



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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

*The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.*



Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”



Nativity of the Lord ~ December 25th, 2017

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

Saturday, December 23, 2017

5:00pm McGarvey and Grzymala Families
Rocco & Ernestine Mangino
Lenny & Nancy Rich
Larry Youngberg
Margherita Giaquinto

Sunday, December 24, 2017

9:00am Sal, Carmela & Robert Toscano
Luigi Russo & Family
Cesarino Family
11:00am Edward Zatwarnicki
Gloria & Edward Vannucci
Betty Zatwarnicki
Carl Garbarino

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017

4:00pm For the People of St. Sylvester
6:00pm For the People of St. Sylvester
8:00pm For the People of St. Sylvester

Christmas Day, December 25, 2017

9:00am For Those On Our Memorial Pavers
11:00am For the People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, December 28, 2017

8:30am Emma Lou Dobbins (1st Anniversary)

Friday, December 29, 2017

8:30am Thomas Peter Smith

Saturday, December 30, 2017

5:00pm Philip Comas
Catherine Mirabella
Peter Mons
Eric Izzo (Living)

Sunday, December 31, 2017

7:30am John Stender
9:00am Deborah DiFiore
11:00am Anibal Martins

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

Eva D'Amato, Marguerite Orlowski, Robert Orlowski, Melina Grosso Bischoff, Nina Caravana, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Jessica Deck, Laurie Saper, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Diane Rockowitz, Patricia Nochese, Roger Chin-Sang, Jenna Knoblauch, Sasha Medile, Theresa O'Connor, Baby Charlotte Steele, Baby Elliot Garay, Virginia Guaiana, Olivia Bazirgan, Michael Goode, William F. Swope, Nef Nieves, Genevieve Canarili, Vito Scaglione, Louis Donisi, Joanne Clarke, Michael Dolan, Richard Gross, Christopher Gebrig, Angelina Pagano, Ricky Langhorn, Edward Rafferty, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzuzzo, Ann Vidal, Kristin Danielski, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Margaret DiMasso, Martha Benvenuto, Olivia Grace DeFeo

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

12/25:	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98:1-6
	Heb 1:1-6	Jn 1:1-18
12/26:	Acts 6:8-10	Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17
	Mt 10:17-22	
12/27:	1 Jn 1:1-4	Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
	Jn 20:1-8	
12/28:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2	Ps 124:2-5, 7-8
	Mt 2:13-18	
12/29:	1 Jn 2:3-11	Ps 96:1-3, 5-6
	Lk 2:22-35	
12/30:	1 Jn 2:12-17	Ps 96:7-10
	Lk 2:36-40	
12/31:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3	
	Ps 105:1-6, 8-9	
	Col 3:12-21 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19	
	Lk 2:22-40	

Weekend Memorials

The Bread & Wine and Candles

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



Betty Zatwarnicki
Edward & Gloria Vannucci
Carl Garbarino

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 have died, especially . . .

*Debi Farnsworth, Camille H. Muller,
Dennis Thomas Mullally, Thomas J. Stephens*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from

Fr. Tom, the Pastoral Leadership Team & Support Staff of St. Sylvester

So that all staff may enjoy this special time with their families. . .

*The **Parish Center** hours through the New Year are:*

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday ~ December 24, 25 & 26 ~ Closed

Wed, Thurs & Fri ~ December 27, 28 & 29 ~ 9am—12Noon

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday ~ December 31, January 1 & 2 ~ Closed

*The **Parish Outreach** hours through the New Year are:*

Monday~ December 25 ~ Closed

Wednesday ~ December 27 ~ 9:30am—12pm; 1pm—3:30pm; 5:30pm—7:30pm

Friday, December 29 ~ 9:30am—11:30am

Monday ~ January 1 ~ Closed



This Week's Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4pm, 6pm, & 10pm

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

9am & 11am

Thursday, Friday ~ December 28, 29

8:30am in the Church

Saturday ~ December 30

5:00pm

Sunday ~ December 31

7:30am, 9am & 11am

Please note there will be no 8:30am Mass on Tuesday, December 26 & January 2. Also, there are no Masses on January 1 since it falls on a Monday and is not a Holy Day of obligation.

Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy Of the Word

We are happy to announce that we will be having Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass on **January 14th and 28th**.



What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Children's Liturgy of the Word is when right after the opening prayer, but before the readings, children are called up by the priest and accompanied by Catechists to the Worship Room in the Parish Center. There, they hear and reflect on the readings at an age appropriate level, sing the Responsorial Psalm, the Gospel Acclamation and recite a simple Creed before returning to the church to join the rest of the community for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This will take approximately 20 minutes. During this time the adults and anyone else in the church will be hearing the readings as they usually do.

How can my child participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word?

When you come to the 11:00 am Mass on the Sundays listed above, follow the directions of the priest when he calls the children forward to be sent to the Worship Room in the Parish Center. Any child in Level 1 or above is invited to participate.

For more information or if you have questions, please call the Faith Formation Office at 631-475-4506 ext. 118 or email us at FaithFormation@stsyvesterli.org



The Children's Choir will rehearse in the Worship Room Sunday, January 14th AND January 28th at 9:45am and sing at the 11am Mass. If you have any questions, please call Teresa Balducci at (516) 662-2831.

Adults Seeking Confirmation



Were you baptized Catholic, received First Holy Communion, but for some reason never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation? Coming to St. Sylvester on Tuesdays, beginning February 20, 2018, is a process for adults who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. For details, call Fran McMahon at 475-4506 ext 107.

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! 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

Clare House Market - Wishlist

We have updated our food pantry with the addition of a glass front refrigerator and freezer—acquired through a grant! Our new Clare House Market aims to enhance the dignity of those we serve by empowering them to make choices for themselves, including the food they accept.

We are in need of perishable and non-perishable food donations to stock our Clare House Market. Please continue to place **ONLY NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS** in the donation bin in church on Sundays. In addition, we are requesting perishable items be brought directly to Clare House on Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm – please call ahead to ensure our ability to receive your donation 631-475-4506 x122

Thank You for supporting our community!

PERISHABLE—BRING TO CLARE HOUSE ON WED 5:30-7:30pm

Eggs
Butter

NON-PERISHABLE—BRING TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY:

Ketchup
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Toothbrushes
Diapers (size 5 and 6)
Canned Tuna



Thank You to Victoria, Donna, Michelle, and the girls of Troop 2264 who collected donations for our Holiday Free Market and then stopped by to organize and decorate! Thanks for helping to light up the holidays for so many families in our community!

Parish Social Ministry

Did you know...

Jesus was born in poverty to a young, unwed mother?



As we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ in this Advent season, we are reminded of the precious gift of the Holy Family. Many of today's young mothers face some of the same challenges as the Holy Family and are in need of shelter, basic amenities, love and prayer. Their choice for life enables another child of God to be born. Please support these young mother's choice for life.

WE NEED YOU!

Please support the Maternity Advent Project providing pregnancy care to women and families across L.I.

- (1) *Christmas cards and greetings are welcome!*
- (2) METRO, PHONE, and GIFT CARDS are graciously welcomed.
- (3) Please make your donation online at <http://respectlife.drvc.org/make-a-donation>
- (4) Please make checks payable to "Diocese of Rockville Centre"

Mail to: Respect Life Office 50 North Park Ave.,
P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023

Your generous donation will help maternity homes on Long Island:

Regina Maternity Services
Mother of Good Counsel Home
Momma's House
Bethany house

Please send your donations prior to December 25, 2017 to ensure timely distribution to our Maternity Residences.

Thank you for your support!

Did you know...

Jesus was born in poverty to an immigrant, refugee family?



For Christians around the world, Advent means anticipation. It's when we prepare for the coming of Jesus and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. This year, we celebrate Advent during the SHARE THE JOURNEY campaign led by Pope Francis, which calls the Church around the world to reach out to our immigrant and refugee neighbors. Advent reminds us of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem, and what Pope Francis says is our journey to "the horizon of hope." But for the millions of refugees and displaced people around the world, it can be difficult to find the hope in their journey. They need our help along the way.

"A lot of work goes into being ready to respond to this kind of crisis," says Bill O'Keefe, vice president of government relations and advocacy for Catholic Relief Services. "We live in some ways in a state of constant anticipation, in constant preparation for the refugee. We wait for God's people on the move who, like the Holy Family, find themselves forced to flee to a place where there's no room in the inn."

For the Holy Family, the search for a safe place did not end with the birth of Jesus. Just days later, Joseph was warned in a dream to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt because of King Herod's threat to kill the newborn King.

"They were migrants and spent years living in a foreign land. They fled the political and social conditions in their country," says Richard Coll, director of Catholic Home Missions, the division of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that provides basic pastoral services such as sacraments and baptisms to transient or remote Catholic communities, including migrants. "Jesus himself experienced the same concerns and the same fears that migrants today fear," Coll says. "It's really in our DNA as Catholics to serve these members in very troubled communities."

Every day, families leave their homes in places like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, driven by conflict, violence or poverty, and desperately seeking safety. Some spend their life savings or take on massive debt to pay for the journey. Many risk their lives for a new start. Since 2014, more than 15,000 refugees and asylum seekers drowned in the Mediterranean Sea attempting to reach European shores.

"All of us are called by God, by the Holy Father, by our consciences to be that inn, to provide that room, to share that journey, that every day millions of innocent people just like us are forced to take," O'Keefe says. "Refugees know they have a long way to go. They know it's going to be a difficult journey—but at least they know there's someone on their side now."



Catholic Relief Services is an international humanitarian organization working to end poverty and promote the well-being of people around the world – including refugee families forced from their homes by violence and persecution. CRS provides food, shelter, social services—and hope for their journey. CRS joined the global SHARE THE JOURNEY campaign launched by Pope Francis to inspire communities to build relationships with refugees and migrants, and care for their neighbors in the United States and around the world. You can learn more about how to participate at loveyourneighbor.us

20% of the sales of every pair of Share the Journey socks will be donated to Catholic Relief Services' work with refugees and migrants. So, each step you take in these fair trade organic cotton socks is a step toward dignity, safety, and love for refugees and migrants around the world. <https://maggiesorganics.com/organic-cotton-socks-share-the-journey/>

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

December 17, 2017

Regular Contributions ~ \$8,876
Renovation ~ \$177 Solar ~ \$70

Faith Direct December Contributions

Regular Contributions ~ \$11,053
Renovation ~ \$561 Solar ~ \$117

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

Sign-up forms are available in the Parish Office.

Reflection

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfillment.

Living Stewardship

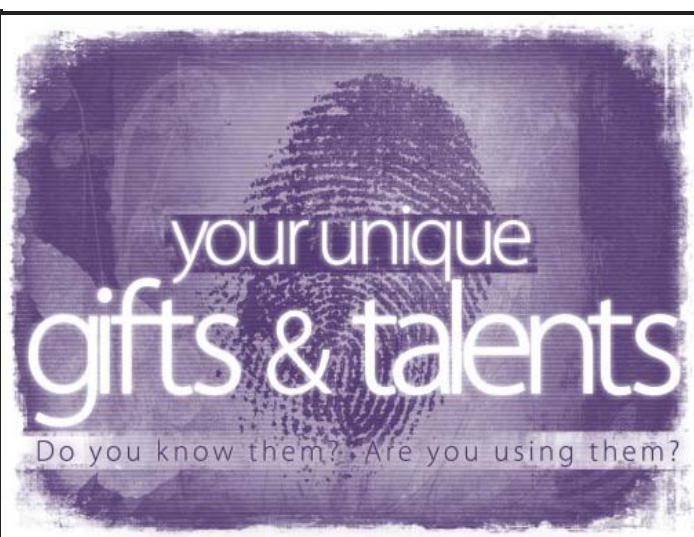
We are grateful for all stewards who have the courage, like Mary, to listen to God's voice in their own hearts.

BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAM SEEKING ADDITIONAL TEAMMATES

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

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

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



"God gave you your particular mix of talents and abilities because they match up with the mission he has in mind for you."

Taken from *Resisting Happiness*
by Matthew Kelly

Stewardship

Christmastime — The Season of Giving

One of my favorite things to talk about is gift-giving. As Stewardship Director, I am blessed to speak with people often about their amazing gifts and talents and how they nurture them and share them with our faith community as volunteer ministers. I am humbled and moved by peoples' talents, compassion and innate goodness, and their willingness to share that goodness with others in a multitude of ways. The generous giving of ourselves to others is really a priceless present in our money-hungry and status-filled world.

All of which brings me to Christmas, and of course once again, to gift-giving. Like most of you, I have seen the insides of more stores (and visited more websites) this season than I care to admit, searching for the perfect presents for family and friends. I love to give gifts to others — especially if they really love what they excitedly unwrap! There really is nothing that compares to bringing joy to others, especially children!

As Catholic Christians, we delight in the greatest Christmas gift ever given to us as God's children, the birth of Jesus Christ. God sent a little baby born in a foreign land under difficult conditions to offer salvation to us all, proving that good things really do come in small packages! At the time of his birth over 2,000 years ago, it is said that shepherds and wise men alike came to pay him homage and bring gifts. What will *we*, what will *you*, give the Christ child this Christmas?

I hope that you will give generously of your time, your talent and your treasure to family, friends and strangers who so desperately need it as Christ lives in all of them. I hope that you will truly listen to and be present to your children and grandchildren — showing a young person you really care can make a profound difference in their lives. Maybe you can encourage that friend who seems to be stuck in a rut, offer kindness to a neighbor who is alone, or spare whatever you can for the homeless and hurting in our communities and throughout the world. I hope that you will find a way to refrain from yelling at fellow shoppers in the mall returning things and have patience on the roads and in the crowded parking lots (This is a tough one for me!). I hope that you will smile at the cashiers who work long hours and wish them a "Merry Christmas." And lastly, I hope that you take time for prayer — pray for the Church that she may lead the way in social justice, for a return to decency, civility and honor from all sides in our nation, and for our neighborhoods and families that they become close-knit and drug free. It is all of us working together and being present to one another that brings the Kingdom of God one step closer here on earth.

May the God of Peace and Wonder bless you and those you love at Christmas and always!

—Lori Zito, Stewardship Director

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 24, 2017
 Christmas Eve Masses ~ 4pm, 6pm, 10pm
Monday ~ December 25, 2017
 Christmas Masses ~ 9am & 11am
Tuesday ~ December 26, 2017
 All Offices Closed
 No 8:30am Mass
Wednesday ~ December 27, 2017
Thursday ~ December 28, 2017
 Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2
Friday ~ December 29, 2017
Saturday, December 30, 2017



We are happy to announce that the net profit for the 2017 Holiday Raffle is \$7,316.

This will help offset the loss of the Holiday Fair and the cost of repairs to the Parish Center.

Thrift Shop News

The Thrift Shop is in need of both girls and boys clothing in sizes 3–6x. Please bring your donations into the Thrift Shop during their regular hours.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE THE BUILDING!

Heading towards warmer weather for the next few months? Please notify the Parish Office so we can stop your envelopes during your time away.



BAPTISM

Baptism is the door to life and to the Kingdom of God.

Let us welcome the newly baptized into our community of Faith during the Month of December 2017:



*Xander William Fritzen
 McKenzie Rose Losse
 Lacie Ann Morin
 John Nestor Rodríguez
 Joelle Marie Weinberg*



The Legion of Mary invites you to take part in their Fatima Home Visitation Program. There they teach interested family members how to pray the rosary in English or Spanish. They

also provide rosaries at no cost to all those who want them. Our Lady's statue remains in the home for one week.

For information call the Office at 475-4506 ext. 101 and a Legion of Mary member will contact you.

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

Pope Francis

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