

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
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
September 10, 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

September 10, 2017 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>September 9</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>September 11</u>
5:00 pm	Blessed Frederic Ozanam by Society of St. Vincent de Paul	9:00 am	Patricia McGoey by Bridget Bergin & Family
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>September 10</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>September 12</u>
9:00 am	Debra Cartwright by Katherine & Raymond Shields Rita Klein by Joe Panarello William Ratel by Shield Family	9:00 am	Pat Cullen Price by Cullen Family
		<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>September 13</u>
11:00 am	Blessed Frederic Ozanam by Society of St. Vincent de Paul	9:00 am	No Intention Requested
		<u>Thursday</u>	<u>September 14</u>
		9:00 am	No Intention Requested
		<u>Friday</u>	<u>September 15</u>
		9:00 am	Al Nolan, Sr. by Anne Kalinowski

Bulletin 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 this week for all stewards in our parish who strive to see humanity in everyone, not by judging others, but rather, by serving them.

Last Weeks's Collection: \$7,061.00

*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.



For the Month of September

*Our Altar Flowers
are in Loving Memory of
Elizabeth Maldonado*

*Requested by
The Schmitt & Maldonado Families*



This Weeks Readings

Monday: Col 1:24-2:3 / Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15 / Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Col 3:1-11 / Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Nm 21:4b-9 / Phil 2:6-11 / Jn 3:13-17
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 / Jn 19:25-27
Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17 / Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:7 / Rom 14:7-9 / Mt 18:21-35



Fr. Bill Hanson



Negative Criticism from other Religious Groups:

Steve Timmermans, Executive Director, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada:

Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship: The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers):

Fr. Timothy Kesicki, SJ, President, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States:

Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious:

Lawrence Couch, Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero, president of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II – Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and Senior Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism:Sister Patricia McDermott, President, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas:Rev. Dr. John C.

Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ:The Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, The General Board of Church and Society of The

Unitarian Universalist Association President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray:

Faith-Based nonprofit groups Dina Siegel Vann, Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) Belfer Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs:Jonathan A. Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League:

Rev. David Beckmann, President, anti-hunger group Bread for the World:

The Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO of Church World Service:

Nihad Awad, Executive Director of the Center for American-Islamic Relations: Scott Wright, Director, Columbian Center for Advocacy and Outreach:

Sr. Margaret Magee O.S.F., Franciscan Action Network President:

Mark Hetfield, President and CEO of HIAS, the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees.

Christopher Kerr, Executive Director, Ignatian Solidarity Network:

Nancy K. Kaufman, CEO National Council of Jewish Women:

Rob Rutland-Brown, Executive Director, National Justice for Our Neighbors:

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice:

Rev. Jim Wallis, Founder and President of Sojourners:

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights:

Union Seminary in New York

U.S. Catholic Bishops on DACA repeal: "Reprehensible"

USCCB President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, USCCB Vice President, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, Bishop Joseph J. Tyson, chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers. Read USCCB's full statement below:

The cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible. It causes unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families. These youth entered the U.S. as minors and often know America as their only home. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society: continuing to work and provide for their families, continuing to serve in the military, and continuing to receive an education. Now, after months of anxiety and fear about their futures, these brave young people face deportation. This decision is unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans.

The Church has recognized and proclaimed the need to welcome young people: 'Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me' (Mark 9:37). Today, our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond. It is a step back from the progress that we need to make as a country. Today's actions represent a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and good will, and a short-sighted vision for the future. DACA youth are woven into the fabric of our country and of our Church, and are, by every social and human measure, American youth.

We strongly urge Congress to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution. We pledge our support to work on finding an expeditious means of protection for DACA youth.

As people of faith, we say to DACA youth – regardless of your immigration status, you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church supports you and will advocate for you.

Thank You, Thank You, THANK YOU!!!



To all the volunteers who “just appeared” on Saturday morning to help set up all the tables and chairs, table cloths and tents, and to all those who came after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday and put away all those tables, chairs and tents... We may not have everyone’s name to thank you personally, but please know that it is recognized and appreciated that all of you so willingly came out to help in any way you could.

And ESPECIALLY a big thank you to those that attended, provided generous financial support and raffle prizes for the clam bake, even if they could not attend!

We also would like to thank Lisa Rose and Clare Rose, Inc. for donating the beer, Fred Billings and his teams at the Irish Coffee Pub and the Bellport Country Club, John Deutsch and Ellen Sullivan for logistical coordination, John Sparling and the band for great music, and Mike and Nicole Mullaney for donating the paper goods. And we cannot forget the incredible office staff of Mary Immaculate for helping to coordinate this huge undertaking!

Together, we not only raised money for Mary Immaculate, we enjoyed another fantastic community evening. See you next year!



“...AN EXCELLENT IDEA”

“EFFORTLESS” “BRILLIANT”

These words were written by a parishioner about a service we offer!

Now it's even easier to use this “effortless” and “brilliant” way of donating!!

Simply type this web address into your browser!
Membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/NY289

Here are a few questions that have been asked about on-line giving!

- **What is Faith Direct?** Through our on-line giving program, *FAITH DIRECT*, you can use your credit card or checking account to make a one-time donation for a special occasion or make an offering while you are on vacation. You can also arrange to have your weekly donation automatically charged to your credit card or deducted from your checking account.
- **How does Faith Direct work?** This secure program works directly with your bank, credit, or debit card in the same way as other electronic funds transfer payments you may already conduct (such as utility bills or your mortgage payment). All transactions are processed electronically, debiting your bank account or charging your credit\debit card automatically for the amounts you designate.
- **Why use Faith Direct?** You benefit from earning points if you use a credit card for your weekly offering and special donations. *Faith Direct* also provides a year-end summary you can use for tax purposes. The parish benefits because your weekly offering can be counted on to pay the bills even if you're away or if weather prevents you from attending Mass - and the bill for snow plowing has to be paid!



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



Alfred Nolan, Sr.

Rita Klein

Christine Waters

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:

September 16th

5:00 PM

Servers: R. Murphy, M. Mehrkens, K. Wilson

Lector: P. O'Connor

Host Ushers: K. Hawkins, B. Berberich

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Barnett, C. Barnett, K. Desmond

September 17th

9:00 AM

Servers: J. Comiskey, G. Comiskey, K. Comiskey

Lector: N. Cassone

Host Ushers: M. Comiskey, J. Springhorn, E. Sullivan

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Langer, V. Langer, S. Rauch

Children's Liturgy of the Word: K. Stanganelli

11:00 AM

Servers: A. Fielding, Elizabeth Campau, Emily Campau

Lector: M. Lingat

Host Ushers: P. Magill, R. Quinlan

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Simon, E. Russo

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

Mary Immaculate Rosary Altar Society



Please join us and pray
the Rosary on
Tuesday, September 12th
at 7:00 PM in the Little Church.

All Are Welcome!

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 in the Large Church.*

Communion for the Homebound

If you know of anyone that is
homebound and in need of communion,
please contact the Rectory.



LITURGICAL MEMORIALS

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

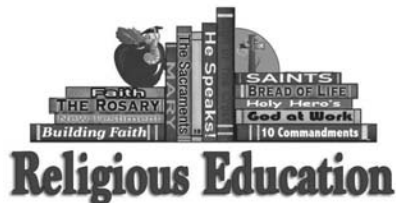
Eucharistic Bread and Wine: \$50

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.*

Mary Immaculate Religious Education News



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 to 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.



AMAZING CATECHISTS

There will be a 2nd Catechist Meeting:

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.**





We Are Taking It To The Streets!!

**The 9th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk
Saturday, September 30, 2017**

Vincentians will walk for those less fortunate.

Volunteers will be outside of Mass on the weekends of:
9/16, 9/17 and 9/23, 9/24 to collect your donations
of cash or checks made payable to “Mary Immaculate –SVDP”

You may also donate online (secure) by visiting:
www.fopwalk.org, click on “Donate to a Walker” and
click on Ellen Sullivan.

All donations go directly to our SVDP Conference!!!

Please return donation envelopes provided after
Mass or mail directly to the Rectory.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Fund Raising Event to Support The Elaine Messina Memorial Scholarship Fund.



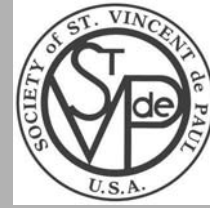
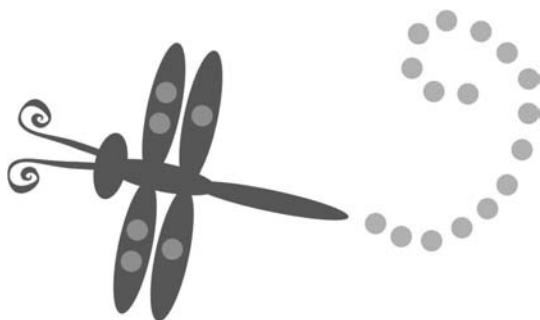
**Saturday, September 16th
9:00 AM—3:00 PM**

**St. James Episcopal Church
260 Beaver Dam Rd., Brookhaven
631-286-1047**

Fantastic Handcrafted Items, Quilting items, (especially gorgeous and unique fabrics). Hand painted glasses and containers, books for every craft, ribbons, some dolls, notions and miscellaneous items for every crafts person.

The highlighted items are the beautifully wrapped, themed baskets containing some of Elaine's most creative works. These are, and will be the most memorable gifts which can be given to a friend or family member. They are absolutely spectacular and one of a kind.

Come visit, talk to a member of the Brookhaven Homemakers Conference or a member of Elaine's family. Share a time that was special for you and Elaine. **All are Welcome!**

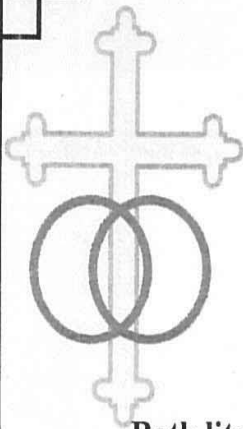


In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "...where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help them to know that indeed "God is in the midst of them."

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



The Diocese of Rockville Centre
Golden Wedding Liturgy
Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years or More

Sunday, October 22 — Church of St. Rose of Lima in Massapequa

Sunday, November 19 — Church of Christ the King in Commack

Both liturgies will begin at 2:30 pm / Couples may register for ONE liturgy.

- Please fill in the form below, have it signed by your pastor or someone designated by him and return to the Office of Worship.
- Approximately one week before the liturgy, you will be mailed a letter confirming your registration and directions.
- There will be reserved seating for the registered couples only. Family and friends will be seated on a first come-first served basis.
- After the liturgy, there will be an opportunity to have a photo taken with the celebrating bishop if you wish.
- You will be mailed a complimentary photo and certificate approximately four to six weeks after the liturgy.

Please mail completed form to : Suzanne Lynn
 Diocese of Rockville Centre
 42 Bermingham Place
 Williston Park, NY 11596

Registration for the October 22nd liturgy must be received by October 9th.
Registration for the November 19th liturgy must be received by November 6th.
For questions, please call Suzanne at 516-678-5800, ext.207.

Forms are available in Mary Immaculate Rectory or
call Michelle at 631-286-0154.

Thank you.

The Ninth Month of Life

Progress Report

We have finally reached the end of our nine month period . Surely the time has flown! The center of the baby's bones are still hardening but the bones in the head are soft and flexible for delivery. Your baby is now curled up with its knees against its nose and its thighs against its torso. 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 6-9 pounds and is approximately 20-22 inches in length. On the day of birth the child, already a living and active person as we have seen, makes a change in his/her place of residence, external life support system, and eating habits.

As he/she has already gone through many progressive, overlapping stages of growth and development, so will the baby, from birth, continue the life begun nine months ago.

He/she will move through childhood, adolescence, maturity, old age and then death. Once again, all that is needed is nourishment, loving care and time to grow.



The act of birth is thought to be triggered by a complexity of processes.

A unilateral decision is made by the mature baby and communicated electro-chemically from his/her brain to the aging placenta, which is also changing hormonally. This notifies the baby that all is ready and contraction and the labor begins. What a miracle!! Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is just like your spiritually adopted baby. You may never meet his/her mother and father but your prayers may have saved his/her life.

Once again, thank you for participating in this wonderful program for life. God thanks you, your spiritually adopted baby thanks you, his/her parents thank you.

Impact

SEPTEMBER 2017

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

Impact this month



**Deny yourself
Of what self-
centered, selfish,
or self-deprecating
tendencies must
you let go?**

**Take up your
cross
In what burden may
you find grace?
How may you be
called to sacrifice,
and in doing so,
find abundance?**

**Follow Christ
What commitment
will you make to
grow in love with
and follow the Lord
with your life?**

What has hold of you?

Does something have hold of you? Perhaps the desire for possessions drives you; maybe it is the need for security; perhaps you hold onto your relationships with people too closely, or think far too much of yourself. It is easy to find ourselves holding on too tightly to something or someone. We may find comfort in it for a while, but realize in time that it is fleeting. Jesus has a different vision for our lives: "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (MT 16: 24-25) When we cling to things, people, or self-reliance, we lose the beauty of God's vision for our lives and for all of creation. In holding tight to what we think we want, we lose the possibility of a greater, more profound, deeply meaningful way of life.

SEPARATE WANTS FROM NEEDS

Most of us spend a lot of time thinking about what we want. We dream of a new house, better car, career success, or a life of unbridled happiness. These wants may be worthy goals for a life that is centered in God and rooted in faith. But often, the wants stem from misplaced priorities, putting possessions or the desire for control before our relationship with Christ and all that we are called to be and to do as Christian disciples. Jesus invites us to let go of this want-driven life, to instead

embrace his way of self-giving love. Throughout his ministry and ultimately on the cross, **Jesus shows us that true security and meaning lie in letting go, in living for God and others.** When we separate our wants from our needs, what is most important comes into focus. Life is simpler, and more purposeful and filled with joy.

WHAT DO YOU OWN, AND WHAT OWNS YOU?

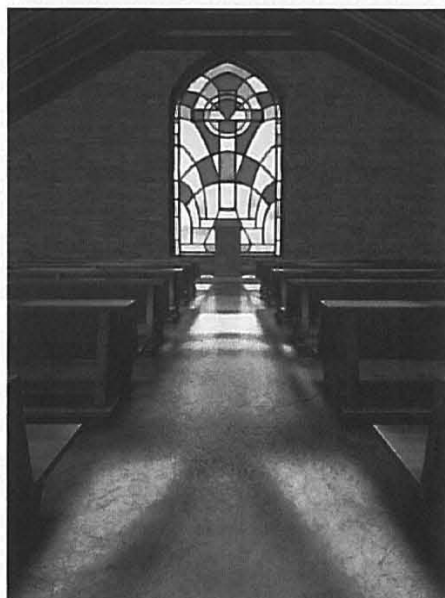
The late Archbishop Thomas Murphy recalled a moment in which he was preparing for serious surgery. In his reflection, he asked himself, "What do I own, and what owns me?"

Archbishop Murphy had a dramatic insight at a pivotal point in this life. "I know that my whole understanding and appreciation of the gifts and resources I possess took on new meaning. It is amazing how a divine economy of life and death provides a unique perspective of what really matters." What really matters for you? Jesus asks us to find meaning in a life that is centered in love, forgiveness, mercy, trust, and compassion. **As followers of Jesus Christ, we find that the things the world holds out in front of us as markers of success often lack meaning and ultimately distract us from what really matters.** We will find true happiness by losing ourselves to the loving, merciful will of God; we will gain a new and enriching perspective when we see that all we are, have, and will be are gifts from God, to be nurtured and shared, out of gratitude for all that we have been given.

A prayer from the Rite of Acceptance

Receive the cross of Christ:

- On your forehead, it is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love.
- On your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.
- On your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.
- On your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.
- Over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.
- On your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.
- On your hands, that Christ may be known in the work which you do.
- On your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.



REFLECTING ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on September 17, provides a reminder that throughout our lives, in every circumstance, we are to turn to the cross, and the love of Christ which the cross signifies. On the cross, Jesus gave completely of himself. He held nothing back. And as a result, we have gained everything: salvation, mercy, forgiveness, love, and hope.



We are not to be passive recipients of these great

gifts! The cross boldly beckons us to take up the life of the steward which Jesus so completely models. Having been given much, we must give greatly in return, by sharing our faith, time, resources, and talents. At times, such giving will make us uncomfortable; we may risk rejection and we will be called to sacrifice. Jesus' undying love on the cross calls each of us to give without counting the cost, to find life by holding nothing back.

Each of us bears a different cross, and bears our crosses differently. For some, the cross is the burden of loss or illness, unemployment, disappointment, or loneliness. For others, the cross is the realization of God's great love for humanity, and the recognition of how we are called to love greatly in return. At times, we take up our cross willingly, but often, our crosses are thrust upon us. We must take up our cross with God's grace, understanding that Jesus freely bore his cross, and walks with us as we strive to bear ours.

The cross also reminds us that the resurrection awaits those who willingly enter into Christ's passion and death as disciples and stewards. In dying to self, we rise with Christ to new life. In giving as good stewards, we share the life and light of Christ with the world.



There's a real difference between our *achievements* and our *fruitfulness*, between our successes and the actual good that we bring into the world.

What we achieve brings us success, gives us a sense of pride, makes our families and friends proud of us, and gives us a feeling of being worthwhile, singular, and important. We've done something. We've left a mark. We've been recognized. And along with those awards, trophies, academic degrees, certificates of distinction, things we've built, and artifacts we've left behind comes public recognition and respect. We've made it. We're recognized. Moreover, generally, what we achieve produces and leaves behind something that is helpful to others. We can, and should, feel good about our legitimate achievements.

However, as Henri Nouwen frequently reminds us, achievement is not the same thing as fruitfulness. Our achievements are things we have accomplished. Our fruitfulness is the positive, long-term effect these achievements have on others. Achievement doesn't automatically mean fruitfulness. Achievement helps us stand out, fruitfulness brings blessing into other people's lives.

Hence we need to ask this question: How have my achievements, my successes, the things that I'm proud to have done, positively nurtured those around me? How have they helped bring joy into other people's lives? How have they helped make the world a better, more-loving place? How have any of the trophies I've won or distinctions I've been awarded made those around me more peaceful rather than more restless?

This is different than asking: How have my achievements made me feel? How have they given me a sense of self-worth? How have my achievements witnessed to my uniqueness?

It's no secret that our achievements, however honest and legitimate, often produce jealousy and restlessness in others rather than inspiration and restfulness. We see this in how we so often envy and secretly hate highly successful people. Their achievements generally do little to enhance our own lives but instead trigger an edgy restlessness within us. The success of others, in effect, often acts like a mirror within which we see, restlessly and sometimes bitterly, our own lack of achievement. Why?

Generally there's blame on both sides. On the one hand, our achievements are often driven from a self-centered need to set ourselves apart from others, to stand out, to be singular, to be recognized and admired rather than from a genuine desire to truly help others. To the extent that this is true, our successes are bound to trigger envy. Still, on the other hand, our envy of others is often the self-inflicted punishment spoken of in Jesus' parable of the talents wherein the one who hides his talent gets punished for not using that talent.

And so the truth is that we can achieve great things without being really fruitful, just as we can be very fruitful even while achieving little in terms of worldly success and recognition. Our fruitfulness is often the result not so much of the great things we accomplish, but of the graciousness, generosity, and kindness we bring into the world. Unfortunately our world rarely reckons these as an achievement, an accomplishment, a success. We don't become famous for being gracious. Yet, when we die, while we may well be eulogized for our achievements, we will be loved and remembered more for the goodness of our hearts than for our distinguished achievements. Our real fruitfulness will flow from something beyond the legacy of our accomplishments.

It will be the quality of our hearts, more so than our achievements, that will determine how nurturing or asphyxiating is the spirit we leave behind us when we're gone.

Henri Nouwen also points out that when we distinguish between our achievements and our fruitfulness, we will see that, while death may be the end of our success, productivity, and importance, it isn't necessarily the end of our fruitfulness. Indeed, often our true fruitfulness occurs only after we die when our spirit can finally flow out more purely. We see that this was true too for Jesus. We were able to be fully nurtured by his spirit only after he was gone. Jesus teaches this explicitly in his farewell discourse in John's Gospel when he tells us repeatedly that it's better for us that he goes away because it's only when he's gone that we will be able to truly receive his spirit, his full fruitfulness. The same is true for us. Our full fruitfulness will only show after we have died.

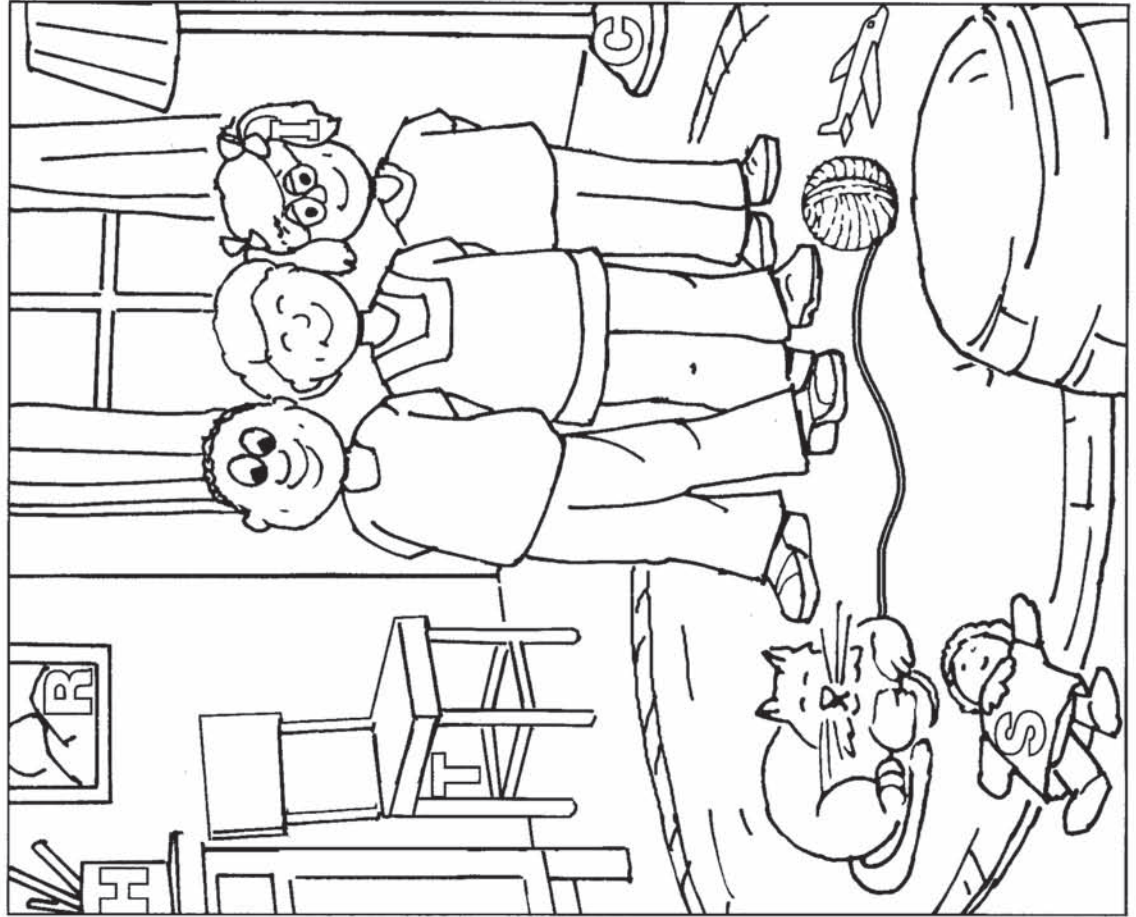
Great achievement doesn't necessarily make for great fruitfulness. Great achievement can give us a good feeling and can make our families and loved ones proud of us. But those feelings of accomplishment and pride are not a lasting or deeply nourishing fruit. Indeed the good feeling that accomplishment gives us is often a drug, an addiction, which forever demands more of us and sets loose envy and restlessness in others as it underscores our separateness.

The fruit that feeds love and community tends to come from our shared vulnerability and not from those achievements that set us apart.

“For where 2 or 3 come together
in My name, I am with them.”

Find and circle these hidden letters.

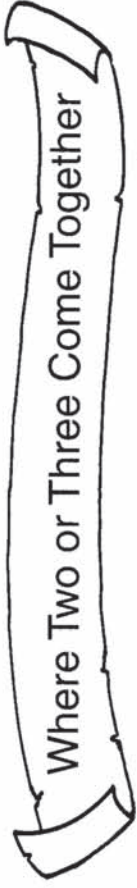
C H R I S T



Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 3-6

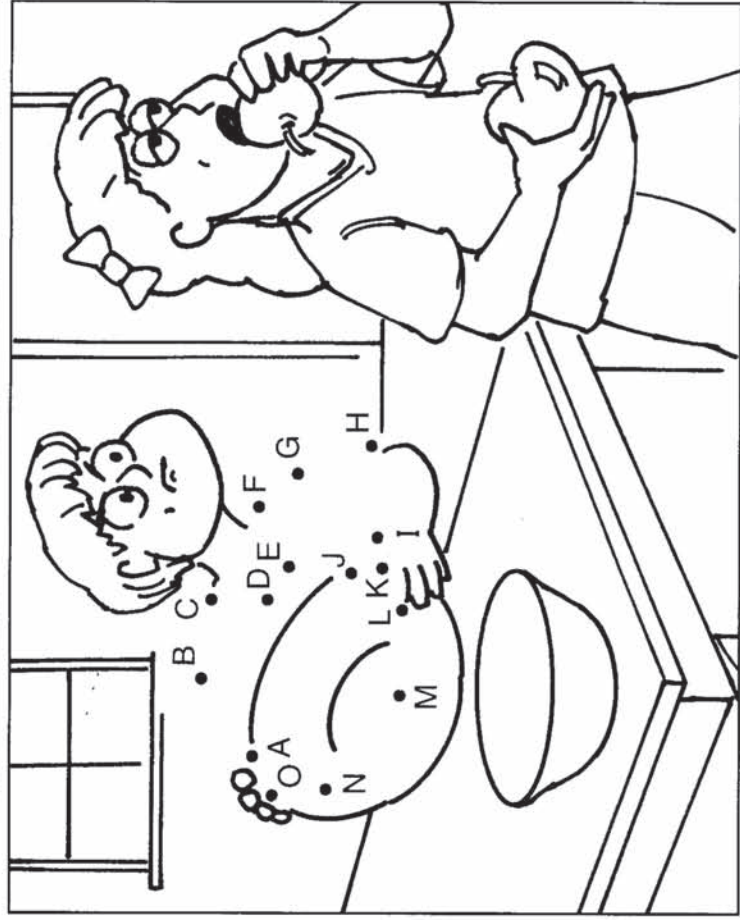
September 10, 2017 • Matthew 18:15-20



Jesus said, “If someone does wrong to you,
go to that person alone. Try to work it out.”

Connect the dots.

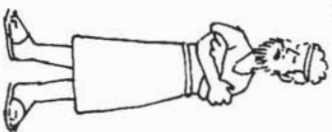
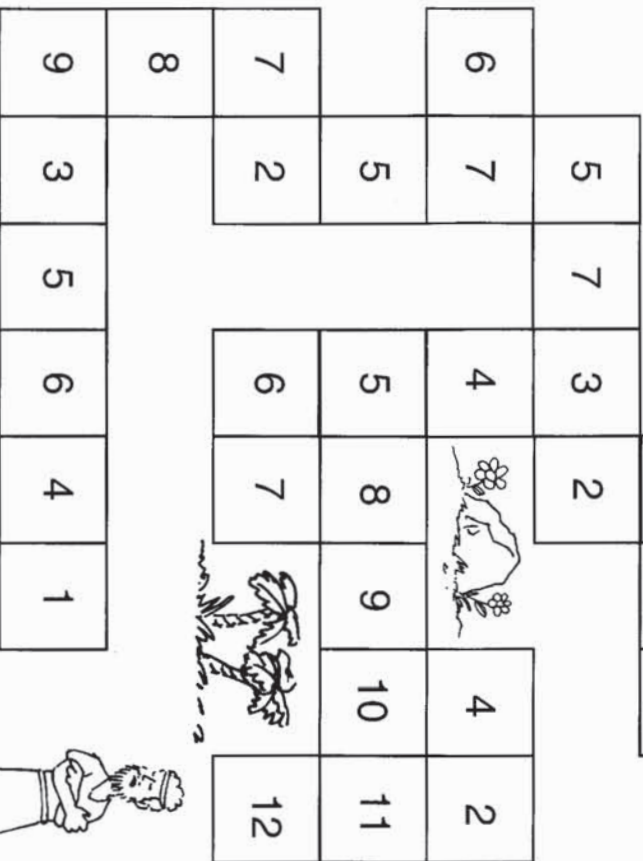
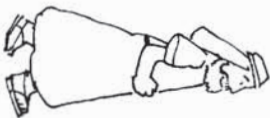
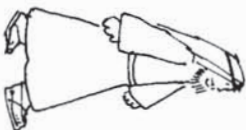
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O



"If the person will not listen, bring 1 or 2 people along to help sort things out."

Follow the maze.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

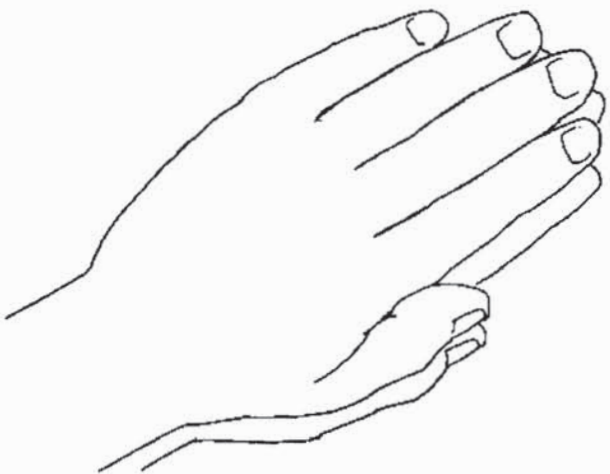
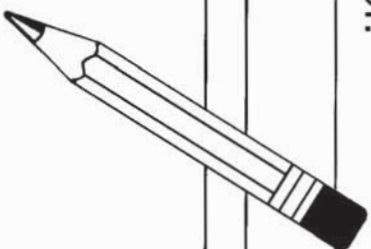


Jesus said, "If 2 of you agree about anything you ask, it will be done by My Father."

Trace the letters.

How do we ask God for things?

Prayer



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 visit us at scouting@drvc.org.

◆ Open House—St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School

Enjoy a visit and a tour of St. John's on **October 22, 2017 from 10:30 am—2:00 pm** and learn more about Catholic Educational Excellence. Open to families of 7th & 8th graders and interested transfer students. If you have any questions, please call 631-587-8000, ext. 113 or visit us at www.stjohnthebaptistdhs.net.

◆ Knights of Columbus Council #7006—St. Gerard Majella

A Steak Dinner will be presented by the St. Gerard Majella Knights of Columbus Council #7006 on **Saturday, September 23rd at 7:00 PM at the St. Gerard Parish Center located at 300 Terryville Rd., Port Jefferson Station.** A \$30 donation includes steak, salad, soft drinks, baked potato, beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, dessert and a DJ for your dancing pleasure (1/2 chicken can be substituted for those who do not eat meat). Tickets will be sold after all masses now thru September 17th. **There will NO tickets sold at the door.** For more information, please call Art Reyling GK at 631-496-9484 or Ron Famiano PGK at 631-928-3745.

◆ 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.

Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 1:30 pm—4:30 pm at the Retreat Center with 1:00 pm arrivals and refreshments. *"Get Out of the Boat!" - Silent Afternoon of Prayer.* Let us learn to be willing to let go of our criterion for what prayer is and what growth of the spirit might mean. We will discover about how real prayer entails letting go of the controls. **Offering:** \$125. A \$50 deposit 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.wwmeli.org.

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

PALERMO PAVING

50 YEARS STRONG
 BELLPORT, NY | 631.286.8739
 S.C.H.I.C. #21949HI
 info@palermopaving.com

Mike's Ragtime Pizza
 Pizza • Calzones • Hot & Cold
 Heros • Dinners • Beer
 286-2227
 2472 Montauk Hwy, Brookhaven

Mount Pleasant Cemetery of Center Moriches
 Come discover the peace of mind we can offer you & your loved ones.
 Cemetery Rd. 878-0482

Robertaccio FUNERAL HOME, INC.

 PERSONAL CARE - AFFORDABLE CHOICES
 85 Route 112 Patchogue 475-7000

Pine Grove Inn

 1 First St. E. Patchogue (631) 569-5719
 of East Patchogue

ORTHODONTICS FRANK R. EGAN, DDS, PC
 250 Patchogue - Yaphank Rd., Suite 14 E. Patchogue 289-3990
 www.TeethOnTheMove.com

McPeak's Adult Home
 James McPeak Jr. - Director
 286 North Ocean Avenue Patchogue 475-0445

Bellport Country Club
 Lunch • Dinner • Catering
 Gift Certificates 286-4227
 www.bellportcc.com

U.S.A. AUTO BODY COLLISION SPECIALISTS
 24 HR TOWING
 Ph: 631.289.5200 Fax: 631.289.5286
 usa1autobody@aol.com Parishioner Owned
 usa-autobody.com
 1419 Montauk Hwy., E. Patchogue

Learn Sign Language
 The fun & easy way Reasonable Rates
 631-775-6627
 frannyred@optonline.net
 FRAN RICHTER

NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC

 www.NassauSuffolkElectric.com
 1 (631) 487-0939
 1 (516) 417-8403
 Lenny Mannino
 Master Electrician
 Licensed & Insured

Swezey FUEL CO., INC.
 Est. 1919
 for happy heating
 Gary Zanazzi
 (631) 475-0270
 51 Rider Ave Patchogue, NY
 gzanazzi@swezeyfuel.com
 www.swezeyfuel.com

The Bellport Village DENTIST
 JOSEPH P. GRASKEMPER, D.D.S.
 General/Cosmetic Dentistry
 Implant Restoration
 7 Bellport Lane 286-4243
 www.BellportVillageDentist.com

Compassionate Care Around the Clock Hospice and Home Care Services
 (631) 758-3600
 Brookhaven
 Memorial Hospital Medical Center
 www.brookhavenhospital.org

MAMMA LOMBARDI'S
 Pizza • Ristorante ~ Neopolitan Cuisine
 400 Furrows Rd., Holbrook 737-0774
 www.mammalombardis.com

Eileen A. Green REALTY CORP.
 LIC. R.E. BROKER
 Parishioner
 Office 1-631-286-3366
 153 South Country Rd. Bellport Village
 www.eileengreenrealty.com

Need Cash? Gold Is At An All Time High! We Pay Top Dollar BUDGET BUY & SELL
 Redeem for \$10.00 Cash Gas Money When you sell \$100-\$499 worth of Jewelry to us!
 2 East Main St. (631) 758-GOLD (4653)
 Redeem for \$20.00 Cash Gas Money When you sell \$500 worth of Jewelry to us!

Stevens 112
 631-475-1133
 www.Stevens112.com
 Long time active parishioners
 Steven Gomes & Teresa Miller Gomes

Home Care Suffolk Providers
 250 Montauk Hwy East Moriches, NY 11940
 631-400-9612
 Mary Brickers, Owner
 Over 20 Years of Caring
 www.HCPSuffolk.com

MVP AUTOMOTIVE

 152 S. COUNTRY RD, BELLPORT 631.776.1010

Emerald Island Supply Company

 Complete Janitorial Supplies
 John Derby (631) 475-3311

Brook House Gourmet Delicatessen
 631-286-3450
 www.BrookHouseDeli.com
 2478 Montauk Highway | Brookhaven, NY
 Long time active parishioners
 Steven Gomes & Teresa Miller Gomes

DR. JOSEPH R. MERCKLING
 16-2 Station Road, Bellport, NY
 Tel: (631) 286-2300 Fax: (631) 286-4615
 Email: mercklingdc@optonline.net
 www.bellportfamilychiropractic.com

NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC

 www.NassauSuffolkElectric.com
 1 (631) 487-0939
 1 (516) 417-8403
 Lenny Mannino
 Master Electrician
 Licensed & Insured

PODIATRISTS - FOOT SPECIALISTS
 House Calls Available ~ Most Insurance Accepted
 31 Oak Street, Patchogue 475-0804
 Dr. Albert J. Esposito
 Dr. Gerald Murphy

Dr. Albert C. Esposito
 Dr. Brooke V. Crowley
 Dr. Albert J. Esposito
 Dr. Gerald Murphy

FIORI ENTERPRISES, INC.
 Keeping it Clean Since 1976
 No Job Too Small! We provide Commercial & Residential Cleaning
 INSURED & BONDED - RESPECTED
 Service@LongIslandCleaningService.com Teresa Fiori, Parishioner
 244 Medford Ave., Patchogue 475-3502

O'NEILL PAVING & MASONRY
 QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP
 FREE CONSULTATION & DESIGN SERVICE
 ASPHALT • DRIVEWAYS • PAVING • PATIOS • STEPS • APRONS
 BRICK EDGES • SIDEWALKS • STONE WALLS • BELGIAN BLOCKS
 BLOCK WALLS • CONCRETE WALKS • BLUE STONE • GRAVEL
 STOOPS • RAILINGS • WALKWAYS • CULTURED STONE
 PARKING LOTS • STUCCO • DRAINAGE WORK • WATERPROOFING
 FREE ESTIMATES 631-605-1047 / 631-612-0208
 www.oneill-contracting.com Lic/Ins

LESSING'S
 est. 1890
 Excellence in Catering for any Affair
 We have a Lessing's Location near you.
 631-209-9359 631-581-0022 631-589-0022
 www.lessings.com

DR. JOSEPH R. MERCKLING
 16-2 Station Road, Bellport, NY
 Tel: (631) 286-2300 Fax: (631) 286-4615
 Email: mercklingdc@optonline.net
 www.bellportfamilychiropractic.com

Ruland FUNERAL HOME
 475-0098
 500 NORTH OCEAN AVE. PATCHOGUE (JUST NORTH OF SUNRISE HWY.)
 Caring for families like yours since 1856

JIM'S DELI
 Catering for all Occasions
 Text Your Order to 631.605.9693
 2554 Montauk Hwy., Brookhaven (631) 286-2333
 Est. 1961 John T. Shanley Proprietor

If You Live Alone You Need LIFEWatch!
 24-Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!
 ✓ Ambulance Solutions as Low as \$1 a Day!
 ✓ Police
 ✓ Fire
 ✓ Friends/Family
 "I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."
 MONITORED IN THE USA
 FREE Shipping
 FREE Activation
 NO Long Term Contracts
 Ask About Local In-Home Setups
 CALL NOW! 800.393.9036
 LIFEWatchUSA
 PERSONAL CARE SERVICE SINCE 1980