

# St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

[www.stsylvesterli.org](http://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](mailto: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 19, 2020

## 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

## We Pray

### **Saturday, April 18, 2020**

5:00pm Carlos Marulanda ~ *1st Anniversary*  
Luigi & Maria Russo  
Thomas Gluick  
Kevin Tiernan ~ *25th Anniversary*  
Paul Westphal  
Bogumila Florkiewicz

### **Sunday, April 19, 2020**

7:30am Fr. Tom Coby ~ *Living*  
9:00am Manuel & Rosa Esteves  
11:00am Marie Touhey

### **Monday, April 20, 2020**

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

### **Tuesday, April 21, 2020**

8:30am Donald Dempster

### **Thursday, April 23, 2020**

8:30am Dorothy Lorey

### **Friday, April 24, 2020**

8:30am Alois Pogorelz

### **Saturday, April 25, 2020**

5:00pm Dolores & John Murray  
Edward Leitgeb  
Luigi & Maria Russo  
Marylee Backhaus  
Philip A. Melfil

### **Sunday, April 26, 2020**

7:30am Mario Gambino  
9:00am Catherine Muhlenforth  
11:00am Dante Taylor



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

*Paul Mazza, William Zdaniecki,  
Crestina Pugliese, Sandra Provenzano,  
William Gartung and Avelardo Valentin.*

### **A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**



O Mary,  
you always brighten our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain  
while remaining steadfast in faith.  
O loving Mother,  
you know what we need,  
and we are confident you will provide for us  
as at Cana in Galilee.  
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,  
the Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill,  
for those who are vulnerable,  
and for those who have died.  
Intercede also for those charged with  
protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending to the sick  
and seeking a cure.  
Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who took upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so as to lead us, through the Cross,  
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God.  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

### **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.

**Visit our website at: [www.stsylvesterli.org](http://www.stsylvesterli.org)**

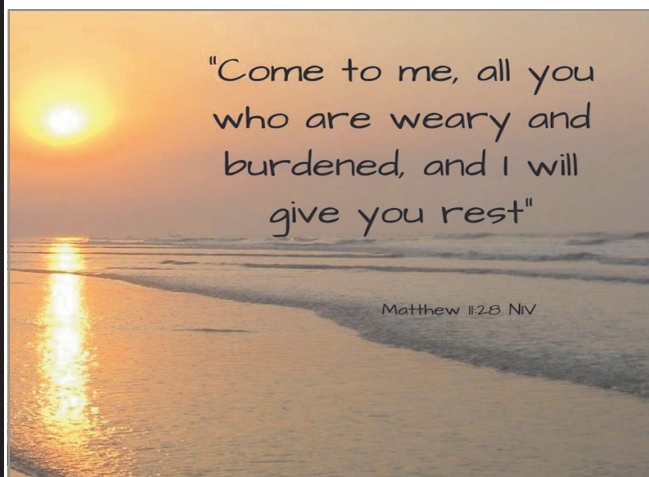


# We Pray



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, Mike  
McCrann, Luanne Bell and William  
Valentin.



*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*



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](mailto: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.***



**PASTOR'S COLUMN**  
**SS MEDFORD**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**



Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is truly risen today, Alleluia, Alleluia! Although we are physically separated these days, we are still spiritually connected.

That said, this has been a bizarre few weeks. Our schedules have been upended in ways that we never expected.

It is times like these when we can focus on our faith. What better time than to devote some time each day, both individually and with our families, on prayer, meditation and perhaps reading the bible. We have an opportunity to approach our new norm with a new found focus on our interior life with God.

The important thing is to remember that Jesus did rise from the dead. Two thousand years of tradition have passed but this truth never fades. Throughout that time there have been pandemics and wars, natural disasters and plagues. Nonetheless, the central truth of the resurrection guides us that we are called to new life in Christ.

Let this Easter season bring us closer to Him who saves us from sin and death. Let us be confident that those who have succumbed to the virus have followed Him into eternity. And let us continue to be united to one another through our prayer, always remembering that this too shall pass.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. A. Suglia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Suglia

# Divine Mercy Sunday

Celebrating God's Merciful Love

From Loyal Press

In the Jubilee Year 2000, [Pope John Paul II](#) proclaimed that from that year forward the Second Sunday of Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, who worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God. St. Faustina (1905–1938) was born and raised in Poland. Following a vocation to religious life, she was accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. As a member of the Congregation, she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. In her spiritual life, her contemplation on the Mercy of God led her to develop a childlike trust in God and deep love for her neighbor.

In her years in the convent, St. Faustina heard a call from God to make God's mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion.

The Chaplet is prayed as follows:

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.

2. On the Our Father beads, recite the following:

*"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."*

3. On the ten Hail Mary beads, say the following:

*"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*

4. Repeat step two and three for all five decades.

5. Conclude by reciting three times:

*"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*



*To learn more about St. Faustina visit [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com) and  
Search "Saint Faustina"*

# Faith Formation

## Do You Have Questions?

Please know that if you have questions regarding your child's Faith Formation or as an adult questions about preparing for Sacraments you can reach us by email at [faithformation@stsylvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsylvesterli.org)

## 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: <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.html>

### 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.



# Faith Formation

## Updated Information From St. Sylvester Faith Formation Office

As you know, public schools are now closed through May 15th. 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 [www.stsylvesterli.org/family-resource-page](http://www.stsylvesterli.org/family-resource-page) or visiting the Parish website at [www.stsylvesterli.org](http://www.stsylvesterli.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](http://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 [faithformation@stsylvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsylvesterli.org).

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

# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service



### Gifts of Treasure

**April 12, 2020**

**Regular ~ \$9,091**

*(This amount does not include*

*Easter Offerings*

*which will be published at a later date.)*

**Last Year's Collection ~ April 14, 2019**

**Regular ~ \$11,077**

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

### Reflection:

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of the resurrection.

### Living Stewardship—Hospitality:

In today's reading, we hear about the disciples living in a communal lifestyle. We can easily imagine that the gift of hospitality played an important role in their daily existence. During this time of crisis, are we offering our gift of hospitality to others, sharing our time, material goods and resources with one another when possible?

**"The miracle is this: The more we share, the more we have." ~ Leonard Nimoy**



***"Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." ~ Pope Francis***

### 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!





# Stewardship

April 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



## 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 one 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-to-face interviews

**Please check the website and follow us on twitter for information about available resources or ways to help.**



Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!

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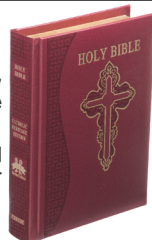
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