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 9am & 11am. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8:30am in the Church. Rosary recitation begins at 8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined dates. *Prior to making plans,* please call the 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.



Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. ~ Luke 24:39

The Third Sunday of Easter April 18, 2021

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Rev. Dan Picciano, Weekend Assistant

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski, Retired

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Michael Lofaro, Administrator, Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director, Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Lori Zito, Director, Parish Ministries & Events

Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org Mon., Wed. & Fri. ~ 9am-12pm

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. Closed until further notice.



Pastoral Council: The members of our Pastoral Council listed below meet with Fr. Suglia monthly to discern the needs and hopes for the future of our parish. Please keep them in your prayers as they carry out this important responsibility:

Patricia Coppola Nancy Di Santo Amanda Gentile Tom Mowat

Ashley Perrone Bill Sisco

We Pray

Saturday, April 17, 2021 5:00 William Gartung Rev. Simon Palliparambil Marguerite Eltman Joseph Koplinka

Sunday,April 18, 20219:00amRosa & Manuel Esteves11:00amLuigi & Maria Russo

Monday, April 19, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:30am Nello Liberatore

Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, April 23, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, April 24, 2021

5:00pm Anthony Delise Murray Isselbacher Daniel Hawkins Jaime & Faustina Pesongo

Sunday, April 25, 2021

9:00am Rosa & Manuel Esteves 11:00am Luigi & Maria Russo



We remember and pray for those who have died, especially:

Nello Liberatore, Anthony Basciano III, Fred DeSimone, Robert Dennehy, Fran Dennehy & Frank Avitabile.

If you have had a close family member pass away and would like him or her placed on this list, please send the name of the deceased with the correct spelling, along with your name and contact information, to: ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506, ext. 101.



We Pray



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

John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Bill Berger, Krista Teigland Frederick Schaefer, William Crawford, Priscilla Koehler, Barbara Eustace Emily Arens, John Bennett & Corey Govier (*2.5 year-old child*).

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.





There are still a number of 2021 announced Mass intentions available for both weekday and weekend Masses.

Our Parish Office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-12pm for you to arrange for an announced Mass and/or pick up a Mass card.



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 1st 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.



PARISH INFORMATION

As we continue to navigate through this challenging time, we are pleased to be able to say that things are beginning to open up here at the parish, although in a limited way. We are happy to communicate the following:

WEEKEND MASSES ARE CELEBRATED AT 5PM ON SATURDAYS AND 9AM AND 11AM ON SUNDAYS. You must register to attend these Masses weekly through our parish website beginning each <u>Wednesday morning at 9am</u>. The program will stop accepting reservations on <u>Friday at 3pm</u> (or sooner if it reaches a maximum of 80 people for that particular Mass). Ushers will check your registrations at the door before entering the church and will seat you. The pews in the church are marked off to maintain social distancing.

WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOW BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE AT <u>5PM</u> AND <u>11AM</u> —LINK AVAILABLE FROM OUR

WEBSITE. If you click on the Mass and it has already begun, you will have the ability on *YouTube* to rewind the Mass to the beginning while it is in progress. Don't worry if you are unable to rewind — the Mass in its entirety will also be available immediately after its conclusion. Live streaming will allow you to attend Mass at home simultaneously with your fellow parishioners in the church, and with much clearer video and sound than we have been able to offer in the past.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED ON SATUR-DAYS AT 4PM IN THE CHURCH. Unfortunately due to limited seating, you cannot remain for the 5pm Mass after Reconciliation if you have not reserved a seat ahead of time.

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES ARE CELEBRATED ON MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 8:30AM IN THE CHURCH. You <u>do not</u> need to register for these Masses.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 9AM TO 12PM TO ASSIST YOU WITH MASS CARDS, ANNOUNCED MASSES, MEMORIALS, SACRAMENT CERTIFICATES, ETC.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE CHURCH AS WELL AS IN ALL PARISH BUILDINGS AND AREAS.

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

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

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being -- or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to navigate the public celebration of Mass within State Guidelines, St. Sylvester Parish will offer Mass on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM & 11AM.

Please note the following important information:

- At this time, the bishop still dispenses all the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Our Sunday worship will be livestreamed on Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 11am and will continue to be posted on the website for those who are vulnerable, for those who have a health impairment that would make them more susceptible to serious illness, for those who might not be feeling well, or have a fever, and for those who are caretakers for other people who are vulnerable. If you are in any of these situations, you are encouraged to continue to remain at home and worship online.
- Restrooms will be open for emergency use only! Please use bathroom at home!
- There is a mandatory online reservation system for all who wish to attend Mass. Please register beginning Wednesdays at 9am by going to www.stsylvesterli.org
- Please print out your registration information or have available on your phone as you will be asked to show your registration before entering the church.
- Masks or other face coverings must be worn by all participants.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass so your reservation may be confirmed and you may be shown to your seat. Capacity at this time is limited to 25%.
- Seating will be done according to social distancing guidelines. You will most likely not be sitting in your "usual" seat. Families may sit together at Mass. There is no "saving seats" or asking to be seated in a particular seat.
- The Offertory Procession and passing of the donation basket will be omitted.
- If you wish to make a contribution, there will be baskets at the entrance and exit. Contributions may also dropped at the parish center or made online.
- The Sign of Peace or other greetings will not be exchanged.
- Directions will be given for Communion, which will be distributed after Mass as you are leaving the church. Please follow the directions of the ushers.
- Please go directly to your car, as no congregating is permitted.
- We will continue to keep you updated on changes as we move forward.

This is a work in progress, so as we move forward there may be changes. We appreciate your patience and want you to know that our first priority is that those attending Mass will be safe.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Suglia

Faith Formation



Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist for Adults... A Journey in Faith

RCIA is a process, which welcomes those who wish to inquire about joining the Catholic Church. Inquirers, along with the guidance and support of members of the St. Sylvester community, explore the loving presence and action of God in their lives, deepen their prayer, and prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you have never been baptized & are interested

in becoming a Catholic or,

if you are a baptized non-Catholic

and would like to become a Catholic,

please email <u>fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org</u>

for more information.

<u>CELEBRATE EARTH DAY ~ APRIL 22ND</u>

This Thursday we celebrate the 51st anniversary of Earth Day, a day we set aside each year to focus on how we can better care for our earth's natural resources.

Every year we hear about 'going green" by recycling, using reusable bags and getting rid of all those plastic water bottles. We debate the pros and cons of solar and wind power and electric cars and now recognize that banning the use of 1,4-dioxane in commonly used products like detergents and shampoos will help prevent further contamination of our water supply. However, despite all these worthwhile efforts and accomplishments, our earth is still in trouble; environmental hazards in our world are still too many and too far-reaching for us to say we've done "enough."



As a Stewardship Parish, we focus on all of the gifts God has given us individually and collectively, recognizing that we have a responsibil-

ity to nurture and share these gifts, including the earth, in service to one another in order to continue to build the Kingdom of God. In fact, Pope Francis clearly tells us, "Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God." (Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home #119). As responsible Christian stewards, our commitment to caring for the earth cannot simply be limited to one day in April.

Pope Francis has issued an appeal to the Church and the world to acknowledge and act upon the urgency of our environmental challenges, stating, "Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day."

All of us, as grateful stewards, must keep working to decrease and eventually eliminate the damage done to our common home as a result of our adherence to a disposable, throwaway culture — air and water pollution, \rightarrow deforestation, unsafe drinking water, rising sea levels, etc. Many of these challenges, in turn, contribute mightily toward systemic poverty throughout the world.

The pandemic, for all its horror, has given us a running start as global carbon emissions fell by 7% in 2020. Let's take the opportunity to continue to build from there, one tree planting, new conservation idea or beach clean-up at a time, and honor the beautiful creation that God has given us in Mother Earth and one another.

PS Please consider this beautiful prayer below written by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si':



PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Stewardship







Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

<u>April 11, 2021</u>

Regular ~ \$6,593 **Renovation** ~ \$200

Last Year 's Collection ~ April 12, 2020 **Regular** ~ \$ 9,091

** Please note that the contributions above <u>do not include</u> our Faith Direct online giving totals which are listed here monthly.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all those who, in the spirit of stewardship, continue to financially support the mission and ministry of the parish!!!

2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Designated Goal:	\$67,900
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$31,026.89
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	41.57%
Number of Donors to Date:	92

All funds raised between 80% - 100% (\$54,320-\$67,900) of our parish's goal, which amounts to \$13,580 if we reach our goal, will be returned to us for our own programs, services and special needs. All monies raised are restricted to the ministries of the Appeal.

Donations for the CMA may be made by clicking on the CMA logo on our parish website or by check. Please make sure you designate our parish so we get the credit for your donation.

Thank you for your generosity!

Gardening Ministry Brings in the Spring

As we celebrate Earth Day this week, it is only fitting that we highlight our Gardening Ministry here at St. Sylvester! These dedicated men and women already have their spades at the ready for the spring planting season, preparing to transform our parish grounds into a park-like setting.

Do you have a green thumb and love to work with the earth? Do you excitedly wait for the frost season to end so you can start planning your planting? Perhaps you feel closest to the Lord among the flowers? If so, our gardeners welcome you to join them!

Please contact Lori Zito in the Office of Parish Ministries & Events by emailing to lzito@stsylvesterli.org or calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115, if you are interested in helping us "bring in the spring."



SAVE THE DATE!

Our Spring Flower Sale will take place Mother's Day weekend, May 7th, 8th and 9th in Fellowship Plaza!

It's the perfect time to buy something for all the moms in your life, or yourself, and support our parish too!

Details will follow shortly!



Parish Social Ministry



Clare House - We are here to help!

We no longer have drop in hours open to the public. If you have an emergency situation that requires assistance, please call our intake line. Please leave only <u>one</u> complete message stating your name, number, and primary need: 631-475-4506 x122.

Emergency Food Distribution is held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. A full new client intake is required, including documentation of all income and expenses, to access resources at Clare House. A member of our staff will contact you to complete this intake interview over the phone. Documentation should be provided electronically whenever possible.

While we are still NOT soliciting any food donations at this time, <u>WE ARE IN NEED OF</u> <u>TOILETRIES FOR OUR CLIENTS</u>. Please place these donations in the church bin when you come to Mass or drop them off at the Parish Center.

Monetary donations may also be easily made through Faith Direct, our parish electronic giving program, which can be accessed though the "Online Giving" button on our website's homepage. Simply click "Make a One-Time Gift Now" and then write "Clare House - PSM" in the Note. Thank you for your continued support of our mission!



Thrift Shop Re-Opening in May

We have good news to share — our Parish Thrift Shop will be re-opening in May!

Donations are now being accepted again at the Thrift Shop, with a focus on spring and summer clothina and accessories. New gently-used and items may be brought in on



Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please do not leave items outside the Thrift Shop at night or in inclement weather. This creates extra work for our staff and does nothing to further our mission. Items left in this manner are often ruined and must sadly be tossed into the dumpster.

Also, due to space limitations, we cannot accept large items such as furniture, TV's, appliances, mattresses, etc.

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to serving you!

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 non-profit.



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!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and others span multiple weeks on a given weekday.

Couples will explore their individual personality



styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority.

Registration is limited and

a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call John & Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit them at https://wwmenyli.org/.

Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences:

May 3-24 Mondays/Thursdays June 3-24 Thursdays/Mondays

12th Annual Women's Silent Retreat "BEHOLD THY SON"



Calling ALL women! Come ponder "Motherhood" in your heart after the example of Mary. We invite you to come pray with Mary especially for children and for priests. Come and receive strength to become the "perfect women" we are called to be:

"Thus the 'perfect woman' (Prov 31:10) becomes an irreplaceable support and source of spiritual strength for other people, who perceive the great energies of her spirit. These 'perfect women' are owed much by their families, and sometimes by whole nations."

Mulieris Dignitatem (The Dignity of Women -St. John Paul II)

Friday & Saturday, May 7 & 8, 2021 Seminary of the Immaculate Conception

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY Check in Friday between 1 – 6 p.m. Ends Saturday 9 p.m.

Retreat includes Mass, Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with reflections offered throughout the time.

Cost: \$125 per person

Includes dinner Friday, 3 meals Saturday, & private room w/ shower. Masks must be worn in public settings.

Please send form below with check payable to: St. Patrick R.C. Church, 280 East Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787 Attn: Legion of Mary

NAME	
EMAIL	
ADDRESS	
<i>PHONE #</i>	
PARISH	
Special dietary needs?	
Approx. arrival time	

For additional information contact Lana Maggio at 631-374-1116 or Corinne Addiss 631-804-7222 or keepntuch@aol.com



