

# 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 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](mailto:dsuglia@drvc.org).

## ***Confirmation:***

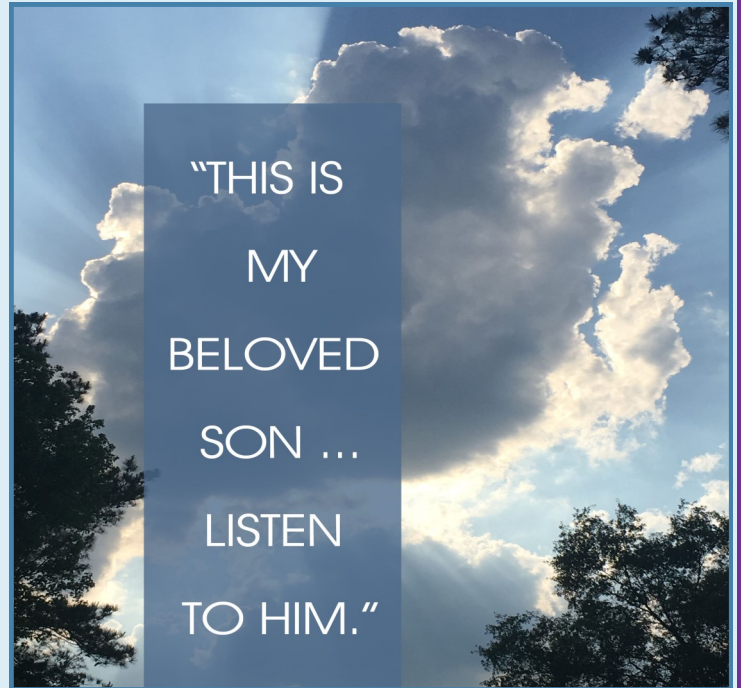
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

## ***Marriage:***

Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm; Saturday @ 11:00am, 12:30pm, & 2:00pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

## ***Anointing of the Sick & Dying:***

For those needing surgery or serious medical treatment and for those in danger of death. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1515, the Sacrament should be received once, unless during an illness the sick person's health worsens, or for subsequent surgeries, or after recovery they begin a new illness. They may then receive it again. Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass, or call the Rectory at 631-475-0418 any time.



"THIS IS  
MY  
BELOVED  
SON ...  
LISTEN  
TO HIM."

## The Second Sunday of Lent February 28, 2021

### Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Rev. Dan Picciano, Weekend Assistant

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski, Retired

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Michael Lofaro, Administrator,  
Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director,  
Faith Formation & Music Ministers

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](mailto:parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org)  
Mon., Wed. & Fri. ~ 9am-12pm

**Faith Formation Office:** (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: [faithformation@stsylvesterli.org](mailto: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. Closed until further notice.



**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, February 27, 2021**

5:00pm Carol Wilson

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

9:00am Manuel & Maria Fernandes

11:00am Sal, Carmela, Phil & Robert Toscano

**Monday, March 1, 2021**

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

8:30am Rev. John J. Denniston

**Friday, March 5, 2021**

8:30am Rev. John J. Denniston

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

5:00pm Rev. John J. Denniston

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

9:00am Dennis Sossich

11:00am Felicity Borrero



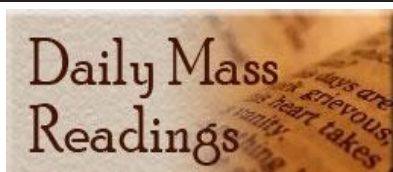
**We remember and pray for those who have died, especially:**

**Anthony Caldarella & Rose Masucci.**

*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](mailto:ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org)  
or call 631-475-4506, ext. 101.  
Thank you and God bless.*

**The Readings for the Week can be found on our parish website home page by clicking on the "Daily Readings" button.**

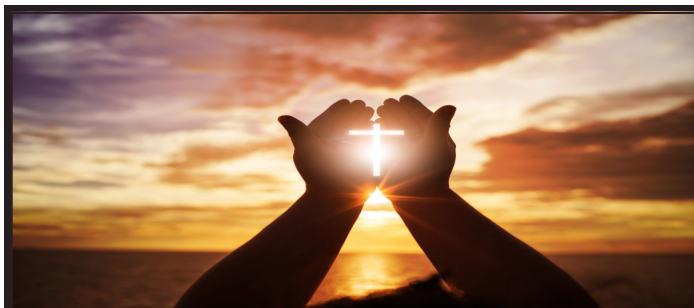


**You may also access the readings for the month directly from the USCCB website, [www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org). Simply click a date on their Daily Readings Calendar to bring up the readings for that particular day.**



**There are still a number of 2021 announced Mass intentions available for both weekday and weekend Masses. Our Parish Office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-12pm for you to arrange for an announced Mass and/or pick up a Mass card.**

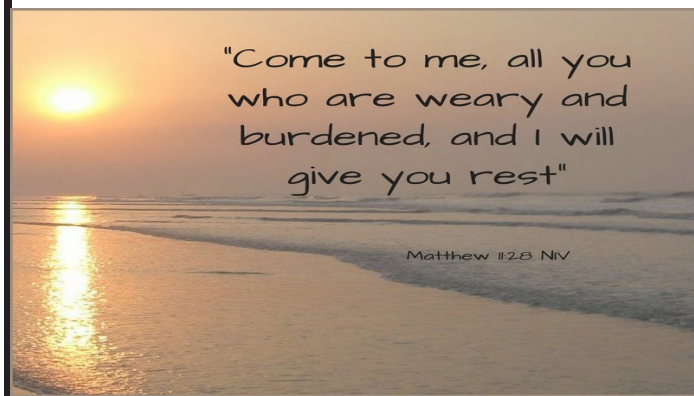
# We Pray



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

John McGarvey, Grace Stephens,  
Thomas Wilson, Julio Munoz,  
Brian Greck, Anna Maria Gutierrez  
Barbara Eustace, Bill Berger  
and Krista Teigland.

*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.*



## *Fast and Abstinence During Lent*

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth  
year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on  
Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and  
fifty-nine inclusive should observe the law of fast  
on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This  
means limiting oneself to a single full meal and  
avoiding food between meals. Two other light  
meals, which together do not equal a full meal,  
may be taken during the day.



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

Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army  
Captain Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force  
1st Lieutenant Hannah Grosso, Army  
1st Lieutenant Michael Dustin, Army  
1st Lieutenant Michael Hawkins, Army  
Petty Officer 2nd Class Elena Greck, Navy  
Lieutenant Nicoli Carlson, Navy  
Captain Holly Grosso Carlson, Army  
Captain Peter Duff, Army  
Ensign Brett Reilly, Navy

*If you have a family member who is  
currently serving on active duty in the  
military and would like his or her name added to  
this prayer list, please call  
631-475-4506 Ext. 101 or email  
ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org Please notify  
the same of any change in status.  
Thank you.*

***Romans 12:12***  
***Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,  
persevere in prayer.***





# PARISH INFORMATION

As we continue to navigate through this challenging time, we are pleased to be able to say that things are beginning to open up here at the parish, although in a limited way. We are happy to communicate the following:

**WEEKEND MASSES ARE CELEBRATED AT 5PM ON SATURDAYS AND 9AM AND 11AM ON SUNDAYS.** You must register to attend these Masses weekly through our parish website beginning each 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](http://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

## RCIA Celebrates The Rite of Election

Last Sunday, Justin, Stefan and Dennis, who have been meeting virtually every week for more than a year with the RCIA Team reflecting on the Sunday readings and teachings of the Church, celebrated the Rite of Election which marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation in their journey to the Easter Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist).



In October of last year, they celebrated the Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate, and made public their desire to become Catholic. And we, the Church, this community, carried out our apostolic mission, and accepted them and prayed for them as persons who intend to become members of the Church.

At the Rite of Election they reaffirmed their intention to become Catholic; their Godparents, catechists and RCIA Team gave testimony to their readiness and we the community, the Church, expressed our approval and pledged to support them in faith, prayer, and example. They then signed the *Book of the Elect*, which lists those who have been chosen for initiation. After the Prayer of the Faithful, they were sent forth to reflect more deeply on the Word of God, as we pray for the day when they share fully with us in the Eucharist.

Lent is not just a time to fast, pray and give alms, it is a time to reflect more deeply on our own Baptism and what that means, how we live it out in our day-to-day life. So, as we journey with and pray for Justin, Stefan and Dennis, may the meaning and understanding of our own Baptism be illuminated and prepare us to celebrate more fully the Easter Mysteries!

## The Faith Formation Program 2020-2021 Has Begun!

For more information or if you have questions, please email [faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org)

### Individualized Faith Formation for Children With 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.

For more information

or to register your child in the Individualized Faith Formation Program, please email [faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org)

**Did you know that 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*





# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

### *Gifts of Treasure*

February 21, 2021

Regular ~ \$4,593

Renovation ~ \$15

*Additional Snow Removal ~ \$2,130  
(\$1,500 — single donor)*

*Last Year 's Collection ~ February 23, 2020  
Regular ~ \$8,015*

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

Faith Direct ~ February 2021

Regular ~ \$11,382

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**  
*to all those who, in the spirit of steward-  
ship, 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!***

### **Finding Lights in the Darkness**

We hear in Mark's Gospel today that Jesus takes Peter, James and John up on a high mountain and reveals His divinity to them, becoming enveloped in a dazzling, white light alongside Moses and Elijah.

Peter first speaks to Jesus saying, "*Rabbi, it is good that we are here!*" and then suggests building tents in homage to the three figures. Next, the three apostles hear God's voice come from the clouds, "*This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.*" So clearly, Peter, although 'terrified', understood that something extraordinary had just occurred — he and the others had just been given a glimpse of Jesus' divinity! And yet, we know that despite witnessing all of this and having great faith, Peter still denies knowing Christ three times before He is crucified.

As Christian stewards, I would like to think that we too have great faith in Jesus and His message of love, forgiveness, compassion and healing. However, just like Peter, we are human and don't always have the courage to publicly stand up for what is right, preferring to remain in the background. Why? Probably because, like Peter, we are afraid of repercussions and don't want to be left out or ostracized for our beliefs.

The good news is that despite Peter's weaknesses, Christ still loves him and forgives him. Perhaps this Lent, in this terribly difficult and dark time in the history of our nation and the world, we need to focus even more on God's love, forgiveness and compassion for each and every one of us. When we interact with other people throughout the day, do they see the face and hands of Christ at work? *Do we see the Light of Christ in them?* If not, why not? During this time of reflection and renewal, let's not be afraid to challenge ourselves and ask the hard questions.

And through all of this Lenten preparation let's not forget, as Saint Paul says in his Letter to the Romans, "*Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us?*" ~ 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 CLOSED!

The Thrift Shop is closed until further notice.

We are not currently accepting donations.

Please do not dump items outside the thrift shop. This creates extra work for our staff and does nothing to further our mission. Items left in this manner are summarily tossed into the dumpster. It is illegal to dump items of any kind.

Thank you in advance for understanding and abiding by this directive.





## 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](http://www.wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it)

## CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TELETHON

Join Catholic Faith Network for the 2021 Telethon this Saturday, February 27th from 2-10pm and Sunday, February 28th from 12-10pm. This exciting weekend will feature guests from around the world, thrilling performances and inspirational interviews.

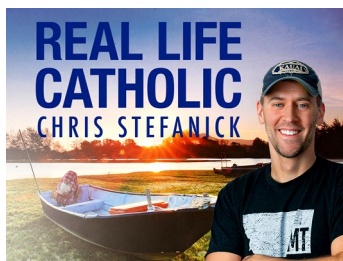
CFN is available on your local cable providers as well as on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android and the free CFN app.



The Catholic Faith Network continues to be to here for you during these challenging times and we ask that you help us continue in our mission this year if you have the capacity to do so. Please consider making a donation by phone or by visiting [www.CFNtv.org](http://www.CFNtv.org).

## Real Life Catholic & EWTN Present Free Online Weekly Lenten Retreat

Join internationally acclaimed author and speaker Chris Stefanick as he hosts "*The Life You Were Made For*," a free virtual Lenten



Retreat presented by *Real Life Catholic* and *EWTN*. This dynamic retreat, which is available live each Wednesday evening at 8pm for the remainder of Lent, features Bishops from around the country, including our own Bishop Barres.

In order to access this free, live virtual retreat, please go to the official website, [www.reallifecatholic.com/live](http://www.reallifecatholic.com/live), each Wednesday at 8pm. The next evening will be Wednesday, March 3rd. You may sign up to receive reminders each week so you don't forget! There are two previous presentations that will also be available on the site for viewing.

## The Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville Celebrate Irish Night



Many of you know the Dominican Sisters of Amityville through our ministry in schools, health facilities, parish affiliations, etc. This year, we celebrate and honor those whose daily dedication and hard work foster the creation of a caring community.

This year's festivities will take place virtually on Saturday, March 6, 2021 and offer us an opportunity to gather together for liturgy, followed by a joyful program of song, dance, and Irish spirit!

Please consider supporting our efforts by purchasing one or more of the following:

- A ticket for our Irish Sweepstakes Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each, or 6 for \$50. Extra tickets are available on our website.
- A special edition Irish Night cookbook which includes tasty recipes and culinary traditions from all across the Emerald Isle. Cookbooks are \$10 each.
- An event ticket for \$40, which includes one entry into our door prize raffle, an entry into the Irish Sweepstakes and a copy of the cookbook.

For more information, please contact our Advancement Office at 631-842-6000 ext.246 or visit the event website:

[www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2021](http://www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2021)

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Congregation. We hope you will join us on March 6th and raise a glass to good health this coming year - Sláinte!





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Outpatient Facility:

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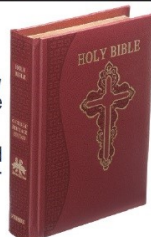
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# McManus-Lorey

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