

# 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 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](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.



**March 29, 2020**  
**The Fifth 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 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

### ***Monday, March 30, 2020***

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

### ***Tuesday, March 31, 2020***

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

### ***Thursday, April 2, 2020***

8:30am Daniel Cawley

### ***Friday, April 3, 2020***

8:30am Frank Micucci

### ***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

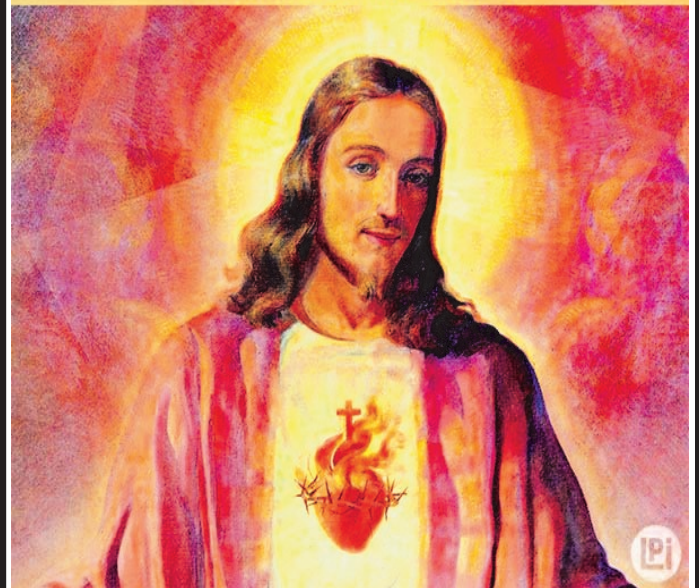


**We remember and pray for those who  
have died, especially:**

*Santa Petrilli.*

*Remember in Your Prayers*

**ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**



### **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)**

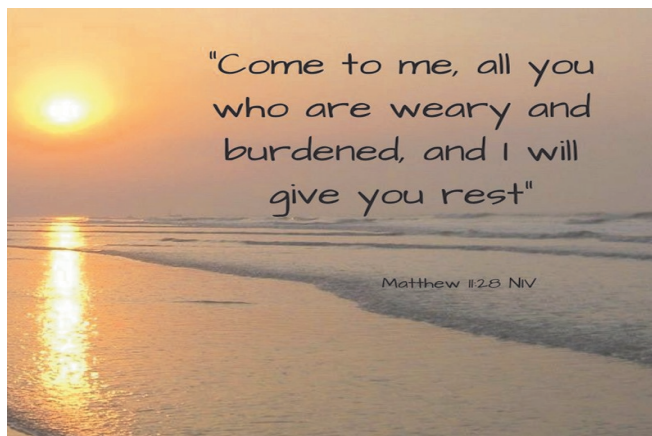


# We Pray



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

Dennis Koehler, 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](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.***



**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

# Parish Life

## Reflection

“And the people stayed home.

And read books and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games,  
and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And listening more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways,  
the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,

they grieved their losses,

and made new choices, and dreamed new images,

and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,

as they had been healed.”

Written By: Kitty O’Mera

## 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](http://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/](http://www.licatholic.org/subscribe/).

# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission

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Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service



### *Gifts of Treasure*

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**Regular ~ \$8,342**

**Reflection:** When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend Lazarus, He responded, "this illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Every aspect of our lives—gifts as well as sufferings — can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings for ourselves and others.

### *Living Stewardship—Hospitality:*

Let the Spirit of God work through you this week! Be hospitable to all who come across your path — especially your elderly neighbors and those who are providing essential services throughout this health crisis.

### *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 to health care facilities like Long Island Community Hospital, Medford Multi-care, 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](mailto:Lzito@stsylvesterli.org) or call her directly in the Parish Center at 631-475-4506, ext. 115.



## **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](http://www.stsylvesterli.org/family-resource-page) or visiting the Parish website at [www.stsylvesterli.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 this finds you and your family well and as gracefully as possible moving through this health crisis that we all face. Today is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord in which we hear in the first reading that Mary shall have a child and name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us!” And then in the Gospel we hear, “Do not be afraid,” “for nothing will be impossible for God.” Let us take these words to heart and be comforted in knowing that we are walking through this together and as today's psalm says “Here I am Lord, I come to do your will” that we will reach out to each other in hope and proclaim God's justice and kindness in our words and deeds, especially during this time of uncertainty.

Many of you are wondering about your child's celebration of First Holy Communion. Unfortunately, at this time, it is very difficult for us to predict what the near future holds in terms of gatherings. Because of this, we are unable to tell you whether or not First Communions will happen in May. However, they will at some point happen, and we will be there to help you and your families celebrate!

Please follow your child's calendar working with them at home as time allows so that they stay on schedule. Remember that you can go to the parish website at [www.stsylvesterli.org](http://www.stsylvesterli.org), hover over Faith Formation, then click on the Family Resource Page to find many helpful links. Most importantly, use this time to discover the gift of sharing meals and recreational time together as a family.

Your child's catechist will be reaching out to you to see how you are doing, if they have not already done so. Please know that we are here to support you and don't hesitate to email us with any questions you may have.

God's blessings and peace be with you,

Fran, Mike & Terése

### How to reach the Faith Formation Office:

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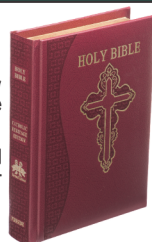
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