

# 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 10am.

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*, 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:***

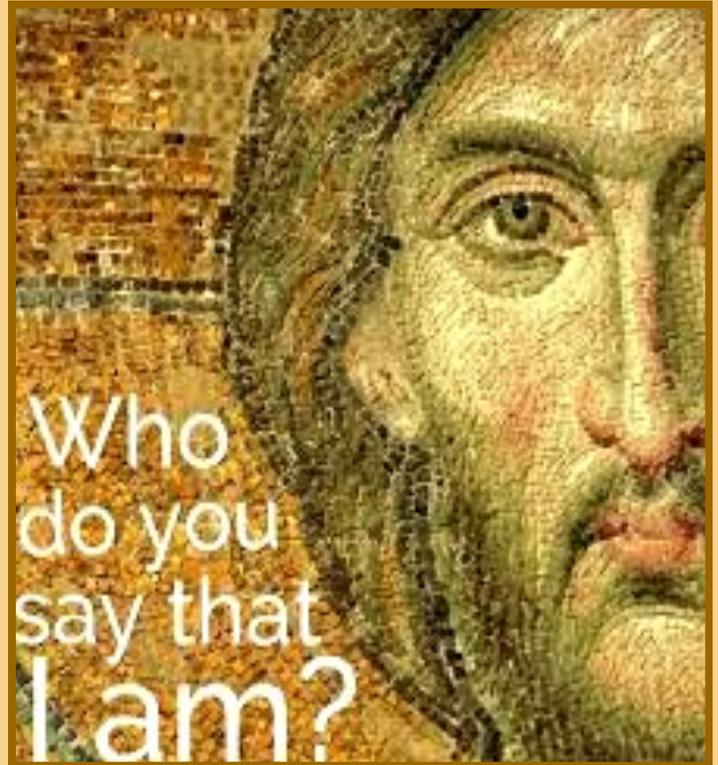
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

## ***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.



**August 23, 2020**  
**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## **Pastoral Leadership Team**

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Michael Lofaro, Administrator,  
Faith Formation

Frances McMahan, Director,  
Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahan, 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., 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

## We Pray

### *Saturday, August 22, 2020*

5:00pm Grace Smith—*4th Anniversary*  
Deceased & Living Members of Caravana,  
Matteo & Lentini Families  
Ann Riccobono  
Amalia Marchese  
Mary Hanley

### *Sunday, August 23, 2020*

7:30am The People of St. Sylvester  
9:00am Maria & Manuel Fernandes  
11:00am Michael Colosuonno

### *Monday, August 24, 2020*

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

### *Tuesday, August 25, 2020*

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

### *Thursday, August 27, 2020*

8:30am Roy Hull

### *Friday, August 28, 2020*

8:30am Deceased & Living Members of Mahony,  
Iacobelli & Slominsky Families

### *Saturday, August 29, 2020*

5:00pm Mangino, Lippis & Santonastasio Families  
Jim Kummer  
Edward Fink  
Frank Maiewski  
Luigi & Maria Russo

### *Sunday, August 30, 2020*

7:30am The People of St. Sylvester  
9:00am Ginny Handley—*11th Anniversary*  
11:00am Peter A. Montemurro—*5th Anniversary*



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

***James Gallagher and Donald Plante.***

***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. Thank you and God bless.***

***“What you are is  
God’s gift to you,  
what you become is  
your gift to God.”***

***~ Hans Urs von Balthasar***



### 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.

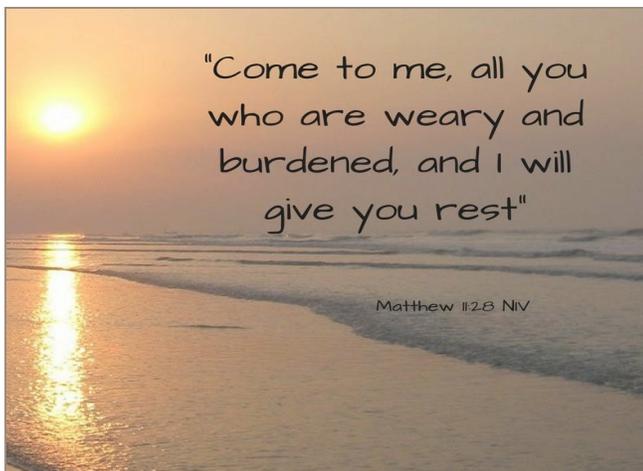
**Visit our website at: [www.stsylvesterli.org](http://www.stsylvesterli.org)**

# We Pray



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

**Melanie Schmadtke, John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Nicholas Grizopoulos, Mark LaGatta, Faith LaGatta, David Raynor, Terri Weinstein.**



*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.*

**PRAYER**, the world's greatest wireless connection



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](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.**



# 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 10AM 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).\*\* **PLEASE NOTE NEW REGISTRATION DAYS AND TIMES!** 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.

**BOTH WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOW BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE AT 5PM AND 10AM —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 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.**

**Dear Parishioners,**

**We have been given direction from the Diocese of Rockville Centre to reopen for the public celebration of Mass within State Guidelines. Therefore, St. Sylvester Parish will be having Mass on Saturdays at 5:00PM and Sundays at 10:00AM.**

**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 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.**
- \* **One bathroom will be open for emergency use only! Please use restroom 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](http://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 a basket on your way out.**
- **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.**
- **No bulletins will be distributed. Please read the bulletin online.**
- **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**

## ***What Will Faith Formation 2020-2021 Look Like?***

After much conversation, prayer and discernment we have decided to keep all Faith Formation class Schedules/Calendars the same as they were in the past year, BUT to conduct all classes through the Zoom platform, virtually. Arrangements will be made for a curbside pickup of the materials (books, calendar, etc.) needed for each of your children so they can work from home. So think of it this way, Faith Formation will be the same as it was last year, except classes will not be held at the parish. Instead, your child's class for which you have registered them will be held on the Zoom platform from your home. For example, and to be clear, if you registered your child for a Level 5 class on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., your child's class will be held virtually on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. each week according to the Level 5 Calendar. The same will hold true for all Levels, 1 through 8 and Home Taught. We will send you a link that you will simply click on to join the class. You will need a computer or device that has a camera, microphone and speaker. We will have a test run before classes begin so that parents and students can become familiar with the process.

*Our goal is to be sure all who register in Faith Formation are safe and stay healthy. Thank you for your patience!*

Parents with children who have particular special needs!

Parents, for students who are in the Individualized Faith Formation Program or whose particular needs would make it difficult to stay focused virtually, we will work directly and individually with you to accommodate your child's particular needs. Please go ahead and register your child for the next Level in the Individualized Faith Formation Program. If you have questions, please email

[faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org)

**First Holy Communions for Level 2 & Older Sacraments Classes 2020**

Information has been emailed to all Level 2 & Older Sacrament parents regarding the celebration of First Holy Communion. If you have not yet received an email with your child's date and time for First Holy Communion, please contact us at [faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org). Thank you!

**Confirmation for fall of 2020**

If your child is entering Level 8 this fall, please know that we are carefully considering and planning the best way to safely celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation (and for some, First Holy Communion) with your child and your family and will let you know as soon as possible what that will look like. Thank you for your patience.

**Level 1 Parents**

Welcome to St. Sylvester Faith Formation. If this is your first child entering Faith Formation, here is a short summary of Level 1. Parent works at home with child on Level 1 workbook, child attends 6 short meetings with catechist on Zoom platform, and parents attend 6 short meetings for parents on Zoom platform all according to the Level 1 calendar. All meetings will be on Saturdays. More detailed information will be up coming. Please register your child on line for Level 1, be sure to fill in the information regarding where your child was baptized. Thank you!

**Middle School Ministry:** There was not a Zoom Meeting, Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. as originally planned. Parents, please watch your email for the next invitation to join in September!

*See the next page for more information!*

# FAITH FORMATION

## *Faith Formation Registration 2020-2021 Year Has begun and will continue on-line!*

Parents, if you have not yet received an email with important registration information and directions on how to register your child for 2020/2021 Faith Formation year, please email us at [faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org)

Due to COVID 19, this year, registration will take place online.

**Our goal is to be sure all who attend Faith Formation are safe and stay healthy. Thank you for your patience!**

Adults: We know that formation in faith is ongoing and life-long and therefore St. Sylvester's ministers of RCIA and Adult Confirmation are prepared to walk with you as you deepen your relationship with God, yourself and others. For information please email [fmcmahon@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:fmcmahon@stsyvesterli.org)



**Faith Formation**

**Did you know?**

*Our homes are called the School of  
Christian Life and the  
Domestic Church!*

**“Childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable. Indeed, family catechesis precedes... accompanies and enriches all forms of catechesis.”** *General Directory for Catechesis, John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Catechesi Tradendae (October 1979): AAS 71 (1979), pp. 1277-1340*

*For more information or questions  
please email  
[faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org)*

# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

### *Gifts of Treasure*

*August 16, 2020*

Regular ~ \$5,553

Renovation ~ \$250    Solar ~ \$20

*Last Year's Collection ~ August 18, 2019*

Regular ~ \$7,900

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

### *Will & Estate Planning*

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

"Just as baptism is the outward sign of beginning relationship with Christ, generosity is the outward sign of Jesus continually living daily within your life."

*Anonymous*

### *Growing Generosity*

Today's second reading from St. Paul to the Romans asks, *"...who has given the Lord anything that he might be repaid? For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things."* Faithful stewards recognize that everything we have in our lives has been given to us as a gift from God. *We cannot possibly repay God*, but we do have a Christian responsibility to develop and share what we have been given with others, and continue to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Once we understand that Stewardship is not just a buzz word, but a way of living, it profoundly changes the way we see the world and how we interact in it. When we come to understand that everything we have and achieve comes from God, and is not as a result of anything we do, it cannot help but change us. We experience a conversion in which we, in turn, instinctively become more generous in all facets of our lives. We share our time selflessly with others without counting the minutes and work diligently to right the injustices we see in society. We develop our talents and use them for the greater good in our homes, parish and larger community. We care for the earth and the environment to preserve its beauty and bounty for future generations. And yes, we give our money generously to feed the hungry and assist the poor, and continue Jesus' mission here in Medford and beyond.

Bishop Carl A. Kemme summed it up well when he said, "Stewardship is not just about one or another aspect of our faith lives; it is about *all* of it. It is the overarching and foundational spirituality that shapes our entire existence." However, we do not wake up one day having "mastered" Stewardship — there is no test to pass. It is a lifelong process which we immerse ourselves in one step at a time. It is a way of living, which through faith and discernment, leads to a life filled with greater joy and generosity of spirit — something we can all use a lot more of right now! Pass it on!

~ Lori Zito

# 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 Mondays 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.

We regularly post resources to our Twitter feed @clarehouse99

<https://twitter.com/clarehouse99>

We are NOT soliciting physical donations at this time. If you wish to support our mission please consider making a donation through Faith Direct. Click "Make a One-Time Gift Now" and then write "Clare House - PSM" in the Note. Thank you for your support!

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY285>



## Thrift Shop Reopens

St. Sylvester operates a community thrift shop filled with a variety of goods at extremely affordable prices - often much lower than traditional thrift shops! Hardworking staff and volunteers stock the shelves with a high level of detail. Often the items available are very high quality. Excess clothing which cannot be sold or used is donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and furthers their mission to serve the poor. Clare House clients can receive a voucher, based on financial need, to obtain items at no cost.

**WE ARE NOT SOLICITING PHYSICAL DONATIONS AT THIS TIME. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE THE THRIFT SHOP.**

### CONTACT

631-475-4506 x124

### HOURS

Tuesday ~10:00AM - 3:00PM

## NOTICE

### ALL CUSTOMERS MUST:

- Wait outside until directed to enter
- Wear a mask
- Complete a temp check (under 100 degrees)
- Sanitize hands upon entry
- Maintain social distancing of 6' at all times



## AVISO

### TODOS LOS CLIENTES DEBEN:

- Espere afuera hasta que se le indique ingresar
- Usar una máscara
- Complete una verificación de temperatura (menos de 100 grados)
- Desinfecte las manos al entrar
- Mantener el distanciamiento social de 6' en todo momento





# The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

## Upcoming Workshop

### **Basic Virtual Religious Studies Course (2020)**

#### **Via Zoom**

##### New Testament

August 17 – August 20, 2020  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

##### Church

August 24 – August 27, 2020  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

##### Christology

August 31 – September 3, 2020  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### **Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers**

#### **Via Zoom**

##### Evening

Oct 12, 19, 26; Nov 2, and 9  
7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

##### Mornings

Oct 13, 20, 27; Nov 3, and 10  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information, workshops, or to register online,  
please visit [drvc-faith.org/event](http://drvc-faith.org/event)

## **Retrouvaille Weekend 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, September 11, 2020, 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:

Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY  
440 West Neck Road  
Huntington, NY 11743



## 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.**

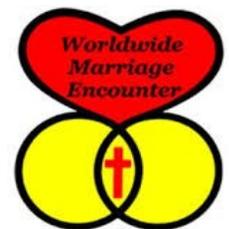
**This Sunday’s theme is  
Being Excited~ don’t miss it!**

To listen online, or receive more information regarding “*Religion and Rock*,” go to [www.ReligionandRock.com](http://www.ReligionandRock.com) or to “*Religion & Rock*” on ITUNES.

## “Virtual” Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called **Restore – Rekindle – Renew**. This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for seven sessions on Monday evenings, September 14 to October 26, from 7-9:30 PM.

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 \$50 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/>

Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!

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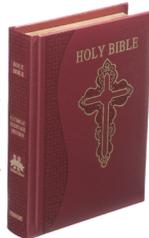
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