



# St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



*“The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him.”*

**December 31, 2017**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

## 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](http://www.stsylvesterli.org)

# We Pray

## 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

## Thursday, January 4, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

## Friday, January 5, 2018

8:30am Joe Caracciolo

## Saturday, January 6, 2018

5:00pm Caravana, Matteo & Castriota Families  
(Living & Deceased)  
Mildred Barthelson  
Tom Stephens  
Michael Tifford

## Sunday, January 7, 2018

7:30am Kathleen Malone  
9:00am Joseph Venezia  
11:00am Ronald Rosen

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

|      |  |                                    |
|------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1/1: | Nm 6:22-27<br>Gal 4:4-7                | Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8<br>Lk 2:16-21    |
| 1/2: | 1 Jn 2:22-28<br>Jn 1:19-28             | Ps 98:1-4                          |
| 1/3: | 1 Jn 2:29—3:6<br>Jn 1:29-34            | Ps 98:1, 3-6                       |
| 1/4: | 1 Jn 3:7-10<br>Jn 1:35-42              | Ps 98:1, 7-9                       |
| 1/5: | 1 Jn 3:11-21<br>Jn 1:43-51             | Ps 100:1-5                         |
| 1/6: | 1 Jn 5:5-13<br>Mk 1:7-11 OR Lk 3:23-38 | Ps 147:12-15, 19-20                |
| 1/7: | Is 60:1-6<br>Eph 3:2-3, 5-6            | Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13<br>Mt 2:1-12 |

## Anointing of the Sick

The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament.

A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient.



When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Sacrament of the Anointing is celebrated at St. Sylvester on the second Friday of the month immediately following the 8:30am Mass in the Worship Room of the Parish Center. The next Anointing is Friday, January 12th.

## 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, Iris DeValle, Nef Nieves, Genevieve Cannarili, Vito Scaglione, Louis Donisi, Joanne Clarke, Michael Dolan, Richard Gross, Christopher Gehrig, Angelina Pagano, Ricky Langhorn, Edward Rafferty, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzzone, Ann Vidal, Kristin Danielski, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Margaret DiMasso, Martha Benvenuto, Olivia Grace DeFeo

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

Camille H. Muller, Dennis Thomas Mullally,  
Thomas J. Stephens

First Saturday Devotion ~ join us next Saturday, January 6 at 9am in the Worship Room as we pray the Rosary.

# 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](mailto: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.

# Stewardship

## *Gifts of Treasure*

*Due to publishing deadlines, the contribution figures for the Sunday, December 24th Masses and for the Christmas Masses will be in the January 7th bulletin.*

## Faith Direct

**It's Easy**

**It's Safe**

**It's the Way to Give!**

To learn about or enroll in this automated giving program, just log onto [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our Church code **NY285**.

*Sign-up forms are available in the Parish Office.*

## *Reflection*

"Whatever you do," says St. Paul to the Colossians, "...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him." And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist "Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit..."

## *Living Stewardship*

We are grateful for all stewards who accept their call to freely share their God-given gifts within our parish community as well as the wider world beyond.

## *Stewardship Prayer for the New Year*

*Lord of new life,  
Thank you for the gift of a new year.  
You have entrusted us  
with the coming days,  
weeks and months as stewards  
of your divine plan;  
to live in gratitude, joy,  
and an ever growing confidence  
in your Kingdom to come.*

*We ask for the humility  
to reform our lives;  
the courage to commit ourselves  
to you and the wisdom  
to shine the light of faith  
on others.*

*Open our hearts,  
give us your Spirit  
and show us how to share your love  
so that we may bring hope  
to a world in need of your  
justice and peace.*

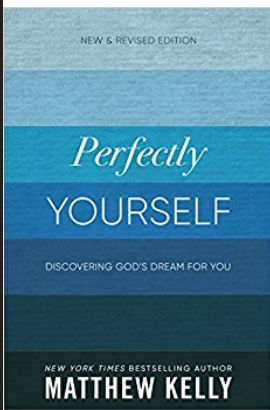
*We pray to be a sign of your  
grace in this new year  
through your son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

The Practicing Catholic

*Stewardship*  
**Our Way of Life**

# Parish Life



We hope you enjoy the book *Perfectly Yourself* by Matthew Kelly. A great big THANK YOU to all of Santa's Elves who took time from their own Christmas preparations to wrap the books.

Through a generous donor to Dynamic Catholic, St. Sylvester, along with many other Catholic Parishes, were able to receive these books at absolutely no cost . . . not even shipping!

For other books, CD's and daily reflections, go to :  
[DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com)

## 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.

## Heading towards warmer weather for the next few months?

Please notify the Parish Office so we can stop your envelopes during your time away.



Please arrange 2018 Masses as well as Bread & Wine and Candle Memorials through the Parish Office. The 2019 Mass Book opens in June.

## 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.

"Hope allows us to enter into the darkness of an Uncertain future to journey in the light."

*Pope Francis*

# Parish Life

## *The Week Ahead*

*Sunday, December 31, 2017*

*Monday ~ January 1, 2018*

All Offices Closed

No Masses

*Tuesday ~ January 2, 2018*

All Offices Closed

No 8:30am Mass

*Wednesday ~ January 3, 2018*

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ 10:30am ~ East Wing

Cancer Support Group ~ 6pm ~ Worship Room

*Thursday ~ January 4, 2018*

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Social Justice Committee ~ 7pm ~ Clare House

*Friday ~ January 5, 2018*

Wedding Rehearsal ~ 6pm ~ Church

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

*Saturday, January 6, 2018*

First Saturday Devotion ~ 9am ~ WR

Wedding ~ Matthew Gordon & Brianna Asselta

~ 2:30pm ~ Church



*May God Bless*

*Brianna Lee Asselta*

*&*

*Matthew Evan Gordon*

*as they marry at St. Sylvester  
Saturday, January 6, 2018 ~ 2:30pm*

## *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!**

## *Cancer Support Group*

The Cancer Support Group for Adults welcomes all those affected by this illness. The Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6pm to 7:30pm in the Parish Center Worship Room. Their next meeting is this Wednesday, January 3rd. Please note that 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@stsylvesterli.org](mailto:lzito@stsylvesterli.org)



## *The Prayer Shawl Ministry*



Knit One,  
Pray Too

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. Their next meeting will be this Wednesday, January 3. Donations of yarn are appreciated and new members are always welcome!

## ATTENTION PLEASE!



The Parish Center will close at 12 noon, Thursday, January 4th.

# Blood Drive

**EMERGENCY  
BLOOD  
SHORTAGE**

## Winter **BLOOD DRIVE**

### Church of Saint Sylvester



**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**8am ~ 2pm**

**Parish Center: 68 Ohio Avenue, Medford**

**Give the gift of life and donate blood!**

**This is a Milestone Blood Drive!!  
The 3000th Donor will receive a gift basket!**

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

Bring **Donor Card or ID.**

Minimum Weight: 110lbs. Age 16 – 75.

(16 year olds must have parental permission)

No New Tattoos for past 12 months.

For questions concerning medical eligibility:

[www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org) | **1-800-933-2566**

**Long Island Blood Services**

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact:

**Tony Spelman @ 631-236-6327**





## Community News

The Columbiettes are having a **Bunco Night** Friday, January 12 at the VFW Hall on Long Island Avenue in Medford. Doors open at 6:30pm. Bunco is a fun dice game in which you move from table to table, change partners and keep moving the whole game. You can't get bored! Tickets are \$10 if purchased in advance, \$12 at the door. Special pricing: \$30 for a group of 4. Prices include coffee, tea and snacks. Prizes for rolling the most "buncos", winning the most rounds and even losing the most rounds! Also 50/50 and raffles. Tickets are available in the Parish Office or by contacting Karen Rollo at 631-289-2493 or Mary Ann Rosen at 631-289-5669.

**Creative Ministries' Journey, Cross and Crucifixion** ~ Looking for an incredible way to pray throughout the Lenten Season? Are you able to sing, act, dance or play an instrument? We are looking for new troupe members. We would love for you to join us in this ministry. Adults and teens of all ages are welcome! To learn more, call or e-mail Barbara at 631-317-9415 or [journey@cmpac.com](mailto:journey@cmpac.com)

**Cub Scout Fun and Faith Day** ~ Saturday, January 20, 2018. Sacred Heart Church in Merrick from 8:30am—12noon and St. Patrick's Church in Smithtown from 10:30am—3pm. A special day of prayer, handicrafts and games. For information, contact the Catholic Scouting Office: [scouting@drvc.org](mailto:scouting@drvc.org) or call 516-678-5800 ext 245.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** ~ help make a good marriage a great marriage! The next weekend is February 9-11, 2018 in Huntington. Call John & Toni at 718-344-3700 or visit: [www.wwmeli.org](http://www.wwmeli.org)

**Women's Cursillo Weekend** ~ January 25-28, 2018 in Glen Cove. The Cursillo is a structured weekend, consisting of a series of talks and discussions. It offers you the opportunity to work at getting to know yourself, discover your strengths, figure out what place God plays in your life, and get closer to Him. The weekend offers you the guidance to blend your love of God with your environment when you reenter your everyday world. You will be giving yourself a precious gift. For more information call Cathy at 631-617-7971.

**Join Fr. Mickey Bancroft** Sunday, June 3rd—Sunday, June 10th, 2018 sailing along Alaska's Glaciers. Stunning inside passage, southward on Holland America's Westerdam. Depart from Anchorage & sail to Vancouver, Canada. Cabin with picture window ~ \$2,639 and cabin with balcony ~ \$3,059. All food, port taxes, transfers & roundtrip airfare included. For more information or a brochure call Lucille at 1-800-228-4654, ext 208.

**Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group**~ this FREE Support Group offers caregivers, family and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, a safe haven to share their feelings, talk through issues, develop coping strategies and learn more about community events. Please join us on the 2nd Monday of the month from 1pm—2:30pm at South Country Library, 22 Station Road in Bellport. To register, call 516-586-1507 or go to [WHHH@parkerinstitute.org](mailto:WHHH@parkerinstitute.org). This is sponsored by Parker Jewish Institute for Health and Rehabilitation and is available in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

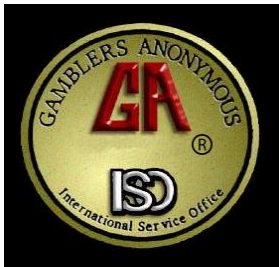
## Helpful Information

*Has gambling taken over your life  
or the life of someone you know?*

Gamblers Anonymous

can help you

**TAKE BACK YOUR LIFE**



Phone: 855-2-CALL-GA  
855-222-5542

To Speak With Someone Now

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a non-profit fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem.

**Are you or someone you know having problems due to  
drinking ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS?**

Catholic Charities' Talbot House, a Chemical Dependence Crisis Center, located in Bohemia, provides withdrawal and stabilization services on a voluntary basis to males and females over the age of 18 who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or other drug use. The medical and clinical staff at Talbot House will assess the kind of care the person needs to begin his/her journey to recovery. Call 631-589-4144 for more information. The staff is available 24/7.

**Each call is confidential.**

**This is a NO fee for service program.**

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