

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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

What good is it

if someone says

he has faith 

but does
not

have works?

James 2:14

September 16, 2018

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Celebrate!

Eucharist:

Weekends: Sat: 5pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am & 11am Holy Days as announced
Weekdays: M, Tu, Th and Fr: Mass in the Parish Center @ 8:30am

Baptisms: Celebrated on pre-determined Sunday afternoons. ***Prior to making plans,*** call the Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 12 noon or by appointment.

Confirmation: In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office.

Marriage: Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm, Saturday @ 10:30am & 2:30pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick: Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass for those needing surgery, or serious medical treatment, or seeking spiritual healing.

We are here for you!

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Thomas W. Coby, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Deacon Frank Rivera

Theresa Ellner, Business Manager

Michael Lofaro, Faith Formation Administrator

Frances McMahan, Faith Formation Director

Justin McMahan, Parish Social Ministry Director

Lori Zito, Stewardship Director

Office Information

Parish Office: (631)475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631)475-1057 email: parishoffice@stsyvesterli.org
M, Tu, W ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th, Fri ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Su ~ 9:30am - 12:30pm

Faith Formation Office: (631)475-4506 ext. 118 email: faithformation@stsyvesterli.org
Please call (631)475-4506 ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Clare House: (631)475-4506; Fax (631)475-6058

M ~ 10am - 3pm

Wed ~ 10am - 3pm & 4pm - 7pm

Fr ~ 10am - 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 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

Saturday, September 15, 2018

5:00pm Antoinette & Louis Coppolecchia
Dean Foster
Martha Bartone
Mary Ambrose
Maria Beslanovics
Frank Mascia
Ita Cinquemani

Sunday, September 16, 2018

7:30am Thomas Clark
9:00am William Buckley
11:00am Matteo, Caravana & Confessore Families

Monday, September 17, 2018

8:30am Tony Sikorski (4th Anniversary)

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, September 20, 2018

8:30am Garry Quoma

Friday, September 21, 2018

8:30am Daniel Carey

Saturday, September 22, 2018

5:00pm Paul King, Jr.
Florence Pannell
Mary Ambrose
Stanley Zmijewski
Ginny Kissel
Ronald Scarpati

Sunday, September 23, 2018

7:30am Arthur Pollaci
9:00am Kathleen Kenny
11:00am Lucille Mango
Fay & Charles Marinello

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

Eva D'Amato, Nina Caravana, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Roger Chin-Sang, Sasha Medile, Nef Nieves, Joanne Clarke, Michelle Clark, Martha Benvenuto, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Michael Dolan, Hilda Gonzalez, John Bennett, Baby Madison Angamarca, JoAnn Brandi, Joan Zerafa, Deidre Edwards, Ed Rafferty, Vinnie Callanan, Olivia Bazirgan, Alice Micali, Baby Isabella Steo, Diane Garvey, Jerry Noschese, William Lyon, Nello Liberatore, John Pbelan, James Dunn, Elizabeth Brechter, Anne Ripi, Brian Mullins, Baby Emma Connolly, Desmond McDay, Jack Frey, William Arens, Betty DeFrancis, John Katsiafas, Vivian Bollmann, Lois Eckert, Eileen Cavalcante, Robert Edwards

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

Natalie F. Graziano, Shea Rosemarie Pugliese,

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

9/17:	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33	Ps 40:7-10, 17
	Lk 7:1-10	
9/18:	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31	Ps 100:1-5
	Lk 7:11-17	
9/19:	1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13	Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22
	Lk 7:31-35	
9/20:	1 Cor 15:1-11	Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 28
	Lk 7:36-50	
9/21:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	Ps 19:2-5
	Mt 9:9-13	
9/22:	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49	Ps 56:10-14
	Lk 8:4-15	
9/23:	Wis 2:12, 17-20	Ps 54:3-6, 8
	Jas 3:16 — 4:3	Mk 9:30-37

The Bread & Wine



used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
the 11am Mass Eucharistic Ministers
in loving memory of
Doris Faithfull
(1st Anniversary)

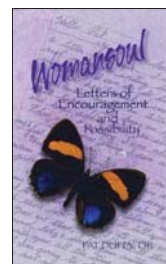
Women's Prayer Group

The next gathering of our *Spiritual Book Club* will be **Tuesday, September 18** at 7pm in the Worship Room. Please join us as we delve into Sr. Pat Duffy's Book: **Womansoul**.

Sr. Pat says, "In these letters I offer you something of my soul as a gift. I pray that through my sharing you will be encouraged to enter more deeply into your own soul. There, through the truth of your life, may you grow in grace, peace, and the love of your God."

So many of us have been encouraged and enlightened by Sr. Pat's spoken words at retreats and parish missions. Come and find the same in her written words.

Spread the word and bring a friend!
Books are available at the gathering.



Faith Formation

Reminder

There will be a meeting for new catechists this Thursday, September 20th at 7:30pm in the Worship Room.

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Faith Formation Year

Please note, there will be no online or in person registration October 8—October 21 so that classes begin smoothly. We encourage you to register before October 8.

Classes have begun!

Level 8 Confirmation Classes began on September 6th, 2018.

The Confirmation Retreat will take place next Sunday, September 23rd from 1:45pm to 5pm in the Parish Center East Wing.

Level 1 begins Saturday, October 14 at 9am in the Church.

Home Taught Levels 3, 4, and 5 will begin on Saturday, October 13th, 2018 at 10:30am in the Parish Center.

The following Levels will begin the week of October 15th, 2018:

Level 2 through 7

Older Sacraments 1 & 2

Older Sacraments 6 & 7

Attention All Parents!

All Parents will receive an email with the details for their child's class by the end of September.

If have not yet registered your child, please do so **before October 8th** by going to the website at www.stsylvesterli.org and go to Faith Formation and then Registration. If you would like to come in to the Faith Formation Office to register your child, please call 631-475-4506 ext. 118, **before October 8th**, to make an appointment.



We have a few opportunities available for those who would like

to share their gift of faith with the young people of the parish for 2017/2018:

Level 3: Mondays @ 5:45pm

Level 3: Tuesdays @ 4:30pm



If you are interested in becoming a member of the Faith Formation Ministry as a teacher/catechist, please call 475-4506 ext 118 for more information.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure September 9th, 2018

*Regular ~ \$7,805
Renovation ~ \$150 Solar ~ \$33*

Faith Direct September Contributions

*Regular ~ \$10,747
Renovation ~ \$1,153 Solar ~ \$209*

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal: \$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date: \$56,261.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date: 85.5%
Number of Donors to Date: 164

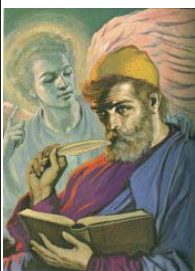
Your donation can make a difference!

PLEDGE: \$ _____

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

A Steward Saint ~ St Matthew

*Apostle and Evangelist
Feast Day September 21st*



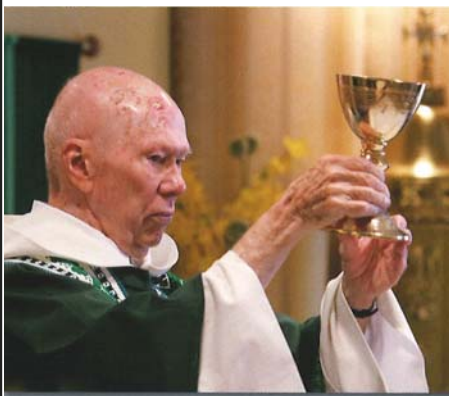
St. Matthew fulfilled in his life what every Christian is called to do: proclaim to all people the **Good News** which is the source of salvation. Deeply resented by his fellow Jews, this former tax collector for the Romans netted a substantial income and comfortable lifestyle. Nevertheless, he left "the good life" behind entirely to follow Jesus!

Celebrated today as author of the **Gospel of Matthew** and missionary to Persia and Ethiopia, Matthew used his **gifts** to proclaim the **Good News** by his writing, his life and word. May his example remind us that great things happen when we put our lives at the service of God.

Remembering and Caring For Our Senior Priests

St. Pius X Residence ensures that our senior priests are being cared for in a setting that fosters their spiritual lives, nurtures their physical and mental wellbeing, and guarantees that they continue to live with dignity while accessing a wide array of social and spiritual opportunities.

There is a special envelope for retired priests living at St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility next weekend, September 22/23. Please place the envelope in the regular collection basket. Thank you for your generosity!



"Living at St. Pius X for more than 2 years now, I must say things keep getting better and better here each year."

- Rev. Edward Kealey

Reflection

In the second reading today, St. James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into actions. May we be such good stewards of God's gifts to us that we can never be accused of having faith that does nothing in practice.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who put their faith into action by using their gifts freely in support of our parish ministries and community activities.

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.



On behalf of our neighbors, who we serve, thank you to everyone who supported our back to school program by making a donation!

Pantry Wish List

Pancake Mix/Syrup
Coffee
Juice
Cookies/Snacks (children)
Canned Fruit
Canned Tuna/Chicken
Canned Soup
Mayo/Mustard/Ketchup
Rice Pudding
Spaghetti (NO Elbow Macaroni Please)
Tomato Sauce

Toothpaste (adult/child)
Toothbrushes (adult)
Bar Soap/Body Wash
Deodorant
Razors

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!

Justin McMahon
Director of Parish Social Ministry
631-475-4506 x121
jmcmahon@stsyvesterli.org

Need Assistance/ Want to Volunteer?

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

Parish Social Ministry Intake Line
Monday 10am - 3pm
Wednesday 10am - 3pm, 4pm - 7pm
631-475-4506 x122
clarehouse@stsyvesterli.org

HEALTHY FOODS TO ENCOURAGE...



St. Sylvester Parish Social Ministry-Clare House Market

*Food brands shown are just some healthy examples. Similar and/or healthy choice like items may be donated



DONATE HEALTHY TODAY!

Please continue to place **ONLY NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS** in the donation bin. If you wish to donate perishable items (ex. butter, eggs) please bring them directly to Clare House (Mondays 9:30-12 & 1:00-3:30 & Wednesdays 9:30-12, 1:00-3:30 & 5:30-7:30) Please call ahead to ensure our ability to receive your donation.
(631) 475-4506 x122 Thank you for supporting our community!

Parish Social Ministry

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - 1 September 2018

Dear brothers and sisters,

On this Day of Prayer, I wish first to thank the Lord for the gift of our common home and for all those men and women of good will committed to protecting it. I am likewise grateful for the many projects aimed at promoting the study and the safeguarding of ecosystems, for the efforts being made to develop more sustainable agriculture and more responsible nutrition, and for the various educational, spiritual and liturgical initiatives that involve Christians throughout the world in the care of creation.

It must be acknowledged that we have not succeeded in responsibly protecting creation. The environmental situation, both on the global level and in many specific places, cannot be considered satisfactory. Rightly, there is a growing sense of the need for a renewed and sound relationship between humanity and creation, and the conviction that only an authentic and integral vision of humanity will permit us to take better care of our planet for the benefit of present and future generations. For "there is no ecology without an adequate anthropology" (*Laudato Si'*, 118).

On this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which the Catholic Church for several years now has celebrated in union with our Orthodox brothers and sisters and with participation of other Churches and Christian communities, I would like to draw attention to the question of water. It is a very simple and precious element, yet access to it is, sadly, for many people difficult if not impossible. Nonetheless, "access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world owes a great social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity" (*ibid.*, 30).

Water invites us to reflect on our origins. The human body is mostly composed of water, and many civilizations throughout history arose near great rivers that marked their identity. In an evocative image, the beginning of the book of Genesis states that, in the beginning, the spirit of the Creator "swept over the face of the waters (1:2)".

In considering the fundamental role of water in creation and in human development, I feel the need to give thanks to God for "Sister Water", simple and useful for life like nothing else on our planet. Precisely for this reason, care for water sources and water basins is an urgent imperative. Today, more than ever, we need to look beyond immediate concerns (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 36) and beyond a purely utilitarian view of reality, "in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit" (*ibid.*, 159). We urgently need shared projects and concrete gestures that recognize that every privatization of the natural good of water, at the expense of the human right to have access to this good, is unacceptable.

For us Christians, water represents an essential element of purification and of life. We think immediately of baptism, the sacrament of our rebirth. Water made holy by the Spirit is the matter by which God has given us life and renewed us; it is the blessed source of undying life. For Christians of different confessions, baptism also represents the real and irreplaceable point of departure for experiencing an ever more authentic fraternity on the way to full unity. Jesus, in the course of his mission, promised a water capable of quenching human thirst for ever (cf. *Jn 4:14*). He prophesied, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink (*Jn 7:37*). To drink from Jesus means to encounter him personally as the Lord, drawing from his words the meaning of life. May the words he spoke from the cross – "I thirst" (*Jn 19:28*) – echo constantly in our hearts. The Lord continues to ask that his thirst be quenched; he thirsts for love. He asks us to give him to drink in all those who thirst in our own day, and to say to them, "I was thirsty and you gave me to drink" (*Mt 25:35*). To give to drink, in the global village, does not only entail personal gestures of charity, but also concrete choices and a constant commitment to ensure to all the primary good of water.

I would like also to mention the issue of the seas and oceans. It is our duty to thank the Creator for the impressive and marvellous gift of the great waters and all that they contain (cf. *Gen 1:20-21*; *Ps 146:6*), and to praise him for covering the earth with the oceans (cf. *Ps 104:6*). To ponder the immense open seas and their incessant movement can also represent an opportunity to turn our thoughts to God, who constantly accompanies his creation, guiding its course and sustaining its existence (cf. *St. John Paul II, Catechesis of 7 May 1986*).

Constant care for this inestimable treasure represents today an ineluctable duty and a genuine challenge. There is need for an effective cooperation between men and women of good will in assisting the ongoing work of the Creator. Sadly, all too many efforts fail due to the lack of effective regulation and means of control, particularly with regard to the protection of marine areas beyond national confines (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 174). We cannot allow our seas and oceans to be littered by endless fields of floating plastic. Here too, our active commitment is needed to confront this emergency. We need to pray as if everything depended on God's providence, and work as if everything depended on us.

Let us pray that waters may not be a sign of separation between peoples, but of encounter for the human community. Let us pray that those who risk their lives at sea in search of a better future may be kept safe. Let us ask the Lord and all those engaged in the noble service of politics that the more sensitive questions of our day, such as those linked to movements of migration, climate change and the right of everyone to enjoy primary goods, may be faced with generous and farsighted responsibility and in a spirit of cooperation, especially among those countries most able to help.

Let us pray too, for all those who devote themselves to the apostolate of the sea, for those who help reflect on the issues involving maritime ecosystems, for those who contribute to the development and application of international regulations on the seas in order to safeguard individuals, countries, goods, natural resources – I think, for example, of marine fauna and flora, and coral reefs (cf. *ibid.*, 41) or sea beds – and to guarantee an integral development in view of the common good of the entire human family and not particular interests. Let us remember, too, all those who work to protect maritime areas and to safeguard the oceans and their biodiversity, that they may carry out this task with responsibility and integrity.

Finally, let us be concerned for the younger generation and pray for them, that they may grow in knowledge and respect for our common home and in the desire to care for the essential good of water, for the benefit of all. It is my prayerful hope that Christian communities may contribute more and more concretely helping everyone to enjoy this indispensable resource, in respectful care for the gifts received from the Creator, and in particular rivers, seas and oceans.

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ September 17, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

Baptism Class ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Tuesday ~ September 18, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Women's Prayer Group ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Choir Rehearsal ~ 7:30pm ~ Choir Room

Wednesday September 19, 2018

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ EW

Thursday ~ September 20, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

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

Wedding Rehearsal ~ 5:30pm ~ Church

Confirmation Classes ~ 6:50pm ~ Church

New Catechist Meeting ~ 7:30pm ~ WR

Friday ~ September 21, 2018

Carmelite Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room

Carmelite Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Wedding ~ Kelly Harris & Michael Palladino ~
2:30pm ~ Church

May God Bless



Kelly Anne Harris

&

Michael Richard Palladino

as they marry at St. Sylvester

Saturday, September 22nd ~ 2:30pm

"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. We meet Thursday, September 20 at 2:30 pm in the East Wing. Please join us then.

Eileen & Martha ~ Coordinators

Gift Cards

An everyday fundraiser here at St. Sylvester is our Scrip program, where **gift cards** can be purchased for grocery and retail stores as well as restaurants. Every time you purchase a gift card, our parish receives a percentage of the sale, at no extra cost to you! Gift cards can be given as a present or can be used by you! Please consider purchasing gift cards after Mass or during the week in the Parish Office for:

Applebee's ~ \$25

Cheesecake Factory ~ \$25

King Kullen ~ \$25 & \$50

Meat Farms ~ \$20

Panera Bread ~ \$25

Red Lobster ~ \$25

ShopRite ~ \$25 & \$100

Stop & Shop ~ \$25, \$50 & \$100

Target ~ \$25

Hold the Date

St. Sylvester's Fall Flower Sale

Saturday, October 6

10am—6:15pm

Sunday, October 7

8am—12:30pm



Parish Life

Free Seminar For Seniors and Their Families



St. Sylvester Parish Center

**Saturday, September 29th
3:00pm—4:30pm**

**Learn from the experts how to identify and prevent
Financial Scams *Fraud* *Elder Abuse***

Presenters:

John Ryan ~ from Ryan & Janowsky Financial Strategies Group

Steven Kramer ~ Elder Law Attorney

Arlene Markarian ~ Nassau County D.A. Office, Elder Law Abuse

Please RSVP: 631-475-4506, ext. 115 OR www.stsylvesterli.org

In the Community

Weekly Farmers Market ~ support your local growers and come to the Farmers Market at Brookhaven Town Hall South Parking Lot every Thursday from 2pm to 6pm, through October 25th. Buy the freshest Long Island fruits and vegetables and discover all the great produce grown right in our own backyard!

In the age of high cost health insurance, ***Hope House Ministries*** in Port Jefferson offers free individual, couple, family and group counseling services by licensed professionals and interns. We also offer psychiatric evaluations for medications. In addition, Sr. Mary Ann Bazata, S.S.N.D offers free spiritual direction. If interested, please call 631-928-2377.

The Patchogue unit of the ***Steuben Society*** is seeking new membership. We partake in social events, educational programs and offer scholarships while cultivating & celebrating our Germanic heritage. Anyone interested may call Mike at 631-286-0477 or e-mail: r.ratjesc@optimum.net

Diocesan News

30th Annual Mass For Deceased Children

Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to these. Mt 19:14

Saturday, September 29 at 12:30pm

St. Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre

Come early to inscribe your child's name in the "**Book of Families**"

Refreshments following Mass in the Parish Center

All are welcome.

For more information contact Ellen Zafonte at 516-678-5800 x 506 or ezafonte@drvc.org



Golden Wedding Celebration



This Fall, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at a liturgy on Sunday, October 21st at the Church of Christ the King in Commack. Mass will begin at 2:30pm. Please call the Parish Office at 631-475-4506 ext 101 to register before Oct. 12th.



Catholic High Schools Open Houses

You are invited to explore the benefits of a Catholic High School Education. Please feel free to visit our schools during the times and dates listed below.

Saturday, September 22	11am—1:30pm	Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Saturday, September 29	10am—1pm	Sacred Heart Academy
Sunday, September 30	10am—1pm	St. Anthony's HS
Saturday, October 13	10am—1pm	Kellenberg Memorial HS
Saturday, October 13	2pm—4pm	Chaminade HS
Sunday, October 14	2pm—4:30pm	St. Mary's HS
Saturday, October 20	11pm—2pm	Holy Trinity Diocesan HS
Sunday, October 21	10am—1pm	St. John the Baptist Diocesan HS
Sunday, October 21	1pm—3:30pm	St. Dominic HS

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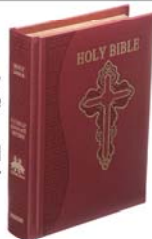
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