



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,
"If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand,
touched him and said to him,

"I do will it. Be made clean."

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

February 11, 2018

6th 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, 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, February 10, 2018

5:00pm Marie Touhey
Matteo, Caravana & Confessore Families
(Living & Deceased)
Maura Breheny
William Buckley

Sunday, February 11, 2018

7:30am Gerald Ednie, Jr. (26th Anniversary)
9:00am Susan Keesser (5th Anniversary)
11:00am Vito Farello

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

8:30am Richard Davis
7:00pm Peter Martino

Friday, February 16, 2018

8:30am Arthur Pollaci

Saturday, February 17, 2018

5:00pm Theresa Staib
MaryAnn Levin

Sunday, February 18, 2018

7:30am Dorothy E. Rooney
9:00am Joseph & Helen McAleer
11:00am Walter Touhey, Jr.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

2/12:	Jas 1:1-11 Mk 8:11-13	Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76
2/13:	Jas 1:12-18 Mk 8:14-21	Ps 94:12-15, 18-19
2/14:	Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20—6:2	Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
2/15:	Dt 30:15-20 Lk 9:22-25	Ps 1:1-4, 6
2/16:	Is 58:1-9 Mt 9:14-15	Ps 51:3-6, 18-19
2/17:	Is 58:9-14 Lk 5:27-32	Ps 86:1-6
2/18:	Gn 9:8-15 1Pt 3:18-22	Ps 25:4-9 Mk 1:12-15

The Bread



used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of Kris & Bob Gunn
in loving memory of
Arthur Pollaci

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, Laurie Saper, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Roger Chin-Sang, Jenna Knoblauch, Sasha Medile, Theresa O'Connor, Baby Elliot Garay, Michael Goode, Iris DeValle, Nef Nieves, Louis Donisi, Joanne Clarke, Richard Gross, Christopher Gebrig, Angelina Pagano, Ricky Langhorn, Edward Rafferty, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzzone, Ann Vidal, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Margaret DiMasso, Martha Benvenuto, Olivia Grace DeFeo, Joel Rivera, Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Diana Erickson, Frank Cayea, Edward Mowat, Dorothy Birdsall, Jack Frey, Baby Valentina Brescia, The Abano Family, Michael Dolan

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

Catherine Holzmann, Cynthia Ann Laschever

Let's Be Practical!

Due to the current flu epidemic, we will not be offering Communion under the Species of Bread and Wine. Until further notice, we will offer Communion under the Species of Bread only.

In addition, the Sign of Peace can be offered with a nod of the head or a wave of the hand.

These simple precautions are being implemented to reduce the risk of spreading the flu!



We Pray

Turn away from sin



and be faithful to the Gospel

Ash Wednesday is February 14.

Distribution of Ashes will take place
during our prayer at the
following times:

8:30am ~ Mass

12:00pm ~ Prayer Service

4:30pm ~ Prayer Service

7:00pm ~ Mass

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive should observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.



Faith Formation

Reminder

There are no classes this week, February 12, 13 & 14. We encourage all families to come to Church on Ash Wednesday. Please see page 4 of this bulletin for the Ash Wednesday Mass and Service schedule.

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 27, 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.

RCIA is for those who . . .

- Have never been baptized and are interested in becoming Catholic.
- Are baptized non-Catholic but would like to become a member of the Catholic community.
- Are baptized Catholic but never received Communion and/or Confirmation.
- Are struggling with questions about life, death, suffering, hope, forgiveness, love, God . . .
- Are Catholic and would like to be a member of the Team and help by sharing your faith, being a sponsor, or setting up hospitality.

If you would like more information, please speak with Fran McMahon at 631-475-4506 ext 107.

*Are you sitting outside in your car or in the Parish Center
while your child or grandchild is in his/her Faith Formation Class?*

If so, we invite you to think about serving the parish community by joining the
Hall Guardian Ministry Team as a *Substitute* Hall Guardian.

For more information, please call Terése in the Faith Formation Office:
631-475-4506, ext. 118.



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@stsyvesterli.org

Contact Outreach Ministry:

631-475-4506 x122
clarehouse@stsyvesterli.org

Contact Social Justice Ministry:

631-475-4506 press 5+2
jmcmahon@stsyvesterli.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

Snacks
Juice/Juice boxes
Canned Tuna/Chicken
Canned Beans
Canned Stew
Rice
Pork & Beans
Pancake Mix/Syrup
Soup Crackers

Cooking Oil
Sugar
Coffee
Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup

Conditioner
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Diapers Size 4,5,6

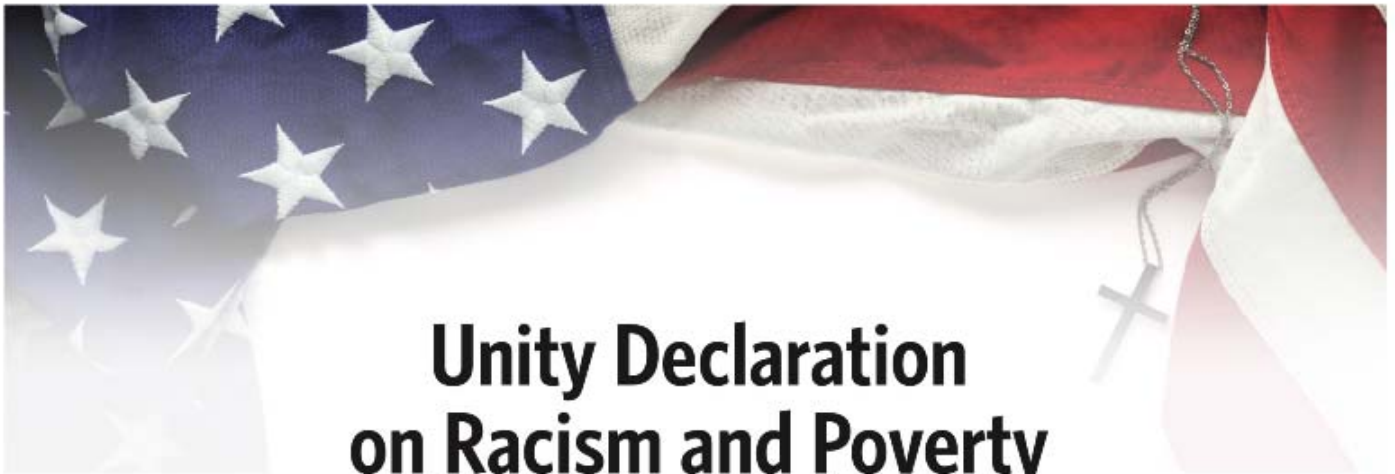


FREE Family Education on Addiction

Catholic Charities Chemical Dependence Site in Commack is offering a Free, ongoing Family Education Series to anyone impacted by addictions. Classes will be held Tuesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm starting 1/30/2018. Please call Kerri Zaleski at 631-543-6200 x 320 to register or if you have any questions.

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, our NYS Licensed facilities assist people at all stages of recovery, as well as their families.

Please call 631-589-4144 (24 hours/7 days).



Unity Declaration on Racism and Poverty

As leaders from diverse families of U.S. Christianity, we are called by the Spirit to work together with new urgency against the resurgence of racism and persistence of poverty in America. We see around us an increase of harmful attitudes and policies toward people of color and people in need. That painful reality and the current push for trillions of dollars in cuts to anti-poverty programs are bringing us together in a new way. While we have different positions on other questions, we are uniting on the gospel and biblical teaching on poverty and racism—feeling invited to do so by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

We believe that racism and poverty are theological issues.

The integral relationship between poverty and racism unifies us against both. They are both issues to which the gospel of Jesus Christ speaks—which also calls us to love our neighbors—without exceptions. Our unity on these issues is because they are theological issues for us, not merely political or partisan ones. These fundamentally biblical concerns challenge all of us and both the major political parties.

Racism is a sin that goes back to the founding of our nation. At its root, racism is in conflict with the opening declaration in Genesis 1, that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Racism literally throws away the biblical principle of *imago dei*—the image of God in all of us with no exceptions. Racism is a sin against God and all of God’s children. Therefore, the whole counsel of God calls us to preach against the sin of racism from all of our churches’ pulpits and call for repentance.

The body of Christ is perhaps the most diverse racial community in the world. When people of color in the body of Christ suffer—while many white members of the body of Christ do not acknowledge their pain—we are violating the principle laid down in 1 Corinthians 12: that we are one body with many parts, who suffer with and honor one another. As Galatians instructs us, “there is no more Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female, because we are all united as one in Christ (3:28).”

The historical sin of racism lingers on in America today, continuing and evolving in our social systems of economics and education, policing and criminal justice, housing and gentrification, voting rights and suppression, in our racial geography and, painfully, in the continued segregation of our churches, which adds to our own complicity. Racism is more than individual behavior, language, and overt hostility towards particular people. Racism is systematic and structural in America and harms people of color in very specific, measurable, and tangible ways.

The failure to defend the lives and dignity of people living in poverty, by individuals or governments, is also a sin against God, with 2,000 verses in the Bible clearly outlining God’s fundamental concern for people who are poor, vulnerable, and oppressed, instructing the people of God to protect and help them, and holding political leaders responsible for them. Jesus says, in Matthew 25, that how we treat the “least of these” is how we treat Christ himself.

The world and our country have made progress against poverty in recent decades. It is possible to make further progress—perhaps virtually end—

Parish Social Ministry



Unity Declaration on Racism and Poverty

hunger and extreme poverty in our time. We see the alleviation of material misery as an experience of God's loving presence in our own time, and believe that God wants us to seize this opportunity.

To our churches: What we are doing and can do.

Most of our churches are active in helping people in need—struggling people within their congregations or in their communities. We need to do more, but many of our churches do directly help millions of people every day. Local church leaders often work to bridge the racial divides in our communities, and many are searching for authentic and specific ways to address the rise of white supremacy.

Since the God of the Bible requires social justice and charity, our churches and many of our members also work to influence public policies. Christians have a wide array of political viewpoints. But a majority of the leaders of national church bodies have spoken out repeatedly against cuts to programs that provide help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. We have also spoken out against renewed expressions of white racism, ethnic nationalism, and hateful attitudes toward people of color, immigrants, refugees, Jews, and Muslims. Many of us are active in support of immigration reform, criminal justice reform, and voting rights for all.

We are deeply troubled by the budget proposals coming from Congress and the president. They outline more than \$2 trillion of cuts in programs for hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. These cuts would hurt struggling people of all races, including millions of low and middle-income people who need safety-net programs at some time in their lives. The hardest hit would be African-American, Latino, and Native American communities, where the poverty rate is already high, and among people in the

poorest countries in the world.

The threat of this broad assault on anti-poverty programs that support families struggling to make ends meet over the coming year is unifying us—bringing us together in a more vigorous, multiracial Christian movement to maintain a circle of protection around all people in poverty and God's children of color in particular, who are disproportionately impacted.

To the Congress and the White House: Our united appeal for healing and reform in our nation's politics.

We appeal to the President and Congress to work together for the common good. We especially call upon political leaders, who are also people of faith, to protect all the people in our country and worldwide who are struggling with economic deprivation and frustration, hunger and poverty, disability and disadvantage—and the racial bigotry that often contributes to inaction and hard-heartedness.

God's love for all people moves us to reach out to people and leaders all across the political spectrum. We respect and pray for all those who are in authority – that our nation and world “may lead a quiet and peaceable life” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Conservative and liberal people, and those with differing political philosophies, may disagree on how to live up to our nation's ideals, but our loving God calls all of us to work together for liberty and justice for all.

We appeal to all people, especially Christians, to actively work against racism and poverty—in their personal and local engagement and as advocates for public policies that foster racial equity and healing, shared prosperity, and peace in our country and worldwide. The spiritual power of a fresh, energetic, multiracial Christian movement against both racism and poverty is our prayer. So help us God. ■

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

February 4, 2018

Regular ~ \$8,520

Renovation ~ \$297 Solar ~ \$194

Church In Need

Next weekend, February 17/18, there is a second envelope for "Church In Need". The monies collected will be shared among three areas of the world where there is great need for help: Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa. Please place the specially marked envelope in the regular collection basket.

Thank you for your generosity.

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 and use our Church code **NY285**.

Sign-up forms are available in the Parish Office.

Reflection

In today's second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to "do all for glory of God." If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who use their gifts to welcome and offer hospitality to those who are frequently shunned . . . The stranger, the immigrant, the homeless, the physically and/or mentally ill and the poor.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

*Supporting
Dramatic Missionary Growth
on Long Island and Beyond*

*"Each of us must respond to the
gift of mercy in our hearts
by getting up and
putting mercy into action."*

-Pope Francis



**Please consider making a gift to the
2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Pledge _____ Parish: St. Sylvester

Signature of Donor: _____

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

**Please drop in collection basket or return to
the Parish Center. Thank you.**

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Hospitality after 9am & 11am Mass ~ PDH
Children's Choir Rehearsal ~ 9:45am ~ WR
Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass
Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ February 12, 2018

ALL OFFICES CLOSED

Tuesday ~ February 13, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ East Wing
Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Ash Wednesday ~ February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday Masses at 8:30am & 7pm
Ash Wednesday Services at 12pm & 4:30pm

Thursday ~ February 15, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2
Moving On Peer Support Group ~ 2:30pm ~ EW

Friday ~ February 16, 2018

Carmelite Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room
Carmelite Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing
Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Please Read!



All offices will be closed this Monday, February 12th so that all staff may attend a Day of Prayer.

There will be NO MORNING MASS and all activities are canceled.

"Moving On" Peer Support Group

Losing a lifetime partner can have you feeling lost and without purpose. "Moving On" is a group of widows and widowers who come together once a month to help each other find that purpose. Through discussion and prayerful contemplation, we support one another in our attempts to get on with our lives in a meaningful way. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 15 at 2:30 p.m. Please join us then. *Eileen & Martha ~ Coordinators*

DON'T GIVE UP *chocolate* FOR LENT

This year, do something different. Join our parish for BEST LENT EVER, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you have a life-changing Lent. Each day, you'll receive an email with . . .

- Inspirational Videos
- Practical Tips
- Encouraging Stories

SIGN UP AT DynamicCatholic.com/40Days

St. Sylvester Flapjack Fundraiser



1935 N. Ocean Avenue
Farmingville, NY 11738

Saturday, February 24th, 2018
8am - 10am

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased after
Masses on February 3/4, 10/11, 17/18
and in the Parish Office ~ 631-475-4506, ext. 101

Meal Includes: Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a
beverage (coffee, juice, soda or tea). Ticket valid for
pancake event only. Applebee's® menu items are not in-
cluded as part of purchase.

All proceeds benefit St. Sylvester Parish.

Bishop's Lenten Letter



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

LENT 2018

Dear Friends:

As we look to the future we are aware that we continue to face difficulties both here on Long Island and in our country at large. Whether they involve the opioid epidemic, gang violence, racism, or any other threat, a deep trust and reliance on the Risen Christ is necessary for us to advance and make progress in dealing with these problems.

In order to better welcome the Resurrected Jesus into our hearts, a solid Lenten spirituality grounded in prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the needs of the Church and the World is essential.

On Wednesday, April 4, 2018 we will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King. Our commemoration of this anniversary falls appropriately between Easter Sunday (April 1) and Divine Mercy Sunday (April 8).

I would ask that during the Lenten season we all prepare for this historic anniversary by dedicating dimensions of our Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the pursuit of racial harmony and comprehensive immigration reform grounded in the principles of the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person.

By aligning our Lent in solidarity with our African American and Hispanic brothers and sisters and the injustices they have suffered and are suffering, we dream and act with Dr. King and his clarion call for justice in our land.

We dream and act in a way that treasures the African American legacy of contribution in this country. We dream and act in a way that not only welcomes our Hispanic brothers and sisters but expresses our deep appreciation for their gifts and leadership in the Church and in American society, and we advocate together for comprehensive immigration reform.¹

We also think and pray globally this Lent as we remember the people in North Korea, Jerusalem and every country in the Middle East, Bangladesh, Haiti, Venezuela, South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Central African Republic, Nigeria and every war-torn and poverty-stricken area of the World.

We remember the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, those who suffer with mental illness, chronic physical illness and pain. We remember the hundreds of thousands of unborn children whose innocent lives are taken every year through abortion and the terrible toll this takes on individuals, families and our entire society.

¹ See Bishop Barres' September 21, 2017 Founder's Week Keynote Address at St. John's University entitled *The Relationship between Catholic Sacramental Theology and Catholic Social Justice Teaching: The Sacrament of Penance in Service of 'Welcoming the Stranger'* in the January 2018 edition of *The Long Island Catholic*.

Bishop's Lenten Letter

We remember the addicted and particularly those who suffer opioid addiction, those ensnared in the culture of death of gangs, drug trade, human trafficking, and their victims -- who are often children -- at the borders, those who suffer violations of religious liberty and the sanctity of human life, those who suffer from the trauma of sexual abuse and all forms of abuse, harassment or cyberbullying, those in the midst of a family or marital crisis, those who grieve the loss of a child, a spouse, a friend, a loved one. We remember the painful crosses that our elderly carry and we give thanks for the wisdom and prayer that they model for us.

And, of course, we remember our servicemen and women overseas and their families back home, and our first responders here. We remember our Veterans and their sacrifices.²

As we prepare for the Easter Vigil Fire and for Easter Sunday, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide and refresh us during this Season of Lent. So often the cycles and seasons of life can become routine and stale. When applied specifically to Lent, we may find ourselves doing the same things each year, which results in them becoming commonplace and no longer a challenge.

A frequent theme for Lent is “giving something up”. Many times this takes the form of refraining from junk food or sweets. This is a good challenge, but it is important to remember that Lent should not be just a time for losing weight; fasting without prayer is just dieting. Additionally, food is not all that we “consume”.

All the things we allow into our senses are important to examine. What we watch, what we listen to are just as important as what we eat. One thing we consume in great quantities is social media.

Like all technology, do we use our social media for good or do we become consumed by it? Social media can help us connect with people and provide us important and relevant information but it can also be used to waste valuable time or to engage in angry, critical arguments.

During Lent may I suggest that we do an examination of conscience in regard to our use of social media? Can we intentionally leverage every dimension of our presence on a range of social media platforms to pursue *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island?

We may do that by giving testimony on Facebook to a positive experience of a Catholic parish, a Catholic Bible Study or a Catholic school. We may post an image on Pinterest or Periscope of a parish activity or Holy Hour experience that was particularly meaningful. We might establish a link on our platform to the *Long Island Catholic*.

We might witness on a social media platform as a married couple or family about the value of the Sacrament of Penance to family forgiveness and unity as we encourage other families we know to participate in *Reconciliation Monday* on Monday, March 26, 2018.

² These intentions reflect some of the intentions Bishop Barres mentioned in his Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning homily thus giving some continuity to our prayers and sacrifices across liturgical seasons.

Bishop's Lenten Letter

Our dedicated priests, who are both humble penitents and compassionate confessors, will be available in the confessionals of all our parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre on March 26th from 3:00PM – 9:00PM. Please note that the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn join us in this effort so if you are working in Manhattan or Brooklyn that day you could easily go to confession at a nearby parish.

We can also use our social media platforms to follow Catholics who put forth holy and wholesome content that can enrich us spiritually and intellectually. We can follow the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Office of Vocations, Catholic Charities, and so many more. Additionally we can follow Pope Francis and the Vatican, Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* and other social media with inspiring and motivating Catholic content.

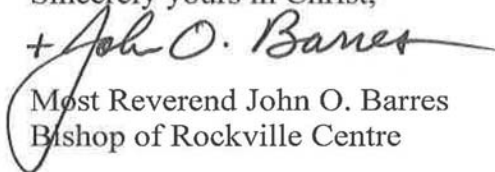
Related to social media, we may tend to “binge watch” videos whether through YouTube or streaming services. This content in and of itself might not be bad, but does it always lift us spiritually? Telecare can aid us in prayers like the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet as well as its inspiring programming.

Additionally, the Augustine Institute has started a new initiative called FORMED. This is an app that has many eBooks we can put on our Kindles and iPads, lectures and talks we can listen to on our phones during our commutes to work and school, and Catholic movies and presentations that we can stream online, almost like a Catholic Netflix.

Many of our parishes on Long Island have already invested in FORMED and are strategizing about how best to have a higher percentage of parishioners to be actively “formed” by the excellent content.

Finally, outside of the realm of media, something that always nourishes and enriches us is the Sacraments. Frequent reception of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation help re-center and reorder us. May this Lent be a source of *dramatic missionary growth* both in our lives and for our great Diocese and beyond.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Lenten Opportunities

Getting Ready For Holy Week ~ a Retreat Day with Fr. Hugh Gillespie at Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Manorville, Saturday, March 3rd. Rosary at 10am, 11:30am Mass, 1:3pm Conference and 3pm Prayer. Call 631-325-0661 for more information.

Lenten Day of Prayer at the Seminary ~ “A Lenten Tale Told to God” ~ with Rev. Patrick J. Griffin, Executive Director, Vincentian Center for Church & Society at St. John’s University, Sunday, March 4, 9:30am to 3pm. Conferences, Lunch, Confession and Mass. \$30 per guest. RSVP by February 25, 2018 to 631-423-0483.

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