St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763 www.stsylvesterli.org (631) 475-4506

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

Eucharist:

Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7:30am, 9am & 11am. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8:30am in the Parish Center. Rosary recitation begins at 8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined dates. *Prior to making plans*, call Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation/Confession:

For those seeking spiritual healing. Saturday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the Sacristy or by appointment 631-475-4506, Ext. 101 or email dsuglia@drvc.org

Confirmation:

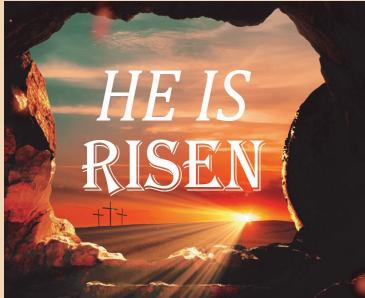
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

Marriage:

Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm; Saturday @ 11:00am, 12:30pm, & 2:00pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick: & Dying:

For those needing surgery or serious medical treatment and for those in danger of death. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1515, the Sacrament should be received once, unless during an illness the sick person's health worsens, or for subsequent surgeries, or after recovery they begin a new illness. They may then receive it again. Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass, or call the Rectory at 631-475-0418 any time.



April 12, 2020 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor Deacon Joseph Mystkowski Deacon George Riegger, Retired Michael Lofaro, Administrator, Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director, Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahon, Director, Parish Social Ministry

Lori Zito, Director, Parish Ministries & Events

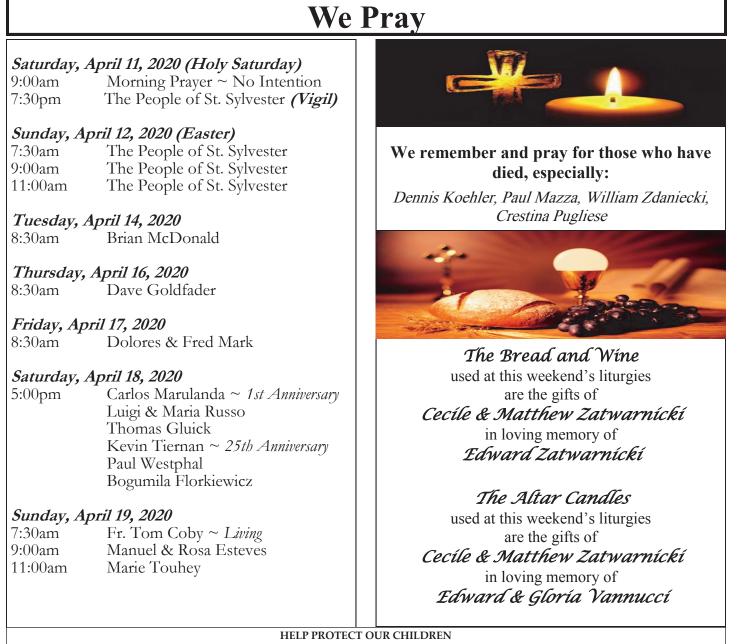
Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506, ext 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org Mon. Tues. & Wed. 9am-12 & 1-8:30pm; Thurs. & Fri. 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sun. 9:30am-12:30pm.

Faith Formation Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org Please call (631)475-4506, ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Parish Social Ministry at Clare House: (631) 475-4506, ext. 122; Fax (631) 475-6058 Please call the number above or press the number "5" on the parish phone message for assistance.

Thrift Shop: (631) 475-4506, ext. 124



TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary McMahon, LCSW, Director.

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being — or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720 If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

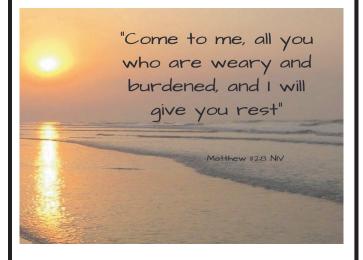


We Pray



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

Theresa Mazza, Melanie Schmadtke, John McGarvey, Ellen Wisnoski, Rita Ruberto, Joan McGrattan, Nello & Cesira Liberatore, Robert Schwarz, Bill Berger, Marge Golden, Chong Skladel, Frank Cayea, Christopher Ewart, Barbara Perrone and Mike McCrann.



In order to keep our **Sick List** up to date, we will remove all names at the end of each month. Simply call or email the Parish Office if you wish to place someone on the list. Please remember that for the sake of privacy, this request must be made by either the sick person him/herself, or by an immediate family member. Thank you.



Please pray for world peace and all public servants including the following who are serving on active duty:

Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army Captain Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force 1st Lieutenant Hannah Grosso, Army 1st Lieutenant Michael Dustin, Army 2nd Lieutenant Michael Hawkins, Army Petty Officer 2nd Class Elena Greck, Navy Lieutenant Nicoli Carlson, Navy Captain Holly Grosso Carlson, Army Captain Peter Duff, Army Ensign Brett Reilly, Navy

If you have a family member who is currently serving on active duty in the military and would like his or her name added to this prayer list, please call 631-475-4506 Ext. 101 or email ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org Please notify the same of any change in status. Thank you.

Romans 12:12 *Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.*





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

None of us could have imagined even weeks ago, that we would celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday *virtually*.

I have been amazed and inspired by the creativity and initiative of our pastors, our people and our parishes to continue evangelizing all of Long Island.

Whether it is video-streaming Masses and Eucharistic adoration, conducting a virtual parish mission, or a health precaution sensitive Eucharistic procession through neighborhoods, you are all moving forward and trusting in the transformative power of the Risen Christ as we continue to experience the tragedies, trauma, unemployment, financial and economic distress of the COVID-19 crisis.

The light that streams from the glorified wounds of the Risen Jesus always touches and transforms our wounds and fears, and the wounds and fears of the world.

We remember in a special way this Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season the souls of those who have died from the corona virus and their families, and those who, as Pope Francis says, are "writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others." We remember our families and the efforts of each of us to care for our families and our neighbors.

While we are all in pain that our Holy Week 2020 needs to be a virtual one, we do have a Pastoral Letter, *The Great Week: A Pilgrimage with the Lord in Holy Week* which can help strengthen, lift and inspire our virtual Holy Week celebrations.

This Pastoral Letter is a user-friendly, easily understandable synthesis of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum, its liturgical theology, spirituality and history, designed to show the relationship between the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week and Catholic Evangelization.

I encourage everyone to participate in all the Holy Week liturgies virtually through the Catholic Faith Network (see: <u>catholicfaithnetwork.org</u> for details) and through your own parishes streaming the liturgies.

Let's take this unique and virtual evangelization opportunity to pray that the Risen Christ might lead a massive return of Catholic Long Islanders to a full, active and conscious participation in our Holy Week liturgies and our Sunday Masses throughout the year.

I encourage you all to read and pray our Pastoral Letter which is available on our diocesan website DRVC.org and in the March 2020 *Long Island Catholic* magazine that many of you received at home.

I also had the opportunity on March 27, 2020, to share the Pastoral Letter with every American Bishop in the United States for possible use in their dioceses as they celebrate virtual Holy Weeks around the country.

I received an email from the Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska. He thanked the Diocese of Rockville Centre for sharing the Holy Week Pastoral Letter with the people of Fairbanks, Alaska and said: "We have 37 remote parishes of Native Alaskans, pretty much on 'lock down' that could benefit enormously from the Pastoral Letter."

Catholic Long Islanders stand in the solidarity of the Risen Lord with Catholic Alaskans! This is just another example of the global Catholic solidarity that our Holy Father Pope Francis models for us and calls us to.

Thank you for continuing to support your parish and the vital ministries of our Church as your means allow during this most challenging time for all of us. The Church continues to serve the spiritual and physical needs of people during this crisis. Weekly collections mailed or given online will be critical to the sustaining and reemergence of our parishes.

Our Easter joy may be delayed this year, but our faith, hope and trust in the power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection must shine brighter than ever. The cross of this crisis offers us the opportunity for a renewed and lasting appreciation for the gift of family and the transformative power of faith.

Know that you and all your families are in my heart and in my prayers as we celebrate *The Great Week*, Easter Sunday, the Easter Octave, Divine Mercy Sunday and the Easter Season.

He is Risen! Alleluia!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Aph O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre

God's Love is Unconditional!

A decree from Rome granting Plenary Indulgences to the faithful during this current pandemic including "health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them." has been granted. To read the entire Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary go to: <u>http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/</u> <u>pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.html</u>

What is a Plenary Indulgence?

God's granting special grace by removing all effects of previous sin to those who turn to God in their time of need. If the intention in your heart is to be reconciled to God and to your neighbor, then your sins are forgiven along with any remaining negative effects from the sin.

How does that work?

Normally we would gather at Mass and for other forms of prayer and devotions, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary social distancing, we are unable to. We can however still unite spiritually through our individual practices as well as shared virtual experiences. This could include uniting "through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or we can recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer or invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary, and offer this time of suffering in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards our brothers and sisters, along with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (meaning to celebrate the sacrament of Confession, and receive Holy Communion as soon as possible)". Through these actions and intentions we will be granted Plenary Indulgence.

No Matter What...

For those who are too sick to pray, even those who may have only ever said just "a few prayers," God's Mercy and Love is already with them, especially during their time of suffering. And, should it be their time to leave this life, as we know it, God will embrace them and bring them to everlasting life. We know this because **God's love is unconditional**. God sees into our hearts and knows, before we even say a prayer, who we are. God's love and forgiveness, God's salvation for all humans is an unmerited, gracious and generous, free gift.

BISHOP BARRES WRITES PASTORAL LETTER ON HOLY WEEK

Bishop John Barres has written a pastoral letter about Holy Week: **The Great Week – A Pilgrimage with the Lord in Holy Week**. This Lent, Bishop Barres invites you to join him in making a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Lord during the last week of His life by attending all the liturgies that take place in your local parish during Holy Week, the final week of Lent just prior to Easter. This pastoral letter will provide you an overview and explanation of the 'places' you will visit, the things you will see and the people you will meet on your spiritual journey.

To read the letter, visit: <u>www.thegreatweek.com</u>. The pastoral letter will also be included in the March edition of *The Long Island Catholic* Magazine. Printed copies will be available later this month. To subscribe to *The Long Island Catholic Magazine* visit <u>www.licatholic.org/subscribe/.</u>

Stewardship







Called to Evangelize

Formation Ht

Hospitality Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

April 5, 2020 Regular ~ \$5,183 Renovation ~ \$375 Solar ~ \$55 *Last Year's Collection ~ April 7, 2019* Regular ~ \$8,306

Faith Direct Totals for March 2020 Regular ~ \$10,606 Renovation ~ \$780 Solar ~ \$184

Thank you to all those who, in the spirit of stewardship, continue to financially support the parish during this challenging time!!!

Will & Estate Planning

Consider leaving a legacy of faith by remembering our parish in your will or bequest. Saint Sylvester RC Church is a fully compliant charitable organization registered as a 501(3)C nonprofit.

Please contact Father Suglia directly if you have already made provisions for St. Sylvester or if you would like to remember us when you conduct your estate planning.

Thank you and God bless!



Reflection:

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward for this devoted and conscientious steward was to be the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Alleluia!

Living Stewardship—Service:

Like Mary Magdalene, let us always serve others and do good works for Jesus. Remember, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

"Sometimes we need to get back to the basics when we talk about stewardship. We need to realize that stewardship is not rocket science, but rather is something simple we all can grasp and understand. God will want to know how we took care of others' needs, and that's really what the stewardship way of life does. It provides us with the opportunity to care for another one's needs, just as Jesus has asked us to do." ~ Msgr. Thomas McGread

Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ Looks compassion Into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.

Stewardship

April 7, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

It is springtime both in our world and in our church. In our natural world, we look outside our windows and see the trees beginning to bud. A quick walk around the neighborhood reveals colorful daffodils, harbingers of the explosive growth that is to shortly arrive. For those of us who garden, we prune away last year's growth to make room for new growth, new life. We are an Easter people, and even though we can't come together right now to celebrate, we rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and usher in a time of renewal – a time to reflect upon how we live out our baptismal call as Christians.

Normally, my preparations for our annual Stewardship Time and Talent Renewal would be in full swing, a time when I invite all of you to consider getting involved in something in the parish, whether it be as a Lector, Catechist, Thrift Shop Assistant, etc. So, the challenge is how do we still practice Stewardship and Ministry when we can't meet face to face? How do we "be church" without an actual church available to us? We can watch the Mass on our phones or TVs, but what other actions can we take at this challenging and stressful time?

To live "Stewardship" is to live a life of gratitude. Perhaps being forced to curtail all our outside activities has given us the time to reflect on the blessings in our lives – health, family, friends, food, etc. It is not enough, however, to be grateful. How do we respond to the gratitude, especially now? Do we hide in our homes, watch the news and become more fearful, or do we turn off the TV and show others our faith, love and compassion? Now is the time to give the gifts of your time and compassion to others. How? We can start by communicating with others! Try reaching out to a few people each day that you may not have spoken with for awhile. Call them, hear their voices and listen, really listen to what they are saying. Giving the gift of your time and companionship to someone who feels isolated and afraid is huge at a time like this!

Be a disciple – share your faith with others who may be questioning why God is "letting this happen to us". Allow them to see that you too are afraid, but choose to put more stock in Jesus' promise that He will be with us always than in all-consuming fear.

Use social media. Social distancing does not mean social distance! How ironic that the very thing that helped create social isolation can now bring us all together. Get on Facebook and Twitter; use Skype or FaceTime to see distant family members and friends. Here at the parish, the staff has set up a "Group Me" chat so we can share something immediately with the entire staff and have weekly Zoom video conferences to keep us close to one another. And yes, Father Suglia is right there to support us and share with us!

Stewardship

Generously offer your time to do what you can. Help elderly neighbors secure food and medicine. If you live near someone who is working long hours in a hospital or providing some other essential service, consider preparing a meal or baking cookies and leave your gift at their front door with a thank you note. And pray!!! Make the time and commitment to pray every day from your heart. As faith-filled stewards, we *know* the power of prayer makes a difference.

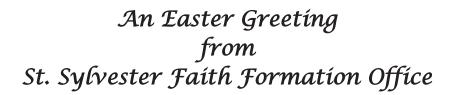
And last, but certainly not least, give generously if you are able. Financial giving is an important part of living as a committed steward, as we give back joyfully in gratitude for all that we have been given. Please continue to remember your weekly offertory gift to the parish so that when this is all over we may continue our collective mission of building God's Kingdom here in our part of the world. You can mail in your offering, or give online through Faith Direct which is easy to access right on our parish website. There is also a text-to-give option there as well. Many fine charities will also be looking for monetary donations to help people who have suffered loss of jobs or housing to get back on their feet.

Remember too to be kind to yourself! God loves you and wants all good things for you, so take care of your body, your mind and your soul. I hope to see all of you soon!

Easter Blessings!

Lori Zito Director of Parish Ministries & Events





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During this holy season of Easter, with time on hand to reflect, let us pray that we might discover the deeper energy of God's life, flowing in and through our own, even and especially during this time of uncertainty.

Our task today is to bring the Easter spirit to life in our suffering world. Just as Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, the beloved disciple, each came to believe, may we believe in God's transforming and healing power.

This Easter,

may we be open to and recognize the Divine Message of new life we see bursting forth in nature all around us, a sure sign of God's promise of eternal life!

> Easter Blessings, Fran, Mike and Terese

Faith Formation

Updated Information From St. Sylvester Faith Formation Office

As you know, public schools are now closed through April 29th. At this time we are unable to predict what date we might return to having classes at the Parish Center.

This decision continues to be made and taken out of an abundance of caution and also, because containment through social distancing is one of our best options right now and it is the law.

So your child will continue to be on Home Taught Faith Formation Instruction for the present time. Please be sure to have them do their work regularly and check your child's calendar for the sessions to be covered at home each week.

In addition, there is a Family Resource Page on the Parish website with additional resources for you to utilize. You can access the page by typing this link <u>www.stsylvesterli.org/family-resource-page</u> or visiting the Parish website at www.stsylvstrerli.org. Hover over Faith Formation and click on Family Resource Page. Under Loyola Press, you'll see helpful information for families as well as other information that you may find useful. Level's 2 and 7, look at the links on the Family Resource Page as well as at the top of your child's calendar for the website that you can access videos for your child to watch.

For Mass Reflection Forms, please go to our website to see Mass from St. Sylvester. Also, see the "Sunday Connection" link on the Family Resource page on the parish website or visit www.catholicfaithnetwork.org to watch Mass from other churches as well.

As long as your child is doing the work at home, this temporary break from having classes at the parish will in no way stand in the way of the celebration of Sacraments (as soon as we can safely celebrate, for Levels 2, 7 and Older Sacraments), or moving up to the next Level (for Levels 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6). Level 7 Confirmation Packets which were due on March 25th, will now be due when classes resume.

Please know that we are here for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please call 631-475-4506 x: 118 or email <u>faithformation@stsylvesterli.org</u>.

Let us pray for one another, during these unprecedented times for those suffering from Coronavirus, their families and health care providers. Let us pray and remain hopeful that this will pass quickly.

Peace, Fran, Mike & Terése

Parish Social Ministry

Clare House Closed Until Further Notice

In order to comply with social distancing requirements and in an effort to limit all unnecessary contact our team is working remotely. We are still here to help! We will continue to support individual clients on a case by case basis. If you have an emergency situation that requires assistance please call our intake line ONLY:

631-475-4506 x122

Please leave only <u>one</u> complete message stating your name, number, and primary need.

Please keep in mind that in the current state of emergency:

- * National Grid will not shut off service due to non-payment.
- * PSEGLI will not shut off service due to non-payment.
- * Evictions will not be enforced.
- * Those with mortgages who are unable to pay, should contact their lenders, as many will work with clients during this time.
- * Those who need emergency shelter should call DSS for instruction.
 631-854-9100
- * DSS offices are open, but staff is limited and there are no face-toface interviews
- Please check the website and follow us on twitter for information about available resources or ways to help.



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