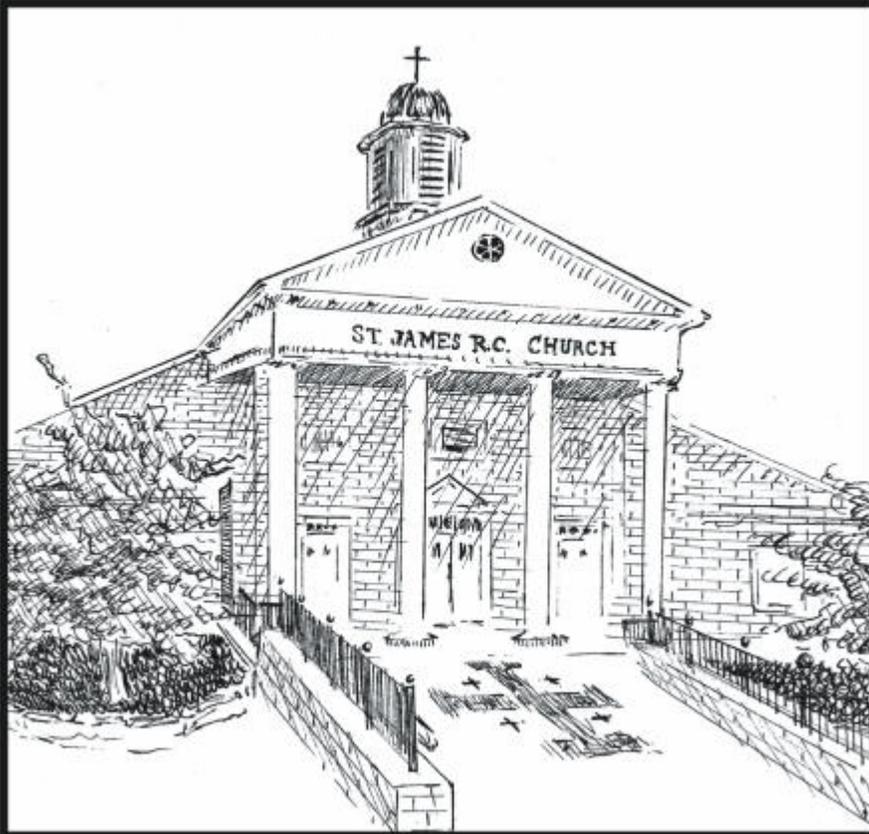


St. James R.C. Church
January 10, 2021
The Baptism of the Lord



429 Route 25A, Setauket, New York 11733-3829

Parish Office: (631) 941.4141

Fax: (631) 751.6607

Faith Formation Office: (631) 751.7287

Email: parish@stjamessetauket.org

Website: www.stjamessetauket.org

Office Hours: M-F 9am-4pm (closed for lunch 12-12:30)

Sat. 9am-2pm

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only”

2020 Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of the Three Village area, formed as the Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism, are a pilgrim community journeying toward the fullness of the Kingdom of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist and formed by the Gospel.

We strive to respond to Jesus' invitation: to be faithful and fruitful disciples; to be a Good Samaritan to (our) neighbor and enemy; stewards of and for God's creation and living witnesses of Faith, Hope and Charity ... so that in Jesus' name, we may be a welcoming community, respectful of life in all its diversities.

Weekday Masses

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm (Youth)*

*live streamed & taped for viewing on our website and FB pages

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (Family), 11:30am (Choir)

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil: 7:30 pm

Day: 8:00am, 12 Noon

Special Needs Mass:

Second Saturday of the month at 1:00pm

Nocturnal Adoration:

First Friday of the Month, 7:30-8:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 pm or by appointment

Rev. James-Patrick Mannion, Pastor

frjim@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 322)

Rev. Robert Scheckenback, Assoc. Pastor

frbob@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 320)

Dcn. Louis Anetrella

Rev. John Fitzgerald, in residence

Rev. Mike S. Ezeatu, in residence (ext. 326)

Business Manager: Todd Bradshaw(ext.312)

Dir. of Outreach: Kathy Vaeth (ext. 313)

Dir. of Faith Formation: Louise DiCarlo (ext. 329) Admin. Asst. Joanmarie Zipman (ext. 328)

Finance Manager: Theresa Ellner (ext. 335)

Music Co-Director: Richard Foley (631) 806.1794

Music Co-Director: Miriam Salerno (516)

263.5173

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA): Ueli Laeng (631)941.4141

Parish Receptionists:

Megan Peters (M-F)

Nancy Gallagher (Fri and Sat) Cemetery Admin.

Parish Facilities Supervisor: Jeff Fallon

Please visit our parish website (www.stjamessetauket.org) for the latest parish information as well as weekly homilies and virtual weekly Masses. Visit the diocesan website



**Mass Intentions
for the week of
January 10, 2021**

Sunday, January 10

8am
9:30am
11:30am

Brian O'Reilly
David Brand
Lily Madeline McAllister,
Michael Massood,
Elizabeth Hazlitt

Monday, January 11

8am

Elizabeth Hazlitt

Tuesday, January 12

8am

Wednesday, January 13

8am

Thursday, January 14

8am

Friday, January 15

8am

Saturday, January 16

8am

Thomas Beirne

5pm

Sunday, January 17

8am

Our parishioners living and
Deceased
Lawrence Shultz
June Lehnert,
Elizabeth Hazlitt,
Brendan Yantz, Bill Buehler

9:30am
11:30am

*Thank you for giving of your time,
talent and treasure*

COLLECTION UPDATE

January 5, 2020: \$13,959
January 3, 2021: \$8539 + (\$6315 FD) =
\$14,854

Please consider making your weekly donations on-line by enrolling at **faith.direct/ny997**.

Doing so enables our ministries to continue to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those in our parish family as well as the larger community who have been impacted by COVID19 and related job losses.

E-giving simplifies your giving and provides consistent support to the parish. **To provide additional assistance, please select the "offset fee option" when setting up your donation, which will help reduce our expenses.**

If you require assistance with the process, please call the parish office (Tuesday 9am-1pm or Friday 9:30-12pm) and make an appointment with Megan or Nancy to set up your Faith Direct on-line giving account.

Enroll today at: www.faithdirect.net

For your continued generosity to St. James Parish of your time, talent and treasure, I offer my deepest appreciation. May God reward your generosity a hundredfold.

~ Fr. Jim

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES



The Parish of St. James is pleased to provide a number of ways in which our parishioners can memorialize their loved ones. In

addition to the celebration of a Mass in their name, parishioners are invited to consider a memorial donation of the bread and wine or altar flowers for the week. The name(s) of your loved one(s) will appear in the bulletin for that week.

In the rear of our church (25A side), near the statue of the Holy Family, you will find a set of candles that offers a top row that can be lit for one year, and holds a plaque showing the name of the person for whom the candle is lit. The offering for a memorial candle is \$250. Please stop by the rectory office or call 631.941.4141 during normal business hours when one of our secretaries will be happy to provide you with additional information on all of these memorial opportunities.



Pope's Intention for Evangelization

Human fraternity. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all



*Welcome to the
Parish of St. James*

No matter your present or past status in the Catholic Church; **No** matter your current family or marital situation;

No matter your past or present affiliation; **No** matter your personal history, age, background, race or color, you are invited, welcomed and accepted at St. James RC Church.

If you are new to the area, we invite you to choose St. James as your parish family.

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacraments

Baptism: Two Sundays per month at 1:30 pm.
Please contact the office after the fourth month of pregnancy to make arrangements.

Holy Matrimony: Please contact the office at least nine months before your desired date.

Anointing of the Sick: By request

Pastoral Council: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mr. John Holownia, Mrs. Josephine Prokop, Mr. Fred Sawicki, Mr. Michael Vaeth, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Parish Finance Committee: Mr. Edward Gutleber, Chair; Mr. Todd Bradshaw (*Business Manager*) Mrs. Theresa Ellner (*Financial Manager*), Mr. Robert Freaso, (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Thomas Powers (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Matthew Berger, Mr. Christopher McGeever, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Prayer Opportunities

Nocturnal Adoration: First Fridays 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Recitation of the Rosary: Monday to Saturday after the 8am Mass

Ministries:

Alpha: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mrs. Barbara Jaeckel

Bereavement Ministry: Ms. Catherine Horgan,

Mr. Dennis Reardon (*please call 631.941.4141 x341*)

Camino Café Ministry: Mrs. Sallie Culloton, Mrs. Doreen Corrado

Choir: Mr. Richard Foley, Mrs. Miriam Salerno

Sat 5pm Teen, Sun 9:30am Youth, Sun. 11:30am Adult

Christ in the Marketplace: Mr. Jack Herr (*631.941.4141*)

CYO Board: Mr. Charles Arasi, Chair; Mrs. Samantha Bradshaw,

Mr. John Case, Mr. Michael (Mike) Specht,

Mr. Patrick (Pat) Tunstead

Eucharistic Ministry to Homebound Parishioners: Joan Murray
If you or anyone you know is homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist at home, please call 631.941.4141

Fertility Care Services: Helen McCarthy, R.Ph, PharmD, CFCPI
(*htmccarthy@optonline.net or 631.455.4137*)

Knights of Columbus, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council #12006:

Grand Knight, Mr. Jack Simpson

Laudato Si Environmental Ministry: Mr. Robert Becherer

Liturgical Committee: Ms. Louise DiCarlo

Liturgical Ministries: EMHC-Mrs. Kathy Brown, Mrs. Mary Berretta

Readers: Mrs. Peggie McHugh Eletto

Altar Servers: Mrs. Judi Wallace, Peter Morelli, MD

Ushers/Greeters: Mr. Robert Freaso

Men's Monthly Breakfast Gathering: Mr. Tony Casale

Ministry of Consolation: Mrs. Carol Simco

Nocturnal Adoration: Mr. Eric Waxman (631) 689.9759

Our Daily Bread: (631)941.2731 ODB@stjamessetauket.org

Parish Bulletin and Website: Editor, Ms. Catherine Horgan

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

Parish Liturgical Environment Committee:

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

Pre-Cana Ministry: Mr. and Mrs. Diane and James Santangelo

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

RCIA: Mr. Ueli Laeng *Contact the rectory office 631.941.4141*

Respect Life Committee of St. James: Mr. Eric Waxman

631.689.9759. *The Respect Life Committee will meet in the Parish Center each month (September – June) on Coffee Sunday after the 9:30 Mass*

Rosary Altar Society of St. James: Mrs. Patricia Raptoulis at 631.473-3561

Spiritual Direction: Mr. Ueli Laeng *Please call the rectory office 631.941.4141*

St. James Rosary Makers: Mrs. Mary DiBenedetto 631.236.8899

St. James Vigil Ministry: Fr. Jim Mannion, Ms. Louise DiCarlo

Wedding Facilitators: Mrs. Maureen Denzler, Mrs. Chris Weisman

Women's Scripture Study: Mrs. Cathy Roberts SJA 631.689.2645



Parish Policy

Please be reminded that as a matter of policy, any and all events, conferences, meetings, plays, sporting events, fundraising efforts, etc. must have the expressed, written permission of the pastor (or his designee) before plans can be finalized. The parish is a legal entity with certain obligations that must be considered prior to approval of events. This includes the use of the name St. James in any way, shape or form, explicitly or implicitly. Contracts with outside vendors, speakers or service providers cannot be signed by anyone other than the pastor or his designee.



Join us in praying the Holy Rosary after the 8am Mass every 1st Saturday.

"I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all who on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, confess their sins, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the purpose of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart."
~Our Blessed Mother

READINGS AND OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK of January 10, 2021

Sunday, January 10

Monday, January 11
Hebrews 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 12
Hebrews 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 13
Hebrews 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, January 14
Hebrews 3:7-14

Friday, January 15
Hebrews 4:1-5,11

Saturday, January
Hebrews 4:12-16

Sunday, January 17 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 4:12-16

In compliance with Diocesan policy from the Office for the Protection of Children & Young People, (516) 678.5800, ext. 573: If you suspect any child abuse, first contact Child Protective Services at (800) 342.3720 and then contact the Diocesan Hotline at (516) 594.9063. If you believe **someone is in immediate danger**, call Suffolk County Police at 911.



**Mother Teresa Council,
Knights of Columbus**



"Love is a fruit that is always in season, within reach of every hand" ~Mother Teresa



Take twenty minutes out of your day to pray the rosary and you will see the difference it will make in your life.



**Family and Friends Annual Raffle
GET READY!**

Our popular annual Council raffle (18 years or older) that supports our many religious and charitable outreach programs is in the launching stages. Tickets will start to be sold after Masses beginning next week. Don't miss out this year.

Each purchased ticket keeps you eligible for every monthly drawing, beginning in March and running through December, regardless of whether or not you have previously won a prize.

There will be at least **one \$500 prize and several other monetary prizes each month.**

Each ticket costs only \$30 or 4 tickets for \$100.

In 2020, we awarded \$14,750 in prize money to 90 winners. Be aware that \$2 of every \$3 in ticket sales is returned as prize money. Become a part of the best raffle in town!

Look for ticket sellers after Mass starting next week, or call Jack @ 631-981-6389 for further information on getting your ticket(s).

As a practicing Catholic man, if you'd like to get involved with our Council as a proud Knight, call Fred @ 631-751-7375 about joining this fraternal service organization, whose guiding principles are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Or, you may join the organization as an online member by visiting www.kofc.org

In a particular way, St. Joseph is a perfect intercessor **during times of trial.** His presence can help preserve unity within the Church and bring peace during difficulties.

Here is a prayer that encapsulates all of these sentiments and cries out to St. Joseph for help.

O most watchful Guardian of the Divine Family, defend the Church. Ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence. O, our most mighty Protector, look favorably upon us and from heaven assist us in this our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live virtuously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

*Greetings from the St. James
Rosary Altar Society*

Happy New Year, 2021!!!

The following is information about the Rosary Altar Society Ministry for parishioners and those wishing to join.

Rosary Altar Society

The Rosary Altar Society is an organization that primarily promotes devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. This goal is achieved through a variety of ways, the most important of which is the regular recitation of the Rosary at 12pm in the church on the first Tuesday of the month (or at 12:30 pm on the Tuesdays that fall in the Season of Lent if there is a 12 noon Mass during Lent). Members of the Society also maintain a long-standing tradition of caring for the altar and sacred linens used during our celebration of the liturgy.

The Society offers a number of social opportunities throughout the year such as a Communion Breakfast, Christmas luncheon, a spiritual retreat and the crowning of the Blessed Mother. Monthly meetings include recitation of the Rosary, as well as a number of informative guest speakers throughout the year. Meetings always conclude with refreshments and conversation. New members are welcome to join at any time during the year.

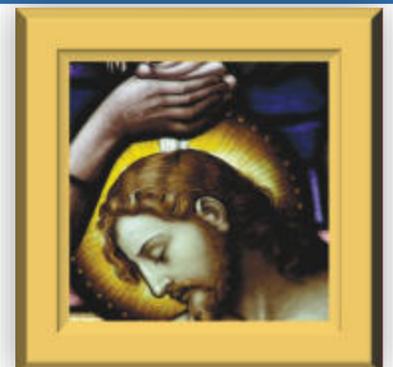
Where/When: First Tuesday of the month (except January, July and August) in the church and Parish Center room 101/102.

This year we will need to wait for the Spring for a Rosary Social Gathering. We can phone each other or enjoy our friendships by mail and our own personal gatherings.

To become a member of the Rosary Altar Society please call Pat Raptoulis at: 631.473.3561.

"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do." St. John Vianney

*The Baptism
of the Lord*





"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18



Pray for Our Military Personnel

Please remember in prayer all of the men and women from our parish and country who serve so selflessly in our Armed Forces.

Keep them, their families, friends and loved ones in prayer as they serve our country at home and on foreign soil.

*U.S. Marine Corp. 2nd Lieutenant Kyle Antonucci
U.S. Army, SPC Patrick Buckley, Afghanistan
U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Erika Holownia
U.S. Army Major Gregory C. Holownia, USA
U.S. Navy SHSN Quintin Lawrence Hurley
U.S. Army, PFC Brandon Leap
U.S. Sergeant Spec. Joseph Mandel, USA
U.S. Air Force SrA Sean T. Murray
U.S. Air Force Capt. Nicole Nowling
U.S. Army, Lt. Daniel Roberts
USMC 1st Lt. Brendan Rose, USA
USMC Lance Corp. Aeon Soler
U.S. Army Major Eric D. Waxman, USA*



Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for all members of the parish family, especially :

Julia Balzarno-Maglio, Robert Banish, Mary Barretta, Roberta Brown, Glenn Buro, Keith Buro, Caroline Caggiano, Tony Casale, Michael Carpenter, Carol Cirillo, Brian Darmody, Camille DiCarlo, Arleen Gargiulo, Lauren Giordano, Emma Giuliano, Tom Giuliano, Caleb Hernandez, Terence Hobbes, Nicole Juliano, Allan Krotz, Sr., George LaBriola, Jr., Joseph LaRosa, Mary Maio, Kayla Marianetti, Rudy Mazurczak, Diane McDonald, John McGarvey, Tom McHugh, Gianna Morelli, Brian Newman, Christine El Qadah, Gloria Ruppert, Rose Sangiamo, Debby Saunders, Linda Shannon, Brady Spennato, John Stone, Anya Vulpis, Adelaide Marie Wardrope, Christine Wall, Robert Whitcomb
May they and their families, have health, strength and peace in you, O Lord. Amen.

DONATING TO ST. JAMES DURING THE COVID 19 HEALTH EMERGENCY

During this time of uncertainty surrounding the *COVID19* virus, many of us will choose to remain at home and not venture out to church or other places where large groups of people may gather. While respecting that choice, please remember that our parish still needs our financial support in order to meet regular operating expenses such as electric bills, heating/cooling, water and payroll.

We recently introduced a new and exciting way for you to support our parish offertory and second collections: *Faith Direct*. With *Faith Direct*, you can make regular automatic contributions to St. James, using your credit/debit card or bank account, the same process that you may use to pay utility bills or make car payments.

Making your donations automatically means relief from the hassle of locating your offertory envelopes as you run out the door on Sunday morning, and guarantees that the church will receive your gifts even if you are unable to attend Mass. There is no fee to you, the parishioner, associated with the use of the *Faith Direct* program. Automatic contributions greatly benefit St. James by providing a predictable cash flow as well as decreasing the time and money the church expends dealing with the envelope system. *Faith Direct* will provide you with personalized offertory cards that you may place in the basket, as well as a year end tax statement.

We find *Faith Direct* to be a "win-win" for both parishioners and the parish.

If you've not yet enrolled, simply visit: **faith.direct/NY997** to securely enroll on line. For assistance, feel free to call Faith Direct customer service at: 1-866-507-8757 or contact the Parish Office for additional information.

If you prefer to not use technology, please continue to mail your donations to the rectory office.

Thank you for your continued support of St. James.



In light of the public health emergency surrounding the COVID 19 outbreak, let us continue to pray to St. Raphael the Archangel:

Because you are the “medicine of God” we humbly pray to you to calm our fears and anxieties, and to grant healing to those suffering from the Corona virus; offer your protection and strength to those in the medical professions offering care to those so afflicted.

May we trust in the Lord, who is our Shepherd, as we walk through this valley of “fear and death”, in this time of darkness. May we be anointed in the Spirit’s love and ask that you always direct us in the way of peace, health and salvation. Amen.



Mask It or Casket! *A reminder about the importance of wearing a mask in church. Your cooperation is vital in order for us to publicly celebrate Mass.*



BUSINESS MANAGER WANTED!

The Parish of St. Gerard Majella in Port Jefferson Station is seeking a full time Business Manager to oversee the physical and financial resources of the parish.

This position requires flexibility in schedule to attend meetings, coordinate projects and attend to emergencies. This position reports directly to the Pastor. College degree required, preferably in Accounting or related fields.

Send cover letter and resume to Fr. Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor, by email only: frgreg@stgmajella.org.



Help Wanted



Throughout the pandemic, our parish has been able to “live stream” our weekend Mass and we will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

We have been truly blessed to have parishioner Jim Townsend and his partner, Corey Arnold, (Bars and Tone Media Production) provide their services during this time. We have recently installed permanent cameras in the church which will facilitate our continued broadcasting capabilities.

This provides an exciting opportunity for members of our parish to learn the technology and become part of the team that makes this happen every week! No experience necessary—just a willingness to learn and to help St. James Parish. Ongoing training and support will be provided.

Contact Fr. Jim at 631.941.4141 ext. 322

Into your gentle keeping, O Lord, we commend our loved ones who have died.

Though our hearts are troubled by their passing, we hope in your kindness and tender care.

The angels have led them into paradise where the saints welcomed them home

and every tear has been wiped away.

There we shall join them in songs of praise forever

Adapted from *The Order of Christian Funerals #404*

We pray for those members of the St. James Parish Family who recently passed from this life to the next

*June E. Lehnert
Rosemarie G. Basile
Richard A. Ryan
Jane E. Olsen*

*LuAnn Marie Ruiz
Russell P. Scotto
Elizabeth “Betty” Hazlitt*

*Jane Marie DeCastro Cahill
Corriene R. Mattiace
Michael G. Buckley
Mary Katherine Klaum*



Laudato Si': Caring for Creation in Our Community

Brookhaven Landfill Expansion Part II

The Current Issue

Our household trash is burned at a Covanta Incinerator in Westbury, then buried in the Brookhaven Landfill in Yaphank. The Town of Brookhaven promised the landfill would close in 2024, but instead is actively considering a plan to add an ashfill adjacent to the existing landfill.

- Concern of air and groundwater pollution, health problems, and high cancer rates in residential areas near the landfill and in the adjacent elementary school
- The surrounding area ranks in the 80-95th percentile **NATIONALLY** for almost all EPA Environmental Justice Indicators:
 - Fine particulate matter, ozone, vehicle exhaust, cancer risk from inhalation of air toxics



- No official state or DEC environmental justice analysis has been done on the landfill's disproportionate, adverse effects on the surrounding largely low-income and minority community, nor has the Town thoroughly investigated less harmful options for waste management

What Can We Do?

In the spirit of Christian charity and stewardship, please consider adding your voice in support of clean air and water on Long Island and for our Brookhaven neighbors who have suffered the ill effects of the landfill for decades.

1. Leave a public comment by JANUARY 15th using the QR code or link to an official comments form, at right
2. Call or email the Town. Tell them you are concerned about the health and environmental impacts of the landfill. Ask for the town to conduct an environmental justice analysis, host public forums about the landfill expansion, seek public input, make their research easily accessible to the public, and look into alternate, safer waste management
 - a. Supervisor Ed Romaine:
eromaine@brookhavenny.gov (631)-451-9100
 - b. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:
r1info@gw.dec.state.ny.us (631) 444-0345
 - c. Town Council Representative
CouncilwomanCartright@brookhavenny.gov (631)-451-6963



Open your phone's camera and aim it at this QR code to submit a public comment

<https://bit.ly/38KAUyz>

For more information, please reach out to Laudato Si's Erin Zipman at (631) 356-5386



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."
Matthew 5:14

What Are the Origins of America's Unique Freedom & Judeo-Christian Principles?

Almost 400 years ago, in 1630 aboard the Arbella, Gov. John Winthrop wrote a now famous sermon titled, "A Model of Christian Charity" to his fellow Puritans to prepare them for planting a new society in a perilous environment. These brave people, fleeing from religious persecution in Britain, would understand from the very beginning the standards and principles that they would live by to ensure the success of the colony. Winthrop preached the importance of Christian virtues of faith, charity and love as a foundation bedrock upon which to build their new society. "When God gives a special commission, He looks to have it strictly observed in every article.... We are entered into covenant with Him for this work. We have hereupon besought Him of favor and blessing." (1)

The Puritan settlement was an experiment. If the colony failed, not only functionally but especially morally, Winthrop feared they would lose the grace of God. But, should they succeed, they would become a beautiful beacon of religious piety and freedom. He wrote:

"For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world."(2)

Does Freedom Matter?

Too often Americans take freedom for granted but it is never guaranteed. The restrictions upon freedoms of individuals, groups, schools, businesses, and houses of worship during the current pandemic have highlighted how fragile freedom really is. Today, some retain their freedoms and others are denied. "While the pandemic poses many grave challenges, there is no world in which the Constitution tolerates color-coded executive edicts that reopen liquor stores and bike shops but shutter churches, synagogues and mosques," wrote Justice Neil Gorsuch. (3) Yet, ignoring the Constitution and restricting freedom, especially religious freedom, has become commonplace in America.

landmarkevents.org (1)(2); thefederalist.com/ john winthrop; medium.com, 3/15/15 (2); arcofhistory.org; thefederalist.com, 12/1/20(3)

Happening Now: Honoring Religious Liberty Martyr, St. Thomas Becket

"Thomas Becket's death serves as a powerful and timeless reminder to every American that our freedom from religious persecution is not a mere luxury or accident of history, but rather an essential element of our liberty." "It is our priceless treasure and inheritance. And it is bought with the blood of martyrs.

President Trump's "Proclamation on 850th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket."
Issued Dec. 29, 2020



LONG ISLAND COALITION for LIFE, Inc.

P. O. BOX 243 RONKONKOMA, N.Y. 11779 • (631) 243-1435
P. O. BOX 247 OLD BETHPAGE, N.Y. 11804 • www.ProlifeLI.org

Help restore the right to life for preborn children. Please join the Long Island Coalition for Life for the Roe v. Wade Anniversary Memorial Face the Truth event on Sunday, January 17, 2021, from 1:30p.m. to 3:00p.m. This peaceful public witness will be held on the sidewalk in front of

Nassau University Medical Center ([2201 Hempstead Tpke., E Meadow](#)), a hospital that commits abortions. Be a positive sign for LIFE! Signs provided. Rain or shine. Sponsored by: LICL ([631 243-1435](tel:6312431435), info@prolifeLI.org).



HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN TECHNOLOGY: WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

By Judi Paparozzi, JD, M.Ed.

Human trafficking is a pervasive problem. It is defined as compelling someone to engage in forced labor or sexual acts due to force, fraud, or coercion. This is not just an international issue; domestic child sex trafficking has become a stark reality within the United States (U.S.),¹ with American children at high risk of being exploited. Continuous advances in technology, including the Internet and electronic communication tools, have all facilitated child sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking. As a result, the *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)* has identified that reports of exploitative photos and videos of children being sexually abused online is at an all-time high.²

The commercial sex trafficking of our children in the U.S. is becoming much too frequent- with habitual involvement of electronic devices. In 2020, police arrested 178 people in one of the nation's largest child sex trafficking rings that victimized one young girl at age 13. As "Operation Stolen Innocence" revealed, this child was sold by her mother for drugs on social media sites like Facebook. After her rescue, police found an enormous amount of evidence, including electronic messages between her and those who victimized her.³ This August, two women were arrested for trafficking two under aged girls for sex; the girls, reported missing by their families, were sold in online ads for sexual acts in hotels.⁴ In 2019, police rescued a boy who was being exploited as a sex slave. He had been lured by seven traffickers he met online while playing a video game.⁵

The U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by *Polaris*, produces annual statistics of its contacts with domestic child sex trafficking victims. Of the 15,000 victims of sex trafficking *Polaris* identified in 2019, in the U.S., approximately 5,000 were minors.⁶

Who are these child victims? They include runaways, foster children, and those from broken homes—but it is not limited to the most vulnerable. *Polaris* denotes that one out of seven children reported as missing to NCMEC became victims of human trafficking, 88 percent of which came out of the foster care system.⁷ Youth from seemingly stable homes are also ensnared. The infamous case of Jeffrey Epstein recently reaffirmed that youth from seemingly stable homes are also ensnared, when it was revealed he targeted young girls including some from middle class families.⁸

The reality is that all children are vulnerable, partly due to advances in communication technology that have abetted traffickers- giving them access to children.⁹ For the trafficker, the advantage is the anonymity; for victims, it's the enhancement of self-esteem or filling a different need within their lives. Young people, seeking approval from others, find that approval is abundant online- many are lured to a place where they feel loved or receive some other type of affirmation.

Advances in communication have also led to the use of social media by children and youth. Social media includes websites, texts, photo/video sharing, apps, live streaming, and MMORPGs (massively multi-player online role-playing games). Many sites are now self-deleting shared content, so even vigilant parents may be at a disadvantage. With smartphones, kids get online anywhere- and can be groomed even when sitting in the same room as their parents.

Online, the trafficker uses psychological manipulation to create a friendship with potential victims that fill their emotional needs. During the grooming process, traffickers will pretend to be "a responsive, considerate, attentive, and loving boyfriend or girlfriend. If a child is having problems with their caregiver(s), traffickers will also play the role of rescuer, providing that child with the kindness and compassion they are missing, and promising a potentially safe place for that child to go to."¹⁰ Traffickers are cunning masters of manipulation,¹¹ and, they can easily lure and trap children via social media sites before the youth are even aware of what has happened.¹²

The main weapon for traffickers had become the cell phone, providing "new and evolving means by which offenders sexually abuse children as apps are being used to target, recruit, and coerce children to engage in sexual activity."¹³ It is very difficult to trace the online footprint of traffickers due to sophisticated and evolving software used by offenders, which can also delay or hinder investigations.¹⁴

(continued next page)

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