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 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 any time (option "0" on the parish voice mail).



No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." ~ Luke 9:62

June 26, 2022 The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 Hours are Monday through Friday, 9am ~ 12 noon and 1pm~5pm.

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. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am ~ 3pm.; Wednesdays 5pm ~ 7pm. Bread Ministry takes place on Fridays from 10am—12 noon. 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 are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am ~ 3pm.; 1st Saturday of month 10am-1pm.

We Pray





Saturday, June 25, 2022 The Perry Family 5:00pm Joseph Rotundo ~ 50th Anniversary Lucy Mazzeo ~ 22nd Anniversary Walter Touhev

Sunday, 7:30am 9:00am 11:00am

8:30am

8:30am

June 26, 2022 George Ward Harold O'Connell Luigi & Maria Russo

June 27, 2022 Monday, The People of St. Sylvester

June 28, 2022 Tuesday, 8:30am Reverend John F. Whelan

Thursday, June 30, 2022 Frank Cayea

Friday. July 1, 2022 The People of St. Sylvester

July 2, 2022 Saturday, Most Reverend Emil A. Wcela 5:00pm Jack Kaiser Frederick Bedford Jane Frances Zach Maureen "Bunny" Carro

July 3, 2022 Sunday, 7:30am John Passarella 9:00am Cecilia Lik 11:00am Salvatore, Carmela, Phil & Robert Toscano



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

Christel Frey.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT

To build and maintain a bridge connecting parish leadership and parishioners that facilitates transparent, honest and respectful dialogue and communication. To enable parishioners to ask questions, raise concerns and make suggestions that will impact the future directions of the parish.

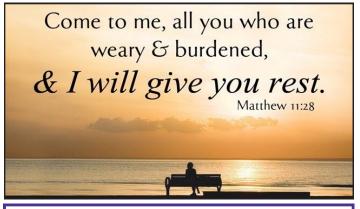
Please keep our Council members in your prayers as they carry out their responsibilities: Patricia Coppola, Ashley Perrone, Tom Mowat & Bill Sisco.

We Pray



Please pray for all who are sick, especially . . . John McGarvey, Rosa & Luciano Miranda, Corey Govier (child), Robert Cook, Rosemarie Biscardi, Joanne Clark, Joseph Pergola, Carolyn Clarke, Gary Pendleton, Neftali Nieves, Roni & Ray Fiedler, John DiSanto, William Crawford, Ronald Matonti, Sr., Susan Payne Einar, Joseph Roepcke, Barbara Gosnell, Liam Clark (child), Michael Virostko, Terry Heslin, Karen Summers, Melissa Clarke & Debbie Miley.

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.



COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Do you know someone who is no longer able to attend Mass but would like to receive the Eucharist?



Please have them or a family member call our Parish Office

at 631-475-4506, ext. 101 to arrange for a visit from one of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



Please pray for world peace and all public servants including the following who are serving on active duty: Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army Major (Sel.) Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force Captain Hannah Grosso Dustin, Army Captain Michael Dustin, Army Captain Michael Hawkins, Army 2nd Lieutenant Matthew Hawkins, Army Captain Peter Duff, Army Lieutenant J.G. Brett Reilly, Navy Chief David Patricio, 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.*

Giving Thanks For Summer



Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. ~ Author Unknown, www.xavier.edu



We invited and provided information regarding the Consultation/Listening Session through: **Emails to Parishioners**

Announcements at Mass Bulletin **Parish Website** Google Form used for Registration.

The Consultation/Listening Session consisted of: 13 people attended the Consultation/Listening Session. Continental Breakfast was provided. The Listening Session followed the recommended guidelines.

Pastor and Pastoral Staff planned, organized, implemented, welcomed, took notes during consultation and are responsible for this report.

Syntheses/input/insights from the questions posed:

Question #1. How is this journeying together happening today in your local Church?

Best Experiences

Attending Mass, especially Holy Week, Easter Vigil, feel most connected.

Connection between Ministry and attending Mass.

Palpable connection between ministry/service and sense of belonging.

Very active Religious Instruction and Faith Formation.

Fellow Catholics helping each other, companionship, support, sharing beliefs.

Parish Breakfasts, Holiday Fairs, etc. are opportunities for meeting others.

Pandemic: Relied more on faith, love of God, made extra effort to attend Mass.

Journeying/accompanying parishioners in my work/vocation.

Obstacles

Lack of young families and people in the Church.

Pandemic.

Unfortunate divide in the secular world: politics, relativism, materialism, etc. affects the Church. Shortage of priests.

Desire/need for women to be able to be ordained as deacons or priests.

There needs to be a place for persons who are homosexual in the Church.

If the Church wants to be more relevant and bring people back, it must address marriage/divorce, sexuality, priesthood.

Scandals, lack of awareness of Virtus training, etc.



Continued....

Church out of sync with the times. "Old fashioned." People do not believe in the real presence in the Eucharist. Priests and administrators need to listen. Too closed minded to issues of parishioners. Need more open dialogue, faith sharing, prayer. Make more use of technology. Catholics not loyal to the Pope. Too much distraction in our society, need to go back to basics.

Question #2. What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together both locally and globally?

Local Priorities

More outreach/invitation, activities, programs, liturgies. Be more inclusive, welcoming, understanding, non-judgmental, more Christ-like. Involve parish in more Corporal Works of Mercy. Re-center Church as valuable center of the community. More small groups to foster connection with others. Increase of women in the Church leadership roles. Diocese should talk more about ministries and less about money. Diocesan leaders be more present/visible to their flock during crisis. Focus on families and younger generation. Develop programs that address local and world issues. Reach out to those who are not involved. Encourage Mass attendance. Have interfaith gatherings. More Church activities to promote spiritual growth. In everyday life, be an example of faith.

Global Priorities

More acceptance of others regardless of sexual orientation, gender, religion, etc. Greater inclusion of women in leadership/clergy roles in the Church. Reaffirm moral teachings. More open to interfaith, non-Catholic, brothers, and sisters. Marriage issues need to be addressed in relation to receiving the Eucharist. Ordain married men where there is a shortage of priests. Allow better use of science to help understand those who are different. Develop programs to address world issues, not just pray about it. Get input from youth in how to make our faith more inviting and accepting; let them lead. Christian values need to be out there on social media, TV, radio, etc.

This report has been sent to the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Keeping Pace With NYS & Diocesan Guidelines

Effective now:

If you have been fully vaccinated, wearing a mask in the Church or Parish Center is now optional.

- <u>If you have not been fully vaccinated</u>, you continue to be responsible for wearing a mask in the Church and Parish Center in accordance with the federal and state's implementation of the CDC guidance.
- In either case, for the health, safety, and respect of others, we ask you to continue to use common sense in maintaining social distance from others when choosing your seat in the church.
- At Communion time, for the safety of all, please receive the Host in your hands, step to the side, place the Host in your mouth, and return to your pew. Please consume the Eucharist before returning to your seat.
- If you want to receive Communion on your tongue, please go to the very end of the priest's line for the safety of everyone.
- The Bishop's dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation due to the ongoing pandemic has been lifted. As usual, this obligation does not apply to those who are ill, those who are confined to their home, a hospital, or nursing facility, those with serious underlying health conditions or those who are caring for a vulnerable family member.
- Our Sunday worship will continue to be livestreamed on Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 11am, and will continue to be posted on the website for those who fall into any of the categories listed above.

Our priority continues to be for the safety and health of everyone. We appreciate your patience, understanding and cooperation, and will continue to keep you updated on changes as we move forward.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Suglia

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Chuck & Maria Reiss at 631-486-8607 or visit them at https://www.networld.com.

Don't look at the past, it's gone. Look forward with an open heart and mind to the future with your spouse - share an experience with each other. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences.



Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial

Worldwide Marriage Encounter está patrocinando una variedad de experiencias matrimoniales en persona y virtuales, algunas los fines de semana y otras los siete días de la semana. Las parejas explorarán su relación entre ellos, Dios y la Iglesia. El registro es limitado y se requiere una tarifa de solicitud de \$100. Para más información o para aplicar, llame al Felipe y Rosa Ruano Teléfono 203-979-6109 o renuevatumatrimonio.org.



We hope you and your families ae doing well and enjoying the warmer weather. We are excited to share with you the plans for the coming Faith Formation year! We continue to develop the program to be more family-oriented, balancing Church and home life, empowering and encouraging parents to be witnesses of the faith and providing opportunities for families to experience God's loving presence in all they do and in all the places they are!

This is what the program will look like for the 2022-2023 year!

- ~ All classes will meet at the parish, except for some of the Individualized Faith Formation (IFF) classes, which are designed to assist children with special needs in preparing for and receiving Sacraments.
- ~ Class times will be one hour and fifteen minutes instead of one hour long with exceptions for IFF.
- ~ Classes will meet twice a month instead of every week.
- ~ There will be a Sunday/Saturday Mass component for every Level to be involved in.
- ~ There will be Mass Reflection Forms to be completed once a month.
- ~ Children's Liturgy will be offered twice a month which will be helpful for children in completing the Mass Reflection Forms.
- ~ Different Levels will be invited to bring cookies, donuts, etc. to Hospitality on specific Sundays that coincide with Children's Liturgy.

Level 1 will meet once a month on Saturday from 9:00 to 10:15 am in the Parish Center. Parents will sign child into classroom and then go downstairs to meet with the other adults for hospitality and a parent presentation. They will sign their child out of class at 10:15 am.

Levels 2-6 will meet at the same time so parents will be able to drop off their children of different levels all at the same time. Level 2-6 will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45 to 6:00 pm and on Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:30 pm.

Level 7 will meet Tuesday and Thursday from 6:15 to 7:30 pm. Level 7 will attend the 5:00 pm Mass once a month on designated Saturdays.

Level 8 will have immediate preparation and celebrate Confirmation in the fall. After Confirmation they will be invited to participate in a leadership role at the Saturday 5pm Mass once a month.



Are You Called to be a Catechist?

We are inviting you to consider becoming a Catechist for Faith Formation. If you think you may be interested, please email mlofaro@stsylvesterli.org for more information on what

All Are Welcome!! Did you know that we have an Individualized Faith Formation Program for children with special needs?

If your child has special needs, and has been diagnosed with: Autism, ADD or ADHD, Reading Disability, Cognitive Speech Delay, ODD or Other Behavioral Concerns, Sensory Processing Disorder, Other Health Impairment

...please know that there is a place for your child in the St. Sylvester Faith Formation and Sacramental Program. We have been blessed with volunteers who are educated and experienced in working with children with special needs and their families. Please call the Faith Formation Office at 631-475-4506 Ext. 118 so that we can help in placing your child in the class that will be most beneficial for them.

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS

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.**

Stewardship



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

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Service

Gifts of Treasure

June 19, 2022 Regular ~ \$7,811 Renovation ~ \$110

> Last Year (June 20, 2021) Regular ~ \$5,304

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!!!

WE ARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!



Even though our annual Stewardship Time and Talent Renewal has come to a close, the challenge to use our gifts continues! Thank you to all those who completed one of the *Get Involved! Time and Talent Response Forms.* And, thanks

to all of you who share God's gifts as people of faith in your everyday lives — at home, in your workplace, in the community and our parish —in the world! As Christian stewards we accept the invitation to be Christ Light in the world by using our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

• Catholic Ministries Appeal

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Designated Goal:	\$71,300
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$38,318.15
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	53.74%

Pledges and donations can be made by check payable to the *Catholic Ministries Appeal* or by credit card through the CMA icon on our website's homepage. Mail in brochures are available in the church and in the Parish Center.

Thank You! Every gift counts!

Telling It Like It Is

I always enjoy reading St. Paul's letters as they are often straight and to the point and today's Second Reading from St. Paul to the Galatians is no different.

He is telling the Galatians that they were called to freedom, but that they are not to abuse it; rather, they are to "serve one another through love." St. Paul continues, echoing the second part of Jesus' greatest commandment, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." As Catholics living in a free nation based on Christian principles, this is what we aspire to — loving God and others without question, and creating a united, peaceful country working toward the common good of mankind. How sad that our nation seems so far from this ideal as we watch the constant violence and mayhem that is now the daily news.

Paul, in his fabulously blunt way, seems to reach out through time and the pages of scripture to warn us, "*But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.*" They are *s*trong, graphic words, biting and devouring, bringing to mind perhaps a pack of wild dogs on the attack — terrifying and violent, but unfortunately most accurate!!

As we leave the Easter season and return again to Ordinary Time, let us refrain from sliding back into standing by and accepting what has become business as usual — the physical or verbal tearing apart of a person, group, race, religion, political party, gender, etc. to build up another. This is not the way Christ wants us to treat our brothers and sisters; with God, there is only love and looking forward. Jesus himself tells us so in Luke's Gospel, "No one who ... looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." Are we ready to forget the hurts of the past and come together in peaceful cooperation to solve the crises facing us, or will we be as St. Paul warns "consumed by one another?" ~ Lori Zito

Parish Social Ministry



Clare House - We Are Here to Help!

<u>We are now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays</u> <u>from 10am until 3pm, and on Wednesday</u> <u>evenings from 5pm to 7pm. Friday mornings we</u> <u>have our *Bread Ministry* from 10am –12pm,</u> where local stores and bakeries donate bread, rolls, etc. for those in need throughout our community. If you have an emergency situation that requires assistance, please call our intake line and leave only <u>one</u> complete message stating your name, number, and primary need: 631-475-4506 x122.

Clare House is open for Emergency Food Distribution and other requests at the days and times listed above. Please come to the front door for assistance.

We are currently in need of the following donations to assist others: ramen noodles, pancake mix, pancake syrup, whole grain snacks, laundry detergent, dish detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, shaving cream, razors, feminine products and gas station gift cards. <u>We are also looking for some helping</u> hands on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12pm-3pm! If you would like to help us to help others, please call the Parish Office.

Please place donations in the church bin when you come to Mass or drop them off at the Parish Center or Clare House, and kindly check the expiration dates on your items. Thank you!



Come & Check Out Our Thrift Shop!

The Thrift Shop hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 3pm, and on the first

Saturday of each month from 10am until 1pm.

New and gently-used items may be donated when the thrift shop is open or placed in the bins. We are in particular need of boys' and girls' clothes sizes 4-6x at this time.



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!





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