

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 5, 2020 Palm Sunday of the Passion 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

We Pray

Saturday, April 4, 2020

5:00pm Donna Becker
Zofia Soltys
Virve Lepik
Luigi & Maria Russo
Deceased & Living Members of Caravano,
Matteo & Confessore Families

Sunday, April 5, 2020

7:30am Edith Canatella
9:00am Richard O'Brien
11:00am Vito & Alice Farello

Monday, April 6, 2020

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

8:30am Douglas Symington

Thursday, April 9, 2020 (Holy Thursday)

9:00am Morning Prayer ~ No Intention
7:30pm The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, April 10, 2020 (Good Friday)

9:00am Morning Prayer ~ No Intention
8:30am Frank Micucci

Saturday, April 11, 2020 (Holy Saturday)

9:00am Morning Prayer ~ No Intention
7:30pm (Vigil) The People of St. Sylvester

Sunday, April 12, 2020 (Easter)

7:30am The People of St. Sylvester
9:00am The People of St. Sylvester
11:00am The People of St. Sylvester



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

Dennis Koehler, Paul Mazza, Santa Petrilli.

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.

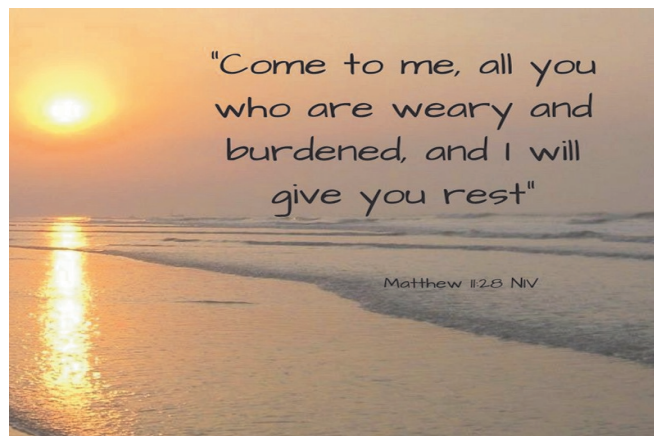
Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

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 and Barbara Perrone.



*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.***



PASTOR'S COLUMN
SS MEDFORD
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Dear Friends,

These times can be difficult. That is a severe understatement. However, we must remain steadfast in prayer as disciples of Christ and go to the Cross.

Lent is meant to be a time of self emptying. A time when we strip ourselves bare and allow ourselves to be filled with the grace of our faith: peace, love and brotherhood.

Whether we have been able to achieve this disposition to this point of Lent or not, we have been thrown into a unique place of suffering nonetheless. The outbreak of COVID-19 has forced us to examine what is most important in our lives, with most other things stripped away.

It is a time to turn to God, recognize His immense suffering on the Cross and be joined to Him. Let us continue to pray for one another, our families and all who need our help. Let us pray for first responders, health care workers, scientists and all people of good will who seek to eradicate this disease. Let us pray that this plague will end soon and that when we emerge, we will continue to have God at the center of our lives.

PLEASE KNOW THAT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, BUT **NOT "IN PERSON"** AS WE ARE COMPLYING WITH GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER. The Parish Center is open for deliveries and pick ups. You can reach us by phone or email and we will be checking messages frequently. We promise to get back to you hastily.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia
Pastor



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: catholicfaithnetwork.org 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

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: <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.

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: www.thegreatweek.com. 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 www.licatholic.org/subscribe/.

Stewardship

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service



Gifts of Treasure

March 29, 2020

Regular ~ \$5,409

Renovation ~ \$20 Solar ~ \$0

Last Year's Collection ~ March 31, 2019

Regular ~ \$6,968

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

Reflection: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May we always be ready to share our blessing when we are sent in His name!

Living Stewardship—Formation:

As faith-filled stewards, we are all called to holiness and to grow closer to Christ. This upcoming week is Holy Week, and although we are unable to physically come together for Mass, we are all invited to pray and reflect upon Jesus' Last Supper and Crucifixion which lead us to Christ's glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

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!



"We find ourselves afraid and lost. We were caught off-guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented ... all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."



~ Pope Francis

DO ALL YOU CAN

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

-JOHN WESLEY

Stewardship

April 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

My wife and I have been members of St. Sylvester Parish for more than a half-dozen years. We attend Mass on a weekly basis and contribute the weekly amount we promised during the Financial Stewardship Drive. We even try to make up after the fact for any week we miss because of being away.

Well, we have been sitting home now for weeks without the ability to go to Church and to receive the Eucharist. We never realized how much we would miss the Eucharist, Mass and seeing our friends on a weekly basis until the ability to attend Church physically was stopped due to COVID-19.

We have considered for several years signing up for the Faith Direct On-Line Giving Program. Why not? We already pay most of our bills on-line and we do a lot of our shopping on-line. We are embarrassed to admit that we didn't sign up for the Program because we were worried about what the ushers would think if we passed the basket during the collection at Mass without putting our envelope in it. That lame excuse for not signing up has disappeared, along with our getting together physically on a weekly basis.

Our Parish continues to have on-going expenses during this period, as do we all, but there will be no weekly collections to provide the normal income. **We are asking our fellow parishioners who do not presently use the Faith Direct On-Line Giving Program to consider signing up for it.** The Program will even provide cards that can be used during the Mass collection when Mass resumes to avoid any embarrassment at not dropping something into the basket. The Program will allow you to continue to conveniently support St. Sylvester on a weekly basis during this difficult period, without having to use a stamp to mail in your contribution.

Thank you for considering this request. Let us pray that we survive this difficulty and that our longing to receive the Eucharist be answered as quickly as possible. Stay safe and be careful.

Sincerely,

Neil & Lorraine Cahill

To enroll in Faith Direct Online Giving, simply go to our parish website, scroll down on the home page and click the word "here" right beneath the Online Giving graphic.

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.

Faith Formation

Updated Information From St. Sylvester Faith Formation Office

As you know, public schools are now closed through April 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 or visiting the Parish website at 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 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 .

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

Faith Formation

LETTER TO LEVEL 2 PARENTS

We hope that this letter finds you well and that you are coping with this extraordinary crisis. The COVID-19 outbreak has presented many challenges for us all and we have had to make decisions based on the best information that we have.

According to Governor Cuomo, the "peak" of the outbreak is still weeks away. Since we must assume that we cannot begin in class preparation for First Holy Communion until sometime in very late April or early May, at this time, we would like to make it very clear to parents and guardians of children preparing for First Holy Communion and some First Reconciliation as well, that we will not be celebrating First Holy Communion in May of 2020. Communion will be celebrated at a later date which has not yet been determined.

Please be assured that it is our desire to celebrate the Sacraments with you and your child as soon as possible, but that the goal right now, is for us to stay home. By staying home we show our love for others, especially those most vulnerable. People we know, and people we don't know. Staying home right now *is* the Sacrament of Communion in action.

Celebrate family meals together, praying together before you eat. Know that Christ is present in that moment. Reflect on how that is similar to the Communion we share at Church and how important it is to receive Communion with our family and the larger community as a sign of who we are and what we believe as Catholic Christians. And we will come together; hopefully very soon, to receive Communion with one another again as a community gathered in our church building. Remember to pray the Mass with your family by going to our website <http://www.stsylvesterli.org>

May our longing for this Communion and our sacrifices during this difficult time, help each of us to become the best version of ourselves, the people God created us to be, the people we hope to be.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Suglia
Pastor

Frances McMahon
Director Faith Formation

How to reach the Faith Formation Office:

- Fran McMahon - 631-475-4506 x: 107 email: fcmahon@stsylvesterli.org
- Michael Lofaro - 631-475-4506 x: 113 email: mlofaro@stsylvesterli.org
- Terése Tornincaso - 631-475-4506 x:118 email: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org

Please email or call and we will return your message.

Cardinal Dolan has said, "amid the fear and uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus outbreak, now more than ever is the time to keep the faith." We may not have a physical presence, but we are here for you. We'll continue to pray for you and we ask that you pray for fellow parishioners, those suffering from Coronavirus, their families, first responders and those on the front line. Please be safe and be well.

Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!



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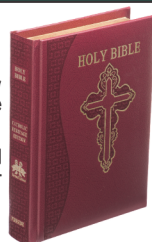
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