

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:

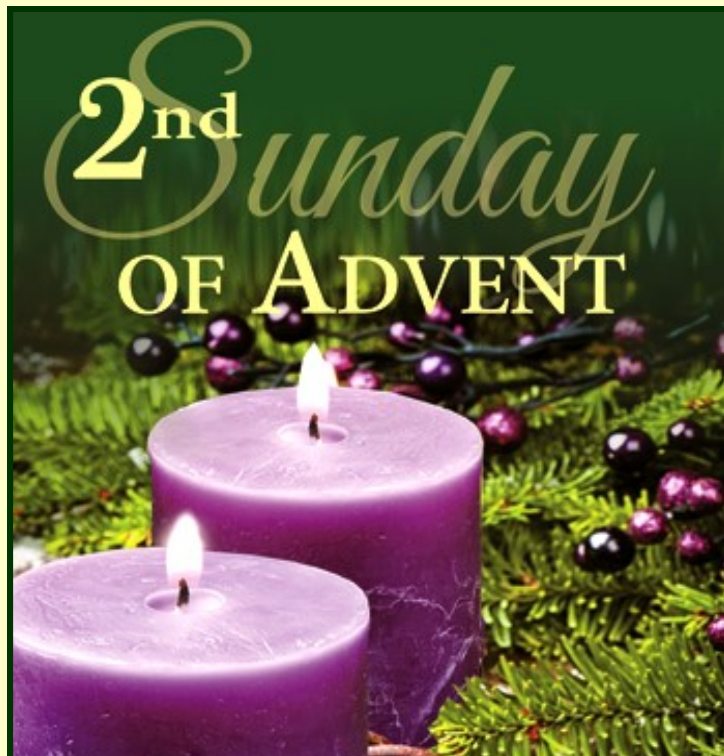
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

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.



December 6, 2020

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

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., 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 ; Tues. & Thurs. ~ 10am-3pm .



Pastoral Council: The members of our Pastoral Council listed below meet with Fr. Suglia monthly to discern the needs and hopes for the future of our parish. Please keep them in your prayers as they carry out this important responsibility:

Patricia Coppola
Nancy Di Santo

Amanda Gentile
Tom Mowat

Ashley Perrone
Bill Sisco

We Pray

Saturday, December 5, 2020

5:00pm Thomas Smith ~ *3rd Anniversary*
James Bledsoe
Ralph, Frevola
James Frevola
Peter Frevola
Lucy Gordon
Elizabeth Pagano

Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:00am Edward Cossack
11:00am Vito & Alice Farello

Monday, December 7, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

8:30am James J. Hines

Thursday, December 10, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, December 11, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, December 12, 2020

5:00pm Anthony DeLorenzo
Louise LaBarbara
Nicholas & Olga Veneroso
Deceased & Living Members of Matteo,
Caravaro & Shiba Families

Sunday, December 13, 2020

9:00am Robert Stingo
11:00am Brian DePierro



We remember and pray for those who have died, especially: *Sandra Bayron, Evan Kloppenburg, Maria DiMagro, Ralph "Skip" Acquaro, and Paul Mazza.*

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.

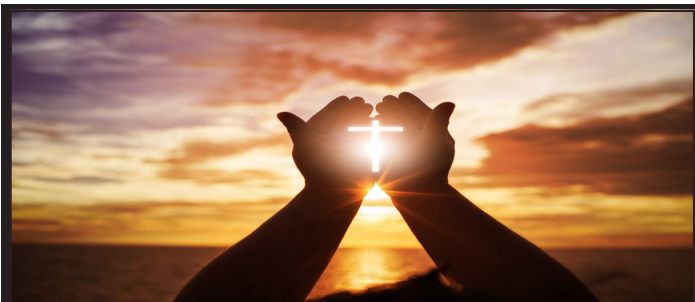
This Tuesday, December 8th, is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still a dispensation from attending Mass. There will be a 5:00pm Vigil Mass celebrated on Monday and Masses at 8:30am and 7pm on Tuesday.



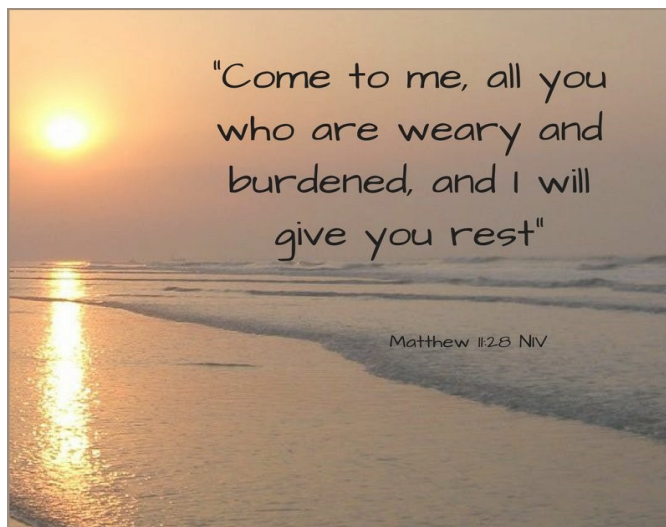
Registration for the evening Masses is required and will begin Saturday, December 5th at 9am and end Monday, December 7th at 9am. The Vigil Mass will be live streamed on Monday at 5pm and then available for viewing on our website. All Parish Offices are closed for the Holy Day.

We Pray



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

**John McGarvey, Grace Stephens,
Evangeline Hurst, Joan Polan, Ralph
Cerqueira, John & Barbara Stanton,
and William Schaefer.**



*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 some-
one 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.*

PRAYER, the world's
greatest wireless connection



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
Airman Brandon Basile, Air National Guard

*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.*



Deacon Joseph Mystkowski Retires

We recently received the news that Deacon Joseph Mystkowski has officially retired from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

However, don't wish Deacon Joe goodbye and good luck just yet! Even though he may be officially retired on paper, Deacon Joe plans on continuing his ministry here at St.



Sylvester through 2021, gradually curtailing his responsibilities, including the amount of Baptisms and Weddings he celebrates, in order to spend more time with his family. He is especially looking forward to having the time to make more frequent trips to visit with his children and grandchildren who live in other states.

A deacon with the Diocese of Rockville Centre for over 26 years, Deacon Joe came to St. Sylvester in June of 2014 after many, many years of faithfully serving at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Patchogue. He was asked at that time to switch parishes as St. Sylvester had a great need for assistance and he has joyfully adopted our parish, calling it "a great parish with fun people."

When asked about his vocation, Deacon Joe modestly replied, "I have been blessed in so many ways because of it." Deacon Joe, *it is you who have blessed us all by your presence here!*

Deacon Joe and his wife, Patricia, will remain here in the parish as an important part of our family of faith. We thank Deacon Joe and Pat for their dedication to their "adopted parish" and wish them God's blessings of good health and much happiness now and in the future.

*"Well done, my good and faithful servant."
Mark 25:21*



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

*Let us welcome the newly baptized
into our Community of Faith
during the month of
November 2020*

Domíníc Michael Barone

Megan Sofía Barry

Victoria Lynn Burnett

Breccan Douglas Chertiza

Jack Michael Hollowell

Anthony James Italiano

Jameson Joseph Merante

Emma Lynn Ohlhorst

Carlos Reyes

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



If you are interested in keeping our altar linens looking clean and pristine, please contact Lori Zito in our Parish Ministries Office by emailing to lzito@stsylvesterli.org or calling extension 115.

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 Wednesday morning at 9am. The program will stop accepting reservations on Friday at 3pm (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 5PM AND 11AM —LINK AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE. If you click on the Mass and it has already begun, you will have the ability on *You Tube* 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 SATURDAYS 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 do not 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.

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to navigate the public celebration of Mass within State Guidelines, St. Sylvester Parish will offer Mass on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM & 11AM.

Please note the following important information:

- **At this time, the bishop still dispenses all the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.**
- **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!**
- **There is 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 will be asked to show your registration before entering the church.**
- **Masks or other face coverings must be worn by all participants.**
- **Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass so your reservation may be confirmed and you may be shown to your seat. Capacity at this time is limited to 25%.**
- **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 will be omitted.**
- **If you wish to make a contribution, there will be baskets at the entrance and exit. Contributions may also dropped at the parish center or made online.**
- **The Sign of Peace or other greetings will not be exchanged.**
- **Directions will be given for Communion, which will be distributed after Mass as you are leaving the church. Please follow the directions of the ushers.**
- **Please go directly to your car, as no congregating is permitted.**
- **We will continue to keep you updated on changes as we move forward.**

This is a work in progress, so as we move forward there may be changes. We appreciate your patience and want you to know that our first priority is that those attending Mass will be safe.

**Yours in Christ,
Fr. Suglia**

Revised & Simplified Faith Formation Program 2020-2021 !

Dear Parents/Guardians and Catechists,

We have revised and simplified the St. Sylvester Faith Formation Program so that it will be **more manageable and yet still meaningful** for all involved, Catechists, students, and their families.

As school districts are moving forward with plans for the school year, it has become clear to us that parents and students may be challenged by the newness of what lies ahead. This combined with parents changing work situations has caused us to take another look at the Faith Formation Program we are offering and how we can be more accommodating to all.

If you have already registered your child, we hope this will make life a little easier. If you have not yet registered your child, the hope here is that with this more accommodating schedule, you will now reconsider registering them.

Here is the revised and simplified Faith Formation Program for 2020-2021 Year for Levels 1 through 7!

- ♦ Arrangements will be made for a curbside pickup of the materials (books, calendar, etc.) needed for each of your children so they can work from home.
- ♦ There will be 4 virtual meetings on the Zoom platform, for the year, that we ask students to try their best to attend (with the help of a parent). So, for example, if you registered your child for a Level 5 class on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., your child's class will be held four (4) times virtually on 4 specific Mondays at 4:30 p.m. according to the Level 5 Calendar. If you registered your child for Level 3, 4 or 5 Home Taught the virtual; meetings will be held on Saturdays according to the Home Taught Level 3, 4 or 5 calendars. Level 1 will be Home Taught and have four (4) virtual meetings on specific Saturdays according to the Level 1 calendar.
- ♦ The calendar will not begin until Monday, November 30, 2020 to give everyone time to adjust to the school schedules, etc. and will end in May.
- ♦ Parents with children who have special needs!
Parents, for students who are in the Individualized Faith Formation Program or whose needs would make it difficult to stay focused virtually, we will work directly and individually with you to accommodate your child's needs. Please go ahead and register your child for the next Level in the Individualized Faith Formation Program. If you have questions, please email faithformation@stsyvesterli.org



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*

Adults: We know that formation in faith is ongoing and life-long and therefore St. Sylvester's 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 to:

fmcMahon@stsyvesterli.org

For more information or if you have questions, please email faithformation@stsyvesterli.org

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

November 29, 2020

Regular ~ \$10,677

Renovation ~ \$80 Solar ~ \$0

Last Year's Collection ~ December 1, 2019

Regular ~ \$13,202

November 22, 2020

Regular ~ \$7,690

Renovation ~ \$20 Solar ~ \$30

Last Year's Collection ~ November 24, 2019

Regular ~ \$7,821

Faith Direct ~ October 2020

Regular ~ \$11,598

Renovation ~ \$782 Solar ~ \$167

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!!!

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!

This Advent—Be a Messenger!

In today's Gospel from Mark, we hear the familiar story of John the Baptist. John was certainly someone who stuck out in a crowd, clothed in camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey! A unique figure for sure, with a uniquely important message to proclaim, "*One mightier than I is coming after me. ... I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*" John's life's work and mission was to get others to recognize that Jesus the Savior was coming and that everyone needed to repent of their sins and be ready for His arrival.

This coming Tuesday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Luke's Gospel focuses on the message the angel Gabriel brings to the Virgin Mary foretelling Jesus' coming, "*Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High...and of his Kingdom there will be no end.*"

Both John the Baptist and the angel Gabriel share the Good News of the Lord's future arrival in dramatic fashion. As joyful stewards, do we truly understand and internalize what this extraordinary message means for us? And if we do, do we share that message with others enthusiastically or keep it quietly to ourselves?

This Advent, perhaps more than any other in recent history, the hopeful and timeless message of Christ's coming needs to be shared, *proclaimed even*, to a world overwhelmed by despair and grief. Don't keep your faith and your hope to yourself — be a messenger! You don't need to wear camel hair and stand on Route 112, just spread the Good News one person at a time by living your faith with enthusiasm, joy and conviction. No locusts; I promise.

~ Lori Zito

Background Screening Update

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People:

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend *Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)*
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct;
3. Complete a background screen application. ***The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5 yr. intervals. Volunteers/employees.***

A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct- provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application background offered during the Virtus registration process.

Active Volunteers:

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened you may be at – or beyond- the 5yr. rescreening requirement. If this is the case, you will receive an email from Sterling Volunteers asking you to complete the background screening application on-line. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. ***Please be aware-this is not a scam nor has your e-mail been hacked.*** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically re-sign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

Edit Your Virtus Account:

To access your Virtus account: www.Virtus.org You will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or helpdesk@virtus.org. Once in your account, review your account information — particularly your e-mail address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen in the green column click "Update My Account" You will be able to make the necessary changes-please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: mmcmahon@drvc.org; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org; pditomasso@drvc.org

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days!

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.

We regularly post resources to our Twitter feed @clarehouse99

<https://twitter.com/clarehouse99>

We are NOT soliciting physical donations at this time. If you wish to support our mission please consider making a donation through Faith Direct. Click "Make a One-Time Gift Now" and then write "Clare House - PSM" in the Note. Thank you for your support!

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY285>



Thrift Shop is Open!

St. Sylvester operates a community thrift shop filled with a variety of goods at extremely affordable prices - often much lower than traditional thrift shops! Hardworking staff and volunteers stock the shelves with a high level of detail. Often the items available are very high quality. Excess clothing which cannot be sold or used is donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and furthers their mission to serve the poor. Clare House clients can receive a voucher, based on financial need, to obtain items at no cost.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

All items must be placed inside the bin. To donate items which do not fit in the bin, please call during hours and speak to a member of our team.

Please DO NOT leave items outside the thrift shop, they are destroyed by exposure to the elements.

Thank you for your support!

CONTACT

631-475-4506 x124

HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday
10:00AM - 3:00PM

Parish Social Ministry

THANKSGIVING 2020

This year we are grateful for the generosity of so many donors who have made a financial contribution to support our mission. These financial resources allow us to meet the needs of our neighbors on an individual basis. The flexibility allows us to address a variety of needs in a timely fashion as well as helping us to fill gaps in other programs that exist. We are acutely aware that 2020 has been unpredictable at best and more likely one of the most challenging years you can remember. Your support means that much more during these times.

Many thanks also to the staff and volunteers who continue to assemble emergency food bags and distribute them to those in need. Our shift from one of the most progressive client choice pantries to a pre-packed bag model has been a stark departure from our traditional operation. Nevertheless, it has allowed us to serve our neighbors in need in a contactless fashion, increasing the health and safety of everyone while still getting food to those who need it.

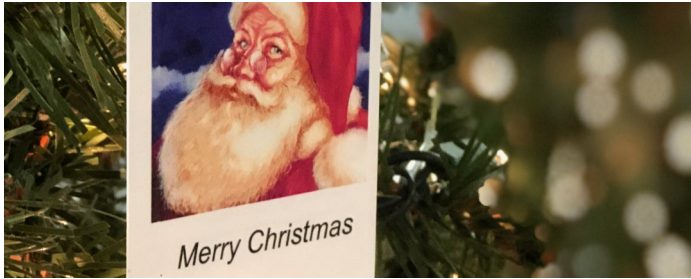
A gentle reminder that we are not soliciting physical donations at this time. We are able to receive large quantities of food from area food banks to support our mission. By making a financial contribution you allow us to purchase the items that are needed. This reduces unnecessary travel and interaction between persons helping to keep everyone healthy.



Thank you for your support!

-The Parish Social Ministry Team

Parish Social Ministry



The Parish Social Ministry Team invites you to join us for a seasonal event to support families in our community with whom we have developed a special relationship...

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS!

We've Gone Virtual!

During the Month of December make a donation of any amount to light up the holiday season for one of our Clare House families.

We are NOT soliciting physical donations at this time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

If you wish to support our mission please consider making a donation through Faith Direct. Click "Make a One-Time Gift Now" and then write "Clare House - PSM" in the Note.

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY285>

Where Does My Money Go?

All donations will be converted into gift cards by the PSM team before distribution to clients. It is fundamental that we strive in all our service activities to empower those on the margins. Gift cards allow clients to make their own decisions about what food, gifts, decorations, etc. they would like for their family. This enhances their agency in the process and respects their human dignity as individuals. With this in mind, please consider making a donation to support our families in need.

Meet the Families of Clare House

- Melissa is a single mom of three children. An unexpected medical emergency with one of her children forced Melissa to take an unpaid leave of absence from her job as a medical assistant. While she was able to use her savings to cover essential bills, it has been difficult to cover all of the household expenses.
- Trica and her husband Logan have two children, one of whom has severe disabilities that have resulted in very large medical bills. Trica and Logan both work, however, due to their daughter's medical needs, they have both been forced to take unpaid time off from work.
- Maria and her mother emigrated from Mexico two years ago. Maria works in a nearby hotel while attending ESL classes at the local library. She is saving money to move her and her mother out of the studio apartment they currently share. She hopes to return to school to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education.
- After being released from an impatient drug rehabilitation program, Kevin found himself with no place to live and no employment prospects. He has been working with our case manager to explore education, training and employment programs. Kevin reports that he would like to help others suffering from addictions.
- Gloria is currently raising her four grandchildren. She had been retired for several years when her grandchildren were placed in her custody. She has returned to work but has found it difficult to find full-time employment that provides enough for her to support her new, larger family.
- Brian and Olivia are a newly married couple that recently moved from Ohio to Long Island to help care for Olivia's elderly grandmother. Olivia's grandmother has Alzheimer's disease and requires round the clock care. Brian was able to find a job at a local hardware store, while Olivia has been providing care for her grandmother. Olivia is also pursuing her GED and reports that she would like to become a nurse someday.

Parish Social Ministry

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

A divided country. Fights at the dinner table. Political vitriol. What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a climate?

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of engagement in the political process as a means of putting our faith into action. We are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves.

When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities. As Catholics, we must model a better way. We invite you to join the Civilize It campaign by taking the pledge below as a way to promote civility, love our neighbors, and build community.

Civilize It is about making room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. We are called to recognize that each one of us is a beloved child of God and to respond in love to that reality. Civilize It is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward.

Take the pledge below as an individual, family, or community. Anyone and everyone can commit together to honoring human dignity through civil conversation.

I PLEDGE:

1. Civility

To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

2. Clarity

To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

3. Compassion

To encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

www.wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it

LET YOUR
Soul **SHINE**
With *Matthew Kelly*

**A FREE DAILY
ADVENT EXPERIENCE**

Making 2021 the Best Year of Your Life
Begins at **BestAdventEver.com**

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Is Your Contact Information Up-To-Date?

Help us stay spiritually connected with you though physically apart!

This crisis has made us acutely aware that there are some parishioners we are unable to communicate with on an immediate or regular basis because we do not have their email addresses and cell phone numbers.

So, if you have not been receiving any communications from the parish, including emails with Father Suglia's messages, please go to the website's home page, click the word "[here](#)" below the *Contact Information* graphic and update your email and cell phone information.

Thank You !

RELIGION AND ROCK



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 -

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This Sunday's theme is
The Best Presents ~ don't miss it!

To listen online, or receive more information regarding "*Religion and Rock*," go to www.ReligionandRock.com or to "*Religion & Rock*" on **ITUNES**.

RICK HINSHAW BEGINS BLOG POST



Rick Hinshaw, previously the editor of The Long Island Catholic, has reprised his column "Reading the Signs" as a blog post.

The column, according to Hinshaw, focused on articulating the moral and social teachings of our Church and their applicability to the critical issues of our time.

To read Rick's articles, go to rickhinshaw.com.

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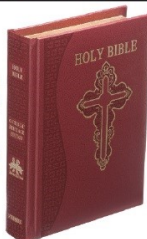
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