



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



*“For where two or three
are gathered together
in my name,
there am I
in the midst of them.”*

Matthew 18:20

September 10, 2017
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 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 & W ~ 9:30am-12pm, 1pm-3:30pm Wed Night ~ 5:30pm-7:30pm Fr ~ 9:30am-11:30am

Thrift Shop: (631)475-4506

Tu, Wed & Th ~ 10am - 3pm; Sat ~ 10am - 1pm

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary 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 9, 2017

5:00pm John Randazzo
Angela Frisina
Anthony Bocchimuzzo
Maria McFaline
Philip Liantonio
Arline Jacobson
Marie Russell

Sunday, September 10, 2017

7:30am Manuel Esteves (6th Anniversary)
9:00am William Stanton
11:00am Luigi Russo & Family

Monday, September 11, 2017

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

8:30am Gary Blackler

Thursday, September 14, 2017

8:30am Joan Bormann

Friday, September 15, 2017

8:30am Louis & Antoinette Coppolecchia

Saturday, September 16, 2017

5:00pm Living & Deceased Members of the
Confessore, Lentini & Skiba Families
Maria Beslanovics (2nd Anniversary)
Carmela Hunt
Anna Core
Gerald Waldman
Carmela Lepik

Sunday, September 17, 2017

7:30am Tony Sikorski (3rd Anniversary)
9:00am Edward M Twohig
11:00am Richard Palladino

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

Eva D'Amato, Marguerite Orlowski, Robert Orlowski, Tom Stephens, Melina Grosso Bischoff, Sean Patrick Dixon, Nina Caravana, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Jessica Deck, Laurie Saper, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Ramona Nunez, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Brian Podlesny, Joseph Wagner, Diane Rockowitz, Patricia Nochese, Donald Tierney, Sr., Danny Miller, Theresa Golembroski, Barbara Vattiato, Roger Chinsang, Jenna Knoblauch, Sasha Medile, Theresa O'Connor, Baby Charlotte Steele, Robert Uricola, Fran Pellerito, Virginia Guaiana, Olivia Bazirgan, Michael Goode, William F. Swope, Nef Nieves, Kevin Elder, Ed Rafferty, Julie Pabon, Genevieve Cannarili

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

9/11:	Col 1:24—2:3 Lk 6:6-11	Ps 62:6-7, 9
9/12:	Col 2:6-15 Lk 6:12-19	Ps 145:1-2, 8-11
9/13:	Col 3:1-11 Lk 6:20-26	Ps 145:2-3, 10-13
9/14:	Nm 21:4-9 Phil 2:6-11	Ps 78:1-2, 34-38 Jn 3:13-17
9/15:	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35	Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11
9/16:	1 Tm 1:15-17 Lk 6:43-49	Ps 113:1-7
9/17:	Sir 27:30—28:7 Rom 14:7-9	Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Mt 18:21-35

Prayers for Hope and Remembrance On 9/11 Anniversary

A Jesuit Prayer

*In times of pain, give me comfort.
In times of despair, give me hope.
In times of hatred, give me love.
In times of doubt, give me trust.
And even when I feel far from you, be close to me,
Loving God. ~Fr. James Martin, S.J.*



Prayer of Remembrance

Good and gracious God, we come before you with heavy hearts as we remember the events of 9/11.

We hurt deeply for those who lost their lives and for those who lost their loved ones.

We are humbled by the bravery of the first responders.

Remind us of the way the true heart of this nation's people was revealed in open doors, open arms and open hearts; in how we focused on humanity and on love.

Call us back to that place in our hearts. Instill in us that deepest sense of call to be that people again.

May we continue to heal and help each other as we did that day. Amen ~ adapted from Mark Sandlin

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

September 3, 2017

Regular ~ \$8,462

Renovation ~ \$222 Solar ~ \$82

Hurricane Harvey Relief ~ \$6,135

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**.

Sign-up forms are available in the Parish Office.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2017

Designated Goal:	\$65,100.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$47,685.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	73.2%
Number of Donors to Date:	156

We wish to help provide for the mission of the Church by making a gift of:

PLEDGE: \$ _____

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

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

Reflection

Am I my brother's keeper? All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is "Yes!"

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who strive to see the humanity in everyone, not by judging others, but rather, by serving them.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY WELCOMES ALL

Are you someone who likes to be with people, who knows the way to welcoming others often begins with sharing a cup of coffee and a smile? If so, you may want to consider sharing your time and talents as part of our Hospitality Ministry.

Our Hospitality Ministry usually gathers on the second Sunday of each month to welcome our parishioners by offering coffee, juice, bagels and assorted other goodies after the 9am and 11am Masses, and also assists at important parish functions like our annual Holiday Fair.

If you think you would like to be a part of this warm and welcoming group of parishioners, please con-

tact Lori Zito at extension 115 or email to Lzito@stsyvesterli.org.



Faith Formation

Reminder

Confirmation classes begin Monday, September 11 at 6:50pm in the Church.

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.

***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 2: Wednesdays @ 4:30pm

Level 4 : Mondays @ 5:45pm

Level 5: Tuesdays @ 5:45pm

Level 6: Tuesdays @ 4:30pm and Wednesday @ 5:45pm

Come sow
the seeds of
FAITH.
Matthew 13



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.

Catechists . . .

It is still summertime, but we are planning for what is to come! So please take a short break from the sunshine as we prepare for the coming year! All Catechists are expected to attend the meeting below for their Level. Please let us know if you have any questions 631-475-4506 Ext. 118. Looking forward to being with you!

Level 1 Catechists will meet **Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** in the East Wing
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!

Level 3, 4, 5, & 6 and Home Taught Levels 3, 4, & 5 Catechists will meet Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the East Wing

Level 7 Catechists will meet Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the East Wing

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 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

Food Pantry Wish List

1. Tomato Sauce!
2. Black beans
3. Noodles
4. Mayo
5. Coffee
6. Salt/pepper/sugar (small sizes)
7. Jello/pudding/cake mix
8. Deodorant
9. Diapers (size 2)



Back to School Program

Thank You for your generous contributions to our back to school program! Contributions support our clients and their families by empowering them to select school supplies that meet the needs of their family.



Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), the official domestic relief agency of the Catholic Church, is working in conjunction with the local Catholic Charities agencies to assist families and individuals impacted by the hurricane.

Here is how you can help:

Pray: God of hope and mercy, we lift up to you all victims of Hurricane Harvey, and those responding with assistance and aid. Protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to all those in need; strengthen the weary; console the grieving and heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Help all people of goodwill to respond with compassion and generous hearts. Amen.

Give: Help relief efforts in wake of Hurricane Harvey by texting CCUSADISASTER to 71777. You can also give by calling 1-800-919-9338 or by mail: PO Box 17066 Baltimore, MD 21297-1066 and put "Hurricane Harvey" in the memo line of the check. Funds raised will go towards Catholic Charities agencies' efforts to assist families and individuals with shelter, food, and other immediate and long-term recovery needs.

We thank you for your time and generosity.

Parish Social Ministry

USCCB: Labor Day Statement 2017

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice
Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice
and Human Development
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
September 4, 2017

This Labor Day, we find ourselves at a time of *kairos*, a moment of crisis as well as opportunity. Over the past year, Pope Francis has drawn our attention to problems in the world of work that seek to undermine our understanding of the dignity of the person and threaten the stability of society. The Pope has also called us to action based on the truth about the nature of work which is intended to support the flourishing of the family. As the Holy Father recently remarked, work "comes from the first command that God gave to Adam There has always been friendship between the Church and work, starting with a working Jesus. Where there is a worker, there is the interest and the gaze of love of the Lord and of the Church."¹

What does our Lord's "gaze of love" see today? Surely he honors the parents and grandparents who offer their work as "prayers said with the hands"² for their family and future. In turn, we thank God for the vocation of work, which, when healthy, "anoints" with dignity, helps children grow into adults, and strengthens cooperation across all people in our society.³ "Brother work," in Pope Francis' words, is formational and sustaining for every human life and community, and is essential to our faith.⁴

God's "gaze of love" also receives all those who are struggling with work. A lack of work can be devastating to the human person, and it can undermine solidarity and destabilize society. "[T]he

entire social pact is built around work," Pope Francis told a gathering of factory workers in Genoa. "This is the core of the problem. Because when you do not work, or you work badly, you work little or you work too much, it is democracy that enters into crisis, and the entire social pact."⁵

Our Lord's "gaze of love" embraces men and women who work long hours without rest to provide for their loved ones; families who move across towns, states, and nations, facing the highest risks and often suffering great tragedy in order to find better opportunities; workers who endure unsafe working conditions, low pay, and health crises; women who suffer wage disparities and exploitation; and those who suffer the effects of racism in any setting, including the workplace. Our Lord knows that too often, hidden from the world's view, our brothers and sisters' dreams for a better life are shattered in unthinkable ways as they become victims of labor trafficking, viciously exploited as mere objects instead of being treated as persons created with God-given dignity.

Pope Francis rejects economic approaches that are driven by the "throw away" culture, systems which prize only commercial value and recognize no other values or truths.⁶ The Holy Father connects the idolatry of consumerism to the undervaluing of labor and the erosion of the social pact.⁷ Here, Francis echoes the warnings of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, on the dangers to society of excessive inequalities in the economic sphere:

The dignity of the individual and the demands of justice require, particularly today, that economic choices do not cause disparities in wealth to increase in an excessive and morally unacceptable manner, and that we continue to *prioritize the goal of access to steady*

employment for everyone. . . . Through the systemic increase of social inequality, both within a single country and between the populations of different countries (i.e. the massive increase in relative poverty), not only does social cohesion suffer, thereby placing democracy at risk, but so too does the economy, through the progressive erosion of "social capital": the network of relationships of trust, dependability, and respect for rules, all of which are indispensable for any form of civil coexistence.⁸

Study after study shows that the economy is growing and unemployment is declining—but wages remain stagnant or are decreasing for the vast majority of people, while a smaller percentage collect the new wealth being generated.⁹ Economic stresses contribute to a decline in marriage rates, increases in births outside of two-parent households, and child poverty. Economic instability also hurts the faith community, as Americans who have recently experienced unemployment are less likely to go to Church, even though such communities can be a source of great support in difficult times. Bound up in economic and social trauma are the increased use of contraception, higher abortion rates, greater abuse of alcohol and drugs, and increases in crime. When unethical labor conditions weaken the social pact, society can become vulnerable to attempts to use fear, and our care and concern for one another can disintegrate into blame and suspicion.¹⁰

Full Statement:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/upload/Labor-Day-2017.pdf>

Parish Life

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday ~ September 10, 2017

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ September 11, 2017

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

Confirmation Classes ~ 6:50pm ~ Church

Carmelite Council Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Clare House

Tuesday ~ September 12, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Wednesday ~ September 13, 2017

Level 1 Catechist Meeting ~ 7pm ~ EW

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Room 2

Thursday ~ September 14, 2017

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ September 15, 2017

Carmelite Mass ~ 7pm ~ Worship Room

Carmelite Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Level 3, 4, 5, & 6 and Home Taught Levels 3, 4,

& 5 Catechist Meeting ~ 9am ~ East Wing

Level 7 Catechist Meeting ~ 10:30am ~ EW

Going Food Shopping???

Don't forget to purchase SCRIP after you make your shopping list!!!

Gift Cards are available in the Parish Center and after the 7:30am and 9am Masses for:



*King Kullen,
Meat Farms,
ShopRite,
Stop & Shop
Target*

Looking for a one-size-fits-all gift?

We also have Gift Cards for:

*Applebee's,
Cheesecake Factory,
Dunkin Donuts,
Kohl's,
Outback/Carrabas,
Panera Bread
Starbucks*

Using SCRIP is the best way to shop!
AT NO COST TO YOU,
the parish gains
5% of the amount you purchase!

Hold the Date

St. Sylvester's Fall Flower Sale

Saturday, September 30

10am—6:15pm



Sunday, October 1

8am—12:30pm

Parish Center Hours

Beginning this week!

Mon, Tues, Wed 9:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM - 8:30PM

Th & Fri 9:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM-5:00PM

Sun 9:30AM-12:30PM



Diocesan News

Golden Wedding Celebration



This fall, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at liturgies on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at the Church of St. Rose Of Lima in Massapequa, and on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at the Church of Christ the King in Commack. Both liturgies begin at 2:30pm. Couple may register for ONE liturgy. Please call the parish office at 475-4506 ext 101 to register by October 9th for the October 22nd liturgy and by November 6th for the November 19th liturgy.



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 23	11am—1:30pm	Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Saturday, September 30	10am—1pm	Sacred Heart Academy
Sunday, October 1	10am—1pm	St. Anthony's HS
Sunday, October 1	12pm—2:30pm	Holy Trinity Diocesan HS
Saturday, October 14	10am—1pm	Kellenberg Memorial HS
Saturday, October 14	2pm—4pm	Chaminade HS
Sunday, October 15	2pm—4:30pm	St. Mary's HS
Saturday, October 21	9am—12pm	McGann-Mercy Diocesan HS
Sunday, October 22	10:30am—2pm	St. John the Baptist Diocesan HS
Sunday, October 22	1pm—3:30pm	St. Dominic HS



Holy Angels Regional School Mommy and Me

Sensory based hands-on activities, music and movement, interactive storytelling with American Sign Language, crafts and keepsakes, holiday and seasonal activities, age appropriate learning. Dates are Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 28 and Dec 5.

Register for individual classes or all 10! \$10 a class. 0-18 months is 10:15am—11am and 18—48 months 11:15am—12pm. Topics for each class can be found at

<http://holyangelsmommyandmefall2017.brownpapertickets.com/> or by calling Mrs. Jamie Stidd at 631-839-9203 or e-mail jstidd@holyangelsregional.org

In the Community

Gennesaret Retreat ~ a retreat designed for persons who live with a serious illness is planned for September 22, 23, & 24 at Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore. This retreat offers a 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 the weekend, please call Colette Fanelli at 631-665-7052.

Camp Hope Day ~ October 1, 2017 was created to help children ages 5-17 who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The day includes sharing, remembering and commemorating in a nurturing and playful environment. Parents drop off the children in the morning, share a light breakfast and then rejoin the camp at 3pm to share in closing activities and ceremonies. The camp runs from 9am to 4pm. Lunch is included. The camp day is held in Bayport at beautiful Camp Edey. While there is no charge for the day, registration is required by calling Laura Phillips at 631-687-2960.

Girl Scout Pray and Play Day ~ Saturday, September 30 from 10am to 2:30pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport. Come for a day of prayer, handicrafts and fun. For more information, call 516-678-5800, ext. 254 or go to scouting@drvc.org.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Lake Ronkonkoma is once again hosting a Yard Sale Bonanza & Car Show on Saturday, September 23 (rain or shine) from 10am to 3pm. Trophies for winning cars. For car registration and information call Gerry at 631-585-9291.

St. Frances Cabrini in Coram presents *Reflections of Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin Show* at 3pm on Sunday, September 24 in their Parish Center. VIP seating ~ \$30, Preferred seating ~ \$25 and General Admissions ~ \$20. Call their rectory for tickets at 631-732-8445.

World Wide Marriage Encounter ~ help make your good marriage a great one! The next WWME weekends are at the Seminary in Huntington, Sept 15-17 and Nov 3-5. For more information, call John and Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit www.wwmeli.org.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor 5K Walk will take place Saturday, September 30 (rain or shine) at Bethpage Community Park, 1001 Stewart Ave., Bethpage. Registration & check-in begin at 9am. Walk with us & help end poverty on Long Island. Call 516-822-3132 for information, or visit www.fopwalk.org. Donations can be mailed to Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 249 Broadway, Bethpage, NY 11714.

Free Mortgage Counseling Seminars ~ Stop Foreclosure ~ hosted by Brookhaven Supervisor Edward Romaine and the Town Board, and presented by Long Island Housing Partnership. You have options. Know your rights. Understand your options. **Seminars are 7pm – 8:30pm at these locations:**

Wednesday, September 20th ~ Longwood Public Library

Tuesday, October 3rd ~ Patchogue-Medford Public Library

Thursday, October 12th ~ Comsewogue Public Library

Tuesday, October 24th ~ Middle Country Public Library

For more information, please call 631-451-6600



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