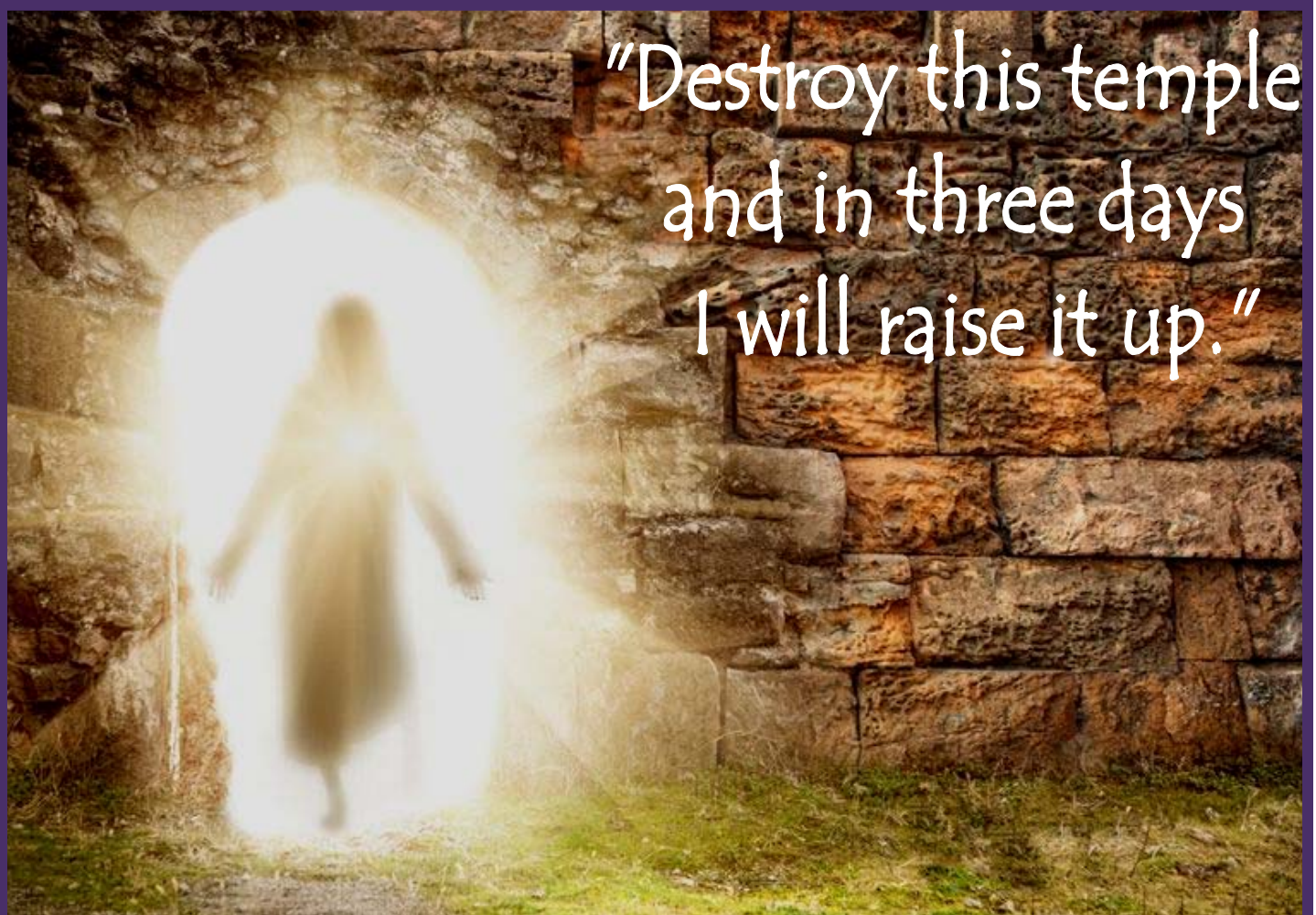




St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



**"Destroy this temple
and in three days
I will raise it up."**

**Jesus speaks about the
temple of his body.**

**March 4, 2018
3rd 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 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, March 3, 2018

5:00pm William DeBono
Carmela Salemmo
Kenneth Hafner
Edward Mowat
Giuseppe Cesarino

Sunday, March 4, 2018

7:30am Andy Clyde
9:00am Donna Cappiello
11:00am Maria McFaline

Monday, March 5, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

8:30am Walter Touhey, Jr.

Thursday, March 8, 2018

8:30am Antoinette Carbone

Friday, March 9, 2018

8:30am Arthur Pollaci

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. Ame
Emily Amen
11:00am Donald Tierney, Sr.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

3/5:	2 Kgs 5:1-15 Lk 4:24-30	Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
3/6:	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35	Ps 25:4-9
3/7:	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
3/8:	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
3/9:	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17
3/10:	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	Ps 51:3-4, 18-21
3/11:	2 Chr 16:14-16, 19-23 Eph 2:4-10	Ps 137:1-6 Jn 3:14-21

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 this Friday, March 9th.

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

Eva D'Amato, Robert Orlovski, 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 Gehrig, Angelina Pagano, Ricky Langhorn, Edward Rafferty, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzuzzo, 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 DeValle, Hilda Gonzalez, John Bennett, Julian Atz, Richard Broderick

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

*Frank Silvestri, Elizabeth Dodorico,
Genevieve M. Cannarili*

Faith Formation

Reminder

There is a Level 2 Parent Meeting in the East Wing, during your child's class time, Tuesday, March 6th at 5:45pm and Wednesday, March 7th at 4:30pm. Please sign your child into their classroom and proceed to the East Wing. Important information regarding your child's celebration of First Communion will be distributed. Please make every effort to attend.

Children's Liturgy Of the Word

We will have Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass next Sunday, **March 11th**.



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 next Sunday, **March 11th** at 9:45am and sing at the 11am Mass. If you have any questions, please call Teresa Baldinucci 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 27, 2018***, is a process for adults who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. For details, call Fran McMahon at (631) 475-4506 ext 107.

*** There is still time to join us, but please contact us this week!**

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

February 25, 2018

Regular ~ \$8,411

Renovation ~ \$335 Solar ~ \$18

Reflection

"You shall not covet" is a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this realization that *all* is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who make a conscious effort to simplify their lives by reprioritizing and getting back to basics.

Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching as we act to:

PROMOTE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and,

SERVE CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

Next weekend, March 10/11, there is a second envelope to support the Catholic Relief Services. **Please place the envelope in the regular collection basket.**

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 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

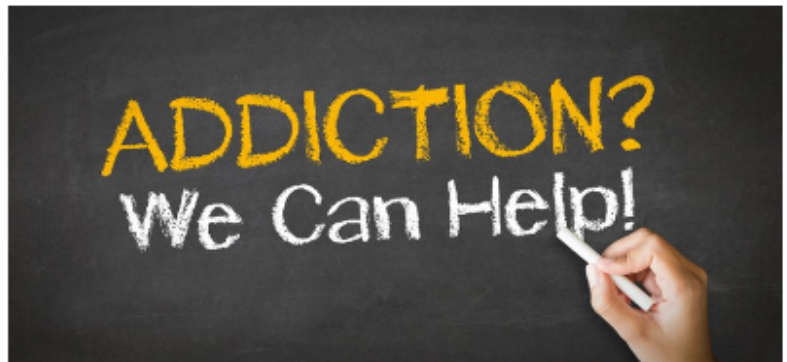
We have updated our food pantry with the addition of a glass front refrigerator and freezer—acquired through a grant! Our new Clare House Market aims to enhance the dignity of those we serve by empowering them to make choices for themselves, including the food they accept. We are in need of perishable and non-perishable food donations to stock our Clare House Market. Please continue to place **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:

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



Introduction: Illuminating the Reality of 21st Century Poverty

A note from Sister Simone Campbell, SSS

For more than 45 years, it has been NETWORK's mission to mend the gaps in economic inequality, with particular focus to how these issues disproportionately affect women and people of color. More recently, we at NETWORK came to realize that there are a number of inaccurate perceptions and stereotypes about poverty rife in our political discourse.

Often we hear that people are living in poverty because they are lazy and don't want to work. For example, in all his talk about poverty, Speaker Ryan says that we need to "incentivize work." Too often, we hear that if people just "work hard and play by the rules" they will "get ahead." Even the myth of the so-called "Welfare Queen" creates a narrative of gaming the system for financial gain. These misconceptions and stereotypes are light years away from reality.

Therefore, we believe that we need to educate ourselves about the current reality of just who is living in poverty and why. This is our journey. Opening up our minds and hearts to the current story of economic struggle is the challenge that we face. My own journey to awareness has led me to see the deeper reality of poverty in our midst.

I see the Latin American women who clean our office in the evening and hear that this is their second job. I meet Lyft drivers who have two or three jobs to get by. I meet working people who cannot afford rent and so they live in their cars. For all of these people the economic reality is driven by an economy that preferences those at the top and discounts the workers who serve in our society.

In this context, federal policy matters. Giving tax breaks to the wealthiest only exacerbates the income and wealth divide in our nation. Suppressing wages and not having living wage legislation keeps families in poverty. Lack of affordable housing in our urban areas pushes families out, etc. This is the work in which NETWORK is engaged.

So, I invite you on this journey. Let us open our minds and hearts to the reality of poverty in our nation. This begins first with self-reflection of our own preconceived notions and expands to political awareness. At the end, we will begin to know the truth of the struggles of our families living at the economic margins in society. Then when we hear some old stereotype from politicians (or even our friends) we can say to them: "Oh that is SO last century! Come join the 21st century and engage with us to mend the gaps and heal our nation...with the truth.

Facts and Figures

- In 2016, the poverty rate was 12.7%, and 40.6 million people were living in poverty. 1
- 3 million children under the age of 18 experienced poverty in 2016.1
- 6 million people age 65 and older lived in poverty in 2016.1
- In 2016, 21.4% of Black women, 22.8% of Native women, 18.7% of Latinx women, and 10.7% of Asian women experienced poverty, compared to 9.7% of white, non-Hispanic women. 2
- Nearly 9 in 10 adults who are lifted above the poverty line by safety net programs do not have a college degree.3
- White people without a college degree are the largest group of working-age adults lifted above the poverty line by safety net programs.3

Reflection Questions

How has your story – and the story of your family – shaped your view on poverty and success in the United States?
When was the last time you had a conversation with someone who might be experiencing poverty? What was your response?
In this divided time, how is God calling you to contribute to mending the gaps in economic inequality?

Sources

1. U.S. Census Bureau. Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016. September 2017, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259.html>
2. National Women's Law Center. National Snapshot: Poverty Among Women & Families, 2016. September 2017, <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Poverty-Snapshot-Factsheet-2017.pdf>
3. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Poverty Reduction Programs Help Adults Lacking College Degrees the Most. February 2017. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/poverty-reduction-programs-help-adults-lacking-college-degrees-the>

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Monday ~ March 5, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

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

Baptism Class ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Carmelite Council Meeting ~ 7pm~Clare House

Tuesday ~ March 6, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Level 2 Parent Meeting ~ 5:45pm ~ East Wing

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ March 7, 2018

Prayer Shawl Meeting ~ 10:30am ~ East Wing

Cancer Support Group ~ 1pm ~ WR

Level 2 Parent Meeting ~ 4:30pm ~ East Wing

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ March 8, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ March 9, 2018

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ PDH

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

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, March 7.

Donations of yarn are appreciated and new members are always welcome!

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 **1pm to 2:30pm** in the Parish Center Worship Room. **(Please note the time change.)** Their next meeting is this Wednesday, March 7th. 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@stsyvesterli.org

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 February 2018:



*Cody Samuel Bulson
Callie Grace Pearsall
Scarlett Rose Peppe
Charlotte Rose Peppe
Keira Emilia Ziegler*



Senior Circle of Friends

The Senior Circle of Friends meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Their next



meeting is March 9 at 12:30pm in Patricia Desmond Hall. Come join us for fun and games. Bring a friend and meet some new ones!



Today!

Touched by the Christ

A Lenten Presentation
in collaboration with
St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Rocky Point
Sunday, March 4th at 4pm in St. Sylvester Church
Directed by Greg Wilson

The followers of Jesus reflect on His final days
in word and song.

Travel with them as we see through their eyes Jesus'
journey from Palm Sunday to Easter.

After this presentation, you are invited to a Lenten Supper
in Patricia Desmond Hall (Parish Center Lower Level)



"Living in community is an essential expression of who we are."

CatholicSocialTeaching.org

In the spirit of community, please consider sharing salad, bread or dessert.

Community News

Medford Fire Department Blood Drive ~ Tuesday, March 6th from 2:30pm—8:30pm at the Oregon Avenue Fire House. Your donation will save up to 3 lives. Every donor will enjoy a hero sandwich and salads, compliments of the Medford Fire Department. Walk-ins welcome or call Mike at 631-773-1632 for an appointment. For questions concerning medical eligibility call 1-800-668-0900.

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.

The Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau and Suffolk Community College ~ a **FREE** seminar for parents and students looking to enroll in college, March 8th at 6:30pm, Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville. Advisors from Suffolk Community College will discuss the application process, financial aid opportunities and available scholarships. RSVP to 631-451-8011.

International Women's Day: Prominent Women in Scripture ~ "Can you hear ME now?" Recognize how God uses everything in our lives to call us deeper into relationship as we journey through the experiences of four prominent women in scripture: Mary, Martha, Miriam and Anna. The discernment of their life's struggles, provide graced of God's desire. Can their faith journey provide us with the confidence to say "Yes" to God's requests? Presented by Joan McGovern at the Cenacle's Maude Adams House, Thursday, March 8, 10am—1:30pm. Offering is \$35 and includes lunch. RSVP 631-588-8366.

Holy Angels Regional School in Patchogue ~ Open Registration ~ Holy Angels offers Pre-K through 8th grade. Give your children the advantage that lasts a lifetime! Schedule a tour today. Call the Main Office at 631-475-0422 or email the principal, Mr. Connell mconnell@holyangelsregional.org.

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.

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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