

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:

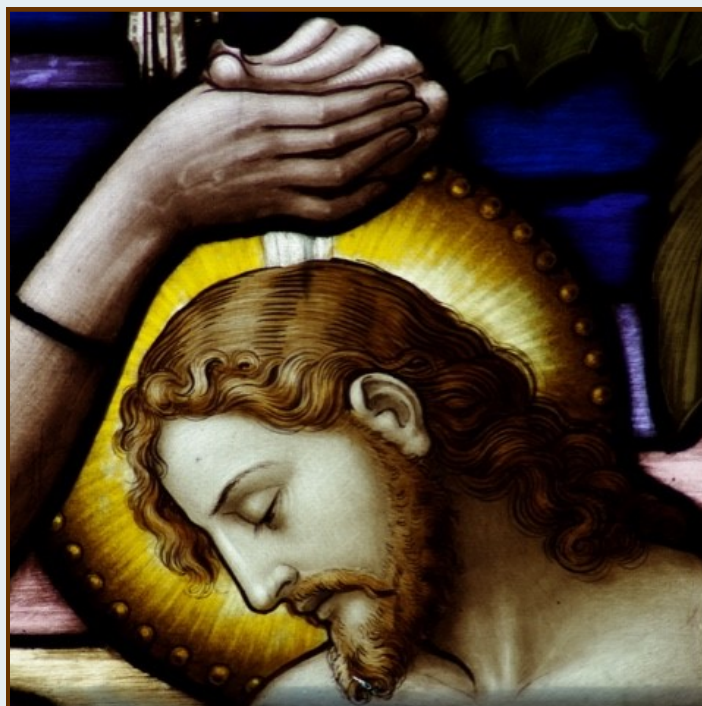
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults
and young adults can also be confirmed at
Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation
Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

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 Baptism of the Lord January 10, 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
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, January 9, 2021

5:00pm Matthew Fallon
Anna Crane
Frank Grippi

Sunday, January 10, 2021

9:00am Anthony Benigno
11:00am Emmanuel "Tom" Vedola

Monday, January 11, 2021

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

8:30am Owen Pabon

Thursday, January 14, 2021

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, January 15, 2021

8:30am Geraldine Bledsoe

Saturday, January 16, 2021

5:00pm Frank Cayea
Enzo Alleva
Angelina Biagiosal

Sunday, January 17, 2021

9:00am James Newkirk
11:00am Agapita Palau ~ 6th Anniversary



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

***Ralph Reynolds, James Newkirk,
and Josephine Rivera.***

***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.***

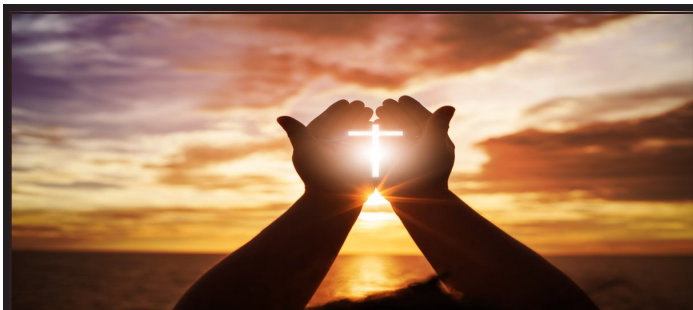
Prayer for Emergency Workers

God our strong deliverer: when those charged with the urgent mediation of your healing power feel overwhelmed by the numbers of the suffering, uphold them in their fatigue and banish their despair. Let them see with your eyes, so they may know all their patients as precious. Give comfort, and renew their energy and compassion, for the sake of Jesus in whom is our life and our hope.

Amen.

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

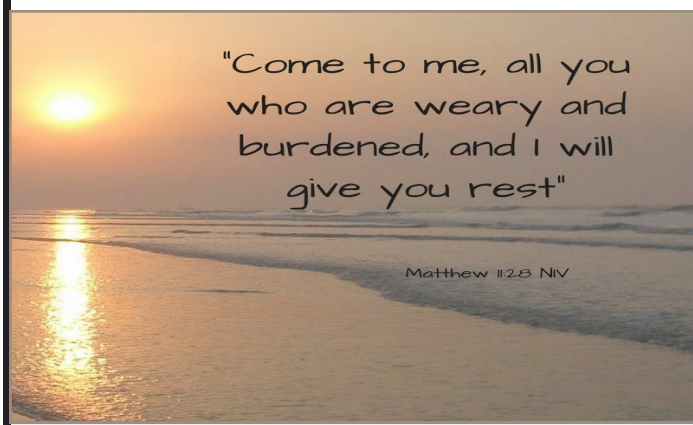
We Pray



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

**John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Ralph
Cerqueira, Theresa Mazza, Harold
O'Connell, Frank Vancek and
Thomas Wilson.**

*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.*



**Daily Mass
Readings**

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. Simply click a date on their Daily Readings Calendar to bring up the readings for that particular 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.**



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!*

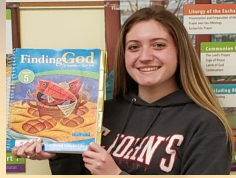
“Childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable. Indeed, family catechesis precedes...accompanies and enriches all forms of catechesis.” *General Directory for Catechesis, John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Catechesi Tradendae (October 1979): AAS 71 (1979), pp. 1277-1340*

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

January 3, 2021

Regular ~ \$7,206

Renovation ~ \$60 Solar ~ \$5

Last Year 's Collection ~ January 5, 2020

Regular ~ \$8,742

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

Christmas 2020 ~ \$27,785 (to date)

*(This total includes all cash, checks and online
giving through Faith Direct.)*

Faith Direct Totals for December 2020

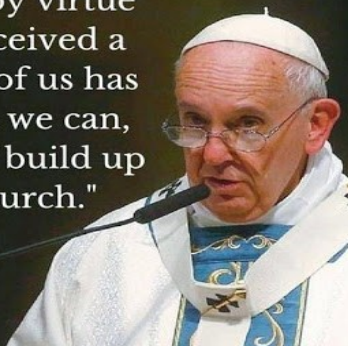
Regular ~ \$12,043

Renovation ~ \$802 Solar ~ \$177

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!!!*

"In the end, **every Christian man and woman**, by virtue of baptism, has received a mission. Each one of us has to respond, as best we can, to the Lord's call to build up his Body, the Church."

Pope Francis
Homily Philadelphia Cathedral
September 2015



A Few Words About Baptism...

The readings for this week in which we celebrate The Baptism of the Lord begin with the Prophet Isaiah proclaiming, *"Thus says the Lord: All you who are thirsty, come to the water!"* We then hear Mark's Gospel with the familiar account of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the Jordan when the Spirit descends upon Him and a voice comes from the heavens saying, *"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

Water is important symbolically in our faith. We describe Baptism as the "door to life" because in the waters of Baptism, we die with Christ and rise to new life. We become adopted children of God, joined as brothers and sisters to one another and called to become a community on a mission with Christ.

As Christian stewards, and missionary disciples, we have a responsibility to respond to God's call to action through prayer, by continuing to learn about our faith and developing a well-informed conscience, by offering hospitality and genuine compassion to neighbors and strangers alike and using our unique gifts and talents to serve one another. These four areas of formation, hospitality, prayer and service are at the very core of Stewardship and of our faith as Baptized Christians.

This week as we celebrate Jesus' baptism and perhaps reflect on our own (along with our new year resolutions), let us each ask ourselves the question, what area(s) of our faith life do we need to improve in order to hear God say, *"...with you I am well pleased"?*

~ 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

Respect Life Information

The March for Life in Washington, D.C. is scheduled this year for Friday, January 29th. Very few buses will be leaving from Long Island due to the pandemic. (Our Diocese will not be sending any buses this year.)



Following are some options you may consider in lieu of going to Washington this year:

- ♦ **January 17th ~ Face the Truth**
A prayerful, life-affirming witness from 1:30pm-3:00pm in front of NUMC Hospital, 2201 Hempstead Tpke (Rt. 24), East Meadow. Signs are provided.
- ♦ **January 23rd ~ March for Life N.Y.**
11am at Suffolk County Dennison Bldg., 200 Veterans Hwy., Hauppauge. (Featuring several guest speakers.)
- ♦ **January 25th ~ Special LICL Meeting**
7:30pm at St. Regis Knights of Columbus Hall, Ronkonkoma. Presentation entitled *"Informed: Life is Worth Living,"* a video featuring real people who faced difficult life of death decisions due to illness or injury, and were offered the option of euthanasia but chose life.

Please consult the Diocesan website
www.drvcmmarchforlife.com
for other opportunities and information.

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, 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 !



You Can Help Heal Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, January 22, 2021, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Location:
Marriott Melville Long Island
1350 Walt Whitman Road
Melville, NY 11747



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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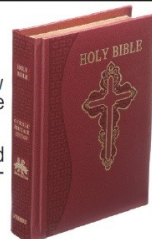
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