



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



"And so I say to you,
you are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my church,
and the gates of the
netherworld shall not
prevail against it.
I will give you
the keys to the
kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 16:18-19

August 27, 2017
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, Th ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Wed ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Fr ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 4pm;
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-11:30pm

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

Saturday, August 26, 2017

5:00pm Roy Hull (2nd Anniversary)
 Jim Kummer (6th Anniversary)
 John Connelly
 Amelia Amen
 Charlotte Tafe

Sunday, August 27, 2017

7:30am Rocco & Ernestine Mangino
 9:00am Ginny Handley (8th Anniversary)
 11:00am Slominski & Iacobelli Families

Monday, August 28, 2017

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

8:30am Sean Dixon (Living)

Thursday, August 31, 2017

8:30am Brian Podlesny (Living)

Friday, September 1, 2017

8:30am Frank Valenti

Saturday, September 2, 2017

5:00pm Waldemar Grzymala
 Anthony J. Skrobacz, Jr.
 Maria McFaline
 Rose Cortez (Living)
 Lucas Camacho

Sunday, September 3, 2017

7:30am Emma Lou Dobbins
 9:00am Luke Brennen
 11:00am Peter Montemurro (2nd Anniversary)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

8/28:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10	Ps 149:1-6, 9
	Mt 23:13-22	
8/29:	1 Thes 2:1-8	Ps 139:1-6
	Mk 6:17-29	
8/30:	1 Thes 2:9-13	Ps 139:7-12
	Mt 23:27-32	
8/31:	1 Thes 3:7-13	Ps 90:3-5, 12-14, 17
	Mt 24:42-51	
9/1:	1 Thes 4:1-8	Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12
	Mt 25:1-13	
9/2:	1 Thes 4:9-11	Ps 98:1, 7-9
	Mt 25:14-30	
9/3:	Jer 20:7-9	Ps 63:2-6, 8-9
	Rom 12:1-2	Mt 16:21-27

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

Eva D'Amato, Marguerite Orłowski, Robert Orłowski, Tom Stephens, Melina Grosso Bischoff, Sean Patrick Dixon, Nina Caravana, Larry Lang, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Jessica Deck, Nathan Morales, Laurie Saper, Chris Rosado, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Ramona Nunez, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Brian Podlesny, Joseph Wagner, Frank & David Avitabile, Diane Rockowitz, Patricia Nochese, Donald Tierney, Sr., Danny Miller, Theresa Golembroski, Barbara Vattiato, Roger Chin-Sang, Jenna Knoblauch, Sasha Medile, Theresa O'Connor, Baby Charlotte Steele, Robert Uricola, Fran Pellerito, Virginia Guaiana, Olivia Bazirgan, Roy Fernandes, Michael Goode, William F. Swope, Nef Nieves, Kevin Elder

The Bread & Wine and Candles

used at this weekend's liturgies

are the gifts of

Kaitlin & Colin Handley

in loving memory of

their Grandmother

Ginny Handley



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

Mark A. Pindulic

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

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



We Pray



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE
CARE OF CREATION



September 1

We Pray

A Prayer For Our Earth

From Laudato Si'

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.



O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

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 meets first Thursdays at 7pm in Clare House. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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 press 5+1
clarehouse@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Social Justice Ministry:

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

Stand Up For the Homeless

Thanks to everyone who came out to assemble wash kits and/or donated items to support our neighbors in need—we made 618!



Food Pantry Wish List

1. Salt/pepper/sugar (small sizes)
2. Diapers (size 4)
3. Pasta sauce—all kinds
4. Pancake mix/syrup
5. Canned chicken
6. Deodorant
7. Cake mix



Clare House Community Garden

Thanks to everyone who helped to cultivate our garden this year—our clients are reaping the harvest!

Back to School Program

Thank You for your generous contributions to our back to school program! Contributions support our clients and their families by empowering them to select school supplies that meet the needs of their family.



Parish Social Ministry



Photo by Heather Wilson (@aNomadPhotog) / Dust & Light Photo

White Supremacy Versus the Gospel in Charlottesville

By David Potter 8-15-2017
(published by Sojourners/edited here for space)

...On Friday, I traveled to Charlottesville, Va., to bear witness. What I saw there deeply unsettled me. White supremacists, gathered for a rally at a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, boldly manifested the evil legacy of America's original sin. Unfolding in streets throughout the city, the heritage of whiteness was revealed in full display. Perhaps most disturbing was the unashamed nature of this hate-filled display: In 2017, white supremacists wear no hoods...

Charlottesville is an expression of the longest-standing American tradition: to serve and protect the interests of white people, in whichever way whiteness is currently defined. It is unclear why local and state police maintained a laissez faire approach to violent confrontations between Nazi demonstrators and anti-fascist counter-protestors, but comparisons to the militarized police response to unarmed black protesters in Ferguson, Mo., and elsewhere should not be overlooked. In upholding a contract of social mores, whether openly stated, the police function as an extension of public will, enforcing that which we prefer to turn a blind eye toward. White nationalists are merely a further extension of this agreement. While I have little doubt that many white people are repulsed by this blatant display of violence, I am less certain how many prefer the existing arrangement – which necessitates this barbarity – to one that requires a loss of privilege...

The psyche of our nation has been largely disturbed by the profound ugliness championed in the “beloved and besieged” city of Charlottesville. Yet, in its midst, the gospel of Christ was boldly proclaimed. A group of clergy and faith leaders convened by Congregate Charlottesville counted the cost and willingly entered conflict with a presence of deep abiding love. What unfolded was dramatic in its opposition. As several hundred residents and those who traveled to answer the call for support packed out St. Paul Memorial Episcopal Church for an interfaith service, several hundred torch-wielding demonstrators gathered across the street on the University of Virginia campus, evoking the hovering legacy of the Ku Klux Klan. Demonstrators violently clashed with university students standing in opposition to racism, while those departing the church were told to hunker in place because the situation outside had become too volatile.

Saturday morning the group marched silently through the city, wearing stoles and clergy collars, processing from a sunrise prayer and commissioning service at First Baptist Church to stand face to face with white supremacists and paramilitary armed with assault

rifles. As insults and threats were hurled at them, these ministers knelt on the curb along the edge of Emancipation Park and offered prayer and song. Rarely have I understood the gospel more clearly than in witnessing an eruption of “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine” cutting through an angry shouting match. As the clergy chanted, “Love has, love has, love has already won,” the story so desperately needed was told in full.

So, what is the way forward for the church? In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus provides an apt call, which can be summarized in this way: The way of whiteness has no place in the Kingdom of God; forsake it and live.

Mark 8:31-38 tells of a confused Peter, blinded by a narrative of power and domination, boldly rebuking the counterintuitive way of Christ. Foreseeing the inevitable death and destruction in Peter’s path, Jesus firmly says, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Far too much is at stake for Jesus to timidly redirect this disciple, later to lead the church. Jesus continues, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”...

Here’s the good news: Salvation awaits those who renounce the way of whiteness. While every skin tone bears the image of God, the system of racial division and hierarchy is a human construction. For the church to effectively respond to Charlottesville, clergy, faith leaders, and all people of faith must critically examine how they have consumed and believed the lie of white supremacy; repent for complicity by exorcising our institutions, theologies, and liturgies of this sickness; provide healing to mind, body, and spirit for the trauma and moral injury caused by white supremacy; and finally, mobilize to protect and defend those marginalized by violent rhetoric and action.

When the bodies of marginalized people are no longer in danger and the soul of the privileged is repaired, Beloved Community is possible.

PRAYER AFTER CHARLOTTESVILLE

By Education for Justice (<https://educationforjustice.org>)

Oh God, with anguish We pray that we may find ways to move forward towards the light. Not back into the shadows of hatred, violence, and the silence that protects it. We pray for the wisdom to know how to move ahead. We recognize that evil can overtake a nation, as history reveals; We recognize too that reconciliation is possible, That peace can flourish where once hate and violence reigned. We pray that all citizens of good will speak out again and again So the sound of Your justice drowns out the cries of hatred, The deafening silence that protects it. May we as a nation form a circle, inclusive, with no top or bottom, Where we can welcome everyone with outstretched hands. May our circle grow ever larger, More hands open, holding another’s palm, Realizing we are holding on to the hope Pope Francis calls us to If we can see we are all connected. Amen.



Stewardship

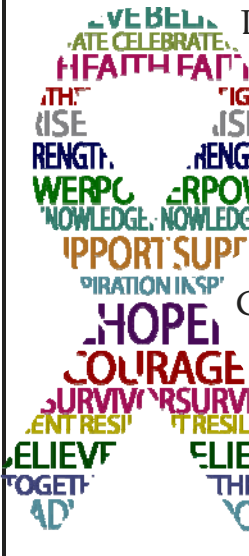
Gifts of Treasure

August 20, 2017

Regular ~ \$8,065

Renovation ~ \$145 Solar ~ \$60

MONTHLY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING



Last month, we began a monthly Cancer Support Group for Adults here at the parish and welcome all those affected by this illness to attend. The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month (the next one is September 6th) from 6pm until 7:30pm in the Parish Center Worship Room.

Please note that this group is solely for those affected, not caregivers, family, friends, etc.

It is our desire to continue to bring parishioners together in a faith-based setting to share and offer hope and strength to one another during this challenging time in their lives. The support group is led by a woman currently dealing with cancer and will be facilitated by a New York State Licensed Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with over 30 years experience as an RN.

Please call Lori Zito at 631-475-4506, ext. 115 with any questions you may have, or email to Lzito@stsyvesterli.org.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2017

Designated Goal:	\$65,100.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$47,685.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	73.2%
Number of Donors to Date:	156

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

PLEDGE: \$ _____

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

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Place in collection basket or return to the Parish Center. Thank you.

Reflection

In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds the Romans—and us—that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that all is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent and treasure with which they have been blessed.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who strive to develop their gifts and to share them lovingly, in justice, with others.

Faith Formation

Registration Information 2017/2018

All children need to be registered each year **including Catholic School and Confirmation Candidates!**
Please note that classes are filled on a first come, first served basis.

***PLEASE CALL THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE AT
475-4506 EXT 118 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT***

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!

We have a few opportunities available for those who would like to share their gift of faith with the young people of the parish for 2017/2018:

Level 2: Wednesdays @ 4:30pm

Level 4 : Mondays @ 5:45pm

Level 5: Tuesdays @ 5:45pm

Level 6: Tuesdays @ 4:30pm and Wednesday @ 5:45pm

Come sow
the seeds of
FAITH.

Matthew 13



If you are interested in becoming a member of the Faith Formation Ministry as a teacher/ catechist, please call 475-4506 ext 118 for more information.

Catechists . . .

It is still summertime, but we are planning for what is to come! So please take a short break from the sunshine as we prepare for the coming year! All Catechists are expected to attend the meeting below for their Level. Please let us know if you have any questions 631-475-4506 Ext. 118. Looking forward to being with you!

Level 1 Catechists will meet **Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** in the East Wing
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!

Level 2 Catechists will meet Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the East Wing

Level 3, 4, 5, & 6 and Home Taught Levels 3, 4, & 5 Catechists will meet Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the East Wing

Level 7 Catechists will meet Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the East Wing

Level 8 Catechists will meet Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the East Wing

Parish Life

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday ~ August 27, 2017

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ August 28, 2017

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ EW

Tuesday ~ August 29, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Wednesday ~ August 30, 2017

Level 8 Catechist Meeting ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ August 31, 2017

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Wedding Rehearsal ~ 7pm ~ Church

Friday ~ September 1, 2017

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, September 2, 2017

Wedding ~ Alexa Klarman & Robert Burkhardt
2:30pm ~ Church



May God Bless

Alexa Fay Klarman

&

Robert Edward Burkhardt

*as they marry at St. Sylvester
September 2, 2017 at 2:30pm*

Attention Please!

There will be

NO

Art Class or

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Saturday, September 2nd.

Community News

Medford Fire Department is hosting a Blood Drive in the Meeting Room at the Fire House located on Oregon Avenue, Tuesday, September 5th from 2:30pm to 8:30pm. Your donation can save up to THREE lives. Please share this lifesaving gift! Every donor will enjoy a hero sandwich and salads compliments of the Medford Fire Department. Call Mike Barry at 631-776-1632 to schedule an appointment. For questions concerning medical eligibility, call 1-800-688-0900.

Girl Scout Pray and Play Day ~ Saturday, September 30 from 10am to 2:30pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport. Come for a day of prayer, handicrafts and fun. For more information, call 516-678-5800, ext. 245 or go to scouting@drvc.org.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Ronkonkoma is once again hosting a Yard Sale Bonanza & Car Show on Saturday, September 23 (rain or shine) from 10am to 3pm. Trophies for winning cars. For car registration and information call Gerry at 631-585-9291.

St. Frances Cabrini in Coram presents *Reflections of Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin Show* at 3pm on Sunday, September 24 in their Parish Center. VIP seating ~ \$30, Preferred seating ~ \$25 and General Admissions ~ \$20. Call their rectory for tickets at 631-732-8445.

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins Friday, September 8th, call 1-800-470-2230.

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