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).



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

John 14:27

May 22, 2022 Sixth Sunday of Easter

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



Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 21, 2022 5:00pm Donald Plante

Angelina Caggiano Louis Wilson Concetta Reina Patrick Tardo

Sunday, 7:30am May 22, 2022 Richard F. Bennett 9:00am Manuel & Rosa Esteves

11:00am Karen Smith

Monday, May 23, 2022

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

5:00pm The People of St. Sylvester ~ *Vigil*

Thursday, May 26, 2022 ~ Ascension Thursday

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester 7:00pm The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, May 27, 2022 8:30am Christopher Peluso

Saturday, May 28, 2022 5:00pm Louise V. Koehler

Robert Smith ~ Living Intention

Blanche Mulcahy Patricia Furte Michael McCarthy

Sunday, May 29, 2022

7:30am Daniel M. Cawley ~ 10th Anniversary

9:00am Charles J. Feniello, Jr. 11:00am Louis Benjamin Polak



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

Frances Grillo, Annette Caravana & Florence Scala.

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

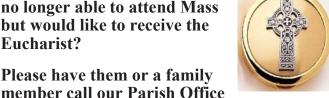


Please pray for all who are sick, especially ... John McGarvey, Rosa & Luciano Miranda, Corey Govier (child), Robert Cook, Rosemarie Biscardi, Joanne Clark, Joseph Pergola, Cathy McKnight, Carolyn Clarke, Gary Pendleton, Neftali Nieves, Roni & Ray Fiedler, John DiSanto, William Crawford, Ronald Matonti,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

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?**



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.

Online Synod Survey

For those of you who were unable to join us for our parish Synod Listening Session last Saturday, the Diocese has now put the Synod Ques-



tionary online for everyone who would like to participate. Simply go to www.drvc.org and click on the "Fill out the DRVC Synod Survey" button at the top of their home page and then again on the green "Start Filling" button. Your input is important — let your voice be heard!



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.



The Bread & Wine used at this weekend's liturgies

> are the gifts of The Bennett Family

in loving memory of Richard F. Bennett

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

The Ascension of our Lord



Thursday, May 26th is The Ascension of the Lord, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated as follows:

Wednesday, May 25th ~ Vigil at 5pm

Thursday, May 26th ~ 8:30am & 7pm

Please note that all parish offices will be closed on Ascension Thursday in observance of the holy day.

Catholic Communications Campaign

Next week our special collection supports the Catholic Communications Campaign.



This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message!

To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc.

You are invited to join Fr. Suglia in exploring.... "The Bible is a Catholic Book" by Jimmy Akin

At 7:00 PM in the East Wing of the Parish Center.

1st Class: Monday May 23rd

2nd Class: Monday, June 6th

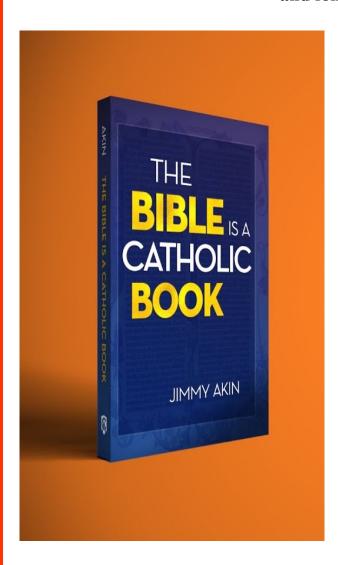
3rd Class: Monday, June 13th

4th Class: Monday, June 20th

The fee is \$20 for each person attending, whether you take a book or not. The \$20 fee includes the book, "The Bible is a Catholic Book."

To register, please go to our website, click on this icon, and follow the directions.





In *The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, Jimmy Akin shows how the Bible cannot exist apart from the Church. In its origins and its formulation, in the truths it contains, in its careful preservation over the centuries and in the prayerful study and elucidation of its mysteries, Scripture is inseparable from Catholicism. This is fitting, since both come from God for our salvation.

If you are a Catholic who sometimes gets intimidated by the Bible, *The Bible Is a Catholic Book* will help you better understand and take pride in this gift that God gave the world through the Church. We are the original Bible Christians!

And even non-Catholics will appreciate the clear and charitable way that Jimmy explains how the early Church gave us the Bible and how the Church to this day reveres and obeys it.

MAY CROWNING OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

Last Saturday at the 5pm Mass, our girls and boys who had just received their First Holy Communions participated in the Crowning of Our Blessed Mother. Gianna Pannullo is seen below placing the crown on Mary's head. The rest of the First Communicants followed, each bringing a blue or white carnation and placing it in the basket at Mary's feet.

A special thank you to Susanna Novak for making the floral crown for this Blessed Mother statue, as well as one for our outdoor statue of Our Lady in the grotto facing Ohio Avenue.



Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary,

Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners now,

and at the hour of our death.

Amen.



Faith Formation

An Easter Greeting From St. Sylvester Faith Formation Office

As we see new life bursting forth in nature all around us, may we be open to and recognize the Divine Presence in ourselves, each other and all of creation... a sure sign of God's promise of eternal life!

Easter Blessings, Fran, Mike and Terese





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 fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org for more information on what Levels/Grades, days and times are available. Thank you!

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

One Family In Mission









Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

May 15, 2022

Regular ~ \$8,856

Renovation ~ \$220

<u>Last Year (May 16, 2021)</u> **Regular** ~ \$4,480

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!!!

Catholic Ministries Appeal

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Designated Goal: \$71,300 Amount Pledged to Date: \$36,702.52 % of Goal Pledged to Date: 51.48%

100% of every dollar raised is restricted to serve the objectives, programs and mission supported by the Appeal. We are slightly over half way to our goal! If we reach 80% of our parish goal, all funds raised and received between 80-100% of our goal are returned to us for our own programs, services and needs.

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!

The Gift of Peace

Today in John's Gospel we hear Jesus talking to his disciples, once again giving them a message of love and reassurance, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." These words should be familiar to us; they are also said at Mass each week by the priest just prior to us exchanging a sign of peace with one another. In fact, these words may be so familiar to us that we don't really take note of the importance of them in the way that we should.

When we think of the word *peace*, what comes to mind? We pray for peace among nations, peace in our families and perhaps crave peace and quiet from our busy lives all positive things certainly, but only temporary in nature. Unfortunately, there will always be another international conflict or war, another family crisis, etc. It is one of the challenges of being human and living as citizens of the world. Jesus's peace is completely different. He tells us this plainly, "Not as the world gives do I give it to you." It is a peace of the soul; an inner peace which we cannot achieve without God's presence in our lives and hearts. Christ reassures us. "Do not let vour hearts be troubled or afraid."

When we have a peaceful day, it is a welcome blessing, but not a lasting peace. Jesus promises so much more — an eternal peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit to help us achieve it. As missionary disciples, let us work toward creating moments of peace with one another and in our world, while also nurturing an inner peace and serenity that can only come from the Lord.

~ Lori Zito

GET INVOLVED

Ministries/Groups Schedule

Mondays ~ 10am Drawing Class East Wing

> ~ 1:30pm Women's Prayer Group (3rd Monday of the Month) East Wing/Worship Room

<u>Tuesdays</u> ~ 9:30am ~ Watercolor Art Group Patricia Desmond Hall (Downstairs)

- ~ 1:30pm ~ Legion of Mary Room 2
- ~ 7pm Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesdays ~ 10:30am ~ Prayer Shawl Ministry (1st Wednesday of the Month) East Wing

Thursdays ~ 9:30am ~ Al-Anon East Wing

Fridays ~ 12:30pm ~ Senior Circle of Friends Patricia Desmond Hall (Downstairs) (2nd & 4th Fridays of the Month)

- ~ 6:30pm ~ Lay Carmelites (3rd Friday of the Month) Worship Room/East Wing
- ~ 7pm ~ Compassionate Friends (2nd Friday of the Month) (*Group for those who have lost children*) Patricia Desmond Hall (Downstairs)

Saturdays ~ 9am ~ Devotion (Rosary/Prayers) (1st Saturday of the Month) Worship Room

Calling Crafters for Holiday Fair!

We are starting to plan for our Holiday Fair in November and are asking those who enjoy creating crafts to consider making some for our Homemade Crafts table at the fair. Please contact Theresa Baker at 631-599-0201 for more information.



Ministry of Prayer Connects Parish

Have you ever noticed the small, wooden boxes on the back pew in the church and on the ledge in the parish center atrium and wonder what they are for?

They are prayer petition boxes, which are there for all parishioners to place special prayers in that they would like God to answer. What many do not realize is that the prayers do not just remain in the boxes as a silent communication with God -- they are typed up and sent out monthly by our Ministry of Prayer Coordinator, Joanna Bellizzi, to all those who are completely homebound, as well as to those who find leaving their homes or committing to a certain day and/or time difficult.

All of them pray devoutly for the petitions sent to them. Any parishioners who feel called to pray for others are also welcome to join this important ministry which creates a bridge between members of our faith community – praying for one another in faith and hope.

As Catholics, we believe strongly in the power of prayer. If you would like to add a personal prayer into the box, you may do so at any time. There are paper and pencils next to each box for your use. Please know that only first names of those being prayed for are used in order to protect their anonymity. Members of our Ministry of Prayer feel blessed to add their voices to your own petitions.

If you are interested in getting involved in one of the areas of parish life highlighted here, please contact Lori Zito by emailing lzito@stsylvesterli.org or calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115. For even more ways to Get Involved, check out our "ministry guide" tab under the Stewardship/Ministries heading on our website's homepage.

Parish Social Ministry



Clare House - We Are Here to Help!

We are now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 3pm, and on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. Friday mornings we have our *Bread Ministry* from 10am –12pm, 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 one 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. We are also looking for some helping 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.

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.

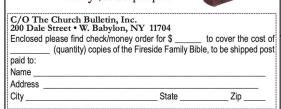
Thank you in advance for your support.

We look forward to serving you!



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