# 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).



"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

## May 8, 2022 Fourth 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

<i>Saturday,</i> 5:00pm	<i>May 7, 2022</i> Joan Johnsen Louella Wachter Mary Scully Cookie Roy Linda Romaine Linda Gordon
<b>Sunday,</b> 7:30am 9:00am 11:00am	<i>May 8, 2022</i> For All Mothers, Living & Deceased For All Mothers, Living & Deceased For All Mothers, Living & Deceased
<i>Monday,</i> 8:30am	<i>May 9, 2022</i> The People of St. Sylvester
<i>Tuesday,</i> 8:30am	<i>May 10, 2022</i> Katherine E. O'Neil
Thursday,	May 12, 2022
8:30am	Esther Askins ~ 8th Anniversary
8:30am <i>Friday,</i> 8:30am	
Friday,	Esther Askins ~ 8th Anniversary May 13, 2022



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

Blanche Mulcahy, Maureen Crowe-Freno, George Steppello & Teresa Lancer.

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.

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.

Come to me, all you who are weary & burdened, & I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

### **COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

Do you know someone who is no longer able to attend Mass but would like to receive the Eucharist?

Please have them or a family 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.



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 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.*



# 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

RE ROUVAILLE

Because no marriage is beyond hope...

Do you feel alone? • Are you angry and frustrated with one another? • Does talking only makes it worse? • Are you separated or divorced - or thinking about separating/divorce?

### **Retrouvaille\* can help!**

A marriage-saving program is coming to Huntington, Long Island May 13, 2022

> To register or for more information: 1-800-470-2230 https://www.helpourmarriage.org info@HelpOurMarriage.org

Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not a marriage retreat, nor counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story. Retrouvaille is different; a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage. Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousand of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide. \*Pronounced: Retro Vi (French for "Rediscovery")

## POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! JOIN US FOR SYNOD LISTENING SESSION

Pope Francis has called for a Synod on Synodality to be held in Rome in 2023 in an effort to foster better *communion*, increased *participation* and clarity of our *mission* as Christians living in the present day. As part of this Synod, Pope Francis is asking the entire Church throughout the world to reflect prayerfully on how the Holy Spirit is calling us to *journey together* as Church to God's heavenly kingdom. It is the Pope's desire that *all people from all walks of life* within the Universal Catholic Church participate!

Each diocese throughout the world will be holding Listening Sessions which will provide opportunities for us to listen to God in our own hearts, share our experiences, and then listen to one another. Here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, all parishes are being asked to hold these sessions which will open with prayer and Scripture and hopefully conclude with new pathways forward guided by the Holy Spirit.



communion | participation | mission

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH'S SYNOD LISTENING SESSION ON SATURDAY, MAY 14TH FROM 9:30AM-11:00AM IN THE PARISH CENTER LOWER LEVEL. WE ASK YOU TO REGISTER BY FRIDAY, MAY 6TH BY CLICKING ON THE SYNOD LOGO FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE'S HOME PAGE.

WE WILL FOCUS ON TWO QUESTIONS POSED BY POPE FRANCIS:

How is this *journeying together* happening today in your local Church?

What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our *journeying together?* 

Consider your joys, difficulties or obstacles on the journey and what insights you have gained. Responses are recorded anonymously. This is your chance to have your voice heard and help shape the future of the Church!!

A summary report of the Listening Session will be sent to the Diocese which will compile a final report to be submitted to the USCCB. Their findings, in turn, will be brought to the Synod with Pope Francis next year.

Refreshments will be served.

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

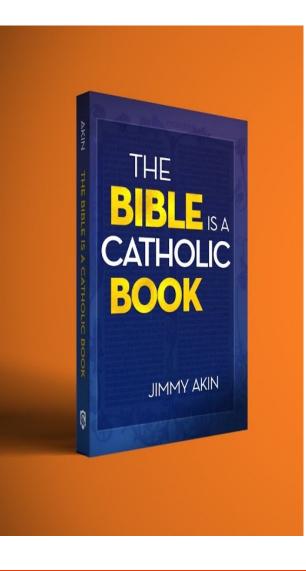
At 7:00 PM in the East Wing of the Parish Center.

1<sup>st</sup> Class: Monday May 23rd

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class: Monday, June 6th
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Class: Monday, June 13th
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast Serves Up Community Spirit

The Farmingville Applebee's was the place to

*be* last Saturday morning, as 141 of our parishioners gathered with family, friends and neighbors for our Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast, complete with scrambled eggs, sausage and smiles galore!



The order of the day was happiness with a side of

laughter, as parishioners gathered in fellowship, mingling while taking chances on our amazing raffle baskets or the 50/50. We were also joined this year by a wonderful group of National Honor Society students from Bellport and Patchogue Medford High Schools who worked hard serving those breakfasts for community service hours!

A fundraiser of this kind cannot get off the ground without many hands helping it along. Special thanks to our gracious hosts at Farmingville Applebee's and our "Fun" Raising Team who checked tickets, rolled silverware, served and cleaned tables, made coffee, sold raffle tickets — and the million other little things needed to be done. Thanks to Fr. Suglia for pulling all the raffle winners, and to all of those parishioners who donated items for the outstanding raffle baskets, artistically assembled by Trish Capozzoli.

And finally, we are most grateful to all of you who purchased tickets and joined us for breakfast! In addition to bringing the community together, the Flapjack Fundraiser also netted \$1,984 for the parish. Now, that's a lot of batter!

With appreciation,

Marie Broderick & Lori Zito

### A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers

Good and Gentle God,

we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly. Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.

Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.

~ Author Unknown

A HAPPY AND BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL!



## **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



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

*Gifts of Treasure* 

<u>May 1, 2022</u> Regular ~ **\$8,123** Renovation ~ \$500

> <u>May 2, 2021</u> Regular ~ \$9,243

Faith Direct ~ April 2022 (Not Including Easter)

**Regular** ~\$11,097 **Renovation** ~ \$ 565 **Solar** ~ \$135

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:	\$35,177.52
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	49.34%

100% of every dollar raised is restricted to serve the objectives, programs and mission supported by the Appeal. 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!



Following the Shepherd

This week's short Gospel from John packs a lot into just a few lines! First, we are immediately reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd when He says, *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."* 

Do we allow Christ to be the Good Shepherd in our lives without question — or only when we are comfortable with the path? Remember, Jesus knows everything about us and loves us despite our weaknesses. All He asks of us is that we follow Him, and in return He will give us life everlasting. Can we, *will we*, trust the Lord and follow Him even when we don't exactly know where our journey will take us or do we need all the answers before we take a step forward, insisting on our timetable instead of God's?

John then concludes with another powerful statement from Jesus, "My father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one." Those of us who follow Jesus the Shepherd in good faith can never be forcefully removed from the flock. He knows and cares for His sheep without exception. The only way to jeopardize eternal life is when we knowingly, with our own free will, turn our back on God and wander astray. And even then, the Good Shepherd, like any loving parent, will try to find us and bring us back into the fold. *"...it is not the will of your heavenly* Father that one of these little ones be lost. Matthew 18:14" How blessed we are!

May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lead you, carry you in his arms like the lost sheep when necessary, and remain with you for the rest of your life's journey.

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## **Parish Social Ministry**



### Clare House - We Are Here to Help!

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