

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:

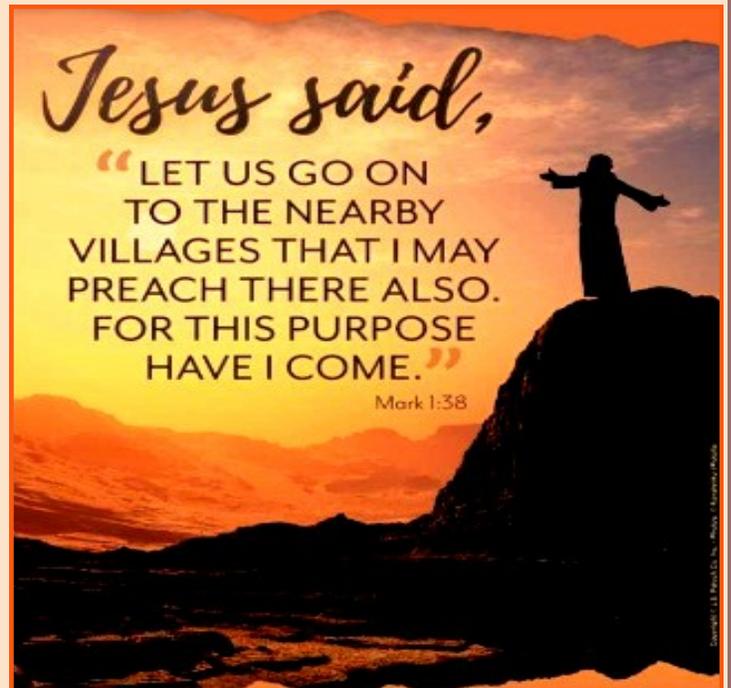
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

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 Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
February 7, 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 McMahan, Director,
Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahan, 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. 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 6, 2021

5:00pm Gerard A. Brockhoff
Francesco Grillo ~ *1st Anniversary*

Sunday, February 7, 2021

9:00am Felicity Borrero
11:00am Albert Kammere

Monday, February 8, 2021

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

8:30am Brian Patrick Walsh

Thursday, February 11, 2021

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, February 12, 2021

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, February 13, 2021

5:00pm Brian & Mary Gill
Michel Pagliuca
Lucy Zec

Sunday, February 14, 2021

9:00am Dorothy E. Rooney
11:00am Paul Careccia ~ *4th Anniversary*

**PRAYER, the world's
greatest wireless connection**



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

John Flynn and Michael McMahon.

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.



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

***are the gifts of
The Bennett Family***

***in loving memory of
Virginia I. Yaeger***

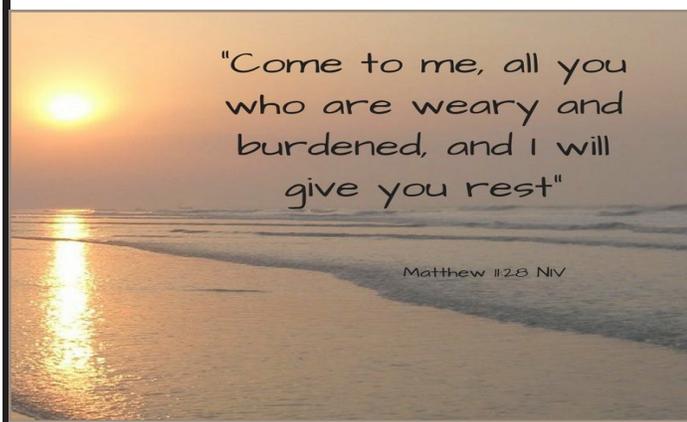
We Pray



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

**John McGarvey, Grace Stephens,
Thomas Wilson, Julio Munoz,
Brian Greck and Anna Maria Gutierrez.**

*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
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.*



ASH

WEDNESDAY

— FEBRUARY 17, 2021 —

Ash Wednesday and the ritual of receiving blessed ashes marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

During this time of pandemic:

- ~ We are reminded that Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation and we are not obliged to attend Mass or to receive ashes.
- ~ Following the directives of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, this Ash Wednesday, to avoid contact, blessed ashes will be sprinkled on the top of the head of the recipient, rather than marking a sign of the cross on the forehead. This is both an ancient and contemporary form of distributing ashes in the Church and how Pope Francis receives ashes every year. Please bow your head to receive the ashes.
- ~ For the health and safety of all, you must wear a mask at all times while in the Church.
- ~ Please stay home if you are not feeling well and check the website for Masses/Services that will be Live Streamed. Thank you!

***You must register at www.stsylvesterli.org in order to attend any Service with * before it! Registration begins February 13th at 9AM and ends February 16th at 9AM.**

Distribution of Ashes will take place in the Church at the following times:

8:30 AM ~ Mass

***12:00 PM ~ Prayer Service**

***4:30 PM ~ Prayer Service**

***7:00 PM ~ Prayer Service**



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It's Who You Become

**A Life-Changing
Lenten Experience**

Embrace a deeper, more spiritually rewarding life, and lose yourself in God this Lent.

Visit **BestLentEver.com** to take the first step toward unlocking your God-given potential.

BEST
LENT
EVER

This Lent, join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST LENT EVER - a free series of emails and video reflections that will help you to discover or rediscover God through 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 *YouTube* 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 be 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**



Baptism

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

*Let us welcome the newly baptized
into our Community of Faith ...*

December 2020

*Gianni Phillip Keeshan
Owen Otto Koch
Ryleigh Rae Lopez
Riggs Rawlings Patricio
Carter Gerard Rugen
Hartlyn James Vannetter
Dylan She Vartanian*

&

January 2021

*Skylar Grace Dasch
Leila Dakota Krausch
Aria Milan Samuel
Ariella Concetta Santangelo*

Faith Formation

Adult Confirmation

Were you Baptized Catholic, received First Holy Communion,
but for whatever reason
never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Coming to St. Sylvester Parish February 2021....
A program for adults who would like to prepare to receive the
Sacrament of Confirmation.

Classes will begin Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and will be held
on the Zoom platform at 7:00 P.M. The last class will be May 18, 2021.

It is traditional to celebrate Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 2021).
Our hopes are that we will be able to do just that. However, our final plans will be
determined by the status of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the directives of the Bishop
and local health officials. For more information or to register, please email
fcmahon@stsyvesterli.org

Adult Baptism

If you have never been baptized & are interested in becoming a Catholic or,
if you are a baptized non-Catholic and would like to become a Catholic,
please email fcmahon@stsyvesterli.org

The 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!

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



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

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*

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

January 31, 2021

Regular ~ \$6,438

Renovation ~ \$410 Solar ~ \$5

Last Year 's Collection ~ February 2, 2020

Regular ~ \$9,289

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

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!!!

20 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

20

—
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Designated Goal:	\$68,200
Payments Made :	\$49,713.67
Percentage of Goal Met:	72.93%
Number of Donors :	195

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal!

Your generous donations were used in several ways throughout the Diocese to help and serve others, such as allowing Catholic Charities to enhance and expand Meals on Wheels and shopping services for the elderly and infirm; providing online resources, events and reflections at the Diocesan level for Young Adult and Youth Ministry; and supporting our seminarians in their vocations to the priesthood.

Everyone is Looking for You

Mark tells us in today's Gospel that Simon and the others were looking for Jesus who had gone off to a deserted place to pray. In fact, we hear that they *pursue* Jesus, a much stronger word, and that when they find Him they say to Jesus, possibly with a hint of exasperation, "*Everyone is looking for you.*"

Now we've all had those stressful, busy days where you try to find a quiet place for a few minutes to collect your thoughts (especially if you have a demanding job or young children), and you cringe inwardly when you hear your name being called.

So here we have Jesus, beginning His public ministry by preaching, healing the sick and driving out demons. He made quite an impression on the people he encountered, to say the least, which made them clamor for more. This must have been challenging and tiring for the fully human Jesus, son of a carpenter. And yet, unlike my struggling human response — which probably would have been to hide to gain another five minutes of solitude when I heard my name being called — Jesus, once found, turns to Simon and the others seemingly renewed, saying to them "*Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.*"

As Christian stewards, we all have a purpose and God has given us special gifts and talents to fulfill this purpose, our vocation, here on earth. Jesus, because He's also fully divine, implicitly understood His purpose and the commitment, challenges and sacrifice involved. For some of us, it may take years of prayer and discernment to understand what we are called to do in this life, but make no mistake, *we all are called*. Perhaps we can try to emulate Jesus' response by saying, "I'm here. Let us go on..." when we hear His voice echoing within us, calling us out of our comfort zones to bravely and energetically embrace all that He envisions for each one of us as faithful stewards and disciples. ~ Lori Zito

Create Your Legacy of Faith at St. Sylvester Parish!

As committed stewards, we strive to live our lives in gratitude to our most generous God and to recognize our many gifts and talents as blessings lovingly given to us by Him. We are called as Christians to develop these special gifts and share them for the betterment of others. One of the most impactful ways of ensuring the future of St. Sylvester is through a legacy gift. This kind of gift can take many forms such as a simple bequest as a part of your estate plans and can be of great benefit in helping fulfill your own personal financial objectives, while also ensuring that St. Sylvester remains strong and vital after you've departed. It is our sincere hope that you will prayerfully consider assisting our parish in one of the following ways:

Gifts from a Will or Trust

Taking care of family first, you can support our parish through a bequest in your last will and testament or living trust. A bequest may include cash, specific property, or a share of the estate and may be made in honor or memory of a loved one.

Gifts of Stock, Bonds, etc.

The donation of stocks, bonds and mutual funds directly to St. Sylvester significantly increases your tax deduction and the amount of income the parish receives.

Gifts from Retirement Plans

Gifts of retirement assets are another simple way to leave a gift by naming our parish as the beneficiary of either a percent of the full amount of your IRA or 401k. *Please note: Your gift must be made directly to our parish from the IRA. If you receive money first, you will be taxed on it like any other distribution.*

Gifts of Life Insurance & Real Estate

It is easy to name St. Sylvester as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or to transfer ownership of a paid-up policy to our parish. St. Sylvester may also be named as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary to almost any kind of personal property or real estate.

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!

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

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www.holyangelsregional.org
or contact the Main Office at 631-475-0422

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**Virtual *New York Encounter* Event
to Feature Cardinal Dolan, Others**

New York Encounter, a 3-day cultural event organized by members of the Catholic lay organization *Communion and Liberation* for the past 13 years, will be broadcast live on February 12th-14th from New York City this year in collaboration with the Sheen Center, and made available for all on their website www.newyorkencounter.org. (All events are free and no registration is required).

This year's theme "*When Reality Hits*" will be a reflection on the events of 2020 for the purpose of moving forward. Over the years, the *Encounter* has been a powerful example of faith lived in the public sphere.

Highlights for this year include a reflection given by Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, as well as conversations with world-renowned philosopher Charles Taylor on what 2020 has taught us, and Luigi Zamagni, President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Science, on the future of work and business in a post-COVID world ... to name but a few. All are invited.

**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

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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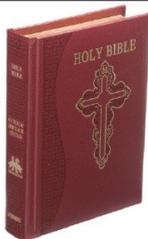
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