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 Parish Center. Rosary recitation begins at 8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined dates. *Prior to making plans*, call Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation/Confession:

For those seeking spiritual healing. Saturday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the Sacristy or by appointment 631-475-4506, Ext. 101 or email dsuglia@drvc.org

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 will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18



May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Michael Lofaro, Administrator, Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director, Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahon, Director, Parish Social Ministry

Lori Zito, Director, Parish Ministries & Events

Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506, ext 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org Mon. Tues. & Wed. 9am-12 & 1-8:30pm; Thurs. & Fri. 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Sun. 9:30am-12:30pm.

Faith Formation Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org Please call (631)475-4506, ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Parish Social Ministry at Clare House: (631) 475-4506, ext. 122; Fax (631) 475-6058 Please call the number above or press the number "5" on the parish phone message for assistance.

Thrift Shop: (631) 475-4506, ext. 124



IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being—or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray



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

Theresa Mazza, Melanie Schmadtke, John McGarvey, Ellen Wisnoski, Rita Ruberto, Joan McGrattan, Nello & Cesira Liberatore, Robert Schwarz, Bill Berger, Marge Golden, Chong Skladel, Frank Cayea, Christopher Ewart, Barbara Perrone, William Valentin, Grace Stephens, Nicholas Grizopoulis and Josephine Chebat.



In order to keep our **Sick List** up to date, we will remove all names at the end of each month. Simply call or email the Parish Office if you wish to place someone on the list. Please remember that for the sake of privacy, this request must be made by either the sick person him/herself, or by an immediate family member. Thank you.



Please pray for world peace and all public servants including the following who are serving on active duty:

Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army Captain Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force 1st Lieutenant Hannah Grosso, Army 1st Lieutenant Michael Dustin, Army 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.



Faith Formation Going Forward

We realize that life right now is very different and many of our regular or routine activities have either changed significantly or have come to a grinding halt.
It is often during challenging times that we ask more questions about life and death, and that we are more open to hearing God's message.
We are also drawn to the Church and to a desire for the Sacraments.
Faith Formation for children, youth and adults is moving forward!
This is how...

Parents! The Faith Formation Calendar may have ended but you will soon receive information on how to register your child on-line for the coming 2020-2021 Faith Formation year.
If you have a child who will be going into 1st Grade in the fall,

please watch for an invitation to register your child and get started.

Level 2 and Level 7 Parents! As soon as we know how and when we can reopen without gravely endangering the common good and health of our people, we will begin to plan for the celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We will keep you updated!

<u>Middle School Ministry!</u> We will be having a Zoom meeting soon! Stay tuned!

<u>Adults!</u> We know that formation in faith is ongoing and life-long and therefore St. Sylvester ministers of RCIA and Adult Confirmation are prepared to walk with you as you deepen your relationship with God, yourself and others. For information please email <u>fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org</u>

Did you know? Our homes are called the School of Christian Life and the Domestic Church!

"Childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable. Indeed, family catechesis precedes...accompanies and enriches all forms of catechesis." *General Directory for Catechesis, John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Catechesi Tradendae (October 1979): AAS 71* (1979), pp. 1277-1340

For More Information Please email faithformation@stsylvesterli.org

Stewardship



Called to Evangelize

Hospitality Formation

Service

Gifts of Treasure

May 10, 2020 **Regular** ~ \$9,670 Renovation ~ \$340 Solar ~ \$60

Last Year's Collection ~ May 12, 2019 **Regular** ~ *\$8,327*

Thank you to all those who, in the spirit of stewardship, continue to financially support the parish during this challenging time!!!

Will & Estate Planning

Consider leaving a legacy of faith by remembering our parish in your will or bequest. Saint Sylvester RC Church is a fully compliant charitable organization registered as a 501(3)C non-profit.

Please contact Father Suglia directly if you have already made provisions for St. Sylvester or if you would like to remember us when you conduct your estate planning.

Thank You and God Bless!



"Balance, peace and joy are the fruit of a successful life. It starts with recognizing your talents and finding ways to serve others by using them." ~ Thomas Kinkade



Truth and the Spirit

To paraphrase John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we will be given an Advocate to be with us always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. We will know Him, however, because He remains with us and will be in us. WOW! How special does that make us — especially in a time when truth in any form seems harder and harder to come bv!!

As Catholics committed to Stewardship, we understand that we are all given different gifts by God to discover, nurture and then share in order to build God's kingdom. The Holy Spirit is present in each and every one of us to help us live out God's truth in our own ways and spread His message. This is why Pentecost Sunday (celebrated at the end of this month) is always a time when we celebrate the gifts of ministry.

When I was in 8th Grade, I was given a Holy Spirit medal during my graduation ceremony with the inscription, "Holy Spirit, enlighten me" — my first real Stewardship Praver and one I would repeat for decades afterward in many difficult situations and through many life-changing decisions. Forty years later, I still have that medal and find its inscription so simple and yet profound.

As stewards, if we believe in the truth that God is with us at every moment, enlightening us at every turn, what we can achieve in His name is truly remarkable! This week, think about your inner truth, the special gifts that God has given you and the fact that our Advocate is with us every step of the way. How can you share what makes you "you" joyfully with others? Discern what you are being called to — and then begin to live it!

~ Lori Zito

Parish Social Ministry

Clare House Closed Until Further Notice

In order to comply with social distancing requirements and in an effort to limit all unnecessary contact our team is working remotely. We are still here to help! We will continue to support individual clients on a case by case basis. If you have an emergency situation that requires assistance please call our intake line ONLY:

631-475-4506 x122

Please leave only <u>one</u> complete message stating your name, number, and primary need.

Please keep in mind that in the current state of emergency:

- * National Grid will not shut off service due to non-payment.
- * PSEGLI will not shut off service due to non-payment.
- * Evictions will not be enforced.
- * Those with mortgages who are unable to pay, should contact their lenders, as many will work with clients during this time.
- * Those who need emergency shelter should call DSS for instruction.
 631-854-9100
- * DSS offices are open, but staff is limited and there are no face-toface interviews
- Please check the website and follow us on twitter for information about available resources or ways to help.

Let us join together in prayer with our Holy Mother Mary!

The following prayer is from the Pope's Letter to the Faithful for May 2020 :

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

"Our Lady is always close to us. Especially when we feel the weight of life with all its problems." ~ Pope Francis

Uniting As a Spiritual Family in May 2020 Let us join together in prayer with our Holy Mother Mary!



Since the 13th century, the Catholic Church has dedicated the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In honor of our Blessed Mother, we invite you to unite spiritually with our parish community by praying the Rosary each day from **Monday, May 4th to Tuesday, May 12th as a novena,** leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima on May 13th, asking Our Lady's intercession for your personal intentions, the Church and the world.

The Apparitions in Fátima:

From May to October 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children on the 13^{th} day of each month in Fátima, Portugal; Francisco and Jacinta Marto, who are now canonized saints, and Lúcia dos Santos. "*I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue to pray the rosary every day.*" – *Our Lady to the Fátima visionaries (October 13, 1917).* She urged the children to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world; to become holy by their works in order to save souls. Our Lady's messages were meant for the people of that time, and they're still meant for us today.

Pope Francis in his Letter to the Faithful for May 2020, encourages us to pray the Rosary and unite as a "spiritual family." You can read the full letter using the link below. http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2020/04/25/0245/00535.html#eng

Please click <u>here</u> to learn how to pray the rosary. This "how to" is from Dynamic Catholic and Matthew Kelly

Did you know that the bishops of the United States and Canada recently renewed the consecrations of both nations to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

As the world continues to face the ongoing effects of the global pandemic of the corona virus, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops joined with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 1st in renewing the consecrations of the two nations to the care of our Blessed Mother. The consecration is a reminder to the faithful of the Blessed Mother's witness to the Gospel and to ask for her effective intercession before her Son on behalf of those in need.

Our Holy Father recently established the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on the Monday after Pentecost, (June 1, 2020) as a source of protection and strength. Read more about the consecration from USCCB.org: <u>http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/consecration.cfm</u>

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, you are the fairest fruit of God's redeeming love; you sing of the Father's mercy and accompany us with a mother's love. In this time of pandemic we come to you, our sign of sure hope and comfort.



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