

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



*I am the vine,
you are the
branches.*

April 29, 2018

5th 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@stsylvesterli.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@stsylvesterli.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.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, April 30, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

8:30am William Garbe

Thursday, May 3, 2018

8:30am Tom Stephens

Friday, May 4, 2018

8:30am Catherine Holzmann

Saturday, May 5, 2018

5:00am Kenneth Daniels (2nd Anniversary)
Tom Sollecito
James Richard Gordon
James Mularkey
Olivia DiNucci

Sunday, May 6, 2018

7:30am Thomas J. Clark
9:00am Carmen Diaz
11:00am Richard Faria (10th Anniversary)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

4/30:	Acts 14:5-18 Jn 14:21-26	Ps 115:1-4, 15-16
5/1:	Acts 14:19-28 Jn 14:27-31	Ps 145:10-13, 21
5/2:	Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8	Ps 122:1-5
5/3:	1 Cor 15:1-8 Jn 14:6-14	Ps 19:2-5
5/4:	Acts 15:22-31 Jn 15:12-17	Ps 57:8-10, 12
5/5:	Acts 16:1-10 Jn 15:18-21	Ps 100:1-3, 5
5/6:	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 1 Jn 4:7-10	Ps 98:1-4 Jn 15:9-17

Communion for the Homebound



Do you know someone who is no longer able to attend Mass but would like to receive the Eucharist? Please have them or their family member call Parish Outreach at 475-4506 ext 122 to arrange for a visit from an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

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, Diane Ruiz, Martha Benvenuto, Joel Rivera, Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Diana Erickson, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Michael Dolan, Baby Valentina Brescia, The Abano Family, 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

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

Keith Ferro, Louis Gervasio, Laura Mockler

First Saturday Devotion



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

next Saturday, May 5 at 9am in
the Worship Room.

The Bread & Wine

used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
Joan Mahony
in loving memory of
William Mahony



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 offer direct service to our neighbors facing difficulties of all kinds, and expand our understanding and application of Catholic Social Teaching through the use of Praxis. We employ the "See, Judge, Act" Method to examine pressing social problems.

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.

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.

Constructive Feedback?

I welcome your calls, emails, and letters to express feedback 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!

Want to Volunteer?

We rely on contributions of time, money, skills, and prayer to keep our ministry going!

Justin McMahon
Director of Parish Social Ministry
631-475-4506 x121
jmcmahon@stsyvesterli.org

Need Assistance?

Parish Social Ministry Intake Line
Monday 930-12, 1-330
Wednesday 930-12, 1-330, 530-730
631-475-4506 x122
clarehouse@stsyvesterli.org

Community Through Communication

Community is at the root of our Christian experience. The Trinity teaches us that just as God is three Persons in one – the very embodiment of relationship – so too are we in infinite relationship with those around us, with God, and with all of creation. Relationships require work and they require communication. This is why we place an invitation to dialogue in the bulletin each week. Only through conversation with one another can we achieve clarity of thought on the complex issues of our time. Only in relationship with one another can we discern God's presence and purpose in our lives.

To facilitate the growth of community through communication we are presenting a series of articles by Mary Snyder focused on Nonviolent Communication:

#1 – A Language of Life (April 2017)

In this short article, we want to acquaint you with one of the basic elements of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) – getting in touch with needs. In preparation for that, list five things you did since you woke up this morning. For example, did you brush your teeth, brush your hair, go to the bathroom?

What does the word "need" mean to you? Does it mean lacking something? Is it an inadequacy? The word need is defined in Nonviolent Communication as a resource that life requires to sustain itself. This is the foundation and principle of NVC.

Needs are universal; everyone has the same needs. Some basic needs we all have are air, food, exercise, rest, shelter, water, health, order, etc. Go to <https://www.cnvc.org/Training/needs-inventory>, for a longer list of NEEDS that everyone has.

Now look at your list. Can you to match what you did with the NEED you were trying to meet? All behavior is meaningful. Everything we do meets a need. Our needs may change from moment to moment. If we get up in a hurry to be somewhere, we may prioritize our needs we require that morning.

Our feelings are attached to our needs. When our needs are met, we feel happy. When they are not met, we feel uncomfortable or sad. If we have to leave in the morning before all of our needs are met, we may be annoyed (which is a feeling) and it could affect our whole day. We could become impatient (another feeling) during the day because a certain need wasn't met before we left. We may feel uncomfortable. Especially if we ran out in such a hurry that we forgot to brush our teeth. If we name the need that wasn't met and are able to address that need, it changes our feeling.

Feelings are an indicator of our fulfilled or unfulfilled needs. They are so central to our life that putting on the virtues of Jesus and Mary means to recognize feelings and needs and help people get their needs met.

Parish Social Ministry



Conclusion: A Theology of Abundance

In our world today, it is easy to become accustomed to the dominant narratives of consumerism and individualism that pervade our personal, professional, and even spiritual lives. It is not easy to look around and have a clear vision for how we might achieve an end to poverty. The temptation to gather resources and keep them for oneself is strong, sometimes overpowering. In our profit-driven world, outcomes, not current reality, drives decisions. In fact, one might even say that the measure of success in today's society is economic prosperity. That means that business owners, so focused on competition, are "winning" if they are making lots of money. We need to change the measure of winning so that success means businesses pay workers a living wage, developers invest in affordable housing, and healthy food is accessible to all. This is not the way that we, as justice-seekers, are called to live.

Time and time again in the Bible, God demonstrates unending generosity and shares the abundance of Her creation with humankind. In miracles and parables, Jesus taught his disciples about a new way to live together, caring for our one human family without any fear of scarcity. Catholic Social Justice and the lived witness of prophets, saints, and justice-seekers show us what living faithfully to this call looks like, and how choosing abundance can transform the world.

Believing in a theology of abundance is a new way to live in the world. It is a direct contradiction to the individualism, consumerism, and unbridled capitalism that dominate our world today. Moreover, it is an active choice, and one that may require sacrifices. It requires taking a critical look at where resources are hoarded and kept from people at the margins of society.

We know there is a way to fix this – and it is part of NETWORK's core mission! As we work to Mend the Gaps in economic and wealth inequality with big-picture, structural solutions, we must also continue our advocacy to ensure that current, successful federal programs are protected and enhanced. These safety net programs ensure that we all have a place in ensuring the financial security of our neighbors. But, they are constantly under attack because of our society's incorrect understanding of 21st century poverty.

It is tempting to collect assets and wealth, whether to protect against future hardship or because one feels that is the measure of self-worth. But, doing so is incompatible with the trust we are called to place in God and the care we are called to provide to our one human family. As the theologian Walter Brueggemann wrote: "Too often, the church has understood God's unconditional grace as solely a theological phenomenon, instead of recognizing that it has to do with the reordering of the economy of the world."¹ It is time to begin talking about a theology of abundance in the real world, both the current challenges and our visions of hope. Only then we will get closer to the Kingdom of God.

Facts and Figures

- The safety net kept 38 million people, including 8 million children, above the poverty line in 2015.²
- 2 million people, including 4.4 million children, were lifted out of poverty by refundable tax credits in 2016.³
- Housing subsidies shielded 1.0 million children from poverty in 2016.³
- In 2016, the uninsured rate for people under 64 was 10.3%, the lowest it's been in decades.⁴

Reflection Questions

1. How do you encounter the dominant narrative of individualism in our society?
2. Do you have any examples of counter-cultural encounter in your life?
3. How are you already living out a theology of abundance in your life?
4. What can you do moving forward to reinvent and correct the outdated narrative of poverty that currently dominates our political discourse?

Sources:

1. Brueggemann, Walter. Enough is Enough. The Other Side. November-December 2001, <http://www.jmm.org.au/articles/1181.htm>
2. Stone, Chad, Trisi, Danilo, Sherman, Arloc, and Horton, Emily. A Guide to Statistics on Historical Trends in Income Inequality. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. October 11, 2017, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/a-guide-to-statistics-on-historical-trends-in-income-inequality>
3. Cooper, David and Wolfe, Julia. Poverty declined modestly in 2016; government programs continued to keep tens of millions out of poverty. Economic Policy Institute. September 12, 2017, <http://www.epi.org/blog/poverty-declined-modestly-in-2016-government-programs-continued-to-keep-tens-of-millions-out-of-poverty/>
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/>

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

April 22, 2018

Regular ~ \$8,791

Renovation ~ \$215

Solar ~ \$160

Catholic Elementary Schools Envelope

Next weekend, May 5/6, there is a specially marked envelope for *Catholic Elementary Schools*. Half of the money collected in parishes with schools, and parishes that support schools, stays with the school, and the other half is sent to the diocese and is given to *Tomorrow's Hope Foundation* for scholarships. The money from the non-school parishes is to the diocese for the *Tomorrow's Hope* scholarships.

Please place this special envelope in the regular collection basket.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$47,321.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	71.9%
Number of Donors to Date:	129

Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that God is glorified when a disciple, grafted in Christ, produces abundantly and bears much fruit. The disciple must then be a good steward of that abundance.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who share their gift of hospitality through ministries such as greeters, ushers, bakers and our Sunday Hospitality Team.

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL IS ON ITS WAY!

Next week, we begin our time of stewardship renewal. Let us pray for all people in our parish as we reflect together on God's generosity in our lives, and our response to that generosity as we embrace the gospel message of "*stewardship as our way of life.*"

Stewardship
Our Way of Life

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

We wish to help provide for the mission of the Church by making a gift of:

PLEDGE: \$ _____

All gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal will be used solely for the purposes of Parish Sharing, Catholic Charities, Education and Formation, and Pastoral Ministries.

Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Please Print:

Parish: St. Sylvester Church

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Place in collection basket or return to the Parish Center. 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 May 13th. 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!

Parish Life

The Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets once a month to knit, crochet, pray and share patterns. The lap robes and shawls are lovingly brought to the sick and homebound, Good Shepherd Hospice and Brookhaven Hospice. Their next meeting will be this Wednesday, May 2.

Donations of yarn are appreciated and can be left in the Parish Office. New members are always welcome!



Come and see the amazing paintings from members of our Art Group, led by Paul Padovano. Paintings will be on display and available for purchase in the East Wing after Masses Sunday, May 13th.

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ April 30, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

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

Tuesday ~ May 1, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ May 2, 2018

Prayer Shawl Meeting ~ 10:30am ~ East Wing

Cancer Support Group ~ 1pm ~ Worship Room

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ May 3, 2018, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

FHC Practice ~ 5:30pm ~ Church

Taste of Medford + ~ 6pm ~ PDH

Social Justice Committee ~ 7pm ~ Clare House

Friday ~ May 4, 2018

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Saturday, May 5, 2018

First Saturday Devotion ~ 9am ~ WR

Art Class ~ 9am ~ East Wing

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.

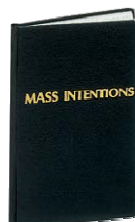


The Cancer Support Group for Adults welcomes all those affected by this illness. The Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from **1pm to 2:30pm** in the Parish Center Worship Room. Their next meeting is this Wednesday, May 2. This group is solely for those affected, not caregivers, family, friends, etc.

During this challenging time in their lives, the members share and offer hope and strength to one another.

If you have any questions, please call Lori Zito at 631-475-4506 ext 115 or e-mail:

lzito@stsyvesterli.org



Masses are still 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.

Parish Life



+ Plus tasty treats from restaurants in neighboring towns!

Come sample the delicious food from the following eateries:

Associates Gourmet Market

Blue Moon Deli

Café Gia

Chicken Palace

Golden Star

Island Empanada

Karvers Grille

Mama Bella

Mama's Holbrook

Medford Pastaria

Metropolis Diner

Moller's Heros & Caterers

Pita House

Ristegio's

Tony's Pizza

Toscana/ Victorious Pizza

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased after Mass this weekend and in the Parish Office through Thursday.

Community Events

13th Annual Car Show ~ at St. Patrick School in Smithtown, today, April 29th from 9am—4pm. Rain date is May 6th. There will be a large variety of cars, trucks and motorcycles as well as a large selection of movie replica cars and monster trucks. Admission is \$5 for adults, children are free.

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.

Angel of Hope Ceremony ~ Saturday, May 12th, 10am at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. This ceremony allows families and loved ones a sacred space to start Mother's Day weekend remembering the children who have left us too soon. The ceremony will be less than 1 hour and will go on rain or shine. Meeting spot is Angel of Hope Statue in Memorial Park, parking lot 6 or 6A. Please RSVP by calling 631-943-7677 or emailing pfurino@angelashouse.org

Fatima Day, Sunday May 13th at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville with Fr. Roy Tvrđik, SMM. 10am Procession & Prayer, 11:30am Mass at the "Rock"(weather permitting), 1:30pm Presentation, 3pm Holy Hour. For more information call the Shrine Office at 631-325-0661.

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.

Senior Citizen Dance ~ Dancing through the Decades ~ May 30th from 4pm—7pm in the cafeteria of Pat-Med High School, 181 Buffalo Ave in Medford. This free event is **compliments** of PMHS PTSA. Includes, dinner, dessert, DJ, and photo booth. You must RSVP by Friday, May 11th. Please call Lisa at 631-921-8547 or Jenn at 631-682-9584.

Project Rachel ~ Healing after Abortion ~ June 9 ~ A Day of Prayer and healing for Women is an opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The day is directed by an experienced team including faithful priests who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer. For more information visit: respectlife.drvc.org and to register contact Project Rachel at 1-888-456-4673 or projectrachel@drvc.org. The last day to register is Monday, June 4.

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.

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 Mike at 631-286-0477 or e-mail: r.ratjesc@optimum.net