

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.



***JESUS SAID:
I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.***
~ John 10:11

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 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. Hours will be 10am—3pm Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning May 4th.



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 24, 2021

5:00 Anthony Delise
Murray Isselbacher
Daniel Harkins
Jaime & Faustina Pesongco

Sunday, April 25, 2021

9:00am Nello Liberatore
11:00am John Wood

Monday, April 26, 2021

8:30am Rocco & Ernestine Mangino

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

8:30am Frank Cayea

Thursday, April 29, 2021

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, April 30, 2021

8:30am Richard Louis Poelker

Saturday, May 1, 2021

5:00pm Fay & George Hummer
Anne Marie Nicolas Vandestoc

Sunday, May 2, 2021

9:00am Tina Cervone
11:00am Ralph & Lilian Simonetti



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

**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, Alice Micali
& 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.*



*The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
Sue Barlow
in loving memory of
Anthony DeLise*

SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Next weekend there is a special envelope for Catholic elementary schools. Half of the money collected here in the parish will go to our local Holy Angels Regional School, and the other half will be sent to the Diocese for Tomorrow's Hope Foundation scholarships.



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 Wednesday morning at 9am. The program will stop accepting reservations on Friday at 3pm (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 5PM AND 11AM —LINK AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE. If you click on the Mass and it has already begun, you will have the ability on *You Tube* 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 SATURDAYS 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 do not 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**

SPRING FLOWER SALE

St. Sylvester Church, 68 Ohio Ave., Medford

FRIDAY, MAY 7th ~ 10AM TO 4PM

SATURDAY, MAY 8th ~ 9AM TO 6PM

SUNDAY, MAY 9th ~ 8:30AM TO 12PM
(MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND)



FLATS
HANGING BASKETS
PLANTERS
HERBS
ASSORTED ANNUALS
(4" AND 6" POTS)

HOSTED BY THE GARDENING CLUB MINISTRY

FLOWERS FROM FORGE RIVER NURSERY, MASTIC
RAIN OR SHINE ~ MASKS REQUIRED PLEASE



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 fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org
for more information.**

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

Additional Easter ~ \$8,935
Faith Direct Easter ~ \$1,570
Total Easter to Date ~ \$19,765

April 18, 2021

Regular ~ \$6,533 Renovation ~ \$295

Last Year's Collection ~ April 19, 2020

Regular ~ \$ 6,794

*** Please note that the contributions above do not include 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:	*45.69%
Number of Donors to Date:	92
	*Corrected %

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!

The Stone Rejected

Today in the Acts of the Apostles, we hear an emboldened Peter preaching to the leaders and elders that a healing that they have witnessed was done in the name of Jesus who they crucified and whom God raised from the dead. *"He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone."* Peter also goes on to say, *"There is no salvation through anyone else..."*

These are pretty pointed and powerful words coming from the apostle who not too long before had denied knowing Jesus. This is a new Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, *Cephas, the rock*, whom Jesus chose to build His church.

Peter's message speaks to us too! At one time or another we have all, like the leaders and elders of his time, rejected God by distancing ourselves from Him through sin or apathy — despite our knowledge of, and belief in, the Resurrection. We too, as Christian stewards filled with the Holy Spirit, must also humbly recognize these past denials and learn from them. We have been called by our baptism in an extraordinary way to be missionary disciples; to spread the Good News, despite our own human frailties and limitations. Each one of us has the gifts to accomplish this in different ways, with none less valid than the other. As Peter rightfully tells us, this is the only way to salvation. The question is: are we — are you — up to the challenge?

~ Lori Zito

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord." ~ Psalm 116:12-13

Stewardship

A Way of Life

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 one 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, **WE ARE IN NEED OF TOILETRIES FOR OUR CLIENTS**. 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 through 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 on May 4th!

Donations are now being accepted again at the Thrift Shop, with a focus on spring and summer clothing and accessories. New and gently-used 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!



The Diocese of Rockville Centre



project rachel

Peace starts here

Healing after Abortion

Project Rachel retreats are opportunities to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The retreats are directed by specially trained compassionate caregivers, including counselors and clergy, who have a sensitivity and heart for those who suffer.

The next scheduled **2021** retreat day is:

“Entering Canaan”

Day of Prayer and Healing for Women
Saturday, May 15th

Please register by May 10th

All COVID protocols will be observed.

For more information please visit:
the Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics website
www.drvc.life.org/projectrachel or
contact Project Rachel at projectrachel@drvc.org
1(888)456-HOPE (4673) 1(516)766-2538 (local)

All information will remain confidential.

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.

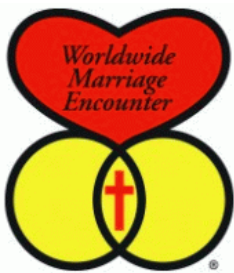
Thank You and God Bless!

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

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 _____

PHONE # _____

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*

RETRouvaille

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

You Can Help Heal Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, May 7th, 2021, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Location:
Marriott Melville Long Island
1350 Walt Whitman Road
Melville, NY 11747

RELIGION AND ROCK

Tune into
“*Religion and Rock*,” a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock radio program with Msgr. Jim Vlaun, which



airs on Sundays
from 7:00am - 8:00am on **WBAB 102.3 FM** or **95.3 FM** on Long Island's East End.

Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, The Catholic Channel* and at 11:00 PM on *XM Satellite, Channel 117*.

To listen online, or receive more information regarding “*Religion and Rock*,” go to www.ReligionandRock.com or to “*Religion & Rock*” on ITUNES.



SPRING OPEN HOUSES

VISIT OUR CAMPUS
SATURDAY MAY 22, 2021
9:00AM - 11:00PM



**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**



VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSES

THURSDAY MAY 6, 2021
6:00PM: ACADEMICS
& GUIDANCE

WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 2021
6:00PM: ATHLETICS
& EXTRACURRICULAR

1170 MONTAUK HIGHWAY | WEST ISLIP, NY | 11795 | WWW.STJOHNTHEBAPTISTDHS.NET



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOL'S

Showers of Kindness

IN HONOR OF
MOTHER'S DAY

Please join our "Showers of Kindness" in honor of Mother's Day. "Showers of Kindness" is a collection of new baby items to be donated to the families served by The Wyandanch Health Center. This center is one of 42 Health Centers run by Sun River Health on Long Island, NYC, and the Hudson Valley. We invite you to join us in collecting these items for the moms and babies in our community.

Beginning the week of April 19th, St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, in partnership with the Student Council, will kick off "Showers of Kindness". Suggested items are on the list below. All items must be new and in original packaging. No formula please.



- Baby Hair Conditioner
- Baby Laundry Detergent
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Body Wash for bath time
- Baby wipes
- Bath toys
- Bibs
- Bottles (no glass please)
- Bottle brushes

- Burp cloths
- Diaper Cream
- Diapers - all sizes
- Hats 3 - 6 months
- Hooded Towels
- Bodysuits (3-6 months)
- Pacifiers
- Receiving blankets
- Socks (3-6 months)
- Teething toys
- Wash Cloths



Please don't forget the Moms: Fuzzy Socks (all sizes), Lip Moisturizer, Hand lotion

Any donations can be dropped off at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School's front entrance Monday - Friday between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm. The school is located at 1170 Montauk Highway, West Islip.

For all other donations or for further information/questions please contact:

Office of Advancement

P: 631-587-8000 x176

E: jones@sjbdhs.org



A Prayer for New Growth

Faithful Gardener,
You are my ground and my sky and I am thankful.
You have tended to my needs and brought me to a new season in my life.
Spring has found a home in my heart, God, and I rejoice!

All that is dormant inside me bursts forth from darkness
and reaches for the brightest light.
Every day, God, you prepare the soil of my inner self
and plant new seeds of faith, hope, and love.

Grow within me, God, a fresh way of living in the world.
May my inmost being be receptive to the seeds of transformation
that are sown throughout my day.
Time and your grace will ripen even the greenest efforts I offer in your name.

Bring to fruition in me the new life that has been peeking
through the crevices of my soul
and searching for a larger space to live and breathe.
The tender sprouts of my prayers will soon reap a harvest of abundance and peace.
Remove from my heart's garden anything that takes up space in me and causes death.
Cultivate in me the best life, the perfect plan, and the highest vision
of how to be in this world.

Tend to my thirst with your living water,
and place in the light what cannot grow in the dark.
I find refuge, God, in the shade of your compassion.
Even the smallest bud holds the greatest potential
to blossom into the rarest and greatest love.

As I stroll through my life's garden, I am captured by the fragrance of your nearness
and I am moved by the vivid colors of your presence.
The gates of paradise have opened inside me
and I humbly enter and take in the view.

What I pray is my paradise.
What I think is my paradise.
What I feel is my paradise.
How I live is my paradise.

Thank you, my Faithful Gardener, for the feeling of springtime,
for tending to my every need, and for nurturing my desire to grow.
Amen.

~ Susie Uhlik
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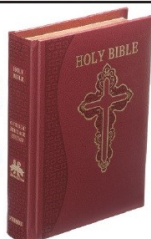
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