

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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

This is my commandment:

Love one another
as I *Love* you.



**No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

May 6, 2018

6th Sunday of Easter

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 ~ 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 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, May 5, 2018

5:00am Kenneth Daniels (2nd Anniversary)
Tom Sollecito
James Richard Gordon
James Mularkey
Olivia DiNucci

Sunday, May 6, 2018

7:30am Thomas J. Clark
9:00am Carmen Diaz
11:00am Richard Faria (10th Anniversary)

Monday, May 7, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

8:30am Jim Kummer

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

5:00pm Gary Casse

Ascension Thursday, May 10, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester
7:00pm Paul Kindl

Friday, May 11, 2018

8:30am Catherine Holzmann

Saturday, May 12, 2018

5:00pm FOR ALL MOTHERS
RoseMarie Limoggio
Maura Breheny
Rita Medile
Louise Leslia
Rose Patellaro
The D'Amato Family

Sunday, May 13, 2018

7:30am FOR ALL MOTHERS
9:00am FOR ALL MOTHERS
11:00am FOR ALL MOTHERS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

5/7:	Acts 16:11-15 Jn 15:26—16:4	Ps 149:1-6, 9
5/8:	Acts 16:22-34 Jn 16:5-11	Ps 138:1-3, 7-8
5/9:	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1 Jn 16:12-15	Ps 148:1-2, 11-14
5/10:	Acts 1:1-11 Eph 4:1-13	Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 Mk 16:15-20
5/11:	Acts 18:9-18 Jn 16:20-23	Ps 47:2-7
5/12:	Acts 18:23-28 Jn 16:23-28	Ps 47:2-3, 8-10
5/13:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 1 Jn 4:11-16	Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 Jn 17:11-19

Holy Hour

Time spent with our
Beloved Savior in Adoration
can become the most profound, meaningful,
joyful, peaceful and healing experience we
could ever encounter.

Please join us this Friday, May 11 from
8pm—9pm in the Worship Room.

"I Am With You Always"



The Ascension of the Lord

May 10th is Ascension Thursday,
a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Mass schedule is :

Wednesday, May 9 ~ 5:00pm

Thursday, May 10 ~ 8:30am & 7pm

ALL OFFICES CLOSED, THURSDAY, MAY 10.



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, Rose Masucci, Baby
Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Ken Terry,
Brian Podlesny, Roger Chin-Sang, Sasha Medile,
Nef Nieves, Joanne Clarke, Richard Gross, Michelle
Clark, Diane Ruiz, Martha Benvenuto, Joel Rivera,
Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Frank Cayea,
Dorothy Birdsall, Michael Dolan, Baby Valentina Bre-
scia, Hilda Gonzalez, John Bennett, Julian Atz, Jim
Dietz, Eric Bedell, Charles Lunstrum, Baby Madison
Angamarca, JoAnn Brandi, Helen Gallagher, Donyell
Gilkes, Joan Zerafa, Deidre Edwards, Theresa Baker,
Ed Rafferty, Lisa Conklin, Barbara Vattiato,
John Mulvihill, Olivia Bazirgan, Diane Arens, Bill Lyon

Anointing of the Sick



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.

The next Anointing will be Friday, May 11th.

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 offer direct service to our neighbors facing difficulties of all kinds, and expand our understanding and application of Catholic Social Teaching through the use of Praxis. We employ the "See, Judge, Act" Method to examine pressing social problems.

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.

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.

Constructive Feedback?

I welcome your calls, emails, and letters to express feedback 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!

Want to Volunteer?

We rely on contributions of time, money, skills, and prayer to keep our ministry going!

Justin McMahon
Director of Parish Social Ministry
631-475-4506 x121
jmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org

Need Assistance?

Parish Social Ministry Intake Line
Monday 930-12, 1-330
Wednesday 930-12, 1-330, 530-730
631-475-4506 x122
clarehouse@stsylvesterli.org

Community Through Communication

Community is at the root of our Christian experience. The Trinity teaches us that just as God is three Persons in one – the very embodiment of relationship – so too are we in infinite relationship with those around us, with God, and with all of creation. Relationships require work and they require communication. This is why we place an invitation to dialogue in the bulletin each week. Only through conversation with one another can we achieve clarity of thought on the complex issues of our time. Only in relationship with one another can we discern God's presence and purpose in our lives.

To facilitate the growth of community through communication we are presenting a series of articles by Mary Snyder focused on Nonviolent Communication:

#2 – Negotiating Conflicts Using Non-Violent Communication (May 2017)

Here are 3 foundational principles of NVC:

1. We all have the same NEEDS.

(If everyone does not have what we call a need, then it isn't a need; it is a strategy to meet a need.)

2. Everyone's NEEDS are important.

3. We never negotiate NEEDS.

We negotiate strategies to meet the NEED. Whenever there is a conflict or argument, the conflict is always about the strategy to get the need met, never about the NEED. Needs are universal; strategies are specific. In conflict, each person may think their strategy is a better way to meet the most needs. This may require a third party to help resolve the issue.

For example:

- When we go to a restaurant, or to a grocery store to buy food, or cook a meal, we are using a strategy to meet a need for food. Is a baby's cry a strategy to meet a need? Is the baby hungry, needs a diaper changed, wants to be held?
- Someone is watching baseball. Baseball is a strategy to meet a need that might be – fun, relaxation, entertainment, etc.
- In the stress-filled world we live in, we may have a greater need for rest. One way I meet that need is go for a ferry ride. I don't have to drive and I can enjoy the calm of the ocean.

Many times our needs are buried deep and we develop strategies without realizing it. If we want to become like Jesus and Mary, focus on the NEED.

Parish Social Ministry



Striving For Holiness In Our Advocacy Mary Cunningham (April 26, 2018)

In his recently-published apostolic exhortation "Rejoice and Be Glad," Pope Francis explores what it means to be holy in a world often tainted by egoism and a disregard for the marginalized. He calls us all to follow Jesus in order to embody His holiness and live out His mission in the world. In one section of the apostolic exhortation, Pope Francis lists the "signs of holiness in today's world:" Perseverance, Patience and Meekness, Joy and a Sense of Humor, Boldness and Passion, Community, and Constant Prayer. What do these mean, and how do they apply to our own lives and our advocacy?

Perseverance, Patience and Meekness

"They do not desert others in bad times; they accompany them in their anxiety and distress, even though doing so may not bring immediate satisfaction." (#112)

Working for justice can be draining. I am always amazed by our lobbyists who constantly advocate for policy goals that may or may not be realized. It is difficult to measure how much one lobby visit or one conversation can influence a policy maker. While our lobbyists might not feel immediate satisfaction from their actions, they continue to do this work because they are hopeful that through advocacy we will move towards a more positive future. As we continue in our work for justice, it is important to look towards our ultimate goal to avoid being weighed down in moments of distress.

Joy and a Sense of Humor

"Hard times may come, when the cross casts its shadow, yet nothing can destroy the supernatural joy that 'adapts and changes, but always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.'" (#125)

In our political climate it can be hard to find joy, let alone a sense of humor. The current administration makes daily decisions that threaten the livelihood of our sisters and brothers both in the United States and across the world. In the face of this adversity, it is important to cultivate the inner sense of joy and positivity we need to move forward. At NETWORK, I find joy in my co-workers, who find time to engage with one another in meaningful ways even when they are bogged down with hill visits, or grassroots organizing. I also find joy in the hope that our work will contribute to promoting the common good and dismantle the oppressive systems currently in place.

Boldness and Passion

"God is eternal newness. He impels us constantly to set out anew, to pass beyond what is familiar, to the fringes and beyond. He takes us to where humanity is most wounded, where men and women, beneath the appearance of a shallow conformity, continue to seek an answer to the question of life's meaning. God is not afraid! He is fearless! He is always greater than our plans and schemes. Unafraid of the fringes, he himself became a fringe (cf. Phil 2:6-8; Jn 1:14)." (#135)

Going to the fringes requires a willingness to enter into moments of discomfort and leave our own privilege. One of our goals at NETWORK is to engage in dialogues and actions surrounding racial justice. As a white person, I often struggle with these conversations. I try to make sure I am being respectful in the language I use, while also acknowledging my own privilege, which can be uncomfortable. In the advocacy space, it is important not to let our fears overcome our passion. We are human. God calls us to enter into difficult conversations and to be bold so that justice can be advanced. Complacency is resignation. As Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in his *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, "injustice must be rooted out by strong, persistent and determined action."

Community

"Contrary to the growing consumerist individualism that tends to isolate us in a quest for well-being apart from others, our path to holiness can only make us identify all the more with Jesus' prayer 'that all may be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you' (Jn 17:21)." (#146)

It's a human tendency to think we can do everything on our own. Sometimes it feels easier to do it that way instead of consulting our sisters and brothers for help. However, in our work for justice, we must always seek out our neighbors. Our Grassroots Mobilization team constantly puts this into action by building advocates teams across the United States and mobilizing them to be active voices in their communities. We also see this sense of community in our spirit-filled network at NETWORK that participates in action alerts, webinars, and more. Without them, our work would not be possible. Another key part of advocacy is building relationships with other organizations advancing justice and lifting up the work they are doing. At NETWORK we work on our Mend the Gap issue areas, but we can only cover so much! Without the great work of our partner organizations, the uphill battle towards economic and social justice would be a lot more challenging. When we recognize the value of community, we are all able to combine our unique strengths to work towards a common goal.

Constant Prayer

"Trust-filled prayer is a response of a heart open to encountering God face to face, where all is peaceful and the quiet voice of the Lord can be heard in the midst of silence. In that silence, we can discern, in the light of the Spirit, the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us." (#149)

Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of discernment by asking, *how do we faithfully follow God?* Being in prayer with God means being in conversation with Her and asking *where do you most need me?* Although this can be unclear, only in talking to God can we ensure that we are doing all we can to live out Her mission. A huge part of our work for justice requires listening and bearing witness to what is going on around us. We must occasionally set aside *doing* and focus on *openness*: letting God's will enter our hearts and our minds. We have to remind ourselves of why we are doing this work. Only then can we ensure we are truly living out God's call for us. Overall, there is a lot to take from the pope's apostolic exhortation. Pope Francis assures us that we are all called to be holy in our own unique way. The "signs of holiness" are the means through which we can animate our advocacy and achieve holiness in our lives.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

April 29, 2018

Regular ~ \$9,195

Renovation ~ \$271

Solar ~ \$138

To learn about automated giving,
just log onto www.faithdirect.net
and use our Church code **NY285**

Catholic Communications Campaign

Next weekend, May 12/13, there is a specially marked envelope for *Catholic Communications Campaign*. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. Fifty percent of funds collected remain in our diocese to fund local communication efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message. To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc

Please place this special envelope in the regular collection basket.

Reflection

Jesus' commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself—my skills and talents, my time and resources—will best demonstrate my love for God's people?

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who seek out new opportunities to share their gifts by serving others through parish ministries such as our Lazarus Ministry of Consolation, our Baptismal Preparation Team and our Faith Formation Catechists.

"STEWARDSHIP AS OUR WAY OF LIFE"

When we trust that God loves us as individuals, as we are, we can't help but embrace *every-day stewardship*. Stewardship is not simply a service or financial program; it is a way of engaging and mindful Christian living. Over the course of the next few weeks we will explore how we can incorporate Stewardship into our daily lives and continue to share the Good News with all whose lives we touch.

Stewardship
Our Way of Life

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$48,516.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	73.7%
Number of Donors to Date:	136

PLEDGE: \$ _____

All gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal will be used solely for the purposes of Parish Sharing, Catholic Charities, Education and Formation, and Pastoral Ministries.

Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Please Print:

Parish: St. Sylvester Church

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Place in collection basket
or return to the Parish Center. Thank you.

Stewardship



Stewardship News ~ Awareness Weekend ~



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Questions about Stewardship

I hear about stewardship, but what does it really mean?

Stewardship is often times misunderstood to mean solely our financial giving. Our monetary support is indeed a component of our Stewardship, but certainly not the complete picture.

Stewardship is a very “old” spiritual principle rooted in Scripture and Church Tradition. Through our Baptism, we accepted the call to follow Jesus and participate in fulfilling His mission to bring about love, peace and justice - the Kingdom of God - here on earth.

We do this together by sharing all that we have been given with others. God has given us everything - our families, friends, time, intellect, natural resources, talents, others, possessions, energy, *our very lives!* Truly we own nothing. Our response to God’s unceasing generosity - our “thank you” - is a life of gratitude, generosity and service in return.

That is what stewardship is all about, responding gratefully by sharing generously God’s blessings in our lives. For a gift that is freely and cheerfully given will provide a return that is immeasurable.



Does being a steward mean I must spend most of my time at the parish or I must give most of my money and possessions away?

No. Being a responsible steward means that you **prioritize** the use of your gifts - in light of what you profess to believe. Through prayer and planning, **decide** how you will care for the people in your life and responsibly use and share the 24 hours in your day, your many talents, our natural resources and your material possessions - all which have been entrusted to you by God. Try to determine the difference between your “needs” and “wants” when you plan.

Once your plan is set - **do it**. Do it as best you can, gratefully. If you have planned responsibly and through prayer, you should feel a sense of peace with your decisions.

For example, if you have small children or someone else to care for, you will need to make them one of your top priorities. If this is a new situation, you may even need to step

back from other activities for the time being - and that is okay.

When we plan and use our gifts responsibly, we are good stewards and we share in the ministry of Jesus.

What does being a good Christian steward of God’s gifts look like?

When we accept our lives and everything around us as sheer gift from God, we cannot help but be grateful. This gratitude shapes the way we live every moment of every day as people of...

- Prayer in thanksgiving;
- Generosity of heart and resources;
- Awareness of our neighbors in need;
- Forgiveness, mercy and non-judgment;
- Courage to be voice for the voiceless;
- Awareness of our connection and solidarity to the global community;
- Action.

As a Christian steward and disciple of Jesus you are challenged to use your gifts, not for your own glory, but for the glory of God. You are invited to pray, make a

plan, and then put your plan into action. The idea is to make a conscious decision out of gratitude to our most generous God, then act.



Faith Formation

Registration Information 2018/2019

All children need to be registered each year.
Please note that classes are filled on a first come, first served basis.

You may **register online** through May 13th. Please go to the Parish's website:

<http://stsylvesterli.org>

Go to the Faith Formation Registration link below the picture of the Church on the Home Page and follow the directions.



Registration will be held in the Parish Center on:

Monday, May 14 ~ 2pm—5pm
Wednesday, May 23 ~ 2pm—5pm

or call 631-475-4506 ext 118 for an appointment.

FIRST TIME REGISTRATIONS

(For First Graders and children new to the program.)

Please note: A baptismal certificate is required for all first time registrations. So please be sure to bring it with you when you come to register. We will be unable to process your registration without this required certificate. Thank You!

Parish Life

Senior Circle of Friends



Fun for Seniors

*The Senior
Circle of
Friends*

meet on the

2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.
Their next meeting is May 11 at
12:30pm in PDH. Come join us for
fun and games. Bring a friend and
meet some new ones!



Come and see the
amazing paintings
from members of our Art Group, led by
Paul Padovano. Paintings will be on display
& available for purchase in the East Wing
after Masses this Sunday, May 13th.

Plant Sale!

Friday, May 11: 10:00am—4pm

Saturday, May 12: 9:30am—6:15pm

Sunday, May 13: 8am—12:15pm

(Mother's Day Weekend)



FLATS
HANGING BASKETS
PLANTERS
HERBS
ASSORTED ANNUALS
IN 4" AND 6" POTS



Hosted by the Garden Club Ministry

*All plants are from
Sandy's Garden Center in Farmingville.*

Do you love to work in the garden?

In preparation for planting, the garden areas need to be weeded and mulch needs to be added. If you can spare an hour or two on Saturday, May 12th between 10am and 5pm, please come with your gardening gloves!! We will provide the weeding tools and the mulch. Your help in making our grounds beautiful is very much appreciated.

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Monday ~ May 7, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

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

Carmelite Council Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Clare House

Baptism Prep Class ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Tuesday ~ May 8, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ May 9, 2018

Ascension Vigil Mass ~ 5pm ~ Church

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Thursday ~ May 10, 2018

Ascension Masses at 8:30am & 7pm in the Church

All Offices Closed

Friday ~ May 11, 2018

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ East Wing

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ Worship Room

Saturday, May 12, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ Patricia Desmond Hall

BAPTISM

*Let us welcome the newly
baptized into our
community of Faith
during the Month of April 2018*

Quinn Marie Camilleri

Madelyn Elizabeth Foster

Evan Kenneth Lawlor

Charlotte Mary Nissen

Emma Elizabeth Nissen

Eliza Snow Zazzarino



Community Events

The paintings of parishioner Paul Padovano will be featured at Patchogue-Medford Library for the month of May.

Angel of Hope Ceremony ~ Saturday, May 12th, 10am at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. This ceremony allows families and loved ones a sacred space to start Mother's Day weekend remembering the children who have left us too soon. The ceremony will be less than 1 hour and will go on rain or shine. Meeting spot is Angel of Hope Statue in Memorial Park, parking lot 6 or 6A. Please RSVP by calling 631-943-7677 or emailing pfurino@angelashouse.org

Fatima Day, Sunday May 13th at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville with Fr. Roy Tvrdik, SMM. 10am Procession & Prayer, 11:30am Mass at the "Rock" (weather permitting), 1:30pm Presentation, 3pm Holy Hour. For more information call the Shrine Office at 631-325-0661.

Senior Citizen Dance ~ Dancing through the Decades ~ May 30th from 4pm—7pm in the cafeteria of Pat-Med High School, 181 Buffalo Ave in Medford. This free event is **compliments** of PMHS PTSA. Includes, dinner, dessert, DJ, and photo booth. You must RSVP by Friday, May 11th. Please call Lisa at 631-921-8547 or Jenn at 631-682-9584.

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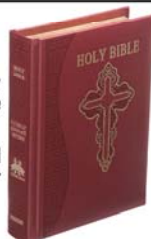
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