

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



*“Be doers of the word
and not hearers only.”*

James 1:22

September 2, 2018
22nd 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

Mon, Tu, Th ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Wed, 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm Fri ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 3pm;

Sun ~ 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 1, 2018

5:00pm Florence Pannell
Kevin Eddie O'Sullivan
Patricia Berge
Michael Buscemi
Ronald Kairns
Rosaline O'Connor
Richard Louis Poelker

Sunday, September 2, 2018

7:30am Dennis Gunn, Sr.
Deceased Members of the Gunn Family
9:00am Rich & Kirschbaum Families
11:00am Doris Faithfull

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, September 6, 2018

8:30am Fanny Lama

Friday, September 7, 2018

8:30am Margaret Dulisse

Saturday, September 8, 2018

5:00pm Maura Breheny
Lucille Mango
Dean Foster
Ann Elia
Christine Fischer
Pietro Sgroi

Sunday, September 9, 2018

7:30am Manuel Esteves (7th Anniversary)
9:00am Tom Clark
11:00am Doris Faithfull

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

9/3:	1 Cor 2:1-5 Lk 4:16-30	Ps 119:97-102
9/4:	1 Cor 2:10-16 Lk 4:31-37	Ps 145:8-14
9/5:	1 Cor 3:1-9 Lk 4:38-44	Ps 33:12-15, 20-21
9/6:	1 Cor 3:18-23 Lk 5:1-11	Ps 24:1-6
9/7:	1 Cor 4:1-5 Lk 5:33-39	Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40
9/8:	Mi 5:1-4 Mt 1:1-16, 18-23	Ps 13:6
9/9:	Is 35:4-7 Jas 2:1-5	Ps 146:6-10 Mk 7:31-37

The Bread & Wine



used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
Marianne Pollaci
in loving memory of
Charlie Bellizzi

Prayer Groups

Adoration

2nd Friday of the month ~ 8pm ~ WR

Charismatic Prayer Group

1st, 3rd & 4th Fridays of the month ~ 8pm
Worship Room

Women's Prayer Group

3rd Tuesday the month ~ 7pm ~ EW
(In June & August meets on the 3rd Wednesday)

Legion of Mary

Every Tuesday ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Carmelites

3rd Friday of the month
Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room
Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing

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 Phelan, James Dunn, Elizabeth Brechter, Anne Ripi, Brian Mullins, Baby Emma Connolly, Desmond McDay, Maria Sikorski, Jack Frey, William Arens, Betty DeFrancis, John Katsiasfas

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

*Robert J. Orlowski, Charles Bellizzi,
Dolores M. Travis, James J. Grieco*

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual 9-11 Memorial Service on September 11 at the Medford Train Station. Meeting at 5pm., ceremony begins at 6pm. Please join us in prayer.

We Pray

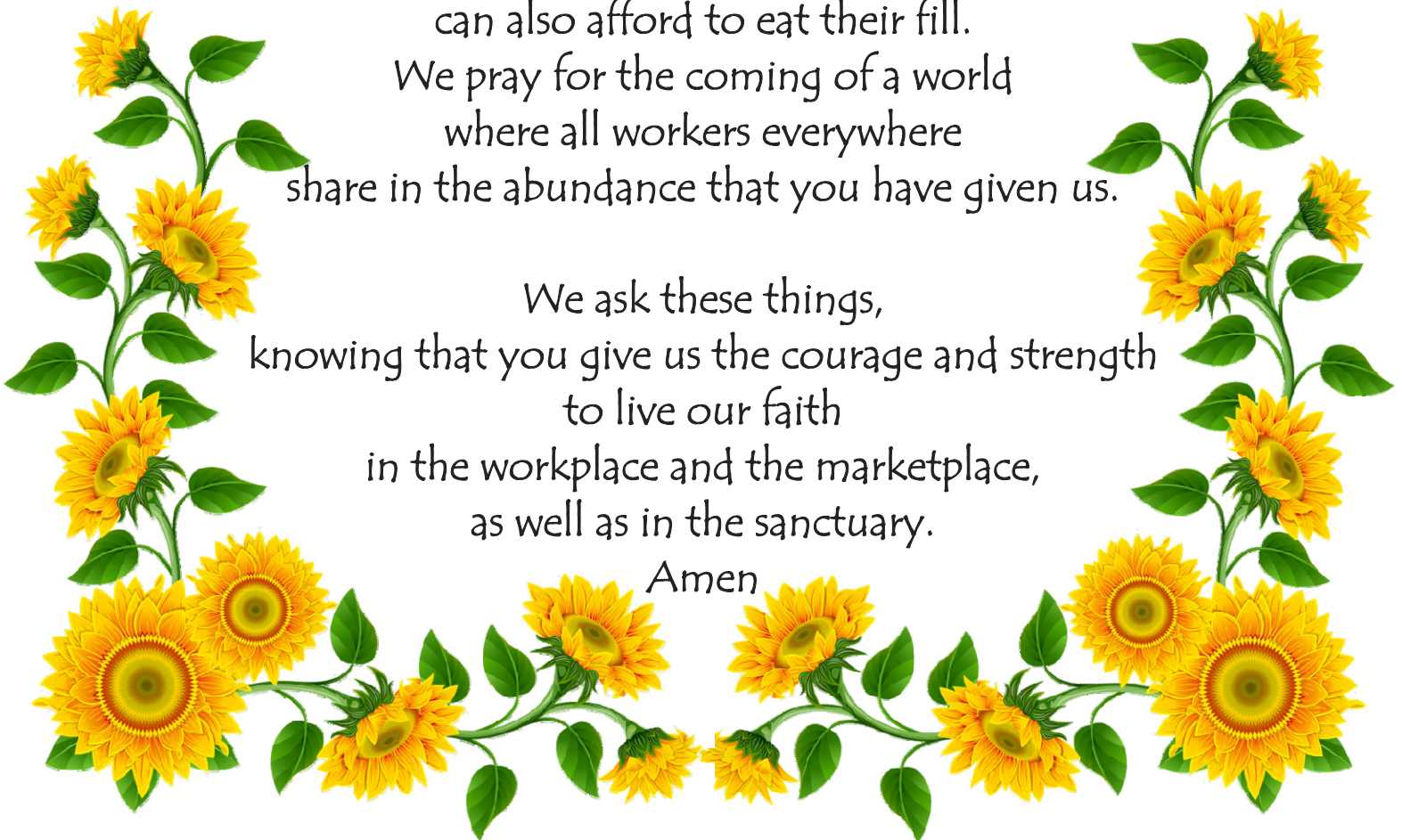
A Prayer For All Workers

Loving, working God,
on this Labor Day Weekend
we ask for your special blessing on all people who labor,
either for pay or as volunteers,
in jobs or at school,
in the workplace or at home,
in the U.S. and around the world.

Creator God,
help us to build a new world in the midst of the old.
A world where those who clean houses
are also able to buy houses to live in.
A world where those who grow food
can also afford to eat their fill.
We pray for the coming of a world
where all workers everywhere
share in the abundance that you have given us.

We ask these things,
knowing that you give us the courage and strength
to live our faith
in the workplace and the marketplace,
as well as in the sanctuary.

Amen



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.

***PLEASE CALL THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE AT 475-4506 EXT 118
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT***

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!

**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.

New Catechists . . . Please Save the Date!

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

***Will you be sitting outside in your car or in the Parish Center
while your child or grandchild attends his/her Faith Formation Class?***

*If so, we invite you to think about serving the parish community by joining the **Hall Guardian
Ministry Team** as a *Hall Guardian* or a *Substitute Hall Guardian*.*

Responsibilities: Hall guardians are present in the atrium of the Parish Center while classes are being held. They welcome parents and children, answer questions, coordinate and direct classes and parents for special activities. Most importantly, Hall Guardians are there to support the parish's commitment to the safety and protection of the children and adults who are in the building. They monitor the use of bathrooms and prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the classroom hallway.



For information, please call Terése in the Faith Formation Office: 631-475-4506, ext. 118.

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!

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

Labor Day 2018

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 2, 2018

Introduction:

On this Sunday before Labor Day, we have an opportunity to reflect on what the Church teaches us about the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

In the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action. In your own experience of work—in an office setting, serving others, as a student, or working in the home—how have you experienced work as a form of participation in God's creative action? When has it felt difficult to recognize the dignity of work?

Pray:

Creator God,
thank you for providing us
with the gift to share our talents.
Provide our community, our nation, our world the fortitude to provide work for all
which is decent and fair.
Make us faithful stewards
of your creation
to enhance the human dignity of our global family.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit
now and forever.

Amen

(From Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, April 1998)

Examination of Conscience for Workers:

- Do I see my work as a gift from God? How is this reflected in my attitude at work?
- Do I see my work as a vocation?
- Do I promote a culture of life through my work?
- Do I live a divided life, where I separate the Gospel principles from my work?
- Do I receive the sacraments regularly and with attention to how they support and inform my work practices?
- Am I sharing my spiritual life/understanding of work with others in my work life?
- Am I taking seriously the dignity of the person in my work, as an employee? Am I being just in my attentiveness to my personal performance? Am I promoting integral human development (which promotes "the good of every person and of the whole person" [Populorum Progressio, 14] while ensuring that the company I work for is efficient?

Take Action:

Reflect on the dignity of work by visiting www.usccb.org/jphd to read the annual Labor Day statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Use your power as a consumer to support companies that value fair prices, safe working conditions and environmentally sustainable practices at home and around the world. The Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade website (<https://ethicaltrade.crs.org/>) connects consumers with products produced in ethical manners.

Parish Social Ministry

Reflection on the Sunday Readings

First Reading (Dt. 4:1-2, 6-8)

• In the first reading, from the book of Deuteronomy, we hear this question: "What great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

• For the ancient Israelites, God's gift of the law was a sign of his great fidelity, love, and care for the people. Their keeping of this law was a sign of their love and fidelity to God.

• What did the law entail? And why was God's law called "just"? We might be most familiar with the ten commandments (5:6-21), but the book of Deuteronomy is filled with many other details about the commands that the Israelites were to follow. Work and economic justice are topics that appear throughout the book of Deuteronomy; for example:

o In Chapter 5 (v. 13-15), God's law specifies that the Sabbath, including rest from work, is for everyone, regardless of class or status.

o Chapter 14 (v. 28-29), includes instruction to save a portion, or tithe, of the produce to share with "the resident alien, the orphan and the widow within your gates."

o Chapter 24 (v. 14-15) warns against exploiting those who are poor or foreign workers and to pay wages promptly—"since the servant is poor and is counting on them. Otherwise the servant will cry to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty."

o Chapter 27 (v. 17-19) curses those who steal land from neighbors or who wrong those who are poor.

Psalms (15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5)

• The Psalmist likewise emphasizes the importance of just laws which respect dignity and treat others with fairness. In today's response, we heard: "The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord."

• We also hear in the Psalm: The one who is just "does no harm" (v. 3), keeps promises to others, and "lends no money at interest, accepts no bribe against the innocent" (v. 5).

Second Reading (Jas. 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27) and

Gospel (Mk. 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

• In the letter of James, we hear "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (v. 22).

• Mark's Gospel emphasizes the challenges of being doers, including our inclinations toward greed, deceit, theft, and other evils, which defile us and harm our relationship with God and neighbor (Mk. 7: 20-22).

• As a society, these same evils – existing in our hearts and in the structures that we create and perpetuate – can deny the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

• For example, Pope Francis writes about greed and the idolatry of money, which can lead to our failure to prioritize the well-being of God's creation, including our human family:

o "So often we are driven by greed and by the arrogance of dominion, possession, manipulation and exploitation; we do not preserve nature; nor do we respect it or consider it a gracious gift which we must care for and set at the service of our brothers and sisters, including future generations" (Message for World Day of Peace 2014).

o In a reflection on the biblical story of queen Jezebel, who has Naboth killed in order to acquire his vineyard (1 Kings 21), Pope Francis writes, "This is not a story of former times, it is also a story of today, of the powerful who, in order to have more money, exploit the poor, exploit people. It is the story of the trafficking of people, of slave labor, of poor people who work 'under the table' and for a minimal wage, thus enriching the powerful. It is the story of corrupt politicians who want more and more! This is why I said that it would be good for us to read St Ambrose's book about Naboth, because this text is relevant to modern day. . . . That is where the exercise of authority without respect for life, without justice, without mercy leads" (General Audience, 2/24/16).

Application

• Where in your local community or around the world do you see the dignity of work or the rights of workers eroded? Possible examples might include sub-family wages for low-skill work; failure to provide maternity or family leave or other benefits; the wage gap that especially affects minorities and women; bad work conditions or withholding of wages from migrant workers; irresponsible corporate practices leading to environmental contamination, etc.

• Catholic teaching calls us to be concerned when unemployed persons seek work but cannot find it (see Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 204), or when people are forced to accept work that pays too little to support a family (see St. John Paul II in *Laborem Exercens*, no. 18, on a "family wage"), or when employment fails to offer those life and dignity-affirming benefits that our long Catholic tradition affirms must be available for every worker and their families in the areas of sick leave, maternity leave, time for rest, and quality health insurance (see *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 301). We are also called to be concerned when the goods we buy and the products we use every day were produced by people—sometimes even children—working under terrible conditions in poor countries (see Pope Francis, *Message to Workers' Associations*).

• As we reflect on the vision of Catholic teaching, and on the just laws of the book of Deuteronomy about the treatment of the poor and workers, or the Psalmist's warning not to take economic advantage of others, or Mark's warnings against greed, we might ask ourselves: How can we help make God's vision of justice a reality? How can we, in our families, institutions, and as a society, better respect the dignity and rights of workers and the well-being of their families?

Response

• In the workplace, if we are business owners, managers, or supervisors, we can help ensure that our businesses and organizations are offering family wages and the dignity-affirming benefits that our long Catholic tradition affirms should be available for every worker and their families.

• We can use our purchasing power to help protect human dignity. We can be educated consumers, support local businesses and ethically-produced products, and let companies know when we are unhappy with their labor practices. If we are responsible for purchasing goods in our workplaces, or even at home, we can try to purchase goods from companies with ethical practices. Catholic Relief Services has a CRS Ethical Trade website where you can purchase goods from companies that value fair prices, safer working conditions and environmentally sustainable practices at home and around the world.

• We can also join local efforts to support a living wage/family wage, which is a wage at which workers and their families can have access to what they need to fulfill basic needs and thrive.

• These are challenging things to do! Sometimes following God's "just laws" can be difficult. But we pray that like the early Christian disciples to whom James wrote, we can "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22), so that we can put into practice the call to respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

August 26, 2018

Regular ~ \$7,530

Renovation ~ \$161 Solar ~ \$130

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Sign-up forms are available in the Parish Office.

Catholic University of America

The Catholic University of America is unique among universities in the United States—even among Catholic Universities. Established by Pope Leo XIII and the U.S. bishops in 1887, it is the national university of the Catholic Church. In addition to alumni who hail from this diocese, Catholic University claims one third of the U.S. bishops and 12,000 priests and religious as alumni. In Washington D.C., the University provides an education based in the Catholic intellectual tradition to almost 7,000 students through its 12 schools.

Next weekend, September 8/9, there is an extra envelope marked Catholic University. Please place it in the regular collection basket.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$55,961.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	85.0%
Number of Donors to Date:	163

ATTENTION PARISH CRAFTERS:

Do you enjoy working with your hands? Is creativity one of your gifts? If the answer is "YES!" then please keep reading.

Our annual Holiday Fair will take place on Saturday, November 10th and Sunday, November 11th. One of the mainstays of this Fair, in addition to our talented vendors, has always been our parish craft tables. In the past we had a special "Holiday Fair Crafters" group which met regularly to produce things to sell at the Fair. This year, we are doing something a little different.



We are inviting our talented parishioners (and there are a lot of you out there!) to create and donate an item or two for our craft tables.

This will allow for a wider variety of items for us to sell, while at the same time give crafters the freedom to create on their own time schedules.

Please bring any **handcrafted items** you wish to donate to the Parish Office with your name attached. ***The collection for Granny's Attic items will not be until October.*** Stay tuned!

Reflection

"All good giving and every perfect gift comes from above," says St. James in the second reading. But, he reminds us, true worship of God involves using those gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who demonstrate by their generosity that they understand God is the Source of all they are and have.

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Wedding ~ Raquel Durao & Antonio Freire ~
3pm ~ Church

Monday ~ September 3, 2018

ALL OFFICES CLOSED
NO MORNING MASS

Tuesday ~ September 4, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Wednesday September 5, 2018

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ 10:30am ~ EW

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ EW

Thursday ~ September 6, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ September 7, 2018

Wedding Rehearsal ~ 5:30pm ~ Church

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Wedding ~ Ashley Hudson & Chris Phelan ~
2pm ~ Church



*May God Bless
these couples
as they marry at St. Sylvester*

Raquel Rebelo Durao

&

Antonio Manuel Freire

Sunday, September 2nd ~ 3pm



Ashley Nicole Phelan

&

Christopher Jon Phelan

Saturday, September 8th ~ 2pm

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, Good Shepherd Hospice, Brookhaven Hospice and dialysis patients. Their next meeting will be this Wednesday, September 5th at 10:30am

Happy Labor Day!

**There will be no 8:30am Mass on
Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd.
All offices will be closed.**

VIRTUS ~ Protecting God's Children

All who serve as volunteers/ministers are required to attend in order to begin serving in a parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. For your convenience, we will be holding a VIRTUS Session on September 11th at 7pm. Look in next week's bulletin for registration information.

Music Ministry

Adult Choir rehearsals will be on Tuesday nights from 7:30pm—8:45pm in the Church. The first rehearsal is this Tuesday, September 4th.

If you have any questions, please call me at 631-928-0821 or email: tmkblanton@optonline.net

Sincerely,
Therese Blanton



In the Community

Procession celebrating our Blessed Mother's Birthday ~ September 8th. Procession begins after 11am Mass at St. Luke's in Brentwood and proceeds through the streets of Brentwood with a police escort praying the Rosary, singing hymns and praising the Holy Trinity, ending at St. Anne's in Brentwood at about 1pm with Benediction. Call Olga at 631-274-5715 with questions.

Golden Wedding Anniversary ~ 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.

Yard Sale Bonanza & Car Show, Grandma's Attic & Grandpa's Garage Sale ~ at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Ronkonkoma, Saturday, September 8th, 10am—3pm, rain or shine. Car registration and vendor information, please call Gerry at 631-585-9291.

National Day of Remembrance of the Unborn will be observed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Saturday, September 8th at 10am. Use the Rte. 112 entrance and the monument for the Unborn Child will be on right at the circle after you enter. Rain or shine.

Sing & Stretch at the YMCA ~ with Martha Campanile. Enjoy learning to sing with a 'healthy voice', learn proper breathing techniques, correct posture and muscle control. 8 week class, Thursday mornings at 11am at the Patchogue YMCA, September 6th—October 25th. Call 631-891-1800.

Gennesaret Retreat ~ for those facing serious illness. A retreat especially designed for persons who live with a serious illness is planned September 21, 22, 23 at Montfort Spirituality Center in Bay Shore. This retreat offers respite, a quiet time, an oasis, to enable one to continue the journey. The retreat focuses on God's love, His forgiveness and His faithfulness. To register or receive more information about this weekend, please call Colette Fanelli at 631-665-7052.

Women of Faith, Courage and Dignity ~ LI Women's Retreat Ministry invites you to their Annual Retreat at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore, October 26—28. *"Nothing is more beautiful than a woman who is brave, strong and emboldened because of who Christ is in her."* There are many women in the bible who played pivotal roles in God's redemption plan: Sarah hung on to her faith! Esther had the bravery to protect her people. Mary of Bethany had a heart of worship. Our Blessed Mother had the faith, courage and dignity to surrender to the will of God without any reservation. Let us take a journey together as we discover the experiences of these women and others, who through their journey, overcame difficult circumstances through their faith, courage, strength and dignity. To register or for more information, call Yvonne at 631-732-3574.

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

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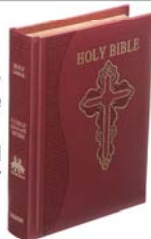
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