

Masses

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Daily Mass:
Monday - Friday 9:00 am

Holy Days:
7:00pm (Vigil on the eve)
9:00 (on the day)

Confessions

Saturday: 3:30 - 4:00 pm (Large Church)
or by appointment with a priest

Pastoral Team

Rev. Msgr. William A. Hanson Pastor	frbill@miparish.net
Deacon Robert Lyon	Baptism/ RCIA Coordinator deaconbob@miparish.net
Rev. Charles Okonkwo	Chaplain, in Residence
Tony Bellizzi	Youth Minister
Fran Bursztyrn	Religious Education Coordinator fran@miparish.net
Mary Pat Lyon	Ministry of Consolation
Leslie O'Connor	Business Manager/Liturgical Music Coordinator leslie@miparish.net
Alfredo Sobalvarro	Parish Maintenance
Karen Stanganelli	Religious Education Secretary karen@miparish.net
Ellen Sullivan	St. Vincent de Paul President ellen92601@aol.com
Tara Turnow	Parish Accountant
Michelle Yalamas	Parish Secretary michelle@miparish.net

Finance Committee

Felix J. Gucci, Jr.	Chairman/Trustee
Dr. Joseph Graskemper	Trustee
Fr. Bill Hanson	
Jim Renehan	
Tom Derby	
Frank Lent	
Patricia Panatier	

Holy Angels Regional School

Principal: Mr. Michael Connell
631-475-0422
Business Office: 631-475-2641
www.holyangelsregional.org

The Parish Family of Mary Immaculate

Sunday
August 20, 2017

16 Browns Lane, Bellport, NY 11713
631-286-0154 / 631-286-2937 (fax)

www.miparish.net



Rectory Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
(Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM)

Religious Education Office / Youth Ministry: 631-286-3504

Society of St. Vincent de Paul / Food Pantry: 631-286-3795

Food Pantry Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

August 20, 2017 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday August 19

5:00 pm Alfred Nolan, Sr. by Debbie & Justin Nicholson
James McBreen by Family

Sunday August 20

9:00 am Jeff O'Brien by O'Brien / Murcha Family
Rita Klein by Vincent & Marguerite Perry

11:00 am Jeff O'Brien by Doris Noehren

Monday August 21

9:00 am No Intention Requested

Tuesday August 22

9:00 am No Intention Requested

Wednesday August 23

9:00 am Rick Styles by Brian & Carol Buck

Thursday August 24

9:00 am Rudolph L. Stanganelli by Family

Friday August 25

9:00 am No Intention Requested



DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH

LITURGICAL MEMORIALS

Liturgical Memorials are available each month to celebrate a blessed event or to remember our deceased loved ones.

Eucharistic Bread and Wine: \$50

Altar Candles: \$50

Altar Flowers: \$100

To memorialize one or more of the above, call or visit our Rectory or the Weekend Office available after all weekend masses in the Large Church.

This Weeks Readings

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19 / Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a / Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15 / Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Rv 21:9b-14 / Jn 1:45-51

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 / Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17 / Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23 / Rom 11:33-36 / Mt 16:13-20

Bulletin Reflection: In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, "God's gifts and His call are irrevocable." To what is God calling me today? What gifts are mine to share?

Living Stewardship: We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who recognize that each of us is uniquely gifted and each of us has our own special role in building the Kingdom.

Last Weeks's Collection: \$5,164.00

***Does not include Faith Direct donations which are reported at the end of the month. The average weekly collection through Faith Direct is \$2,400.00 from 62 donors.**



Fr. Bill Hanson

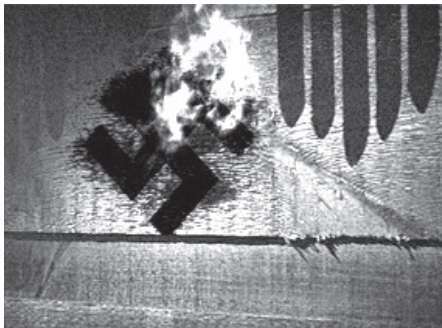
Swastikas?!

The tragic events and violence in Charlottesville last weekend, and the tragic delay and ambiguity in the president's tepid condemnation of racism, white supremacy, and Nazism are deeply disturbing to enormous numbers of our population in America, and around the world. Most disturbing is the lack of clear strong and direct identification of these movements as wrong and evil.



As many have said publicly from all over the political spectrum, their family members who fought or died fighting the scourge of National Socialism (Nazism) in World War Two would be horrified to see violence carried out in our own country under a flag of the swastika or seeing it on the arms of those who came "armed" in their protest. For families bearing the memory of the Holocaust, this is intolerable.

"Regular Order" is a phrase we have been hearing from the Senate in its recent deliberations. It's a technical term for the Senate's process and operations. There is a "regular order" in civil society, a web of norms for behavior that is so deeply rooted much of it is unwritten and presumed. Those norms have been increasingly transgressed and have caused the "glue," the restraints that hold civil society together, to be weakened, ignored, and ridiculed by people in positions of leadership whose job it is to uphold and affirm the norms of civility.



The greatest stress caused by this dissolution of our norms is seen in the unraveling of members of our society who live at the edges. Where external support is lacking, like healthy family systems, good example at home, at work, in school, adequate income, basic health care, moral and religious communal values, violence and chaos erupt unpredictably and dangerously because internal support has eroded away.

The opioid epidemic, which has been building for years, as well as teen suicide, mass shootings, and bursts of violence, emerge from dissolving social bonds, as well as from dissolving individual psyches.

What can we do? Here's one basic suggestion. What **NORM** do you use to determine what is right and wrong in any issue you confront. Do you judge "what is right" based on "who is right?" (Example: He or she belongs to my party, my denomination, my social set, or is on my favorite channel, and so must be right.) Or do you judge "who is right" based on "what is right?" (Example: I don't care who you are, what office you hold, how revered you are, but that is illegal, immoral, not true, out of order, or against the ten commandments, etc.) Here's a powerful way I imagine my reaction to what is going on in our world and country. Above are scenes from Steven Spielberg's "Raiders of the Lost Ark." In the film, the Nazi's have captured the Ark of the Covenant and placed it in a crate in the hold of a ship.

The Nazi symbol is stenciled on the crate in black letters. In the dark of the ship's hold, rats approach the crate and are repelled by the stenciled paint spontaneously catching fire and burning off the wood from the awesome power of the One whose presence hovers over the Ark of the Covenant inside. A brilliant image from director Spielberg. If divine power is opposed, there are terrible consequences. President Obama tweeted (with the largest number of responses...ever) quoting Nelson Mandela. Here is a larger segment of Mandela's quote: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Amen to that!





Sobornost For The World Foundation

"Sobornost" - unity of heart, mind and soul of a group working for the common good.

World Village Fair Trade Mobile



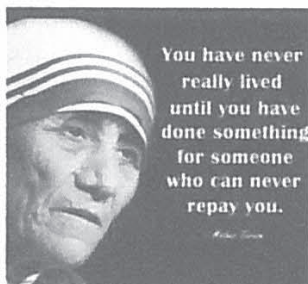
August 10, 2017

Rev. Msgr. William A. Hanson, Pastor
Mary Immaculate RC Church
16 Browns Lane
Bellport, New York. 11713

Dear Fr. Bill and Parishioners,

The volunteers of Sobornost For The World Foundation wish to thank you for your continued generosity and compassion for those in our world living in extreme poverty. Through your purchases of Fair Trade and financial gifts on the weekend of July 8th and 9th, we sold \$1,790 in Fair Trade products which is a direct way to help those living on the margins. Also, through your donations of \$350, we will directly sponsor more orphaned children with school fees, food, uniforms and school supplies in Zambia and India.

As Dr. Pece shared on the weekend, we are concerned for the people who are struggling in severe poverty around our world because each has God's image within them. They are created by God to bring more light into our world, and with the help you have given them, they will know God's love more personally. Together we are helping children attend and finish school so they can go on to lead productive lives and bring positive changes to their world. Through Fair Trade's sustainable methods of business, there is an end to all forms of environmental pollution and an end to trafficking and death. The work places are safe and healthy and children are in schools rather than in forced labor. After this weekend's Fair Trade sale, we additionally apply 100% of the proceeds from these sales to the orphan programs for school and food.



Our gratitude is overflowing for what you have shared and we will continue to accomplish so much good in the coming year. Fr. Augustine Fernando (Fr. Gus), who is on our Board and lives in St. Kilian in Farmingdale, lived and worked with Mother Teresa in India for a time. He was able to celebrate Mass for the Missionaries of Charity and Mother Teresa many times. The example of her self-giving, guidance and prayerfulness to the people of our world touched Fr. Gus deeply and permanently which, in time, led him to join us in Sobornost For The World Foundation. This is one way for him to uphold her memory.

May God increase His blessings in all of your lives and in the Parish of St. Agnes in the coming years.

Very sincerely in Christ,

Mrs. Patricia A. Pece
President

P. O. Box 665
Aquebogue, NY 11931

631-255-1995

villagefairtrade@yahoo.com
www.sharefairtrade.com

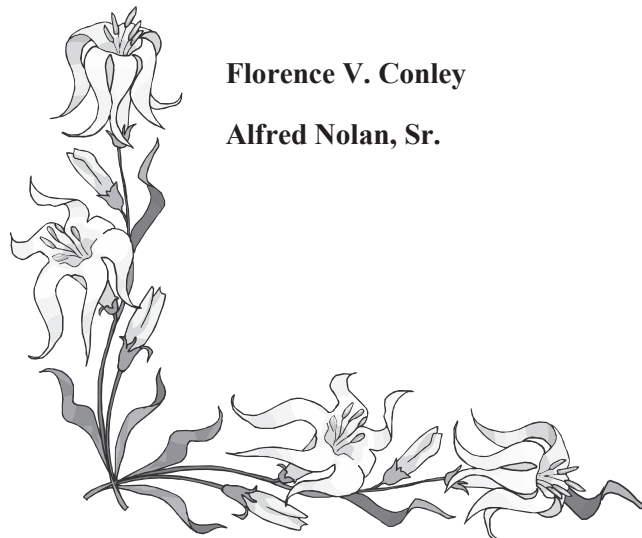
Mary Immaculate Prays For One Another



Gina DiMartino
 Kate Cox
 Nora Cetchell
 Michael Matthews
 Roz Hassell
 Nancy Cavaliere
 Jose Llanes
 Emily Straub
 Claudia Horst
 Philip J. McSweeney
 Frank C. Harris
 Joanne Klonoski
 Vincent Racaniello
 Jennifer Lombardi
 Dana Hertzovitz

Doris Noehren
 Emily Magnani
 Lorraine Schordine
 Jennifer Bennett
 Richard Colli
 Luhur Budiarjo
 Teimor Tamadon
 Theresa Venturino
 Maureen Gjertsen
 James Leung
 Thomas Nolan
 Alice Nolan
 John Rocco
 Kevin Williams

Please Pray for Our Deceased



Florence V. Conley

Alfred Nolan, Sr.

PRAY FOR OUR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY

Gregory Azzara - Navy
 Gunnery Sgt. John Scott Dowdell - USMC
 SSgt Matthew Pica - Army
 John Paul Redmond - Army
 PFC Robert Temple - Army
 SSgt. Shawn Weismiller - Air Force
 Sgt. Jason Ramos - Army
 Pvt Jonathan Salvestrini - Army
 PFC Shane Gibney - USMC
 Cpl Mark Anthony Barone - USMC
 Lt. Philip J. Granati - U.S. Coast Guard
 WO1 Nalita Sellers - Army
 LC Amanda Knepper - USMC
 SFC Edward Kusa - Navy
 Bryan Thurston - Army
 Sean Thomas Vignato - USMC
 Mgr. David Matthew Butler - Army
 Chief Richard J. Vanderhoof - U.S. Coast Guard

Please pray for the safe return of our troops.
 The families wish to thank you for your prayers,
 and ask that you please continue to pray.
God Bless you all.

Stewardship in Action

Mass Servers for the Following Week:

August 26th

5:00 PM

Servers: T. Sica, B. Barry, A. Sullivan

Lector: P. Morrison

Host Ushers: J. Deutsch, E. Sullivan, K. Hawkins

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Barnett, C. Barnett, J. Cronin

August 27th

9:00 AM

Servers: J. Katz, I. Katz, A. Comiskey

Lector: E. Stanganelli

Host Ushers: M. Klein, Sr., P. Attanasio

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Langer, V. Langer, K. Stanganelli

Children's Liturgy of the Word: J. Pergola

11:00 AM

Servers: Dawn Slawinski, Daniel Slawinski, K. Price

Lector: H. Sidoti

Host Ushers: F. Lento

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Simon, E. Russo, O. Miller

Mary Immaculate News & Events

Ongoing Programs/Meetings:

- **Parish Library**
Open weekends after each Mass in Large Church.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word**
9:00 am Mass on Sundays. Children dismissed to break open The Word on a level appropriate for them.
- **Moms & Tots**
Every other Thursday from 10:00 am - 11:00 am in the Cottage. **Will resume in September.**
- **Youth Group**
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm every Saturday in the Cottage.
Ages: All High School Students Welcome! **Will resume in September.**
- **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**
10:15 am to 11:15 am on the 1st Sunday of the month in the Cottage.
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Cottage.
- **Rosary Altar Society**
7:00 pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Little Church. All are welcome!
- **Ministry of Consolation**
Please call the Rectory for more information.
- **AA Meeting**
7:30 pm on Sundays & 7:00 pm Thursdays in Auditorium. This meeting is open to anyone who desires to stop drinking.
- **Respect Life**
6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month in the Large Church.
- **Icon Painting Class**
10:00 am - 3:00 pm on 2nd Thursday of every month in Auditorium. Please call Jim Fuchs at 631-286-1643.
- **Camera Club**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month in the Cottage except for holidays and scheduled field trips.

**For more information please call the Rectory:
286-0154.**

Welcome!



If you have recently moved into this area, kindly register by stopping by the Rectory or visiting the Church Office after any weekend Mass or by contacting us at 286-0154.

Religious Education & Youth Ministry:

All children grades 1 through 8 must register **EVERY YEAR** for the program by calling the Religious Education Office at 286-3504.

Sacraments:

Baptism: Celebrated once a month at 1:00 pm in the Little Church. Registration is required. Parents should schedule an appointment with Deacon Bob at least 3 months before the desired date of baptism by calling the Rectory. A baptism preparation class is also required.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on Saturdays at 3:30 - 4:00 pm in the Large Church or by calling the Rectory for an appointment with a priest.

Marriage: Couples should make arrangements at least 6 months in advance by appointment with the pastor. No date for a wedding will be set over the phone. Pre-Cana classes are required.

Adult Sacraments: (RCIA)

Are you an adult who wishes to be prepared for Baptism, Confirmation, and/or Eucharist? RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation by which adults become members of the Roman Catholic Church. All those who would like to begin this journey, please contact Deacon Bob at the Rectory.

Mary Immaculate News & Events

**Dessert
Donations Needed!**

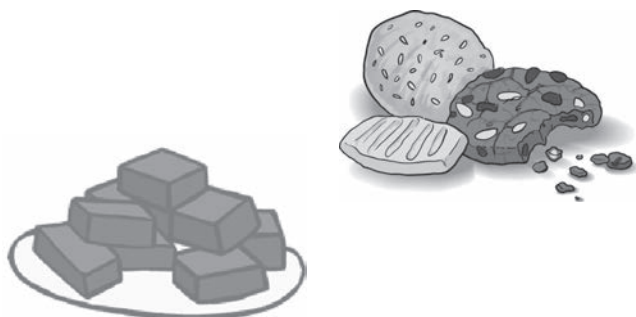
For the Clambake!!



**We need desserts for our Community
Dessert Table at our Clambake.**

**If you would like to donate a dessert
for the table, please contact
Ellen Sullivan at 631-286-5351.**

Thank You!



**CALLING ALL
VOLUNTEERS!!!**

**Our Annual Clambake
is fast approaching on
August 26th.**

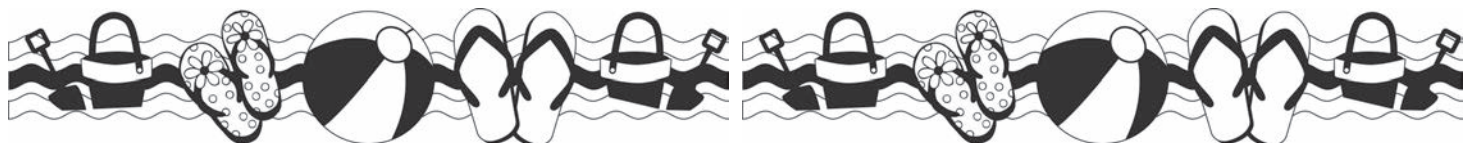
While it looks easy and seamless, it really is a massive undertaking...especially with the set up and clean up.

If you can offer just **one hour** to help **Set Up on Saturday morning at 10AM** and/or **Break Down Sunday morning after the 9AM Mass**, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact John Deutsch by email jd@circolutions.com or cell 631-379-8290 if you can help. The feeling of fellowship by participating, truly, is the work of the Holy Spirit!! If you would like to help out in other areas of the Clambake, please contact Stephanie Barry slbarry@optonline.net.

Peace,
John

John Deutsch
Clambake Committee Member
631-730-5931 home
631-379-8290 cell
631-563-0926 fax



Mary Immaculate News & Events

Virtus Training Session

**Saturday, September 9th
9:00 AM –12:00 PM
Large Church**

We are hosting a Virtus Training Session. All Volunteers are required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre to have completed Virtus Training. If you are a volunteer or are considering volunteering, please visit the website below and pre-register for the Virtus Session at Mary Immaculate.

http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theorgid=17044&theme=0



Mary Immaculate Prayer Shawl Ministry



*Give the gift of prayer and comfort
with a handmade Prayer Shawl.*

Those who have received these blessed shawls have been comforted, affirmed and enveloped in the hugs and prayers of our parishioners.

Shawls are on display the 2nd weekend of the month and donations are accepted for yarn.

*If you like to crochet, please join us on the
1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am
at the Rectory.*



Our trip to THE FANTASTICKS was so enjoyable that Father Bill and I are planning another theater outing. This time we'll be seeing the Tony Award winning revival of **HELLO, DOLLY!** at the Schubert Theater. This will be one of the performances where two-time Tony Award winner Donna Murphy plays Dolly. I've already seen her in the role and she is marvelous!

As we did last time, I'm asking those who are interested to **call me, Joe Panarello, at 631-286-1823** and tell me how many tickets you'll need. When we know how many people are interested, I'll shop around for discounts on the tickets as well as travel and dinner arrangements.

Hope you can join us!



Mary Immaculate Religious Education News



Religious Education

Classes Begin The Week Of September 25th!

Well folks, it's that time of year again! Yes, Religious Formation Classes will be up and running the week of September 25th. We are looking for a few good men and women to help us with monitoring the halls and doors (front and back), while classes are in session. Please consider this ministry of shepherding for the coming year. You will need to be Virtus trained to work with children in order to participate. Thank you for your consideration.

Levels 7 & 8 Students

**Want to get a jump on
Community Service Hours?
Well, I have a ministry for you!!**

Most of the readings at Mass over the past few weeks spoke in parables about planting and weeds. So, put on your gardening clothes, get out your gardening gloves and consider coming to the Church on Thursday mornings to help weed the flower beds.

Please call the Religious Education Office if you are interested. Thank you for your consideration.

AMAZING CATECHISTS

There will be 2 Catechists Meetings:

1. Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:00 pm
or
Tuesday, August 29th at 7:00 pm

Please **choose one day or the other**, you do not have to attend both. This meeting will provide a chance for you to interact with other Catechists and show your creative side.

There will be a 2nd Catechist Meeting:

2. Wednesday, September 13th at 11:00 am. We will provide coffee, cake and conversation.
or
Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 pm
We will provide wine, cheese and chatting.

This second meeting is when you will receive your class list, schedules and other items that will help prepare you for the upcoming year.

**All Catechist Meetings are held in the
Large Church.**



Religious Education

Come Share Your Faith With Our Children!

**“Let the children come unto me, and do not prevent them;
for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Mt 19:14.**

As we enter a we enter catechetical year, we realize the truth of this verse. We look forward o greeting the children and their parents as we walk together in faith.

We are asking ALL to prayerfully consider becoming a catechist (teacher) this year. We would like to have more catechists for our Level 1(6 yr. olds), Level 3 (8yr. olds), Level 4 (9 yr. olds), & Level 5 (10 yr. olds).

**For more information, please contact Fran or Karen at
the Rectory at 631-286-0154.**



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

**Our Pantry is in Need
of the Following:**

**Spaghetti Sauce, Beans,
Macaroni & Cheese, Soup,
Cereal, Tuna, Canned Pasta,
Canned Yellow Vegetables**



Thank You!!!



The Gospel today announces that the kingdom and salvation are for all people. It is our persistent calling out to Jesus and our faith that count, for Jesus always responds.

With love for your neighbors who have nothing, look around your house to see what furniture, household items and clothing you no longer use...and give it to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Local Assistance Information:

- ◆ Child Abuse Hotline: 800-342-3720
- ◆ Poison Control: 516-542-2323
- ◆ Birthright: 631-821-9727
- ◆ Catholic Health Services Pregnancy Support: 1-855-301-4CHS—www.chsli.org/giannacenter
- ◆ Suffolk County Mental Health Emergency Hotline: 631-952-3333
- ◆ Family Counseling Service: 631-669-2827
- ◆ Hope House: 631-473-6030
- ◆ AA Hotline 24 Hours: 631-669-1124
- ◆ Al-Anon and Alteen: 631-669-2827
- ◆ Suicide Hotline: 631-751-7500
- ◆ Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
- ◆ Epic (NYS Program for Seniors): 1-800-332-3742
- ◆ Suffolk County Office of the Aging: 631-853-8200
- ◆ Suffolk County Handicapped Services: 631-853-8333
- ◆ Suffolk County Veteran Services: 631-853-8387
- ◆ Suffolk Perinatal Coalition: 631-475-5400
- ◆ Town of Brookhaven Adult Day Programs: 631-451-9142

Society of St. Vincent de Paul “Mini Spiritual Retreat”

**Saturday, September 9th
12:30 PM —4:30 PM
Large Church**

Mary Immaculata's Conference of SVDP will present a “mini” spiritual retreat for our members and those considering membership in SVDP. Beth Barker, Associate Director of the St. Joseph Renewal Center will lead us as we dive more deeply in our individual faith journeys.

Light refreshments, fellowship and spiritual growth will be on our agenda. Everyone is encouraged to participate in what promises to be a memorable event.

Please reserve your seat(s) by emailing Jim Renehan at jim.renehan@gmail.com. Our retreat will take place on the Feast Day of Frederick Ozanam, founder of SVDP, and the 5:00 PM Mass that day will be said in his honor. Our hope is that many of those who attend the retreat will stay for the Mass as well.

See you on September 9th!

MARY IMMACULATE CLAM BAKE

Saturday, August 26, 2017, 6 – 9 p.m.

Immediately Following the 5 p.m. Mass Being Celebrated Outside

Tickets and Sponsorships Available

Special Sponsorships

_____ ANGEL SPONSOR \$25,000

As event underwriter, your name/company logo is listed on appropriate signage and on a special promotional banner. 25 tickets included.

_____ LITTLE CHURCH SPONSOR \$10,000

Along with 10 tickets to the event, your name/company logo listed on appropriate signage.

_____ BIG CHURCH SPONSOR \$5,000

Your name/company logo on signage at the event and you will receive 5 tickets.

_____ CO-SPONSOR \$1,000

Your name on appropriate signage at the event.

_____ \$250 Signage and listing on placemats at seats

_____ \$100 Signage and listing on placemats at seats

_____ \$ 50 Listing on placemats at seats

Individual Tickets

Each ticket includes two non-alcoholic beverages and dessert

Adults: \$25 in advance, \$50 at the door

Children: \$15 in advance, \$25 at the door
12 and under

Children 3 and under are free

Advance Ticket Sales will end on Sunday, August 20th. Sorry, no exceptions.

YES! I want to support the Mary Immaculate Clam Bake!

Please count me in for the following:

_____ Adult tickets @ \$25 each

_____ Children's tickets @ \$15 each

\$_____ I cannot attend but I want to support my parish. Enclosed please find my donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Additional non-alcoholic beverages and raffle tickets may be purchased at the event, or you may bring your own. Beer and wine will be available as well. We have a 50/50 raffle too!

Hope you can join us!

NEW! Register online at

<https://maryimmaculatechurch.weshareonline.org/>

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Stephanie Barry at 631-627-6373 or email sibarry@optonline.net.

All completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the parish office at 16 Brown's Lane, Bellport, NY 11713.

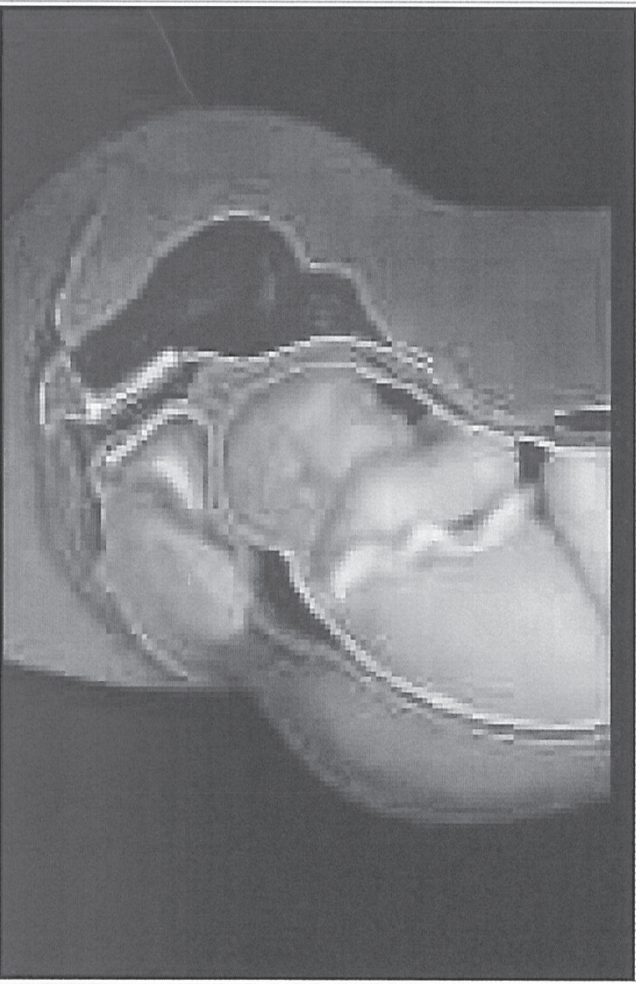
The Eighth Month of Life

Progress Report

We are in the home stretch with our spiritually adopted child with only one month to go. The pre-born child is still using his/her own motion and secretions. He/she has also experienced the difference between waking and sleeping and has even related to the moods and emotions of the mother.

A layer of fat is produced and stored beneath the skin, both for insulation and as a food supply. Antibodies that give immunity to diseases are building up. A gallon per day amniotic fluid is absorbed by the baby and the fluid is totally replaced every three hours.

The baby's heart pumps three hundred gallons of blood per day and the placenta begins to age. The center of the babies bones are still hardening but the bones in the head are soft and flexible for delivery.



When ready to be born, your baby will move downward with its head usually low against the birth canal. The baby is completely formed, just growing in size and strength. The baby could weigh anywhere between 4-6 pounds and is approximately 16-18 inches in length. As this precious child is being formed by our loving God, let us continue to pray for the boy or girl we have adopted, that his or her parents will choose to continue life for their baby.

Impact

August, 2017

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

Who are you? You are God's beloved.

It may sometimes feel as though you are only a face in the crowd, yet faith tells us something radically different: in Baptism, we are drawn to Christ as God's beloved.



"The gifts and call of God are irrevocable."

Romans 11:29

Each of us has been given particular gifts and talents. These innate qualities uniquely equip us to respond to the daily circumstances of our lives. Jesus "does not summon disciples as a faceless crowd but as unique individuals. He knows people's personal histories, their strengths and weaknesses, their destinies; he has a purpose in mind for each one." (SDR, p. 13)

Are you ever fearful, insecure, or uncertain?

You are God's beloved. At the transfiguration, when the disciples were filled with fear, Jesus touched them and said, "Rise, and do not be afraid." We can be confident that God will reach out to us in our weakness, and strengthen us in uncertainty.

Do you sometimes wonder about your place in the world? You are

God's beloved. There is something special that only you can bring to relationships, work, and service. Be attentive to the things you naturally do well, and do more of that.

Are there times when you feel that God is

distant or absent? You are God's beloved.

Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can be certain that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. We must watch, wait, listen, and be attentive. God will never abandon his beloved!

Do you need courage, strength, to be bold or ready to take risks?

You are God's beloved. The

Canaanite woman who boldly begged for help for her daughter risked rejection by Jesus, but found instead a listening, caring heart. We, too, can be assured that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be bold in faithful living.

**Be who you are,
and be that
perfectly well.**

— St. Francis de Sales

Be attentive

The Lord told Elijah he would pass by on the mountain. But the Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. Instead, Elijah recognized the Lord's presence in a tiny whispering sound.

It is often in the big moments in life that we are most attentive to God — birth, death, new beginnings and times of transition. Yet God is with us in the small, everyday moments as well — as we fix meals, work or study, enjoy time with family and friends, pause for prayer, challenge ourselves in exercise, relax in the evening hours.

Had Elijah not been paying attention, he might have missed the Lord altogether.

Life is busy, filled with activity, images, sound, and movement. We may notice God's presence with us through it all, but only if we are attentive. St. Ignatius taught his followers to examine their experience each day in order to develop greater attentiveness to God and to discern God's will. This practice of the examination of consciousness, or Examen, teaches us to see God in the midst of our daily lives.

Be aware that God is with you. Take a moment to be assured of God's presence.



Review your day with gratitude. In what ways were you blessed?

Pay attention to your emotions. Our feelings — positive or negative — often signal aspects of our lives that deserve greater attention.

Choose one thing that happened and pray with it. Was there a moment of intense joy, a time when you know you failed, an experience of sadness, remorse, peace, or forgiveness? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind as you reflect on this experience.

Look toward tomorrow. If you recognized a time in which you failed, resolve to do better. If you helped another person, promise to do so again in the future. If you sensed God's grace, blessing, or presence, plan to respond by sharing God's love and mercy with others.

Impact this month

1. Start the day with a time of prayer, in which you remind yourself that you are God's beloved. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your actions throughout the day.
2. Recognize your special gifts and talents — the things you naturally do well — and intentionally use these gifts in your daily life at home, work or school, parish, and world.
3. Pray the Examen at the end of the day. Keep a journal or list of the blessings you recognize and the ways in which you resolve to share your gifts and blessings with others.

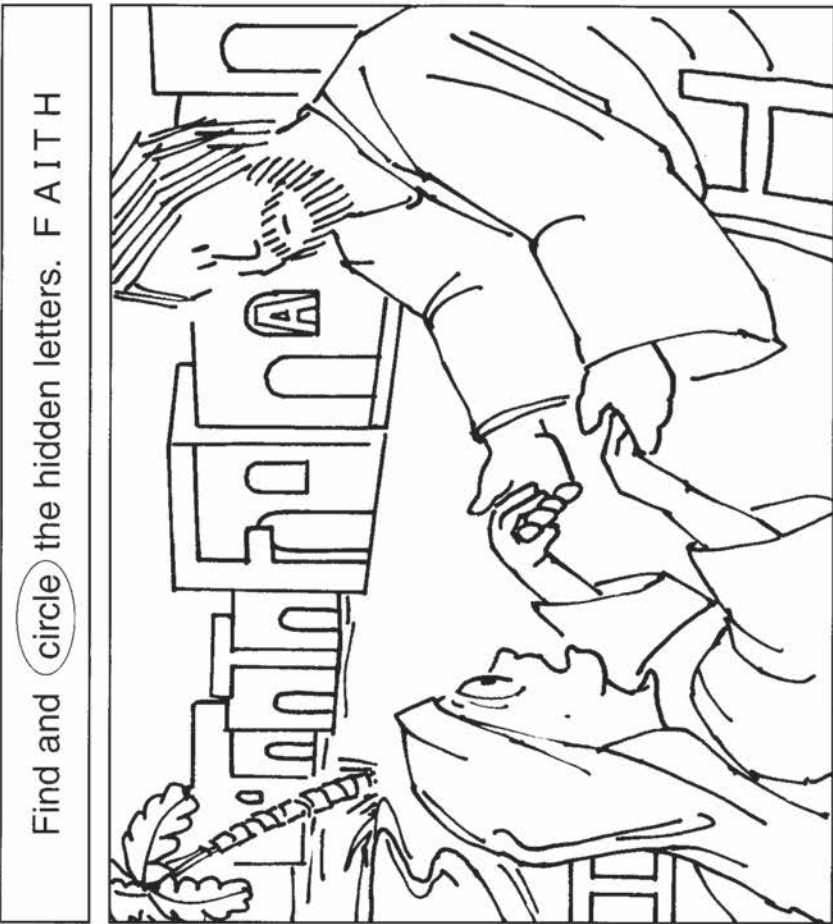
Children's Worship Bulletin

August 20, 2017 • Matthew 15:21-28

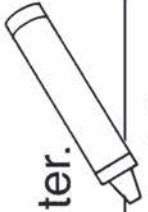
Ages 3-6



A Canaanite woman cried out to Jesus,
 "Please heal my daughter!"

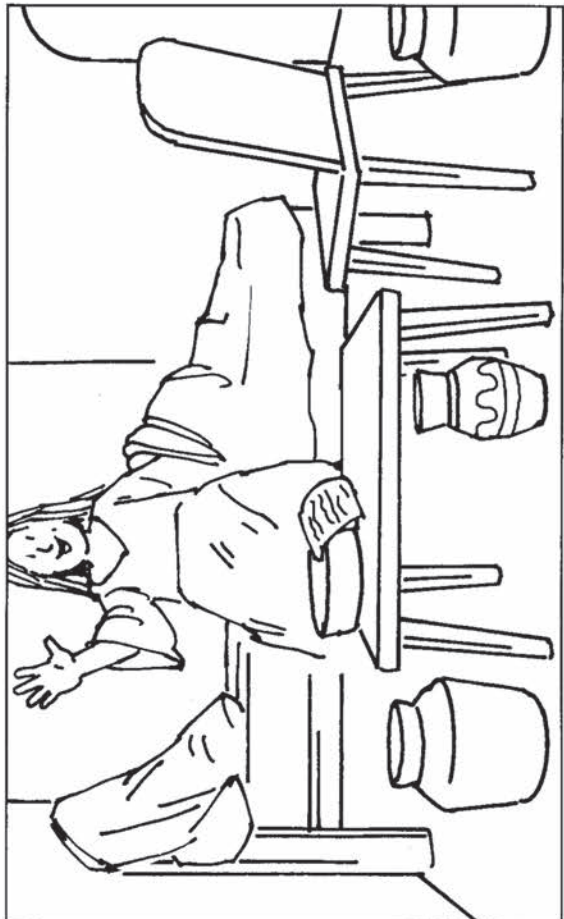
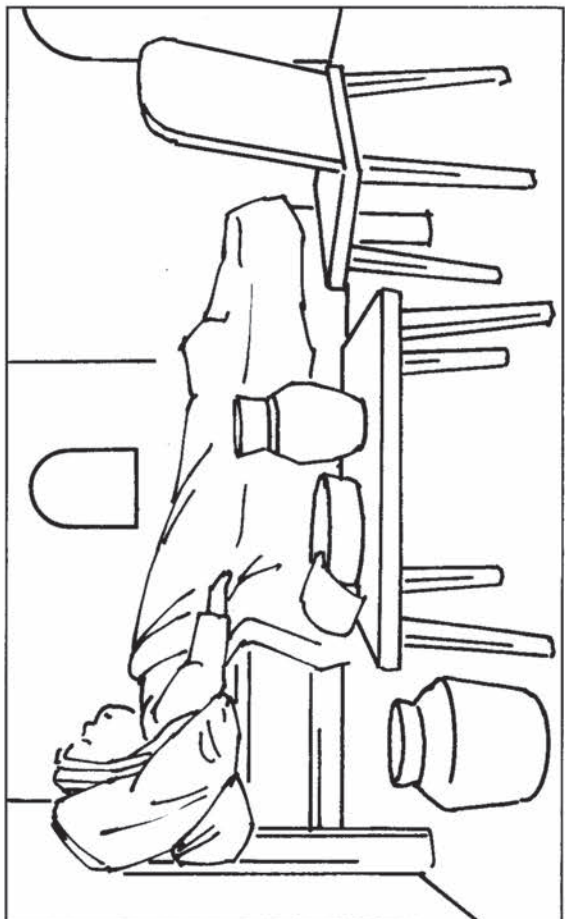


Find and circle the hidden letters. F A I T H



Jesus healed her daughter.

Find and circle the differences in the 2nd picture.



Jesus said that He was sent to the people of Israel. He called them "lost sheep."

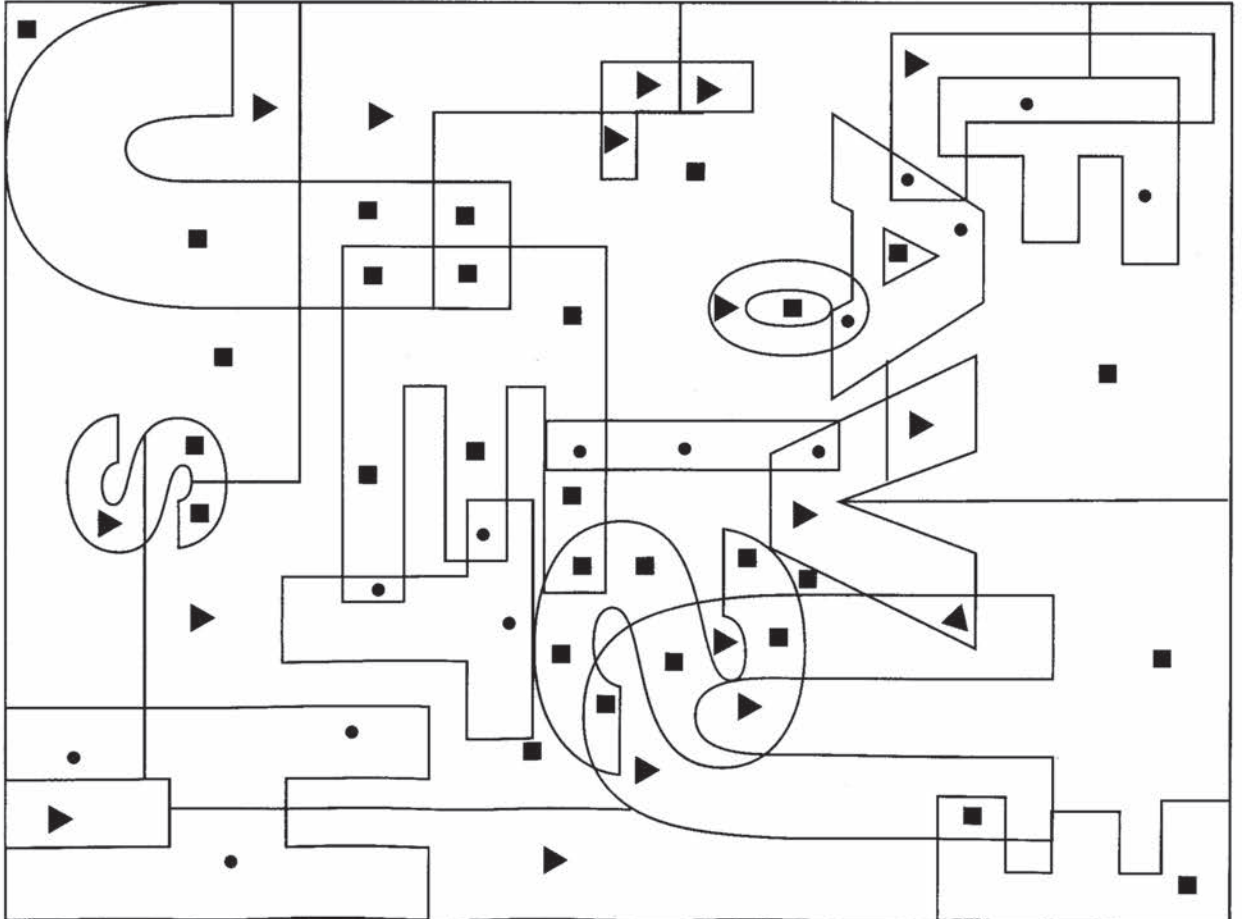
Count the sheep. How many? 7 or 8 or 9



But she begged again, "Lord, help me!" Jesus said to the woman, "You have great faith!"



Shade in the shapes that have a ●.



Ron Rolheiser column
Week of August 13 2017



God Needs Better Press

The word "Protestant" is generally misunderstood. Martin Luther's protest that led to the Protestant reformation was not, in fact, a protest against the Roman Catholic Church; properly understood, it was a protest for God. God, in Luther's view, was being manipulated to serve human and ecclesial self-interest. His protest was a plea to respect God's transcendence.

We need a new protest today, a new plea, a strong one, to not connect God and our churches to intolerance, injustice, bigotry, violence, terrorism, racism, sexism, rigidity, dogmatism, anti-eroticism, homophobia, self-serving power, institutional self-protection, security for the rich, ideology of all kinds, and just plain stupidity. God is getting a lot of bad press!

A simple example can be illustrative here: In a recent book that documents an extraordinary fifty-year friendship with his former coach, basketball legend (and present-day exceptional writer), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, shares why he became a Muslim. Raised a Roman Catholic, a graduate of Catholic schools, he eventually left Christianity to become a Muslim. Why?

In his own words: Because "the white people who were bombing churches and killing little girls, who were shooting unarmed black boys, who were beating black protestors with clubs loudly declared themselves to be proud Christians. The Ku Klux Klan were proud Christians. I felt no allegiance to a religion with so many evil followers. Yes, I was also aware that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was also a proud Christian, as were many of the civil rights leaders. Coach Wooden was a devout Christian. The civil rights movement was supported by many brave white Christians who marched side by side with blacks. When the KKK attacked, they often delivered even worse beatings to the whites, whom they considered to be race traitors. I didn't condemn the religion, but I definitely felt removed from it."

His story is only one story and by his own admission has another side to it, but it's highly illustrative. It's easy to connect God to the wrong things. Christianity, of course, isn't the only culprit. Today, for instance, we see perhaps the worst examples of tying God to evil in the violence of *ISIS* and other such terrorist groups who are killing, randomly and brutally, in the name of God. You can be sure that the last words uttered, just as a suicide bomber randomly kills innocent people, is: *God is great!* What horrible thing to say as one is committing an act of murder! Doing the ungodly in the name of God!

And yet we so often do the same thing in subtler forms, namely, we justify the ungodly (violence, injustice, inequality, poverty, intolerance, bigotry, racism, sexism, the abuse of power, and rich privilege) by appealing to our religion. Silently, unconsciously, blind to ourselves, grounded in a sense of right and wrong that's colored by self-interest, we give ourselves divine permission to live and act in ways that are antithetical to most everything Jesus taught.

We can protest, saying that we're sincere, but sincerity by itself is not a moral or religious criterion. Sincerity can, and often does, tie God to the ungodly and justifies what's evil in the name of God: The people conducting the Inquisition were sincere; the slave traders were sincere; those who protected pedophile priests were sincere, racists are sincere; sexists are sincere; bigots are sincere; the rich defending their privilege are sincere; church offices making hurtful, gospel-defying pastoral decisions that deprive people of ecclesial access are very sincere and gospel-motivated; and all of us, as we make the kind of judgments of others that Jesus told us time and again not to make, are sincere. But we think that we're doing this all for the good, for God.

However in so many of our actions we are connecting God and church to narrowness, intolerance, rigidity, racism, sexism, favoritism, legalism, dogmatism, and stupidity. And we wonder why so many of our own children no longer go to church and struggle with religion.

The God whom Jesus reveals is the antithesis of much of religion, sad but true. The God whom Jesus reveals is a prodigal God, a God who isn't stingy; a God who wills the salvation of everyone, who loves all races and all peoples equally; a God with a preferential love for the poor; a God who creates both genders equally; a God who strongly opposes worldly power and privilege. The God of Jesus Christ is a God of compassion, empathy, and forgiveness, a God who demands that spirit take precedence over law, love over dogma, and forgiveness over juridical justice. And very importantly, the God whom Jesus incarnates isn't stupid, but is a God whose intelligence isn't threatened by science, and a God who doesn't condemn and send people to hell according to our limited human judgments.

Sadly, too often that's not the God of religion, of our churches, of our spirituality, or of our private consciences.

God isn't narrow, stupid, legalistic, bigoted, racist, violent, or vengeful, and it's time we stopped connecting God to those things.

Community and Diocesan Events

◆ Girl Scout Pray & Play Day

Please join us for a day of prayer, handicrafts and fun. on **Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Eastport, NY.** For more information, please contact 516-678-5800, ext. 254 or scouting@drvc.org.

◆ Millennial Ministries 2017—Holy Hour & BBQ—A Summer Event for Young Adults

Catholic Young Adults (ages 18-25) are invited to a summer barbecue and Holy Hour with Bishop Barres on Tuesday, August 22nd at the Basilica of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, located at 168 Hill St., Southampton. This event will begin at **5:00 PM** with arrival, lawn games & BBQ; **6:30 PM** brief reflection & Adoration; **8:20 PM** fellowship, ice cream & ices. For more information please call 516-678-5800, ext. 221.

◆ Bereavement Support Group—St. Mary's, East Islip

St. Mary's Parish in East Islip is offering a **FREE 8 week support group for adults** who are coping with the death of a loved one. Registration is required for this group which begins on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017 from 7:00 PM –9:00 PM.** Refreshments will be served. In order to participate in this group, the death of must have occurred prior to June 6, 2017. For more information and/or registration, please contact St. Mary's rectory at 631-581-4266, ext. 100. St. Mary's is located at 20 Harrison Ave., East Islip.

◆ Cenacle Sisters Ronkonkoma

The following programs are being offered at the Cenacle located at 310 Cenacle Rd., Ronkonkoma. Please call 631-588-8366 for more information.

Thursday, September 21, 2017 from 1:00 PM— 4:00 PM at the Retreat Center with 12:30 PM arrivals and refreshments. *"Love Never Dies—The Heart of Grief & Hope."* A grief and healing workshop that will help us find strength and hope following the death of a loved one. There will be ongoing workshops on October 19th and November 16th. One may attend all or just one of the workshops. **Offering:** \$35 per session. A \$20 deposit is required to hold your reservation.

Weekend of September 29-30, 2017 from 5:00 PM Friday—4:00 PM Saturday. *"Introduction to a Silent Directed Retreat."* **Offering:** \$125. A \$50 deposit required to hold your reservation.

◆ Senior Advocates— Office For The Aging, Town of Brookhaven

Senior Advocates from the Office For The Aging will educate seniors on benefits they may be eligible for and assist them in applying for those benefits. Particular emphasis is on programs that foster economic independence such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP— formerly know as Food Stamps), Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and HEAP. The schedule is available online at www.suffolkcountyny.gov/aging. For more information, please call Linda Halliday at 631-853-8255.

◆ Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"...and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light." Find out how love and communication can ease your burdens by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.** The next **WWME Weekend is the weekend of November 3-5, 2017 in Huntington, NY.** For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit at www.wmeli.org.

For more information on any diocesan-sponsored events /programs, please visit www.drvc.org.



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