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.



This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

~ John 15

The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9, 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 8, 2021 5:00 The Russo & Toscano Families Theresa Marie Cimusz Philip Pagano ~ Living

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

Monday, May 10, 20218:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:30am Jim Kummer

Thursday,May 13, 2021 (Ascension Thursday)8:30amThe People of St. Sylvester7:00pmThe People of St. Sylvester

Friday, May 14, 2021
8:30am Esther Askins ~ 7th Anniversary

Saturday, May 15, 2021

5:00pm Donald Plante Bill Crawford ~ *Living* Rem Jahrsdoerfer ~ *Living* Dolores Morin

Sunday, May 16, 2021

9:00am The Deceased Members of the Giusto & Giordano Families
11:00am Maya Oltean ~ Living



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

Sarah E. Murray, Alice Jonck, Caroline Mistretta, Vincent P. Gullo & Frances Ward.

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, William Crawford, Emily Arens, John Bennett, Alice Micali, Rem Jahrsdoerfer, David Moriarty Corey Govier (*2.5 year-old child*) & Katie Pyle.

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.



This Thursday, May 13th, is Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses will be celebrated on Thursday at 8:30am and 7:00pm. The 7:00pm Mass will also be live-streamed on YouTube and recorded on our website.



Blessings and Congratulations to Gregory & Sandra Keeton as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 8th at the 5pm Mass.



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.

A Hopeful Update for Our Parishioners !!

We are happy to announce that beginning the weekend of May 15th and 16th we will be increasing the capacity of the church for Mass attendance to 120 people and will be distributing Holy Eucharist during Mass, rather than as you are leaving the church.

At Communion time, for the safety of all, please do not remove your mask, receive the Host in your hands, step to the side, lift the lower edge of your mask, place the Host in your mouth, lower you mask, and return to your pew. Thank you!

We will continue to offer Mass on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM & 11AM while following the Diocesan, State and Local Guidelines.

Please note the following important information:

The Bishop continues to dispense all the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation due to the ongoing pandemic.

- 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! Thank you!
- There is still 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 may be asked to show your registration before entering the church.
- Masks or other face coverings must be worn by all participants at all times while in the church.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass so your reservation may be confirmed, and you may be shown to your seat.
- 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 continues to be omitted. If you wish to make a contribution, there will be baskets at the entrance and exit of the church. Contributions may also be dropped off at the parish center or made online.
- The Sign of Peace or other greetings will not be exchanged.
- We will continue to keep you updated on changes as we move forward.

Our priority continues to be for the safety and health of those who attend Mass. We appreciate your patience, understanding and cooperation.

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





Baptism is the door to life and to the Kingdom of God.

Let us welcome all those newly baptized into our Community of Faith in the month of Apríl 2021:

Logan Patrick Baker

Andrew Victor Escandon

Sophia Loren Ferreiro

Jack Andrew Merrick

Isaac Nicholas Navarro

Natalia Jade Reyes

Caleb Robert Tufano

Jameson Connor Tufano

Brennan Ronald Walker



SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, June 26th from 10am until 5pm (Rain Date ~ June 27th), we will be having our very first *St. Sylvester Summer Spectacular* outside on the parish grounds!

As many of you know, we were not able to have our indoor Holiday Fair last year and have made the difficult decision not to have one again this year. This Spectacular, not quite Christmas in July, (but close!!) will include our much-missed Granny's Attic and craft vendors, as well as a 50/50 and lottery raffle. In a new twist, we will also have a limited number of spots available for parishioners to sell their own "yard sale" items. Each spot will be \$50 (bring your own table and chairs.)

For those wishing to donate to Granny's Attic, we will be accepting your new and gently used items at the Parish Center from Monday, June 7th through Friday, June 11th during the hours of 9am -3pm <u>only</u>. Please do not leave items outside the door if it is locked. We are not able to accept any large electronic items like TVs or air conditioners.

Faith Formation

Attention Parents/Guardians & Catechists!

This past week we held the last virtual class for the 2020-2021 Faith Formation Year for all Levels on Zoom. Attendance was wonderful and the participation lively!

We are currently working on the 2021-2022 year's schedule, taking into consideration guidelines from the diocese, and state and local health officials. Although we remain hopeful and are presented with options to move forward, we are reminded that we are still in a pandemic and must continue to take certain precautions for your children's and families' safety.

Therefore, we are committed, for the coming Faith Formation Year to creating a manageable, meaningful, and safe process for your children and families. We are also mindful of, and will continue to consider, the commitments to work and school schedules that you as Parents/Guardians and Catechists must face.

Please note, On-Line Registration <u>will not</u> begin May 10th! Please disregard this information that is on your child's calendar and watch for further information that will be emailed to you regarding Registration soon.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parents/Guardians for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this very challenging year and to let you know that you remain in our prayers. Especially those who have lost a loved one during this time.

We want to thank all the Catechists for your ongoing commitment to sharing your time and faith with the children and families of the parish. Because of your willingness to serve, St. Sylvester Parish is blessed!

Let us continue to do the best that we can and trust that God will do the rest!

Blessings and Peace, The Faith Formation Team Fr. Suglia, Frances McMahon, Michael Lofaro and Terese Tornincaso



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

<u>May 2, 2021</u> Regular ~ \$ 9,243 Renovation ~ \$270

Last Year 's Collection ~ May 3, 2020 Regular ~ \$ 8,162

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

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 \$34,772.52 51.21% 109

We are halfway to our goal! All funds raised between 80% - 100% (\$54,320-\$67,900) of our parish's goal, which amounts to \$13,580 if we reach our goal, will be returned to us for our own programs, services and special needs. *All monies raised are restricted to the ministries of the Appeal.*

Donations for the CMA may be made by clicking on the CMA logo on our parish website or by check. Please make sure you designate our parish so we get the credit for your donation. Thank you for your generosity.

A Higher Love

In John's Gospel today we hear powerful words from Jesus, *"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."* It is easy for us to gloss over this by saying that we are good people who love and take care of the people in our lives family and friends at the top of the list. But this is not the love that Jesus speaks about. It is not a challenge to love those who love us!

Jesus instead is challenging us by talking about a higher, more noble, love. This higher love encompasses a genuine, heartfelt love for, and respect of, one's fellow man. Certainly we have witnessed this kind of love in health care workers throughout the Covid pandemic and in other first responders and essential workers. How many risked their own lives, and lost them, trying to save or improve the lives of others? It is this type of selfless love, not expecting anything in return, to which Jesus calls us today.

As humble, compassionate and generous Christian stewards, we are challenged to find a way to love all those who may be difficult to love because they are different and do not fit into nice, neat categories in our lives — the mentally ill, the homeless, those battling addictions, the imprisoned, immigrants, those who are always angry and bitter about life and those who do not share our political ideologies, religion or race.

We are called to love *everyone* — not in the same way you love your family perhaps, but love enough to advocate for and support them; to recognize and respect their God-given human dignity as our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is not always easy to follow Jesus, but He died on the cross, not only for us, but for all of them too. Jesus said, "*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.*" We must challenge ourselves with the thought today and every day — are we acting as Jesus expects His friends should? Love all, serve all.

~ Lori Zito

Stewardship ~ **Ministry Corner**

Altar Linens Ministry Seeking Members

Are you someone who wants to offer their time to the parish, but doesn't have much time to give... or prefers to serve from home? Do you enjoy washing and ironing?

If so, you may want to consider joining our Altar Linens Ministry. On a rotating basis (normally one week a month), you would pick up the linens used during Mass, clean, iron and fold them and then return them to the church in a timely manner. It is a very much be-



hind-the-scenes ministry, but an important one.

Ministry of Consolation Seeks Companions



Have you been blessed with the gift of compassion? Do you feel comfortable being with those who are grieving and feel called to assist them in some way? If so, you might want to consider becoming a Companion for our Ministry of Consolution

Lazarus Ministry of Consolation.

Our Companions meet with the families of the newly deceased in the parish center and assist them with the details of planning the Funeral Mass, such as selecting the readings and music, determining who will read the readings, bring up the gifts, etc. The companion is present at the wake and funeral as a support to the grieving and serves as a liaison between the family, the funeral home and the church.

If you feel called to be a part of any of the Parish Ministries mentioned above, please contact Lori Zito by emailing her at lzito@stsylvesterli.org or by calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115. Training is provided.

Gardening Ministry Brings in the Spring

Our dedicated Gardening Club Ministry members already have their spades at the ready for the spring planting season, preparing to transform our parish grounds into a park-like setting.

Do you have a green thumb and love to work with the earth? Do you excitedly wait for the frost season to end so you can start planning your planting? Perhaps you feel closest to the Lord among the flowers?



If so, our gardeners welcome you to join them!

Baptism Greeters Welcome Families



Do you enjoy helping and welcoming others?

Our Baptism Greeters assist the celebrant by checking that everything is prepared, greet and seat the Baptism families and guests, help with any questions and concerns, distribute Baptism Certificates and put away all items at the sacrament's

conclusion.

Ministers serve for about 1 ½ hours once a month on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.



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 Has Re-Opened

We have good news to share — our Parish Thrift Shop is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 3pm!

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



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 of May 14-16, 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: Immaculate Conception 440 West Neck Road Huntington, NY 11743



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.

Catholic Communications Campaign

Next weekend, May 15-16, there is a special envelope to support the Catholic Communications Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the US and developing countries using the internet, TV, radio and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in our Diocese to fund local communications efforts. To learn more, visit www.uscc.org/ccc.



Blessing Prayer for Mother's Day

God of Love, listen to this prayer.

God of Holy People, bend down Your ear to this request, and bless the mother of our family.

Bless her with the strength of Your spirit, she who has taught her children how to stand and walk.

Bless her with the melody of Your love, she who has shared how to speak, how to sing and how to pray to You.

Bless her today and everyday, with good health, with joy, love and laughter and surround her with many good friends.

Bless her with a place at our Your table, she who has fed and nurtured the life that was formed within her while still helpless but embraced in her love.

May these blessings and Your grace descend upon the mother of our family.

Amen.





