St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763
A community praying, growing, serving & welcoming in Jesus Christ.



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

March 11, 2018 4th Sunday of Lent

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 McMahon, Faith Formation Director Justin McMahon, 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 \sim 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th, Fri \sim 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Su \sim 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 ~ 10 am - 3pm; Sat ~ 10 am - 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 McMahon, LCSW, Director.

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being—or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 10, 2018

5:00pm Colette Landers

Giuseppe Visco Virginia Palladino Joseph Caracciolo Matthew Allback

Thomas Einsele

Sunday, March 11, 2018

7:30am Lorraine D. Foltz 9:00am Alphonse J. Amen

Emily Amen

11:00am Donald Tierney, Sr.

Monday, March 12, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

8:30am Donald Roy Keegan

Thursday, March 15, 2018

8:30am Edward Mowat

Friday, March 16, 2018 8:30am Joan Schaefer

Saturday, March 17, 2018

5:00pm Robert Emmett Mulcahy

Mary Zerafa Felice Scalero Francis Farrell Adele Katuna

Sunday, March 18, 2018

7:30am Edward Halverson

9:00am Robert Fanelli (2nd Anniversary)

Felice Lamentina

11:00am Matteo, Caravana & Lupia Families

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, Sasha Medile, Theresa O'Connor, Baby Elliot Garay, Michael Goode, Iris DelValle, Nef Nieves, Louis Donisi, Joanne Clarke, Richard Gross, Edward Rafferty, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzzo, Ann Vidal, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Margaret DiMasso, Martha Benvenuto, Olivia Grace DeFeo, Joel Rivera, Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Diana Erickson, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Jack Frey, Michael Dolan, Baby Valentina Brescia, The Abano Family, Iris DelValle, Hilda Gonzalez, John Bennett, Julian Atz, Richard Broderick, Jim Dietz, Eric Bedell, Charles Lunstrum

READINGS FOR THE WEEK				
3/12:	Is 65:17-21	Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13		
	Jn 4:43-54			
3/13:	Ez 47:1-9, 12	Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9		
	Jn 5:1-16			
3/14:	Is 49:8-15	Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18		
	Jn 5:17-30			
3/15:	Ex 32:7-14	Ps 106:19-23		
	Jn 5:31-47			
3/16:	Wis 2:1, 12-22	Ps 34:17-21, 23		
	Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30			
3/17:	Jer 11:18-20	Ps 7:2-3, 9-12		
	Jn 7:40-53			
3/18:	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 51:3-4, 12-15		
	Heb 5:7-9	Jn 12:20-33		

The Candles

used at this weekend's liturgies



are the gifts of Judith Wolff in memory of The Price Family

(Living & Deceased)



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 . . .

Genevieve M. Cannarili, Virginia A. Lumley, Amelia Mielke

We Pray

I arise today,
through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,

the ear of God hear me,

the word of God speak for me.

May the hand of God protect me,

the way of God lie before me,

the shield of God defend me,

the host of God save me.

May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me,

Christ behind me,

Christ in me, Christ beneath me,

Christ above me,

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down,

Christ when I sit,

Christ when I stand,

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,

Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen



St. Patrick's Feast Day March 17



Faith Formation

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.

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.

Hall

Guardian

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

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.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

March 4, 2018

Reflection

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly His handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who remain steadfast to their Lenten promises through increased prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal: \$65,800.00 Amount Pledged to Date: \$24,620.00 % of Goal Pledged to Date: 37.4% Number of Donors to Date: 62

Please consider making a gift to the 2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Pledge	Parish: St. Sylvester
Please Print:	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	

Please drop in collection basket or return to

the Parish Center. Thank you.

Parish Seeking Booklet Makers



Do you enjoy working on the computer? Are you thinking of doing something for the parish but want to begin with something that doesn't take too much of your time? We may

have the perfect ministry for you!

As part of our Ministry of Consolation, we make up simple funeral booklets for the family and friends of the deceased which are distributed at the Funeral Mass. We are seeking those who enjoy working on the computer and are comfortable working with a template to assist us in preparing these booklets. You would be given all of the information to enter into the template you would just need to complete the information, print out a copy of the booklet and come to the parish office to make copies of it on special paper. You will be told ahead of time when the funeral is, how many copies are needed and when the parish office is open to make the copies.

It is a simple thing, and yet it means a lot to our grieving families. So, if you have the skills and the time, we look forward to hearing from you! Please contact Lori Zito by email at lzito@stsylvesterli.org or call the Stewardship Office, 631-475-4506, ext. 115 if you are interested.

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@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 <u>ONLY NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS</u> 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:

Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken
Canned beans
Rice
Juice
Cooking Oil
Pancake Syrup
Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup
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).

Parish Social Ministry





Chapter 1: Making a Decent Living

For years, our national rhetoric forcefully proclaimed that if someone does not want to be in poverty, they should just work like everyone else and they will be fine. The American Dream has always assured us that, with the right amount of hard work, anyone can be successful. Looking around, it is clear that this idea of the American Dream is not true anymore, if it ever was. Today, the majority of people experiencing poverty who are not retired, in school, or disabled, are working. Unfortunately, in the 21st century, working a full-time job in the United States does not mean a person can adequately provide for themselves or their family.

The numbers are stark: a full-time minimum wage worker earns an annual pre-tax annual income of \$15,080. This doesn't even begin to approach the 2016 federal poverty threshold for a family of four, at \$24,563.1 Instead of equipping people to provide for themselves and their families, employers paying these poverty wages set their employees up to barely get by and force them to access federal safety net programs to make ends meet. While the majority of states already passed higher state-wide minimum wage legislation, Congressional action is needed to raise the federal minimum wage, which has not changed since 2009 and continues to decline in purchasing power every year.

To make up for low-wages, workers often choose to work overtime, at second or even third jobs if their circumstances allow. In December 2017, more than 7 million workers held multiple jobs. 2 However, the opportunity to work overtime or full-time is not always available; in December 2017, nearly 5 million workers would have preferred full-time employment over their current part-time work. 3 While the December 2017 unemployment rate of 4.1% is the lowest it's been since the Great Recession, not all workers experience the increase in employment equally. The unemployment rate for Black workers is significantly higher than the white unemployment rate. 4 Inequity persists in wages as well. The median Black household income in 2014 was about \$43,300 while white household income was \$71,300.5 Our nation can and must do better to ensure good jobs are available and workers, especially people of color, are paid a living wage.

The decline in union membership across the country is an important factor in lower wages and reduced benefits for workers. Between 1983 and 2017, the number of employed union members declined by 2.9 million.6 This decline in collective bargaining has had a serious impact on wages and working conditions. Supporting unions, family-friendly workplace policies, and living wages are some of the most effective ways people of faith can uphold the dignity of workers and all people. Catholic Social Justice teaches that work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation.

Facts and Figures

- 42% of workers in the U.S. made less than \$15 an hour in 2014.7
- In 2014, more than 50% of Black workers and close to 60% of Latinx workers made less than \$15 an hour.7
- More than half of all hourly workers earning wages at or below the federal minimum wage were over 25 years old in 2016.8
- The 7.7% unemployment rate for Black workers and 5.0% rate for Hispanic workers are significantly higher than the 3.5% white unemployment rate.4
- 7% of all workers are union members, amounting to 14.8 million workers in 2017.9

Reflection Questions

Does the difference between our minimum wage and cost of living seem acceptable in a just society? What are some ways you can think of for jobs to better reflect the dignity of all workers?

Sources

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- 2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Persons Not In the Labor Force and Multiple Jobholders by Sex, Not Seasonally Adjusted. January 2, 2018, https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t16.htm
- 3. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employed Persons by Class of Worker and Part-Time Status. January 2, 2018, https://www.bis.gov/nevs.release/empsit.t08.htm
- 4. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Employment Situation. January 2, 2018, https://www.bls.gov/hevis-release/pdf/empsit.pdf
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- 6. Dunn, Megan and Walker, James. Union Membership in the United States. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. September 2016, https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2016/union-membership-in-the-united-states/pdf/union-membership-in-the-united-states.pdf
- Huizar, Laura and Tsedeye Gebreselassie. What a \$15 Minimum Wage Means for Women and Workers of Color. National Employment LawCenter, December 2016, http://www.nelp.org/content/uploads/Policy-Brief-15-Minimum-Wage-Women-Workers-of-Color.pdf
- 8. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS Reports: Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers, 2016. April 2017, https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/minimum-vage/2016/home.htm
- 9. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Economic News Release: Union Members Summary, January 19, 2018, https://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Hospitality after 9am & 11am Masses ~ PDH

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ March 12, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

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

Tuesday ~ March 13, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ March 14, 2018

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Room 9

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ March 15, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Moving On Peer Support Group ~ 2:30pm ~ EW

Friday ~ March 16, 2018

Carmelite Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room

Carmelite Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

"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, March 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Please join us then. *Eileen & Martha* ~ *Coordinators*

Hospitality Sunday

Today, after 9am & 11am Masses!
Come join us in the Parish Center's
Patricia Desmond Hall.

2nd Annual Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast A Fun and Festive Fundraiser



Our parish ushered out the last Saturday in February in style with a delicious pancake breakfast

served at Applebee's in Farmingville by our very own parishioners!

The annual Flapjack Fundraiser is quickly becoming a popular tradition here at St. Sylvester, providing the opportunity for parishioners (along with friends and family) to come together, share a meal and take a chance on some raffles — all for our parish. This year, our volunteer waiters and waitresses *served 101 pancake meals in just two hours* — complete with sausage, eggs, juice and coffee or tea, and their service rivaled any diner!! Parishioners also pitched in to serve as greeters, coffee makers, raffle sellers, juice pourers and photographers. Their efforts raised \$1,260 for our parish, but more than that, enabled us to come together as a faith community and get to know one another in a fun, social setting!

Thanks to Marie Broderick and the Fundraising/Activities Committee for making this event such a sweet success and to the Mowat Family for their raffle basket donations! Thanks too to all those who supported our parish by coming and for all those who were unable to attend the event but donated anyway!

Community News

Parish Secretary needed at Mary Immaculate Church in Bellport, Mon—Thurs. 9:15am to 4pm. Knowledge of the Catholic Faith, the sacraments and customs is necessary. Should have computer skills and be proficient with Microsoft Office program. Call 631-286-0154.

St. Patrick's Feast Day, March 17, at the Shrine in Manorville~ Mass at 11:30am followed by a procession to the Statue of St. Patrick in the Avenue of the Saints. Blessing and Prayers. Call 631-325-0661 for more information.

Relics of the Passion ~ Sunday, March 18 at 2pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Patchogue. An Exclusive opportunity to venerate these holy relics and participate in a program that allows you to engage in a unique commemoration of Jesus' walk to Calvary. This powerful program is a one-hour presentation supported with music and meditation followed by veneration. A collection such as this is generally seen only in Rome or the Holy Land and included are a piece of the true cross of Christ as well as a piece of the crown of thorns. For more information please call 631-475-4739.

Montfort Lenten Retreat ~ Friday, March 23—Sunday, March 25 at the Montfort Retreat Center in Bay Shore led by Fr. Hugh Gillespie, SMM. Silent Retreat— "Let Us Consider Gentle Jesus In His Dying". \$175 per person. Registration and payment is due by March 16th. Call 631-666-7500.

Seder at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville. Explore our Jewish roots with Rabbi Gadi Capela and Fr. Roy Tvrdik, Tuesday, March 27th at 6pm. \$36 per person includes full dinner and wine. Limited seating. RSVP 631-325-0661.

Good Friday Way of the Cross Pilgrimage ~ March 30, 9am—12 noon. Join Our Lady of the Snow Parish in Blue Point & St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish in Sayville in the Way of the Cross Pilgrimage as we walk and pray the Stations of the Cross recalling significant moments in the story of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, praying the Rosary, Divine Mercy and singing hymns. Meet 9am at St. Lawrence the Martyr parking lot for registration, depart at 9:15, walk along Montauk Hwy with police escort to Our Lady of the Snow, arrive by 12 noon to attend Stations of the Cross. Free bus ride back to St. Lawrence the Martyr provided by DBA Transportation Inc.

Preparing for Marriage? ~ *Engaged Encounter* is an effective *Pre-Cana* program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Couples are given the opportunity to explore many aspects of their relationship through a series of presentations, writings and dialog. There are no group discussions. Our next weekend will be at the Montfort Spirituality Center in Bay Shore, April 13—15, 2018. For information/registration please call Lenny & Pat Walker at 631-563-1032 or visit www.engagedencounterli.org

Career EDGE (Empower Develop Grow Elevate) is a seminar series for women seeking employment or a better job. By possessing a cutting-edge resume and cover letter, participating in mock interviews and working with a mentor, you will be prepared to confidently present your best self to potential employers. 6 weekly meetings, 9:30am—2pm at Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville: March 21 (Orientation), 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25 and graduation on May 2. Register by calling 631-451-9127 and leave your name, phone number and email address. Presented by DRESS FOR SUCCESS® Brookhaven.



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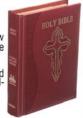
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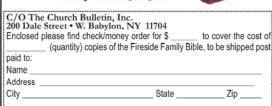
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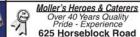
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