

# St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

[www.stsylvesterli.org](http://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@drv.c.org](mailto:dsuglia@drv.c.org)

## ***Confirmation:***

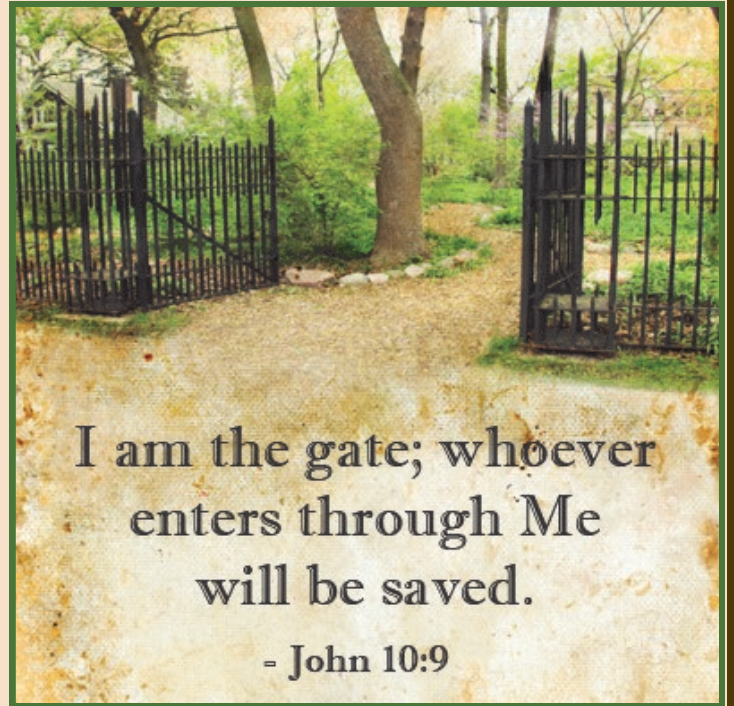
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

## ***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.



## May 3, 2020 Fourth 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

## We Pray

### **Saturday, May 2, 2020**

5:00pm Schubert Camacho  
Ricardo Bustamante  
Richard McKinney  
Charles Funk  
Carmela Toscano

### **Sunday, May 3, 2020**

7:30am Mario Gambino  
9:00am Ernest D. Puleo  
11:00am Richard Faria

### **Monday, May 4, 2020**

8:30am Gerald Gilson

### **Tuesday, May 5, 2020**

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

### **Thursday, May 7, 2020**

8:30am Donald Dempster

### **Friday, May 8, 2020**

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo,  
Sal & Carmela Toscano

### **Saturday, May 9, 2020**

5:00pm For All Mothers, Living & Deceased  
Joseph Crupi, Jr. ~20th Anniversary  
Colleen Szykuc  
Dorothy Lorey  
John Milone

### **Sunday, May 10, 2020**

7:30am For All Mothers, Living & Deceased  
9:00am For All Mothers, Living & Deceased  
11:00am For All Mothers, Living & Deceased



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

*Sandra Provenzano, William Gartung,  
Avelardo Valentin and Joseph Catalano.*

### **A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**



O Mary,  
you always brighten our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain  
while remaining steadfast in faith.  
O loving Mother,  
you know what we need,  
and we are confident you will provide for us  
as at Cana in Galilee.  
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,  
the Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill,  
for those who are vulnerable,  
and for those who have died.  
Intercede also for those charged with  
protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending to the sick  
and seeking a cure.  
Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who took upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so as to lead us, through the Cross,  
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God.  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

### **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.

**Visit our website at: [www.stsylvesterli.org](http://www.stsylvesterli.org)**

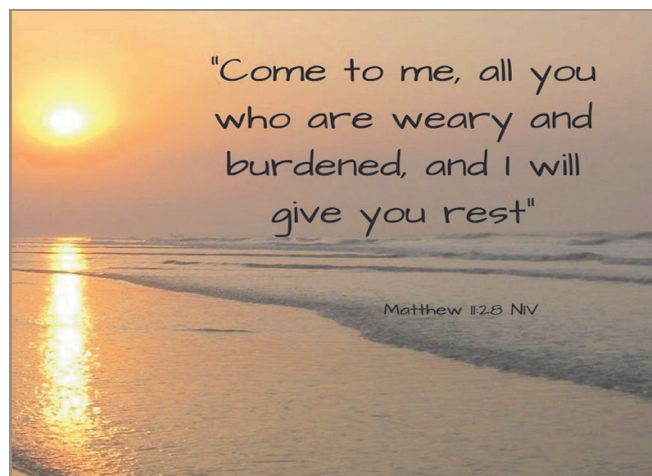


# We Pray



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, Luanne Bell,  
William Valentin and Grace Stephens.



*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  
2nd 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](mailto: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.***



## Uniting As a Spiritual Family in May 2020

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



Since the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> as a novena**, leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>th</sup> 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 [here](#) 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/consecration.cfm>

*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.*

## ***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 mentioned on the previous page:*

**"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***



# Faith Formation Registration Information



We hope that you and your families are well, safe and staying hopeful. We have been keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers during these past few weeks.

The weeks of April 27th and May 4th we would have begun registration for the 2020-2021 Faith Formation year. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, registration will not take place as usual, but rather at a later date. To put your minds at rest, we want to assure you that your child/ren will be moved up to the next Level for the 2020-2021 year. As soon as we know what the Faith Formation Program will look like in the fall, we will contact you so that you can register your child. Level's 2 & 7, and Older Sacrament classes will be contacted as to when Sacraments will be celebrated as well.

In the interim, please continue to utilize the Family Resource Page on the Parish website. You can access the page by clicking this link [www.stsylvesterli.org/family-resource-page](http://www.stsylvesterli.org/family-resource-page) or visiting the Parish website at [www.stsylvstrelri.org](http://www.stsylvstrelri.org). Hover over Faith Formation and click on Family Resource Page. Under Loyola Press, you'll see helpful information for families as well as other information that you may find useful. Level's 2 and 7, look at the links on the Family Resource Page as well as at the top of your child's calendar for the website that you can access videos for your child to watch. We'll be updating the Family Resource Page with more helpful information.

Mass is offered weekly from St. Sylvester on the parish website with Fr. Suglia. Join fellow parishioners virtually to celebrate. See the Sunday Connection link on the Family Resource page on the parish website to prepare your family for mass or sign up with Franciscan Media to receive a weekly newsletter.

Please know that we are here for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [faithformation@stsylvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsylvesterli.org).

Let us pray for one another, during these unprecedented times, for those suffering from COVID-19, their families and health care providers. Let us pray and remain hopeful that this will pass quickly.

Blessings,  
Fran Mike and Terése



# Faith Formation

## Do You Have Questions?

Please know that if you have questions regarding your child's Faith Formation or as an adult questions about preparing for Sacraments you can reach us by email at [faithformation@stsylvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsylvesterli.org)

## God's Love is Unconditional!

A decree from Rome granting Plenary Indulgences to the faithful during this current pandemic including "health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them." has been granted. To read the entire Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary go to: <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.html>

### What is a Plenary Indulgence?

God's granting special grace by removing all effects of previous sin to those who turn to God in their time of need. If the intention in your heart is to be reconciled to God and to your neighbor, then your sins are forgiven along with any remaining negative effects from the sin.

### How does that work?

Normally we would gather at Mass and for other forms of prayer and devotions, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary social distancing, we are unable to. We can however still unite spiritually through our individual practices as well as shared virtual experiences. This could include uniting "through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or we can recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer or invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary, and offer this time of suffering in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards our brothers and sisters, along with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (meaning to celebrate the sacrament of Confession, and receive Holy Communion as soon as possible)". Through these actions and intentions we will be granted Plenary Indulgence.

### No Matter What...

For those who are too sick to pray, even those who may have only ever said just "a few prayers," God's Mercy and Love is already with them, especially during their time of suffering. And, should it be their time to leave this life, as we know it, God will embrace them and bring them to everlasting life. We know this because **God's love is unconditional**. God sees into our hearts and knows, before we even say a prayer, who we are. God's love and forgiveness, God's salvation for all humans is an unmerited, gracious and generous, free gift.

# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service



### Gifts of Treasure

**April 26, 2020**

**Regular ~ \$5,003**

**Renovation ~ \$15    Solar ~ \$25**

*(This amount does not include  
Easter Offerings  
which will be published at a later date.)*

**Last Year's Collection ~ April 28, 2019**

**Regular ~ \$9,421**

*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!*

### Stewardship Reflection

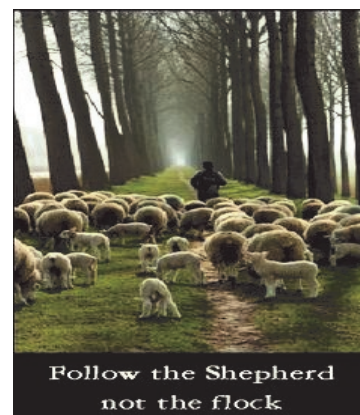
Jesus says, ***“A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”*** ~ John 10

Hopefully you have not encountered an actual thief in your house! But consider for a moment some of the figurative “thieves” that may be dwelling in your heart and home ... anxiety, fear, anger, resentment. These “thieves” are robbing you of the abundant joy God means for you to have – they slowly and subtly destroy your discipleship. In today’s Gospel, Jesus hopes that the Pharisees will realize He is accusing them of falling victim to such thieves.

Let’s take a moment to look at ourselves in comparison to the Pharisees. Do we also need to hear this message with humility?

Jesus has empowered you with the Holy Spirit...*you were made to live life abundantly.*

Learn to ignore the voices of the “thieves” and instead follow the call of the Good Shepherd!



~ Diocese of Wichita, Kansas



## **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 one 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-to-face interviews

**Please check the website and follow us on twitter for information about available resources or ways to help.**

Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!



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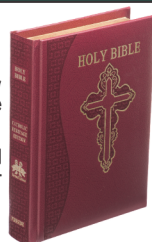
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