



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out five times to hire laborers for his vineyard, beginning at dawn and ending at five o'clock. When it was evening he told his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.'

September 24, 2017
25th 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@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 & 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.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray

Saturday, September 23, 2017

5:00pm Paul King, Jr.
James P. Harrington (30th Anniversary)
Angela Frisina
Anne Eggert
Ronald J. Stella
Georgette DuBois

Sunday, September 24, 2017

7:30am Antonio & Maria Fernandes
9:00am Robert Barnett (1st Anniversary)
11:00am Matilde Comas

Monday, September 25, 2017

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

8:30am Lorraine DiCapua

Thursday, September 28, 2017

8:30am Althea Lawrence

Friday, September 29, 2017

8:30am Rosemarie Ross

Saturday, September 30, 2017

5:00pm Louis Prats (1st Anniversary)
Alois Maichin
Olivia Ryann Petrera-Cohen
John C. Griffiths
Pietro Sgroi

Sunday, October 1, 2017

7:30am Emma Lou Dobbins
9:00am Marion Interrante
11:00am Biagio Russo and Family

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday ~ September 24, 2017

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church
Confirmation Retreat ~ 1:45pm ~ East Wing

Monday ~ September 25, 2017

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing
Confirmation Classes ~ 6:50pm ~ Church

Tuesday ~ September 26, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW
Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Wednesday ~ September 27, 2017

Carmelite Formation ~ 7pm ~ Room 9
RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ EW

Thursday ~ September 28, 2017

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ September 29, 2017

Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

9/25:	Ezr 1:1-6 Lk 8:16-18	Ps 126:1-6
9/26:	Ezr 6:7-8, 12, 14-20 Lk 8:19-21	Ps 122:1-5
9/27:	Ezr 9:5-9 Lk 9:1-6	Tb 13:2-4, 7-8
9/28:	Hg 1:1-8 Lk 9:7-9	Ps 149:1-6, 9
9/29:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Ps 138:1-5	Rv 12:7-12 Jn 1:47-51
9/30:	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15 Lk 9:43-45	Jer 31:10-13
10/1:	Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11	Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 Mt 21:28-32

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

Eva D'Amato, Marguerite Orlovski, Robert Orlovski, 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, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Joseph Wagner, Diane Rockowitz, Patricia Nochese, Danny Miller, Theresa Golembroski, Barbara Vattiato, Roger Chin-Sang, 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, Vito Scaglione,

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

Josephine Cattano, Lucille Mango, Donald P. Tierney, Sr.

"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God."

*St. Vincent de Paul
Feast Day September 27*

Faith Formation

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Faith Formation Year

Please note, there will be no online or in person registration October 9—October 22 so that classes begin smoothly. We encourage you to register before October 9.

Classes have begun!

Level 8 Confirmation Classes began on September 11, 2017.
The Confirmation Retreat is today, Sunday, September 24th 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 14, 2017 at 10:30am in the Parish Center.

The following Levels will begin the week of October 16, 2017:

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 9th** 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 9th**, 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 2: Wednesdays @ 4:30pm

Level 4 : Mondays @ 5:45pm

Level 5: Tuesdays @ 5:45pm

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

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.

Come sow
the seeds of
FAITH.
Matthew 13



Faith Formation

RCIA



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process used to initiate adults into the full life of the Church.

Prior to beginning the RCIA process, an individual comes to some knowledge of Jesus Christ, considers his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and is usually attracted in some way to the Catholic Church. This period is known as the Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate. For some, this process involves a long period of searching; for others, a shorter time. Often, contact with people of faith and a personal faith experience lead people to inquire about the Catholic Church.

For the past several months a group of people have been meeting with members of the RCIA team. They have been inquiring about the Church, its beliefs and rituals. When they are ready to formally declare their desire to fully participate in the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion) they are invited *by the community* to join in the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming. During this Rite, the inquirer stands amidst the parish community and states that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church or complete their sacraments of initiation. The parish assembly affirms this desire and the inquirer becomes a Catechumen if they are seeking Baptism, or a Candidate if they are seeking full initiation after having been baptized but un-catechized at an earlier age.

Each week here at St. Sylvester, those individuals preparing for full initiation join us at Sunday Mass. They listen to the scripture readings and the homily. Since the Catechumens and Candidates cannot yet fully take part in the Eucharist, they are then dismissed from the assembly to be fed by the word of God they have just heard proclaimed. One or more members of the community join them to help lead them in their reflection at the parish center.

The words used by the celebrant are "My dear friends, *this community* now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table."

The community, by praying with and for those seeking full participation, join them in our common journey of faith. The entire community is encouraged to pray for those seeking to be one with us.

The RCIA Team



Children's Liturgy Of the Word

We are happy to announce that we will be having Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass on October 8th and October 22nd. Look in next week's bulletin for more information.

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. Stuffing
2. Shampoo
3. Soap
4. Detergent
5. Juice (not apple)
6. Canned chicken
7. Instant potatoes
8. Mayo
9. Canned carrots
10. Pancake Mix
11. Jello
12. Coffee



sojourners
Faith in Action for Social Justice

America's Love Over Hate: Houston Over Charlottesville, What's Next?

By Barbara Williams-Skinner, David Anderson 9-15-2017

Published on Sojourners. Source URL: <https://sojo.net/articles/america-s-love-over-hate-houston-over-charlottesville-what-s-next>

Gospel music artist Kirk Franklin tweeted about August: "The month started with Americans showing hate...The month ended with Americans showing love. Please America." As followers of Jesus and committed bridge builders, we echo Franklin's plea. Please America! Do not revert back from unbelievable acts of love shown throughout Hurricane Harvey-ravaged Houston, to the hate-filled spirit of violence in Charlottesville.

Over four days, America and the world witnessed the horror of Houston and nearby regions, flooded with over 51 inches of rainfall. More than 30,000 were displaced, 17,000 rescued, more than 66 died, economic losses were estimated at \$190 billion, and large portions of devastated homeowners were uninsured. Yet the power of God's unconditional love was undeniably evident as people of diverse races and backgrounds risked their lives to save, comfort, and shelter one another.

No citizen who voluntarily used his or her own boat first asked the race or religion of the person they rescued. Blacks, Whites, Latinos, Asians, Jews, Muslims, Christians, and people of every social background endangered their lives without a moment's hesitation to rescue whomever needed to be saved. As the painfully long and costly restoration begins, Americans are asking the obvious question: How does a racially divided nation sustain the unbelievably loving spirit demonstrated through Hurricane Harvey? Does America have to be hit in the gut with a catastrophic disaster like 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Harvey, or, more recently, Hurricane Irma, for love to unconditionally surpass hate?

Parish Social Ministry

Remembering the supernatural love witnessed this August in Houston makes it hard to recall the racial ugliness in Charlottesville earlier in the month. In mid-August, members of the KKK, white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and "alt-right" members boldly paraded through the campus of the University of Virginia. Seeking to inspire fear, they marched at night with lit torches, shouting anti-Semitic and anti-black slogans, many openly carrying assault rifles that are legal in Virginia. The next day, a white nationalist rally protested the removal of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's statue. They were opposed by peaceful protesters, mixed with anti-racism protesters who were confronting the nationalists. In the wake, one woman, Heather Heyer, was killed and dozens injured when a car driven by a young man identified as a white nationalist plowed at high speed into the crowd of



anti-racism protesters. In the immediate aftermath, many were predicting the outbreak of race riots across America.

While most Americans denounced the white nationalists and the president's response as a national abnormality, our nation has a long history of racial discrimination, tensions, and violence. In fact, since the 2016 election, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported over 1,000 acts of hate and hate crimes aimed at African-Americans, immigrants, Muslims, and Jews. Sadly, many of these hate crimes took place in schools and colleges. To be sure, much progress has been made in America, especially in race relations, over the past two decades. Yet Charlottesville unleashed unprecedented national

dialogues over the removal of Confederate statues, slavery, and the Civil War, without any real discourse on racial healing.

For many older black Americans, it stoked fears as they remembered a time when it was literally unsafe for black people to walk the streets without facing racial indignities. Holocaust survivors also reflected on the painful reminder of a time they believed has long passed. Even whites who agree with justice for all and fight against injustice like Heather Heyer find themselves in harm's way. A racist motorist snuffed out her life. Too few cross-racial and religious dialogues have taken place since Charlottesville to

address systemic racism and religious bigotry to move our nation from hate to love. No one is safe when hate rises. Only love can drive out hate.

With the return of Congress for the fall session, the debate will turn to such racially charged issues as immigration, the possibility of deporting 800,000 "Dreamers" (undocumented young people who were brought to America as children), and voter suppression. Given America's racial history, before Harvey becomes a distant memory, we again raise the critical question. How can Houston's spirit of unconditional love and acceptance of neighbors across racial and religious lines be sustained by each of us once the recovery occurs?

Consider the following practical applications of how we can work together with a spirit of love.

1. Reach out to help others in need as a normal part of your life and not just in times of crisis. Keep the picture in your mind of how great you felt witnessing the beauty of unconditional love and care expressed across racial, cultural and other barriers during Hurricane Harvey. Let's encourage reaching out to those in need to become our new normal, without a crisis at hand.
2. Reject hate whenever it rears its ugly head, in order that indifference and alienation are starved of oxygen and moral equivocation. Even though there are many different views and perspectives, choose not to demonize, and instead accept the love and care you witnessed as inspired by God.
3. In your personal and work life, consciously practice treating and speaking to others as you wish to be treated and spoken to. Until it becomes a habit.
4. Ask yourself what you can personally do to build bridges of friendship with those outside of your comfort zone. Who do you invite from your job, for example, from outside of your comfort zone, to social gatherings, or to your house of worship, simply to get to know them as people, and learn from them?
5. Make sure your children, grandchildren, or young people in your care are exposed to children and young people of other cultures. Purposely expose them to books, videos, and other cultural events so they view and value those who are different from them.
6. Be willing to participate in, and even lead, honest discussions on race, ethnic, and religious tensions in this country toward changing the attitudes and actions of all.

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

September 17, 2017

Regular ~ \$8,627

Renovation ~ \$168 Solar ~ \$65

September Faith Direct Contributions

Regular ~ \$9,566

Renovation ~ \$1,023 Solar ~ \$230

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**

Respect Life Sunday



Next Sunday is Respect Life Sunday. Please place the specially marked envelope in the regular collection basket.

Reflection

Good stewards follow the advice of St. Paul and conduct themselves—by wise use of their time and talents - in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

Living Stewardship

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

Parish Life

Fall is here and so is **St. Sylvester's Fall Flower Sale**

Saturday, September 30: 10am—6:15pm

Sunday, October 1: 8am—12:30pm

9" Pots: \$6 each or 4 for \$20



Mums



Asters

Montauk Daisies

Kale

4" Pots: \$2 each

Mums

6" Pots: \$5 each

Pansies

Hanging Plants: \$14

Mums

Parish Life

HOLIDAY FAIR NEWS

It is with heavy hearts that we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Holiday Fair. Due to the repair work that needs to be done to the foundation, walls and flooring in the lower level of the parish center (Patricia Desmond Hall), it will sadly be unusable for some time. Initially we were hopeful that the space would be repaired just in the nick of time, but this week it became apparent to all of us that this was simply wishful thinking.

We considered a multitude of scenarios using different spaces throughout the parish property and beyond, but all would have to omit some important piece of the fair which would be unfair to other parties involved.

Thank you to all those who support our Holiday Fair year after year — especially all of our volunteer ministers who make a huge job look so easy and help it to run so smoothly. We look forward to the return of the fair next year in our repaired space with much joyful anticipation.

There will be a special Holiday Raffle done this year to help offset the unexpected costs associated with the repairs and the loss of our Holiday Fair revenue. We continue to ask for your support, your prayers and your patience at this challenging time.



Above & Below: Two cracks in the foundation which run from the floor to the ceiling, leaving puddles of water on the floor.



Below: Water seeping undetected underneath the tiled floor is exposed, showing damage that continues under the rest of the adjacent tile.



Parish News

St. Sylvester

Blood Drive

Sunday, October 1st

8am – 2pm

Parish Center

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

HURRICANE VICTIMS NEED OUR HELP

The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center has been *severely* impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The New York Blood Center, along with other blood centers, has already begun sending **blood products** so that patient needs can be met. We are now dealing with Hurricane Irma.

Please donate blood especially during this hurricane season when disasters occur and the need for blood increases.

Your help is needed ***NOW*** to keep our **LOCAL** blood supply strong and enable us to provide assistance as needed.

Eligibility Criteria

Bring **Donor Card or ID**. Minimum Weight: 110lbs.

Age 16 – 75. No New Tattoos for past 12 months.

For questions concerning medical eligibility:

www.nybc.org | **1-800-933-2566**

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