# St. Sylvester R. C. Church 68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



"For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

Matthew 16:27

September 3, 2017 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 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, Th  $\sim$  9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Wed  $\sim$  9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Fr  $\sim$  9am - 12 & 1 - 4pm; Su  $\sim$  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-11:30pm

**Thrift Shop:** (631)475-4506

Tu, Wed & Th  $\sim 10$ am - 3pm; Sat  $\sim 10$ am - 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 2, 2017

5:00pm Waldemar Grzymala

Anthony J. Skrobacz, Jr.

Maria McFaline Rose Cortez (Living) Lucas Camacho

Sunday, September 3, 2017

7:30am Emma Lou Dobbins

9:00am Luke Brennen

11:00am Peter Montemurro (2nd Anniversary)

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, September 7, 2017

For the People of St. Sylvester 8:30am

Friday, September 8, 2017 Richard Desmond 8:30am Saturday, September 9, 2017 5:00pm John Randazzo

Angela Frisina

Anthony Bocchimuzzo

Maria McFaline Philip Liantonio Arline Jacobson Marie Russell

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Manuel Esteves (6th Anniversary) 7:30am

9:00am William Stanton 11:00am Luigi Russo & Family

REA	DIN	GS	FOR	THE	WEEK
		$\mathbf{u}$			VVLLI

9/4:	1 Thes 4:13-18 Lk 4:16-30	Ps 36:1, 3-5, 11-13
9/5:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11	Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
	Lk 4:31-37	
9/6:	Col 1:1-8	Ps 52:10-11
	Lk 4:38-44	
9/7:	Col 1:9-14	Ps 98:2-6
	Lk 5:1-11	
9/8:	Mi 5:1-4	Ps 13:6
	Mt 1:1-16, 18-23	
9/9:	Col 1:21-23	Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8
	Lk 6:1-5	
9/10:	Ez 33:7-9	Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
	Rom 13:8-10	Mt 18:15-20

## 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.

When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

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 8.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

## 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 8 from 8pm — 9pm in the Worship Room. "I Am With You Always"

## 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 Chin-Sang, Jenna Knoblauch, Sasha Medile, Theresa O'Connor, Baby Charlotte Steele, Robert Uricola, Fran Pellerito, Virginia Guaiana, Olivia Bazirgan, Roy Fernandes, Michael Goode, William F. Swope, Nef Nieves, Kevin Elder, Ed Rafferty, Julie Pabon, Genevieve Cannarili

# Stewardship

# Gifts of Treasure August 27, 2017

# MONTHLY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

MENTIL Last month, we began a monthly Cancer worth. Support Group for Adults RENGT. MENGT here at the parish and RPOW welcome all those affected PPORT SUP by this illness to attend. The HOPE Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month Surviversurviv

Please note that this group is solely for those

affected, not caregivers, family, friends, etc.

It is our desire to continue to bring parishioners together in a faith-based setting to share and offer hope and strength to one another during this challenging time in their lives. The support group is led by a woman currently dealing with cancer and will be facilitated by a New York State Licensed Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with over 30 years experience as an RN.

Please call Lori Zito at 631-475-4506, ext. 115 with any questions you may have, or email to Lzito@stsylvesterli.org.

### Reflection

In today's second reading, St. Paul exhorts the Romans to *total* stewardship. Brothers and sisters, he urges, "...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."

### Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who stand ready to offer themselves and their gifts in the service of God, our neighbors and the wider parish community.

# |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 Prin	nt:	
Name:		_
Address:		_
Phone:		

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

### Catholic University

Next weekend, September 9/10, there is an envelope for Catholic University. Please place this specially marked envelope in the regular collection basket.

# **Faith Formation**

## 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.

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 2 Catechists will meet Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the East Wing

**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@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Outreach Ministry: 631-475-4506 press 5+1 clarehouse@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Social Justice Ministry: 631-475-4506 press 5+2 jmcmahon@stsylvesterli.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.



Food



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:

<u>Pray:</u> 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**



Finding God in the Wilderness

Sunday, September 3, 2017 Week One: God's Boundless Love

As we reflect on the readings from today's  $\Diamond$ Mass, we seek to understand them through the lens of God's creation. We call upon the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and help us to o hear God's voice in these words.

#### Examination

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

God loves us boundlessly and deeply. We are made for God's love-we thirst for it with the same intensity that we thirst for water. God created the natural world out of this immense love as a gift to us. Water is a symbol of God's love: pure, perfect, and lifesustaining.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God. what is good and pleasing and perfect.

We live in an age in which we misuse God's gift of creation out of greed and indifference. Now in the Southwest United States, rising temperatures have led to parched and lifeless earth. Plants wither and people suffer. This is one of many ways in which lack of concern for the environment translates to pain for our brothers and sisters.

We must not continue to conform to this age of greed and wastefulness. Rather, let us be transformed. God calls us to conversion-a "renewal of our minds." We are called to open ourselves up to the contemplation of God's gift of creation, to recognize the depth of God's love for us, creation and the poor.

#### Gratitude/Contrition

the Holy Spirit to guide us through our intimate and personal question for the memories and emotions. We remember the disciples: "But who do you say that I moments when we glimpsed God's beauty am?" and power in creation. We give thanks for opportunity to reflect upon how we would

the times when we were able to serve God answer by caring for creation, and we offer our sincere contrition for the times when we In two or three paragraphs, how would you failed to do so.

- beauty in creation last week?
- care for God's creation last week?
- What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?
- How can I repair breaks in my relationship with creation?

In Laudato Sí, Pope Francis reminds us: "All it takes is one good person to restore hope!" (LS 71) How will you be that one good person this week?

Suggestions: Make a conscious effort to take shorter showers or donate to help victims of drought.

God of love, Today in the wilderness Springs beauty like water. Seeds lie in the dry earth Awaiting the rains. In once-parched deserts Will flow mighty rivers. Together in your love We will realize our future. In farms, fields, and cities We will celebrate your justice, And in loving community



An Ignatian Solidarity Network Series

"But who do you say that I am?" By Kevin Yonkers-Talz 08-28-17

and to listen and respond to the cry of In today's gospel reading, we find Jesus asking his disciples about the perceptions others have of him. He does not, however, As we look back on this past week, we allow long. Jesus quickly moves to a much more Sullivan and Jon Sobrino, S.J. Jesus provides us with an

that question today.

answer Jesus' question?

Where was I most aware of God's This was, in fact, my first assignment as a theology student in a Christology class at How did I make a conscious effort to Boston College some 23 years ago. The professor gave us time to write and then the opportunity to introduce ourselves to our fellow students. I was impressed that there were students from all over the world - U.S., Pakistan, India, Kenya, Rwanda, Mexico and remember being struck by how students from developing countries often highlighted Jesus' connection with the

> The following summer, I had a class with Jon Sobrino, SJ., the Jesuit theologian who teaches at the Central American University (UCA) and whose companions were murdered at the UCA in 1989 because of their commitments to working for justice and peace in El Salvador. Sobrino developed his Christology from his lived experiences with the suffering poor of El Salvador - the "crucified peoples" of history. In class, Sobrino introduced us to a different face of Christ. Rather than an abstract person who identifies with the powerful and passively accepts unjust suffering. Sobrino described how the poor in El Salvador viewed Christ as "the Liberator." Sobrino taught me that where and with whom we stand makes a difference when it comes to doing theology.

> One of my former students, Jesse Sullivan, gave a talk a few years ago while he was studying in Stanford's MBA program. Charged with the task of sharing his "one life changing idea" with professors and students, he spoke about choosing life over luxury. Jesse challenged his academic community to turn statistics of people living in poverty into our brothers and sisters by traveling to the developing world and creating a loving relationship with someone extreme poverty.

Certainly, not everyone has the opportunity to travel to a developing country. I do believe, however, that friendship with the poor and excluded, even in our own communities, will influence our answer to stay on the topic of public opinion for Jesus' question. It certainly did for Jesse

# **Parish Life**

# PARISH CENTER LOWER LEVEL (PATRICIA DESMOND HALL) CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

Just as our homes and apartments sometimes give us emergency repair woes, apparently the parish buildings are also susceptible to unexpected problems. We recently discovered that our Parish Center Lower Level, also known as Patricia Desmond Hall, has not one, but two cracks in the foundation that must be immediately repaired to prevent further water damage.

The diocese has been notified as we will be going through the insurance company



(which includes a \$5,000 deductible which we must pay) and contractors have been on site to assess the scope of the project and do some preliminary work. The contractors will need to excavate to get to the outside foundation wall and then make all necessary repairs on the exterior and interior. To our dismay, the exterior work will not be covered and we do not yet know how much it will cost us.

As a result, to ensure everyone's safety, we have closed the entire lower level of the parish center until the work is completed. All ministries, groups and programs which normally meet in the space have been temporarily relocated to other parts of the parish center. We ask for your prayers and your patience as the work gets underway and we will keep you updated on our progress.



### Happy 10th Anniversary to the Prayer Shawl Ministry

On the evening of *September 6th*, *2007*, twelve enthusiastic women met to brainstorm and share creative ideas on what would become the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Then, on Crochet Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007, they met to knit, crochet and pray. The group has grown in numbers and continues to meet the first Wednesday of every month at 10:30am. Ironically, their next meeting will be *September 6th*, *2017*, where they will create warm and cozy shawls and lap robes, which are lovingly brought to the sick and homebound.

Donations of yarn are appreciated and new members are always welcome!

## **Parish Life**

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday ~ September 3, 2017

Monday ~ September 4, 2017

ALL OFFICES CLOSED

NO 8:30am MASS

Tuesday ~ September 5, 2017

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Wednesday ~ September 6, 2017

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ 10:30am ~ East Wing

Cancer Support Group ~ 6pm ~ WR

Thursday ~ September 7, 2017

Parish Social Ministry Deanery ~ 9:30am~ EW

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Social Justice Committee ~ 7pm ~ Clare House

Friday ~ September 8, 2017

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ East Wing

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ East Wing

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, September 9, 2017

Level 2 Catechist Meeting ~ 10:30am ~ EW

# Senior Circle of Friends

The Senior Circle of Friends meet on the 2nd



and 4th Fridays of

the month. Their next meeting is

September 8th at 12:30pm in the East

Wing. Come join us for fun and games. Bring a friend and meet some new ones!

New members are always welcome!

### Happy Labor Day!

There will be NO 8:30am Mass, Monday, September 4, & all offices will be closed, in observance of Labor Day.





Jason Palladino

Margaret Tisch

as they marry at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel Newport, Rhode Island

September 10, 2017

# 1981 PAR

Let us welcome the newly baptized into our community of Faith during the Month of August 2017

Abigail Rose Botti Lily Grace Botti Alexis Ann Carruthers Grace Gianna Giusto Camilla Marie Glynn Ava María Gonzalez Kensi Grace Harris 666 Logan Xavier Jimenez Alysa Rose Keating Emma Carol Keating Isabella Frances Keating Liliana Carolyn Lauruska Avery Anna Lopez Luciana Marie Melvin Lazaro Rodríguez-Santana ChristyAnna Renee Savino



Hold the Date! Fall Flower Sale: 9/30 & 10/1



# In the Community

*Medford Fire Department* is hosting a Blood Drive in the Meeting Room at the Fire House located on Oregon Avenue, Tuesday, September 5th from 2:30pm to 8:30pm. Your donation can save up to THREE lives. Please share this lifesaving gift! Every donor will enjoy a hero sandwich and salads compliments of the Medford Fire Department. Call Mike Barry at 631-776-1632 to schedule an appointment. For questions concerning medical eligibility, call 1-80-688-0900.

*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.

The Town of Brookhaven Women's Services Division will present the second session of "Career Edge" at Town Hall on September 13th 9:30am—1pm. This program is designed to help unemployed and under-employed women gain professional skills, accelerate their job search and build confidence through weekly training sessions, one-on-one career coaching and networking in a supportive environment. For more information and to see if you qualify for this beneficial program, Call 631-451-9127.

- **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.

*Retrouvaille* helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins Friday, September 8th, call 1-800-470-2230.

George Holub, Computer Surgeon Cellphone: (631) 236-3119

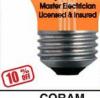
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