

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



"He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

September 9, 2018

23rd 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 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 ~ 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 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

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

Monday, September 10, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

8:30am Daniel Carey

Thursday, September 13, 2018

8:30am Joseph Jacob Parathodathil

Friday, September 14, 2018

8:30am Donald P. Tierney, Sr.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

9/10:	1 Cor 5:1-8	Ps 5:5-7, 12
	Lk 6:6-11	
9/11:	1 Cor 6:1-11	Ps 149:1-6, 9
	Lk 6:12-19	
9/12:	1 Cor 7:25-31	Ps 45:11-12, 14-17
	Lk 6:20-26	
9/13:	1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13	Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 23-24
	Lk 6:27-28	
9/14:	Nm 21:4-9	Ps 78:1-2, 34-38
	Phil 2:6-11	Jn 3:13-17
9/15:	1 Cor 10:14-22	Ps 116:12-13, 17-18
	Jn 19:25-27	
9/16:	Is 50:5-9	Ps 116:1-6, 8-9
	Jas 2:14-18	Mk 8:27-35

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.



The Sacrament of the Anointing is celebrated at St. Sylvester on the second Friday of the month immediately following the 8:30am Mass in the Worship Room of the Parish Center. The next Anointing is this Friday, September 14th.

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, Jack Frey, William Arens, Betty DeFrancis, John Katsiasfas, Vivian Bollmann, Lois Eckert, Eileen Cavalcante,

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

James J. Grieco, Natalie F. Graziano, Shea Rosemarie Pugliese, Walter J. A. Toubey, Jr.

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, September 14th from 8pm—9pm in the Worship Room.

"I Am With You Always"



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

9-11 Prayer

Loving God of Peace:

On this anniversary of unbelievable sorrow,
comfort those who mourn, and guide our hearts toward healing and hope.

Remind us of the love of Christ, love which leapt over cultural and ethnic boundaries
to feed the hungry, seek the lost and care for the least.

Make of Your children, one human family,
bound together in the work of justice and peacemaking.

Make us one with the Light that shines in the darkness
and illumines a path toward understanding and reconciliation.

Let love be our genuine call. Amen.



Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lewis

A Prayer for Grandparents

Loving God, you have given us the wondrous gift of grandmothers and grandfathers.
Your gracious love is reflected in their love and care for us.

We thank you, Lord, for the surprises grandmas bring,
and for the mending they do.

We thank you, Lord, for the toys that grandpas fix
and the stories they read to us.

We thank you, Lord, for the ways that our grandparents spoil us,
for the celebrations they never forget,
and for all the cuddles they give.

We thank you for giving us grandparents to share their wisdom,
to listen to us, to be there loving us.

We thank you, Lord. 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.

Altar Servers



If you are a boy or girl in Fourth Grade or older and if you are interested in helping at Mass, consider becoming an Altar Server. Altar Servers serve one or two times a month, at the Mass your family usually attends. Altar Servers serve in pairs or sometimes three at a Mass. Duties of an Altar Server include carrying the Cross in the opening and closing Processions and leading the gifts to the Altar, holding the book for the Priest, assisting with Communion and other items that may come up seasonally. You will receive training. If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please call the Parish Office at 631-475-4506 ext. 118 and leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted.

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.



REFLECTIONS ON THE ABUSE CRISIS

September 2018

**Dan Misleh, Founding Executive Director
Catholic Climate Covenant**

Dozens of Catholic agencies and organizations must wrestle, once again, with a new round of sexual abuse revelations by some members of the clergy and some bishops who, rather than putting victims first, sought to cover up the crimes of deeply troubled priests, reassigned them and created a mounting number of innocent victims, each precious and loved in God's eyes.

For these organizations, Catholic Climate Covenant among them, our reliance on the moral authority of the bishops to carry out our work has taken a significant hit. We all wonder what this will mean, especially as we appeal to our supporters to help us continue vital, life-saving work. We rely on parishioners and students, pastors and principals, administrators and the bishops themselves to lift up and support our efforts. From settling refugees to providing food, clothing and shelter; and from advocating against the death penalty and for prison reform, to caring for God's good gift of our Common Home: each of these organizations has been rocked by this latest round of revelations.

Against this dreadful backdrop, I offer some reflections here in the hope that those who believe in the mission of these organizations, including Catholic Climate Covenant, will see beyond these latest revelations and remain committed to the missions they support. This work is life-affirming and life-saving.

The Victims

First and foremost, we must remember the victims. Remember those whose lives were damaged by their abusers. Too many have ended their lives to escape the mental and physical torment they endured. Others suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and other serious and debilitating challenges not of their own making. We must pray unceasingly for their healing and walk with them on their journey to wholeness whenever possible and appropriate.

We must also remember that the men who perpetrated these crimes are also in need of our prayers. This is difficult, to be sure, but their actions did not arise out of a vacuum. They, too, are wounded and sick (victims of mental illness, perhaps from abusive families, or ill-formed during their process of becoming priests) or they would not have even considered perpetrating such unspeakable abuse suffered by innocent victims.

Finally, we should also accompany the many good men who, simply because they wear a Roman collar, are caught up in the sins of their brother priests. They deserve our love and support.

Parish Social Ministry

The Church is More Than Bishops

Second, we must remember that the Church is more than the sum of its parts and more than the actions of its all-too-human members. Let us recall that:

- Women religious communities have formed the backbone of Catholic healthcare, education and ministry to the lost and forgotten in the U.S. from the country's earliest days. Those institutions and the saints they produced continue today.
- One in six U.S. hospital patients is in a Catholic hospital bed.
- There are over 6,500 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and nearly 250 colleges and universities shaping millions of students and the future of our nation and our world.
- Together, diocesan Catholic Charities agencies form the largest direct service network in the country.
- Catholic Relief Services serves in 100 countries providing disaster relief, helping to settle migrants and refugees, and providing concrete tools for economic development in the poorest corners of the globe.
- Parishes are centers of compassion in many of the poorest places in the country offering food, rent money, furniture, and spiritual comfort to the lost, lonely and forgotten.

The Church is Also the Laity

Thirdly, let the laity remember that we, too, have a role to play in the transformation of our society. We must take Sunday's nourishment of the Eucharist and the fellowship of our parish community to the world on Monday—and every other day of the week. It is not enough to simply be formed in community; it is a demand of our faith to witness Christ's love for us and for the world to our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

The role of the laity is clearly spelled out in *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, Second Vatican Council. These words are both a challenge to us today and a possible framework as the Church, locally and globally, discerns how best to rein in the clericalism that seems to be a key factor of our current predicament:

1) *The apostolate of the laity derives from their Christian vocation and the Church can never be without it. Sacred Scripture clearly shows how spontaneous and fruitful such activity was at the very beginning of the Church...Our own times require of the laity no less zeal: in fact, modern conditions demand that their apostolate be broadened and intensified...*

2) *In the Church there is a diversity of ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world.* [Emphasis added]

Our Church is the Body of Christ. It must include and empower the gifts of the laity as well as those of the bishops, priests, and religious brothers and sisters. Through our baptism, we are each anointed as *priest, prophet and ruler* and should act like it. At the same time, we must recognize that there is a life-long discipline of spiritual practice and a spiritual depth we must undergo to be any good at these roles.

Moving forward, I pray that each of you will continue to not only hold priests and bishops accountable for their specific roles as pastors, teachers and leaders, but to take up the challenge of evangelization and become witnesses of Christ's love to the places where you have the most influence. There is much to be done and our roles as co-creators with God is a demand of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Finally, I leave you with a prayer from the Jesuit philosopher, paleontologist and geologist, Teilhard de Chardin:

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to
reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
to something unknown, something new. And yet
it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let
them shape themselves,
without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time (that is
to say, grace and circumstances acting on your
own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his
hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in
suspense and incomplete.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure *September 2nd, 2018*

Regular ~ \$9,277
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Reflection

The good steward must not show favoritism.
The rich may have many material gifts to share,
but St. James reminds us in the second reading
that God has chosen the world's poor to be rich
in faith and inheritors of God's kingdom.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who show
Christ's compassion and mercy by supporting
our outreach efforts through Clare House and
ministering in homeless shelters and soup
kitchens throughout our larger community.

Ministry of Consolation ***Seeks Companions***

Have you been blessed with the gift of
compassion? Do you feel comfortable
being with those who are grieving and
feel called to assist them in some way?
If so, you might want to consider
becoming a Companion for our Lazarus
Ministry of Consolation.

Our Companions meet with the families
of the newly deceased here in the parish
center and assist them with the details of
planning the Funeral Mass, such as
selecting the readings and music,
determining who will read the readings,
bring up the gifts, etc. The companion is
present at the wake and funeral as a
support to the grieving and serves as a
liaison between the family, the funeral
home and the church.

If you feel called to share your faith and
compassion in this way, please contact
Lori Zito at Lzito@stsylvesterli.org or
631-475-4506, ext. 115.

"Sometimes we need to get back to the basics when we talk about stewardship. We need to realize that stewardship is not rocket science, but rather is something simple we all can grasp and understand. God will want to know how we took care of others' needs, and that's really what the stewardship way of life does. It provides us with the opportunity to care for another one's needs, just as Jesus has asked us to do."

Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Monday ~ September 10, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

Carmelite Council Meeting ~ 7pm~Clare House

Baptism Class ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Tuesday ~ September 11, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

VIRTUS ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday September 12, 2018

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ EW

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Room 1

Thursday ~ September 13, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ September 14, 2018

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ PDH

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ Worship Room

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Parish Center Hours

Beginning this week!

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM - 8:30PM

Thursday & Friday
9:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM-5:00PM

Sunday
9:30AM-12:30PM

Senior Circle of Friends



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

September 14th at **12:30pm** in PDH. Come join us for fun and games. Bring a friend and meet some new ones!

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.

The goals of the session are to help adults understand:

- « The signs of sexual abuse.
- « The methods and means by which offenders commit abuse.
- « The five-empowerment steps one can use to prevent abuse.

 **VIRTUS[®]Online**



Protecting Our Children

For your convenience, we will be holding a VIRTUS Session on

Tuesday, September 11th at 7pm in the East Wing

Please register at: www.virtusonline.org.

Hit 'Registration' tab on left and then 'Begin Registration Process' and for 'select your organization' choose **Rockville Centre, NY (Diocese)**

If you do not have access to the internet, please call the Parish Office at 475-4506 so that we can register you online.

Parish Life

BAPTISM

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

Kaya Rose Cheung

Kyra Rainn Cheung

Dominic Jacob Davies

Brendan Raphael D'Souza

Liliana Jaymes Hedtrich

Dean Vincent Langert



James Joseph Lomuto

Colin Matthew Maresco

Christopher Michael Mirabella

Sienna Jane Reidy

Averie Jaimes Saieh

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

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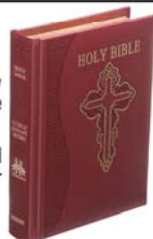
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