: A baptismal certificate is required for all first time registrations. So please be sure to bring it with you when you come to register. We will be unable to process your registration without this required certificate. Thank You!

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

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Children's Choir Rehearsal ~ 9:45am ~ WR

Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass

Monday ~ April 23, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

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

Tuesday ~ April 24, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ April 25, 2018

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ April 26, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

FHC Practice ~ 5:30pm ~ Church

Wedding Rehearsal ~ 6:30pm ~ Church

Level 7 Parent Meeting ~ 6:45pm ~ East Wing

Friday ~ April 27, 2018

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ Church

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ East Wing

Wedding ~ Michelle Forthman & Bryan

Williams, Jr. ~ 2:30pm ~ Church

The Plant Sale Is Coming!

Friday, May 11: 10:00am—4pm

Saturday, May 12: 9:30am—6:15pm

Sunday, May 13: 8am—12:15pm

(Mother's Day Weekend)

FLATS (48 plants)

HANGING BASKETS

PLANTERS

HERBS



ASSORTED ANNUALS

IN 4" AND 6" POTS

Hosted by the Garden Club

If you would like to help the Garden Club beautify the parish gardens by weeding and putting down mulch on Saturday, May 12th, please contact Lori at 631-475-4506 ext 115.



May God Bless

Michelle Ann Forthman

&

Bryan Tyler Williams, Jr.

as they marry at St. Sylvester

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ 2:30pm

Senior Circle of Friends

The Senior Circle of Friends meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Their next meeting is April 27 at 12:30pm in PDH. Come join us for fun and games. Bring a friend and meet some new ones!



Fun for Seniors

Parish Life

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 per person 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@stsyvesterli.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 Hugh 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

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.

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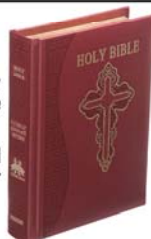
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