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.



March 22, 2020 The Fourth Sunday Of Lent

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, March 21, 2020

5:00pm Rose Mary Virostko

Rosemarie & Donald Orrico

Matthew Reed Luella Wachter

David Rollo, *Living Intention*Deceased & Living Members of
Caravano, Matteo, & Lupia Families

Sunday, March 22, 2020

7:30am Dcn. Frank & Gladys Rivera, Living

9:00am Ernest D. Puleo

11:00am Sal & Carmela Toscano

Monday, March 23, 2020

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 8:30am Paul Careccia

Thursday, March 26, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, March 27, 2020

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

Saturday, March 28, 2020

5:00pm Frank Mazzeo, 8th Anniversary

Mangino, Lippis and Santonastasio Families Living & Deceased Members of Prayer Shawl

Ministry Jon M. Sepe Sheryl Eye Anthony Mattillo

Sunday, March 29, 2020

7:30am John & Mary Andricoski, Living

9:00am Robert Fanelli 11:00am Gertrud Danz



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

Elizabeth Sportiello, Nicoletta Ferrante, Arthur Diehl, Jr. and Santa Petrilli.



The Bread and Wine used at this weekend's liturgy are the gifts of Lorraine & Andy Magyar

in loving memory of **Gerald Gilson**

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.

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

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

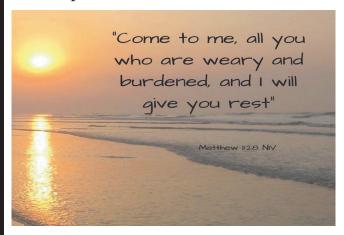
Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray



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

Theresa and Paul Mazza, Melanie Schmadtke, John McGarvey, Ellen Wisnoski, Rita Ruberto, Joan McGrattan, Nello & Cesira Liberatore, Robert Schwarz, Bill Berger, Marge Golden, Chong Skladel, Frank Cayea, and Christopher Ewart.



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



March 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

I pray that you and your family are well during this unprecedented time during the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent crisis. Please join with us in praying for those suffering from the Corona virus, their families and health care providers.

We have just been informed by the Diocese of Rockville Centre that beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., all Masses (weekday and weekend), liturgies, devotions, meetings, and non essential activities in our parishes are suspended or postponed through Tuesday, April 14, 2020. This will include all Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes. You can also go to www.drvc.org for more information.

During this time, we will be working on live streaming the Mass from St Sylvester. However, in the interim, I encourage you to see the schedule below to view the Mass.

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, New York

Monday – Friday at 8:30 am & 12:30 pm ET Sunday at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm ET

St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET

Our Lady of Loretto Church, Hempstead, New York

Sunday at 6 pm ET

If you regularly contribute to the Stewardship of the parish, I want to thank you for your continued support and ask you to prayerfully consider making a one time or recurring donation to Saint Sylvester Church by mailing in a check or going directly to Faith Direct by clicking here or going to www.stsylvesterli.org. We are already operating on a "shoe string" budget with very pale reserves. Our collection this week was less than ½ of our weekly average....and our bills remain the same. Please consider doing so, as your means allow, and know that your contribution directly allows us to provide the many ministries and services to this community as needed.

Let us hope and pray that this period of disquiet will pass quickly.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Suglia

Parish Life

Prayer of Gratitude

In the midst of these times of <u>uncertainty</u> it can help to reflect on how gratefulness might help to calm us, reduce fears and expectations, open us to greater clarity and love, and fuel action grounded in our deep intentions. Gratitude is not a panacea. It may not cure or solve our anxiety or concerns but it can foster ease, connection, kindness, and well-being. Gratitude cannot save us from sickness or suffering, but it can change how we experience sickness, and it may change our relationship to suffering. So, what might this mean with regard to how we respond to the immediate concerns of COVID-19? Here are some possibilities:

Reflect on Goodness — Reflect with gratitude on the sacrifices of front-line workers and all those who are self-quarantining; adjusting habits and lives; working overtime to do research, make tests and vaccines, and provide important, accurate and timely information. Notice the many ways you can notice ways that people are caring for fellow human beings.

Wash your Hands — The 20 seconds recommended to "lather up" offer us an opportunity to slow down to experience gratitude for the gift of hot and cold running water, the miracle of soap, and the wonder of our hands themselves.

Stay Connected — If steering clear of events or planned events are being canceled, might this be an opportunity to connect by phone, text or email with family, friends, and neighbors to see how they're doing? How does it feel to reflect with gratitude on the relationships in our lives and let people know we care about them?

Be Generous — Extend compassion to those whose lives are impacted most by this <u>crisis</u>. Recognize that people's health and livelihoods are in jeopardy and nervous systems are taxed. Try being more patient, kinder, take a deep breath before responding; offer smiles and gratitude freely.

See the Privileges of the Ordinary — In the midst of a focus on how much is being lost, keep noticing all the blessings that remain. Allow yourself to appreciate and be in awe of what is available to you: phones, electricity, showers, the beauty and resilience of the natural world, all the parts of your body that work, the services and systems that serve your ability to function, and so much more.

Commit to that which Sustains You — Allow yourself to stay grounded in the things that preserve your integrity and reinforce the beliefs that help you have faith and hope in difficult times Treat yourself and/or others to <u>A Grateful Day</u>.

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/.

Catholic Ministries Appeal



Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) 2020

Designated Parish Goal: \$68,200 Amount Pledged to Date: \$27,290 Number of Donors to Date: 101 Percentage of Goal Pledged 43.24%

Your donation can make a difference!

What is the CMA Money Used For?

As One Family in Mission, parishioners from all over Long Island join together to reach and assist many more people than any one parish could ever do on its own. Some of the areas the CMA money is used for include:

- * Priests', Deacons' and Lay Leaders' Education and Formation.
- * Campus and Young Adult Ministries.
- * Hospital Ministry to those who are ill and to their families.
- * Prison Ministry.
- * Catholic Diversity Initiatives.

100% of all money raised is restricted to the ministries of the Appeal!

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

Please make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal					
Parish: St. Sylvester, Medford	F	Pledge:	\$		
Name	I	Down payment:	\$		
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City, State, Zip:					
Phone:S	Signature:		Date:		

Stewardship

One Family in Mission









Called to Evangelize

Formation Hospitality Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure March 15, 2020 Regular ~ \$4,382 Renovation ~ \$35 Solar ~ \$0

Last Year's Collection ~ March 17, 2019 Regular ~ \$8,809

Reflection: Jesus, our Lord and our God, heals the man who was born blind. The blind man believed in Christ and stood up to the harassment from the Pharisees who tried to trap him into denying Jesus.

Living Stewardship—Service:

St. Paul calls each and every one of us to "live as children of light." One way we can do this is by serving our brothers and sisters. Perhaps, in these difficult times, you could go to the store for an elderly neighbor or assist a single parent with child care.

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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Sews Threads of Faith, Hope Through the Community

Every first Wednesday of the month a group of dedicated and talented women come together to create shawls, lap robes, hats, scarves and blankets which they, in turn, give out to the larger community, sending out their prayers and support with each item.

This year, in addition to distributing their handiwork Prayer Shawl to health care facilities like Long Island Community Hospital, Medford Multicare, the Long Island State VA Home in Stony Brook,



St. Charles Nursery and Good Shepherd Hospice, the Prayer Shawl Ministry partnered with the Patchogue-Medford School District to provide over 350 hats and scarves to the district's elementary schools for their families.

The group, coordinated by Mary Donaghy, generously donated a total of 1,194 items last year — that's a lot of yarn!

If you are interested in knitting or crocheting with this talented bunch, or if you would like to bring a shawl or lap robe to a family member or friend who is seriously ill, please email Lori Zito at Lzito@stsylvesterli.org or call her directly in the Parish Center at 631-475-4506, ext. 115.

Parish Social Ministry

Clare House Closed Until Further Notice

In order to comply with social distancing requirements and in an effort to limit all unnecessary contact our team is working remotely. We are still here to help! We will continue to support individual clients on a case by case basis. If you have an emergency situation that requires assistance please call our intake line ONLY:

Please leave only <u>one</u> 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

The below letter was sent to all Faith Formation families on Friday March 13th.

This is to inform you that Faith Formation classes and events are cancelled immediately until after the Easter Break and will tentatively resume Monday, April 20, 2020.

This decision was made and taken out of an abundance of caution and also, because containment through social distancing is one of our best options right now.

What this means is that your child will be on Home Taught Faith Formation Instruction until we are able to hold classes here at the parish. Please note that your child's book will be checked when they return to classes, so be sure to have them do their work regularly.

Please check your child's calendar for the sessions to be covered at home each week. 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.stsylvstrerli.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 see the "Sunday Connection" link on the Family Resource page on the parish website or visit www.catholicfaithnetwork.org to watch Mass.

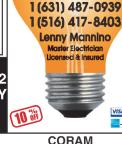
As long as your child is doing the work at home, this temporary break from having classes at the parish will in no way stand in the way of the celebration of Sacraments (for Levels 2, 7 and Older Sacraments), or moving up to the next Level (for Levels 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6). Level 7 Confirmation Packets which were due on March 25th, will now be due when classes resume.

Please know that we will be here for you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call 631-475-4506 x: 118 or email $\underline{\text{faithformation@stsylvesterli.org}}$.

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 & Terese

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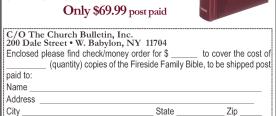
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