St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

www.stsylvesterli.org

(631) 475-4506

A community praying, growing, serving & welcoming in Jesus Christ.

Eucharist:

Saturday 5pm; Sunday 9am & 11am. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8:30am in the Church. Rosary recitation begins at 8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined dates. *Prior to making plans,* please call the Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation/Confession:

For those seeking spiritual healing. Saturday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the Sacristy or by appointment 631-475-4506, Ext. 101 or email dsuglia@drvc.org.

Confirmation:

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

Marriage:

Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm; Saturday @ 11:00am, 12:30pm, & 2:00pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick & Dying:

For those needing surgery or serious medical treatment and for those in danger of death. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1515, the Sacrament should be received once, unless during an illness the sick person's health worsens, or for subsequent surgeries, or after recovery they begin a new illness. They may then receive it again. Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass, or call the Rectory at 631-475-0418 any time.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord March 28, 2021

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Rev. Dan Picciano, Weekend Assistant

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski, Retired

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Michael Lofaro, Administrator, Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director, Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Lori Zito, Director, Parish Ministries & Events

Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org Mon., Wed. & Fri. ~ 9am-12pm

Faith Formation Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org Please call (631) 475-4506, ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Parish Social Ministry at Clare House: (631) 475-4506, ext. 122; Fax (631) 475-6058 Please call the number above or press the number "5" on the parish phone message for assistance.

Thrift Shop: (631) 475-4506, ext. 124. Closed until further notice.



Pastoral Council: The members of our Pastoral Council listed below meet with Fr. Suglia monthly to discern the needs and hopes for the future of our parish. Please keep them in your prayers as they carry out this important responsibility:

Patricia Coppola Nancy Di Santo Amanda Gentile Tom Mowat

Ashley Perrone Bill Sisco

We Pray

Saturday, March 27, 2021 ~ Palm Sunday Vigil 5:00pm Agnes Cantarelli George Boziwick Carmine Lorenzo

Sunday,March 28, 2021 ~ Palm Sunday9:00amRosa & Manuel Esteves11:00amThe Russo & Cesarino Families

Monday, March 29, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:30am Deacon James Seidel

Thursday,April 1, 2021 ~ Holy Thursday7:30pmThe People of St. Sylvester

Saturday,April 3, 2021 ~ Easter Vigil7:30pmThe People of St. Sylvester

Sunday,April 4, 2021 ~ Easter Sunday9:00amThe People of St. Sylvester11:00amThe People of St. Sylvester

PRAYER, the *world's* greatest wireless connection



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

Mary Hulsenberg and Deacon James Seidel.

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.



We Pray



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

John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Bill Berger, Krista Teigland, Frederick Schaefer, William Crawford and Priscilla Koehler.

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.

HOLY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Holy Thursday Collection will be for our own Parish Social Ministry's Outreach efforts.

On Good Friday, this annual collection is for the Holy Land. Each day, the news reminds us of the violence and instability plaguing the Middle East, but we rarely hear of the shrinking Christian community there, a community that struggles to remain in the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. This Pontifical Collection allows the Franciscans and others to continue caring for Christianity's holiest sites and for God's people in the Holy Land.

Please leave your specially-marked envelopes in the church baskets or drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need in our community as well as on the other side of the world.



Please pray for world peace and all public servants including the following who are serving on active duty:

Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army Captain Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force 1st Lieutenant Hannah Grosso, Army 1st Lieutenant Michael Dustin, Army 1st Lieutenant Michael Hawkins, Army Petty Officer 2nd Class Elena Greck, Navy Lieutenant Nicoli Carlson, Navy Captain Holly Grosso Carlson, Army Captain Peter Duff, Army Ensign Brett Reilly, Navy

If you have a family member who is currently serving on active duty in the military and would like his or her name added to this prayer list, please call 631-475-4506 Ext. 101 or email ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org Please notify the same of any change in status. Thank you.

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Fast and Abstinence During Lent

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive should observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION Saturdays during Lent at 4:00pm in the Church

Monday, March 29th ~ 12 Noon to 2:00pm ~ Parish Center Worship Room *Communal Reconciliation/Confession Service ~ 7:00pm in the Church *Registration begins Friday, March 26th at 9:00am and ends Sunday, March 28th at 9:00pm.

PALM SUNDAY MASSES

*Saturday, March 27th ~ 5:00pm Mass *Sunday, March 28th ~ 9:00am & 11:00am Masses *Registration begins Wednesday, March 24th at 9:00am and ends Friday, March 26th at 3:00pm. *There will be a separate registration button on the homepage for these Masses.

HOLY THURSDAY ~ APRIL 1ST

9:00am ~ Morning Prayer (No registration needed.) *7:30pm ~ Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper *Registration begins Monday, March 29th at 9:00am and ends Wednesday, March 31st at 3:00pm.

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 2ND

9:00am ~ Morning Prayer (No registration needed.) *3:00pm ~ Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death *Registration begins Monday, March 29th at 9:00am and ends Thursday, April 1st at 3:00pm.

HOLY SATURDAY ~ APRIL 3RD

9:00AM ~ Morning Prayer (No registration needed.) *7:30pm ~ Easter Vigil ~ First Mass of Easter *Registration begins Wednesday, March 31st at 9:00am and ends Friday, April 2nd at 3:00pm. **NO CONFESSIONS TODAY.

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 4TH

*9:00am Mass *11:00am Mass

*Registration begins Wednesday, March 31st at 9:00am and ends Friday, April 2nd at 3:00pm.

**<u>ALL REGISRATIONS WILL BE DONE THROUGH OUR PARISH WEBSITE.</u>

**<u>MASKS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES IN THE CHURCH.</u>

PARISH INFORMATION

As we continue to navigate through this challenging time, we are pleased to be able to say that things are beginning to open up here at the parish, although in a limited way. We are happy to communicate the following:

WEEKEND MASSES ARE CELEBRATED AT 5PM ON SATURDAYS AND 9AM AND 11AM ON SUNDAYS. You must register to attend these Masses weekly through our parish website beginning each <u>Wednesday morning at 9am</u>. The program will stop accepting reservations on <u>Friday at 3pm</u> (or sooner if it reaches a maximum of 80 people for that particular Mass). Ushers will check your registrations at the door before entering the church and will seat you. The pews in the church are marked off to maintain social distancing.

WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOW BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE AT <u>5PM</u> AND <u>11AM</u> —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 SATUR-DAYS 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 <u>do not</u> need to register for these Masses.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 9AM TO 12PM TO ASSIST YOU WITH MASS CARDS, ANNOUNCED MASSES, MEMORIALS, SACRAMENT CERTIFICATES, ETC.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE CHURCH AS WELL AS IN ALL PARISH BUILDINGS AND AREAS.

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary McMahon, LCSW, Director.

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being -- or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to navigate the public celebration of Mass within State Guidelines, St. Sylvester Parish will offer Mass on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM & 11AM.

Please note the following important information:

- At this time, the bishop still dispenses all the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Our Sunday worship will be livestreamed on Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 11am and will continue to be posted on the website for those who are vulnerable, for those who have a health impairment that would make them more susceptible to serious illness, for those who might not be feeling well, or have a fever, and for those who are caretakers for other people who are vulnerable. If you are in any of these situations, you are encouraged to continue to remain at home and worship online.
- Restrooms will be open for emergency use only! Please use bathroom at home!
- There is a mandatory online reservation system for all who wish to attend Mass. Please register beginning Wednesdays at 9am by going to www.stsylvesterli.org
- Please print out your registration information or have available on your phone as you will be asked to show your registration before entering the church.
- Masks or other face coverings must be worn by all participants.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass so your reservation may be confirmed and you may be shown to your seat. Capacity at this time is limited to 25%.
- Seating will be done according to social distancing guidelines. You will most likely not be sitting in your "usual" seat. Families may sit together at Mass. There is no "saving seats" or asking to be seated in a particular seat.
- The Offertory Procession and passing of the donation basket will be omitted.
- If you wish to make a contribution, there will be baskets at the entrance and exit. Contributions may also dropped at the parish center or made online.
- The Sign of Peace or other greetings will not be exchanged.
- Directions will be given for Communion, which will be distributed after Mass as you are leaving the church. Please follow the directions of the ushers.
- Please go directly to your car, as no congregating is permitted.
- We will continue to keep you updated on changes as we move forward.

This is a work in progress, so as we move forward there may be changes. We appreciate your patience and want you to know that our first priority is that those attending Mass will be safe.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Suglia

Faith Formation

Keeping the Triduum at Home

This year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, families have the opportunity to observe the Triduum—the three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—at home. Here are some ideas! See <u>https://www.loyolapress.com</u> for more ideas!

Holy Thursday

On this day, we recall the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, and the agony in the garden.

* To recall the institution of the Eucharist, the Bread of Life, consider baking a loaf of bread as a family. It can be a favorite recipe, or <u>you can make unleavened bread</u>. As part of the experience, have a family member read aloud Exodus 12 about the first Passover meal.

* Read aloud John 13 that tells the story of Jesus washing the feet of his Apostles, and then <u>consider inviting family members to</u> <u>wash one another's feet</u>. Talk about how washing feet is a symbol of service and how family members can serve one another each day.

* Work together as a family to create a <u>diorama depicting Jesus' agony in the</u> <u>Garden of Gethsemane</u>. Read aloud Matthew 26:36–46 about Jesus in the Garden.

* <u>Make Triduum tryptics</u> as a family.

Good Friday

On this day, we recall Jesus' suffering and death and venerate the Cross.

• Invite the family to turn off all devices between noon and 3 p.m., to recall the

time that Jesus suffered on the Cross. Use the time to bake hot cross buns or, if the weather permits, to go outside and plant seeds, explaining how a seed must "die" if it is to give life. Make sure all children know how to pray the Sign of the Cross, and teach it to those who have yet to learn this prayer.

• If your home does not have a crucifix, arrange to purchase one ahead of time, and then bless it and display it in a prominent place in the home. Pray the *Way of the Cross* as a family, using the <u>online</u> or <u>printable versions from Loyola Press</u>.

Help your children get to know the story of Jesus' Passion by adapting the <u>classroom activity</u>, <u>"Looking for Clues,"</u> for your family.

Holy Saturday

On this day, we hold vigil and, in the evening, we welcome the light (fire) that dispels the darkness and proclaim "Alleluia!" and "Glory to God!" for the first time in 40 days to begin the celebration of the Resurrection. We celebrate new life in Baptism and renew our baptismal promises.

Make a Paschal (Easter) candle as a family.

• If weather and local fire ordinances allow, light a fire in your backyard in a fire pit (under adult supervision) and, as a family, sit silently around the fire. Pull out pictures, videos, and mementos of your children's Baptisms, and tell stories and share memories of the events. As a family, <u>renew your baptismal promises</u>.

• Color <u>Resurrection eggs</u>, and explain how the egg is a symbol of the Resurrection (life emerging from the tomb). Decorate the eggs with religious symbols.



Stewardship







Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Bonnets, Bunnies, Belief & Blessings

When my daughters were young, the weeks leading up to Easter were chock full of preparation. There were Easter dresses and bonnets to be purchased, decorations to be placed inside and outside the house, pictures with the Easter Bunny to be taken, eggs to be dyed, baskets to be assembled, etc. Palm Sunday was a day to attend Mass, see who could make the best palm crosses and then visit with family you would not get to see for Easter — usually accompanied by more delicious food and dessert than you could ever possibly eat.

As hectic and happy as all of this was, it was always my goal to have most of the busyness done with by Palm Sunday in order to focus on Holy Week. *Jesus of Nazareth and King of Kings* was must-see TV as my husband and I tried to instill in our children that there was more to this week than the Easter Bunny and chocolate. On Good Friday we would come here in the morning for the Children's Stations of the Cross.

So much of this preparation has been taken from us for the second time now (and hopefully the last!), but the importance of this week, Holy Week, perhaps looms larger than ever for us as faith-filled stewards.

Jesus was greeted joyfully with palm on a Sunday and was crucified by the next Friday — less than a week's time. Many of us, sadly, tragically, have learned this past year just how quickly celebration can turn to sorrow. And yet, as we recall Jesus' sacrifice and follow His journey from today through Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we also need to remember that three days later Jesus rose from the dead, leaving an empty tomb behind. His glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday was and is also ours, and our belief in and understanding of what God, our loving parent, has in store for us should, indeed must, give us the hope, joy, faith, compassion and strength we need to continue to love and serve and heal one another.

May this Holy Week give us a greater insight not only into the depth of God's sacrifice for us, but also of His limitless love.

~ Lori Zito

Gifts of Treasure

March 21, 2021

Regular ~ \$4,450 Renovation ~ \$90

Last Year 's Collection ~ March 22, 2020 Regular ~ \$2,741 Renovation ~ \$0

** Please note that the contributions above <u>do not include</u> our Faith Direct online giving totals which are listed here monthly.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all those who, in the spirit of stewardship, continue to financially support the mission and ministry of the parish!!!

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 <u>one</u> complete message stating your name, number, and primary need: 631-475-4506 x122.

Emergency Food Distribution is held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. A full new client intake is required, including documentation of all income and expenses, to access resources at Clare House. A member of our staff will contact you to complete this intake interview over the phone. Documentation should be provided electronically whenever possible.

While we are not soliciting any food donations at this time, <u>WE ARE IN NEED OF TOILETRIES</u> <u>FOR OUR CLIENTS</u>. Please place these donations in the church bin when you come to Mass or drop them off at the Parish Center.

Monetary donations may also be easily made through Faith Direct, our parish electronic giving program, which can be accessed though the "Online Giving" button on our website's homepage. Simply click "Make a One-Time Gift Now" and then write "Clare House - PSM" in the Note. Thank you for your continued support of our mission!



Thrift Shop is CLOSED!

The Thrift Shop is closed until further notice.

We are <u>not</u> currently accepting donations.

Please do not dump items outside the thrift shop. This creates extra work for our staff and does nothing to further our mission. Items left in this manner are summarily tossed into the dumpster. It is illegal to dump items of any kind.

Thank you in advance for understanding and abiding by this directive.



Will & Estate Planning

Consider leaving a legacy of faith by remembering our parish in your will or

bequest. Saint Sylvester RC Church is a fully compliant charitable organization registered as a 501(3)C non-profit.



Please contact Father Suglia directly if you have already made provisions for St. Sylvester or if you would like to remember us when you conduct your estate planning.

Thank You and God Bless!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Great News - Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences.



The next experience begins on Thursday, April 8th and will meet virtually at 7pm EDT for seven, two hour sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, concluding on Thursday April 29th.

Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority.

Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call John & Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit them at <u>https://wwmenyli.org/</u>.



You Can Help Heal Your Marriage

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

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

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

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

Is Your Contact Information Up-To-Date?

Help us stay spiritually connected with you though physically apart!

This pandemic has made us acutely aware that there are some parishioners we are unable to communicate with on an immediate or regular basis because we do not have their email addresses and cell phone numbers.

So, if you have not been receiving any communications from the parish, please go to the website's home page, click the word "here" below the *Contact Information* graphic and update your email and cell phone information.

Thank You !



