



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me will be saved.

May 7, 2017
4th 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

Adam G. Singleton, Organist & Director of Music

Lori Zito, Stewardship Director

Office Information

Parish Office: (631)475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631)475-1057 email: parishoffice@stsyvesterli.org
M - Wed ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th & Fr ~ 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 Th ~ Temporarily Closed

Fr ~ 9:30am-12pm

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.stsyvesterli.org

We Pray

Saturday, May 6, 2017

5:00pm Gail Jaeger
Eileen Higgins
Michael Townend
John J. Russo
Erminio Del Ponte

Sunday, May 7, 2017

7:30am Emma Lou Dobbins
9:00am James Hines Jr.
James Doucette
11:00am Richard Faria (9th Anniversary)

Monday, May 8, 2017

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

8:30am Margaret Longo

Thursday, May 11, 2017

8:30am Marion Ed Smolenski

Friday, May 12, 2017

8:30am Patricia Smith

Saturday, May 13, 2017

5:00pm For All Mothers
Patricia Sisson
Jim Kummer
Frances Marrano
Evelyn Walters Gargano

Sunday, May 14, 2017

7:30am For All Mothers
9:00am For All Mothers
11:00am For All Mothers

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

5/8:	Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:11-18	Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
5/9:	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30	Ps 87:1-7
5/10:	Acts 12:24—13:5 Jn 12:44-50	Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
5/11:	Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20	Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
5/12:	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6	Ps 2:6-11
5/13:	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14	Ps 98:1-4
5/14:	Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9	Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 158-19 Jn 14:1-12

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

Eva D'Amato, Marguerite Orłowski, Robert Orłowski, Tom Stephens, Melina Grosso Bischoff, Anne Ripi, Joanne Clarke, Sean Patrick Dixon, Nina Caravana, Joanna Fernandes, Larry Lang, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Roy Fernandes, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Michael Goode, Michelle Montalvo, Jessica Deck, Ray Breslin, Derek O'Grady, Nathan Morales, William F. Swope, Laurie Saper, Baby William Phillips Swope, Chris Rosado, Lisa Conklin, George Argyris, Martin Mockler, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Ramona Nunez, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Brian Podlesny, Joseph Wagner, Frank Ariabile, Diane Rockowitz, Patricia Nochese, Ken Terry, Angela Frisina, Beverly Noble, Ed Rafferty, Donald Tierney, Sr., Eddie Chin-Sang, Danny Miller, Baby Charlotte Steele, George Steele, Theresa Golembroski, Barbara Vattiato

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

Susan Stumppt, John Phelan, Rose Tardif

Holy Hour

O, SACRAMENT MOST HOLY!

O, SACRAMENT DIVINE!

ALL PRAISE

AND

ALL THANKSGIVING

BE EVERY MOMENT THINE!



Please join us this Friday,
May 12th
from 8pm — 9pm
in the Worship Room.

"I Am With You Always"



Hail, Holy Queen

Our annual
May Crowning
will take place
next Sunday,
Mother's Day,

May 14th. Following the 11am Mass,
please process to the Worship Room in
the Parish Center.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

April 30, 2017

Regular ~ \$9,768

Renovation ~ \$70 Solar ~ \$127

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**.

Also, sign-up forms are available in the Parish Office.

You'll never have to worry about forgetting an envelope again!!!

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2017

Designated Goal: \$65,100.00

Amount Pledged to Date: \$41,400.00

% of Goal Pledged to Date: 63.6%

Number of Donors to Date: 129

Reflection

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gifts of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who respond and give thanks for God's blessings by sharing their gifts of time and talent in service "to and through" our parish ministries.

Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser A Sweet & Syrupy Success

Last Saturday morning, 100 parishioners and friends gathered at Applebee's for a delicious beginning to their day — a hot pancake breakfast, served by fellow parishioners.

The flapjacks were fresh, the coffee outstanding and the fellowship fabulous! The breakfast raised \$1,234 for our parish, but perhaps more importantly, provided a great opportunity for parishioners to come together, share a meal and take a chance on some raffles — all for a good cause!



Special thanks to Fundraising Chairperson,

Marie Broderick, for organizing this event and to all of our wonderful parishioners who gave up their Saturday mornings to pitch in and greet, seat, serve, sell raffles, make coffee, pour juice and clean up afterward. They were outstanding and without their assistance, this breakfast would not have been possible! Thanks too to all those who supported the parish by coming, and to those who could not attend the event but donated anyway.

Stay tuned for our next dining experience, "A Taste of Medford +", coming in June!

Stewardship

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

2017



ONE

FAITH • FAMILY
COMMUNITY

**“Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows.”
- Pope Francis**

Vanessa was pregnant, homeless and in great need of help. She found the support, care and guidance that she needed at Catholic Charities Regina Residence.

“I know now that I was making decisions that were bad for me and my baby. Regina Residence staff helped me to understand why I was making the choices I was making and they taught me life skills that will make me a better mother.”



Regina Residence provides young women facing motherhood without adequate resources, a chance to live in a safe, structured and supportive environment, while they prepare for the challenges of working and parenting.

“Vanessa is the ideal success story. She is a wonderful mother, a beautiful person and she is doing everything she can to better her life and the life of her children. She is taking English classes to improve her speaking and writing skills and enrolling in a medical assistant program.”

-Danielle Tempone, Social Worker, Program Coordinator

Please consider donating to the Appeal and a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish St. Sylvester

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parish Social Ministry

OUTREACH



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 meets first Thursdays at 7pm in Clare House. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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 press 5+1
clarehouse@stsyvesterli.org

Contact Social Justice Ministry:

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



Fridays at Clare House: Bread Ministry & Gus Truck

Every Friday from 9:30 - 11:30, the Bread Ministry converts Clare House to a bakery to distribute pastries, bread, rolls, and more! Items are available to all members of our community in need!

Every 3rd Friday from 9:30 - 11:30, the Long Island Care's Asparagus Breakfast Truck (Gus Truck) partners with Clare House to make breakfast foods available to families with children!



Stand Up For The Homeless Project

Our Confirmation Candidates will be assembling wash-care kits for the homeless in April. For this to be a success, we need travel-size items (the type you may bring home after staying in a hotel) like soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, mouth wash or lotion, as well as deodorant, toothbrushes and washcloths.

We are still in need of these items!!

All items should be placed in church lobby before mass. On Monday morning volunteers should bring these items downstairs to the church basement. Thank You!

Parish Social Ministry

SOCIAL JUSTICE



A Radical Redistribution of Love

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

One of the first things that happened as the church was born that first Pentecost, 2000 years ago, is that Christians started sharing everything they had. They worshipped in their homes. The gospel was lived out of dinner tables and living rooms.

Scripture says, "No one claimed any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had ... and there were no needy persons among them ... They put their offerings at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed as people had need [and] there were no needy persons among them."

This witness has so much to teach our world.

We are living in a time of unprecedented economic disparity between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots. Masses live in poverty so that a handful of people can live as they wish. The world's three richest people own more than the combined economies of 48 countries. The average CEO in the U.S. is making 335 times the average worker.

In contrast, it was the ethic of the early Christians that no one had a right to more than they need while others have less. Basil the Great said, "When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not?"

But here's the deal. Generosity cannot be forced or legislated. It has to be provoked by love. That's why we're not talking about a new form of socialism, or communism, or anything that ends in "-

ism." Redistribution comes from community, not before community. The early Christians did not have community because they shared stuff — just the opposite. They shared stuff because they had community. It is simply what happens when we are driven by a love ethic to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The deepest tragedy in our world is not that rich folks don't care about poor folks. The tragedy is that rich folks don't know poor folks. Statistics are not enough. Campaigns are not enough. We will never make poverty history until we first make poverty personal. That's what happened in the early church — they had a new vision of family. They no longer had "rich" and "poor," but only "brother" and "sister."

Jesus is not saying to the poor, "Come find the church." Jesus is saying to the church, "Go into the world. Find me where I am hungry. And homeless. And naked. And in prison."

In the end, the final judgment according to Jesus is this. All of us will be gathered before God, and we will be asked a few questions — not a doctrinal test about eschatology, inerrancy of Scripture. We will not be asked if we believe Mary was a virgin, or if the world was really made in seven days. We will be asked, "When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was a stranger, did you welcome me in? When I was sick, did you take care of me?"

The true test of our faith is how it is expressed in love and compassion to the people in this world. And it's not that our works earn our salvation — our works demonstrate our salvation.

But here's something important: It is not about guilt. Jesus did not come to give us guilt, but to give us life. Someone once said to Mother Teresa, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." And she responded by saying, "Neither would I. But I would gladly do it for Christ."

In the end, what we are talking about is the life we are made for: joy, love, and freedom.

I will never forget learning this from a homeless kid in India. Every week we would throw a party for the street kids, kids 8-10 years old who were homeless, begging all day to survive. One week, one of the kids I had grown close to told me it was his birthday, so I got him an ice cream. He was so excited, he stared at it mesmerized. But what he did next was brilliant. He yelled at all the other kids and told them to come over. He lined them up and gave them all a lick. His instinct was, "This is so good, I can't keep it for myself."

In the end, that's what this whole idea of generosity is all about. Not guilt. It's about the joy of sharing. It's about realizing the good things in life — like ice cream — are too good to keep for ourselves.

SOURCE: Shane Claiborne, Sojourners, 5-01-2017
Shane Claiborne is a Red Letter Christian and a founding partner of The Simple Way community, a radical faith community in Philadelphia. His newest book is *Executing Grace: Why It is Time to Put the Death Penalty to Death*.

Faith Formation

Registration Information 2017/2018

All children need to be registered each year **including Catholic School and Confirmation Candidates!**

Please note that classes are filled on a first come, first served basis.

You may **register online** through May 7th. 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 15 ~ 2pm—5pm
Wednesday, May 17 ~ 2pm—5pm

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!

Music Notes

Adam's musical selection for his last weekend here is:

Prelude: *Variasjoner over den Norske Folketone "Å hvor salig det skal blive"* - Bjarne Sløgedal

Postlude: *Toccata Pontificale* - Gordon Young

Just a Note (🎵) to my Friends at St. Sylvester

I would like to sincerely thank you for your warmth and kindness during my time here at St. Sylvester. It has really been a joyful and up-lifting experience being a part of your faith community.

I have truly enjoyed working with the Cantors, Adult and Youth Choirs and Organ Assistants. Their hard work and dedication was very much appreciated.

Please know that I will miss you all as I embark on the next part of my life's journey.

Sincerely,

Adam

Parish Life

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday ~ May 7, 2017

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ May 8, 2017

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

Spanish Legion of Mary ~ 5:30pm ~ Room 4

Tuesday ~ May 9, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Presentation for Volunteer Ministers~7pm~EW

Wednesday ~ May 10, 2017

Adult Confirmation Class ~ 7pm ~ EW

Stewardship Committee Meeting ~ 7pm~PDH

Thursday ~ May 11, 2017

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ May 12, 2017

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ PDH

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

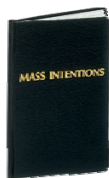
Anointing of the Sick

*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 will be celebrated this Friday, May 12th, (2nd Friday of the month), immediately following the 8:30am Mass in the Worship Room of the Parish Center.



2018 Mass Book

The 2018 Mass Book will open, Wednesday, June 7th. Please arrange Masses as well as Bread & Wine and Candle Memorials through the Parish Office.

BAPTISM

Let us welcome the newly baptized into our community of Faith during the Month of April 2017

Declan Stephen Cox

Francesca Sophia Credidio

Christopher David DeGruchy

Connor Michael Dervin

Alanna Grace Kelly

Adaleigh Jade Marz

Finn Michael Mullally



Emily Carolina Perugini

Austin Michael Posillico

Aurora Rose Reuter

Jaiden Alise Rosario

Joseph Anthony Rosario

Theodore John Sawicki III

Adalyn Lee Schmich

Plant Sale!

Friday, May 12: 10:00am—4pm

Saturday, May 13: 9:30am—6:15pm

Sunday, May 14: 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 13th 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.