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.



"I am the víne, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit..." ~ John 15:5

The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 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. Hours are 10am—3pm Tuesdays & Thursdays.

We Pray



Mass Intentions

Saturday,May 1, 20215:00Fay & George HummerAnne Marie Nicolas Vandestoc

Sunday, May 2, 2021
9:00am Tina Cervone
11:00am Ralph & Lilian Simonetti

Monday, May 3, 20218:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:30am Nello Liberatore

Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, May 7, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:00pm The Russo & Toscano Families Theresa Marie Cimusz

Sunday,May 9, 20219:00amFor All Mothers11:00amFor All Mothers



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

Sarah E. Murray, Alice Jonck & Caroline Mistretta.

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, Amanda Gentile, Ashley Perrone, Nancy DiSanto, Tom Mowat & Bill Sisco.

We Pray



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

John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Krista Teigland, Frederick Schaefer, William Crawford, Priscilla Koehler, Barbara Eustace, Emily Arens, John Bennett, Alice Micali & Corey Govier (*2.5 year-old child*).

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.



The Bread and Wine used at this weekend's liturgies

are the gifts of **Barbara Iovíno**

in loving memory of **Fay & George Hummer**

"The voice of God never ceases in our lives; He just uses different channels."

~ Matthew Kelly



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.



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

SPRING FLOWER SALE

St. Sylvester Church, 68 Ohio Ave., Medford

FRIDAY, MAY 7th ~ 10AM TO 4PM SATURDAY, MAY 8th ~ 9AM TO 6PM SUNDAY, MAY 9th ~ 8:30AM TO 12PM (MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND)



FLATS HANGING BASKETS PLANTERS HERBS ASSORTED ANNUALS (4"AND 6" POTS)

HOSTED BY THE GARDENING CLUB MINISTRY

FLOWERS FROM FORGE RIVER NURSERY, MASTIC RAIN OR SHINE ~ MASKS REQUIRED PLEASE



Faith Formation



Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist for Adults... A Journey in Faith

RCIA is a process, which welcomes those who wish to inquire about joining the Catholic Church. Inquirers, along with the guidance and support of members of the St. Sylvester community, explore the loving presence and action of God in their lives, deepen their prayer, and prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you have never been baptized & are interested

in becoming a Catholic or,

if you are a baptized non-Catholic

and would like to become a Catholic,

please email <u>fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org</u>

for more information.

Stewardship



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

Additional Easter ~ \$330 Total Easter to Date ~ \$20,095

<u>April 25, 2021</u> Regular ~ \$4,930 Renovation ~ \$85

Last Year 's Collection ~ April 26, 2020 Regular ~ \$ 5,003

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

Faith Direct ~ April 2021 Regular ~ \$11,762 Renovation ~ \$787

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!!!

2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Designated Goal: Amount Pledged to Date: % of Goal Pledged to Date: Number of Donors to Date:

\$67,900 \$33,576.89 49.45% 104



Make Wine, Not Vinegar

Today in John's Gospel we are given the image of the vine and the branches. Living in Suffolk County, grapevines are a familiar sight, and I often take a drive out on the North Fork to enjoy all the beautiful farms and vineyards. One thing that has always struck me is that the center part of the grapevine is so rugged and sturdy-looking compared to the rest of it. Sometimes the branches are so thin they are barely visible; other times there are so many grapes on the vine you wonder how the weight of them doesn't pull the whole plant down.

And so it is with us too. Jesus tell us, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit..." like those picturesque Pindar grapevines just before the harvest. Jesus continues, "Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither..."

It is God's hope that we, as generous, faithfilled stewards, will nurture our branches and produce much fruit; i.e. use our gifts to bring God's love into our Church, communities and families. Otherwise, our branches will be *"thrown into a fire and they will be burned."* We will never have the chance to become all that God has intended.

The question is this: Will we half-heartedly try to produce a few measly grapes and hope it its enough for God the vine grower, or will we put some effort into it and produce the finest grapes the grower has ever seen? Will our grapes be used for the finest wines or will they be fermented to make vinegar — or even worse, our branches tossed into the fire? The growing season is upon us and the choice is ours.

~ Lori Zito

Create Your Legacy of Faith at St. Sylvester Parish!

As committed stewards, we strive to live our lives in gratitude to our most generous God and to recognize our many gifts and talents as blessings lovingly given to us by Him. We are called as Christians to develop these special gifts and share them for the betterment of others. One of the most impactful ways of ensuring the future of St. Sylvester is through a legacy gift. This kind of gift can take many forms such as a simple bequest as a part of your estate plans and can be of great benefit in helping fulfill your own personal financial objectives, while also ensuring that St. Sylvester remains strong and vital after you've departed. It is our sincere hope that you will prayerfully consider assisting our parish in one of the following ways:

Gifts from a Will or Trust

Taking care of family first, you can support our parish through a bequest in your last will and testament or living trust. A bequest may include cash, specific property, or a share of the estate and may be made in honor or memory of a loved one.

Gifts of Stock, Bonds, etc.

The donation of stocks, bonds and mutual funds directly to St. Sylvester significantly increases your tax deduction and the amount of income the parish receives.

Gifts from Retirement Plans

Gifts of retirement assets are another simple way to leave a gift by naming our parish as the beneficiary of either a percent of the full amount of your IRA or 401k. *Please note: Your gift must be made directly to our parish from the IRA. If you receive money first, you will be taxed on it like any other distribution.*

Gifts of Life Insurance & Real Estate

It is easy to name St. Sylvester as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or to transfer ownership of a paid-up policy to our parish. St. Sylvester may also be named as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary to almost any kind of personal property or real estate.

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!

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 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 still NOT soliciting any food donations at this time, WE ARE IN NEED OF **TOILETRIES FOR OUR CLIENTS**. 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 Re-Opening

We have good news to share — our Parish Thrift Shop will be re-opening this Tuesday, May 4th!

Donations are now being accepted again at the Thrift Shop, with a focus on spring and summer clothing and accessories. New gently-used and items may be brought in on



Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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!

Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing for Women Saturday, May 15, 2021 (please register by May 10)

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE For more information and to register visit : www.dryclife.org/projectrachel

> All information will remain confidential. COVID 19 Protocols will be observed

Healing after Abortion

Project Rachel retreats offer the opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The retreats are directed by specially trained compassionate caregivers, including counselors and clergy, who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer.

> (516) 766-2538 or (888) 456-HOPE (4673) projectrachel@drvc.org

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. Some are on weekends and others span multiple weeks on a given weekday.

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 Chuck & Maria Reiss at 631-486-8607 or visit them at <u>https://wwmenyli.org/</u>.

Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experiences:

May 3-24 Mondays/Thursdays June 3-24 Thursdays/Mondays

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 !

12th Annual Women's Silent Retreat "BEHOLD THY SON"



Calling ALL women! Come ponder "Motherhood" in your heart after the example of Mary. We invite you to come pray with Mary especially for children and for priests. Come and receive strength to become the "perfect women" we are called to be:

"Thus the 'perfect woman' (Prov 31:10) becomes an irreplaceable support and source of spiritual strength for other people, who perceive the great energies of her spirit. These 'perfect women' are owed much by their families, and sometimes by whole nations." Mulieris Dignitatem (The Dignity of Women -St. John Paul II)

Friday & Saturday, May 7 & 8, 2021 Seminary of the Immaculate Conception 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY Check in Friday between 1 – 6 p.m. Ends Saturday 9 p.m.

Retreat includes Mass, Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with reflections offered throughout the time.

Cost: \$125 per person

Includes dinner Friday, 3 meals Saturday, & private room w/ shower. Masks must be worn in public settings.

Please send form below with check payable to: St. Patrick R.C. Church, 280 East Main Street, Smithtown, NY 11787 Attn: Legion of Mary

NAME	
EMAIL	
ADDRESS	
<i>PHONE #</i>	
PARISH	
Special dietary needs?	
Approx. arrival time	

For additional information contact Lana Maggio at 631-374-1116 or Corinne Addiss 631-804-7222 or keepntuch@aol.com



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



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 W*BAB 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.*

To listen online, or receive more information regarding "*Religion and Rock,*" go to <u>www.ReligionandRock.com</u> or to "*Religion & Rock*" on ITUNES.





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOL'S Showers of Kindness IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY

Please join our "Showers of Kindness" in honor of Mother's Day. "Showers of Kindness" is a collection of new baby items to be donated to the families served by The Wyandanch Health Center. This center is one of 42 Health Centers run by Sun River Health on Long Island, NYC, and the Hudson Valley. We invite you to join us in collecting these items for the moms and babies in our community.

Beginning the week of April 19th, St. Jon the Baptist Diocesan High School, in partnership with the Student Council, will kick off "Showers of Kindness". Suggested items are on the list below. All items must be new and in original packaging. No formula please.

- Baby Hair Conditioner
- Baby Laundry Detergent
 Diaper Cream
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Body Wash for bath time
- Baby wipes
- Bath toys
- Bibs
- Bottles (no glass please)
- Bottle brushes

- Burp cloths
- Diapers all sizes
- Hats 3 6 months
- Hooded Towels
 - Bodysuits (3–6 months)
 - Pacifiers
 - Receiving blankets
 - · Socks (3-6 months)
- Teething toys
- Wash Cloths

Please don't forget the Moms: Fuzzy Socks (all sizes), Lip Moisturizer, Hand lotion

Any donations can be dropped off at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School's front entrance Monday - Friday between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm. The school is located at 1170 Montauk Highway, West Islip.

For all other donations or for further information/questions please contact:

Office of Advancement P: 631-587-8000 x176 E: jones@sjbdhs.org



KINDNESS

RULES



