

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.



**The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

December 27, 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 26, 2020

5:00pm Luigi & Maria Russo
Elizabeth Pagano ~ *1st Anniversary*
Donald Plante
Lydia Trotta
Edward Leitgeb
William Gartung

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:00am Frank Cayea
11:00am Luigi & Maria Russo & Deceased
Family Members.

Monday, December 28, 2020

8:30am Rafael "Ralph" Sierra

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

8:30am Philip Comas

Thursday, December 31, 2020 *

5:00pm The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, January 1, 2021 (Solemnity of Mary) *

10:00am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, January 2, 2021

5:00pm Frank Grippi
William Schaefer
Bob DeBois
James Hines

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:00am The People of St. Sylvester
11:00am Felicity Borrero

*** Please note that there is no 8:30am Mass on
Thursday, December 31st or Friday, January 1st.**



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

***Geraldine Bledsoe, Emma Monteforte,
Antoinette Borneman, Francis P. Grippi,
John Stanton, Grace Schmidt, Monica B.
Cincotta, Anne Marie Callahan, Alice Jonck,
Adele Grossi and Max Schmaeler.***

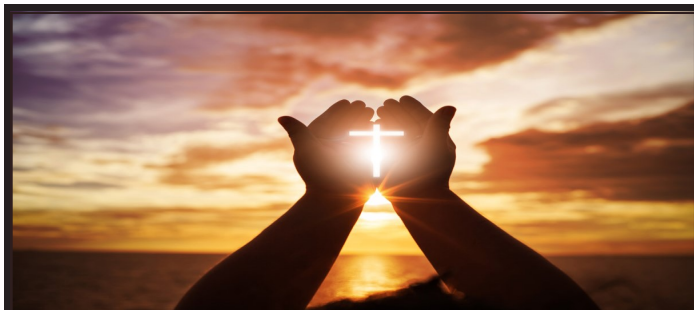


***The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgies***

***are the gifts of
Victoria & John Olexa***

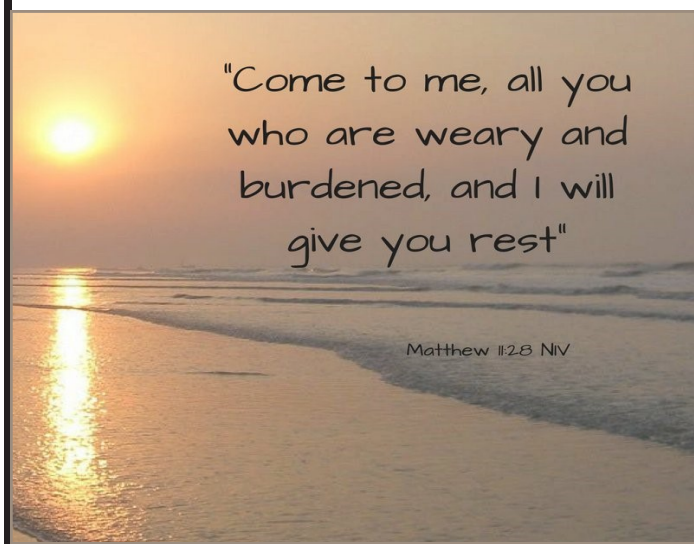
***in loving memory of
Richard Daly***

We Pray



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

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



New Year's Masses

New Year's Eve ~ Thursday, December 31st

Mass will be celebrated at 5:00pm.

New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary)

~ Friday, January 1st

Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am.

- ♦ *Registration for all New Year's Masses will begin
Sunday, December 27th at 12 noon
and end Wednesday, December 30th at 12 noon.*

All Parish Offices will be close at 12 noon on
Wednesday, December 30th and will reopen
on Monday, January 4th at 9am.



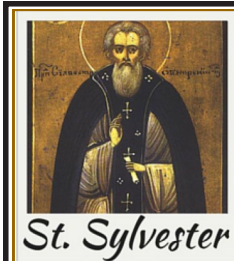
Please pray for world peace and
all public servants
including the following who are
serving on active duty:

**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.***



New Year's Eve (December 31st) is also the Feast Day of our parish's namesake, St. Sylvester.

Pope St. Sylvester I, born in Rome, Italy, was the 33rd Pope of the Catholic Church and was the Bishop of Rome from 314AD until his death in 335AD. Living to an advanced age, St. Sylvester was one of the 10 longest reigning pontiffs in the entire history of the Catholic Church and one of the earliest saints who was not a martyr.

**Pastor's Column
SS Medford**

December 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas...yes that is right, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It may be a little more difficult to say it and especially hear it this year, but it is Christmas nonetheless and it is worth celebrating.

The Son of God has been born and we have been given the opportunity for salvation to eternity in Heaven. We must not lose sight of this despite the hardships that we have endured now in our 9th month of the pandemic.

Perhaps there is something to be thankful for. Maybe it is simply that things have become very grounded, haven't they? The basics of family life have been thrust upon us: presence to each other, prioritizing our time and the simple reality of what is most important: love.

I am especially thankful for all of you, the parishioners of Saint Sylvester here in Medford. Whether you have been able to come to Mass or watch it livestreamed at home, your loyalty and devotion to our community is beyond commendable. I thank you for ensuring our weekly collection is maintained in person or by mail. It helps keep the lights on.

I also want to thank our ushers and "heavenly helpers" with us at weekly Mass. The ushers have worked tirelessly to ensure our liturgies are safe and effective. The heavenly helpers have disinfected the Church on Sunday mornings between liturgies to ensure our worship space is clean and safe.

A strange year? Yes, without a doubt. Nonetheless, there is much to be thankful for as we continue to navigate our way through this health crisis.

Let us be especially thankful that God became man and shows us the pathway to happiness, health and everlasting life. May God continue to bless you and your families this Christmas season into the New Year.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. A. Suglia". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing initial 'F' and 'S'.

**Fr. Suglia
Pastor**

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**

Faith Formation Program 2020-2021 Has Begun!

***We are doing the best we can and trusting that God will do the rest!
Thank you to all the Parents & Catechists for helping to make this happen!***

Calendars can be found at www.stsylvesterli.org Faith Formation/ Calendars & Information and then click on your child's Level.

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 you to pick up the materials (books, 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 began Monday, November 30, 2020 to give everyone time to adjust to the school schedules, etc. and will end in May. **It is not too late to register!**
- ◆ 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@stsylvesterli.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@stsylvesterli.org

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

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

Due to bulletin printing deadlines for Christmas through the Epiphany, the financial information for December 20, 2020 and Christmas 2020 will be available in subsequent bulletins.

Faith Direct for November 2020

(Online Giving)

Regular ~ \$13,518

Renovation ~ \$787 Solar ~ \$172

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!!!

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 the Parish Center by calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or emailing to lzito@stsyvesterli.org.

Focus on Family

The readings for this weekend focus on family. In the first reading from Genesis, we learn of the faith of Abraham and how God gave him and his wife Sarah a son in his old age. We hear it again in the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, but this time the focus is on Abraham's descendants, *"...as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore."* At its conclusion we also hear about Abraham's willingness to offer up his only son, Isaac, at God's request.

And finally in Luke's Gospel, we hear the account of Jesus being taken by his family to the temple for his Presentation to the Lord — where Mary is told, *"...you yourself a sword will pierce - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

These are tough things to experience and hear as parents and yet their faith does not waver. Clearly, Mary has times of great worry, pain and anguish as Jesus' mother, as does Abraham when asked to give up Isaac. And yet, their faith allows them both to courageously and lovingly move forward, trusting in God. Many of us who are parents can relate to their struggles and pain in differing degrees. It is during these times that the Holy Family is with us, showing us the quiet courage of St. Joseph and the loving embrace of our Blessed Mother as they raise Jesus. As committed stewards, we are called upon to summon their unshakeable faith, love and courage in prayer and allow them to guide us forward.

While this has been an extremely difficult year, having the ability to spend more time with our loved ones has perhaps given us the unexpected gift of a renewed appreciation of those whom we call family. As the new year begins, let us work to ensure it is one of courage, love and hope for all families everywhere. May God bless you as we ring in the new year socially-distanced but still united in our faith, with hopes of health and peace in 2021. ~ Lori Zito

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



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.

CHRISTMAS 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

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

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!

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 !

New Year Resolutions ~ The Pope Francis List



1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh.'
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord.'
10. Be happy. (The Joy of the Gospel).

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 -

8:00am on *WBAB 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*.

**This Sunday's theme is
New Beginnings ~ 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.

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

A photograph of a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) seen from behind, looking up at a night sky filled with fireworks. The family is dressed in winter clothing, including coats, scarves, and hats. The man is pointing towards the fireworks. The scene is dark, with the bright light of the fireworks illuminating the family and the sky.

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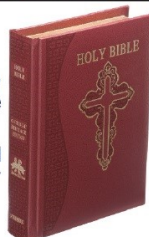
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