

# 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.



## The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 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 ; 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, 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

**Monday, January 4, 2021**

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

8:30am Jerome Knipfing

**Thursday, January 7, 2021**

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

**Friday, January 8, 2021**

8:30am Ethna Kress ~ *Living Intention*

**Saturday, January 9, 2021**

5:00pm Matthew Fallon  
Anna Crane

**Sunday, January 10, 2021**

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

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



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

***John Stanton, Grace Schmidt, Monica B. Cincotta, Anne Marie Callahan, Alice Jonck, Adele Grossi, Max Schmaeler, Ralph Reynolds and James Newkirk.***

***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.***

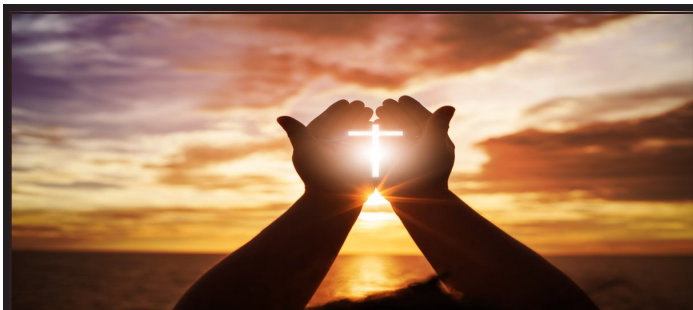
**Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.**

Matthew 5:4



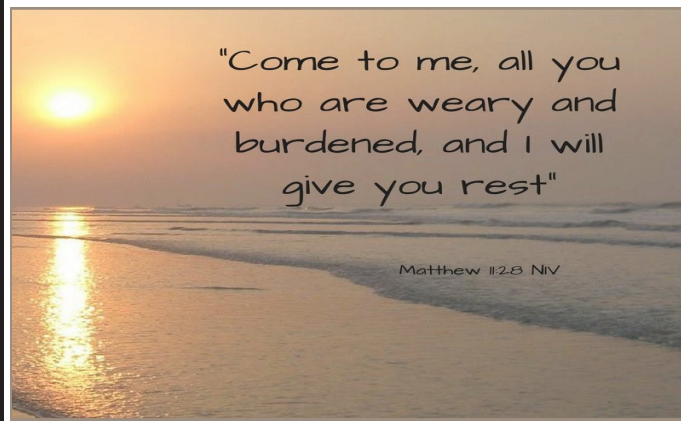


## We Pray



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

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



## Thank You



I am so grateful to everyone for all  
the wonderful prayers, cards, gifts  
and good wishes that you sent my  
way this Christmas!

Your generosity and faith-filled  
example of the Christmas spirit is  
greatly appreciated.

With thanks,  
Fr. Suglia



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](mailto: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 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org)

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



# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

### *Gifts of Treasure*

*December 20, 2021*

*Regular ~ \$5,118*

*Renovation ~ \$ 40    Solar ~ \$15*

*Last Year 's Collection ~ December 22, 2020*

*Regular ~ \$8,391*

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

Due to bulletin printing deadlines for Christmas through the Epiphany, the financial information for Christmas 2020 and December 27, 2020 will be available in next week's bulletin.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**  
*to all those who, in the spirit of stewardship, continue to financially support the mission and ministry of the parish!!!*

### *Will & Estate Planning*

Consider leaving a legacy of faith by remembering our parish in your will or bequest. Saint Sylvester RC Church is a fully compliant charitable organization registered as a 501(3)C non-profit.

Please contact Father Suglia directly if you have already made provisions for St. Sylvester or if you would like to remember us when you conduct your estate planning.

***Thank You and God Bless!***

### **What Gift Do You Bring?**

Today we celebrate the Epiphany when the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem and brought the Christ child gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh — gifts befitting a king. How surprised they must have been to witness our Lord's humble beginnings!

I have a good friend who was born and raised in Puerto Rico and in the area in which he lived, they did not exchange gifts until the Epiphany "Little Christmas." His face would just light up when he recalled those experiences! It was a time of great joy, especially for the children, when the whole town went from house to house in celebration of the wise men's arrival in Bethlehem and the wonderful spirit of giving a gift to others.

Do we give our gifts to God and others with joy? As Christian stewards, we know that we are all given special gifts by God to develop and share in order to continue to build His Kingdom here in Medford and beyond. Our parish has been blessed with hundreds of parishioners who give joyfully from their hearts by offering their time and incredible talents to our church and the larger community. Others, like the wise men, are able to give of their treasure to help fund the mission. The gifts of time, talent and treasure, when given out of gratitude and thanksgiving to God, are priceless.

As this new year begins, ask yourself ...what gift can I bring to the Christ child that would make His face light up with joy? Your answers will all be different, and each one will have great value. I hope that the new year brings you and your loved ones peace, happiness and good health —and a ton of other special gifts and blessings that money just can't buy!

~ 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

# 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)

## 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](http://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](http://rickhinshaw.com).

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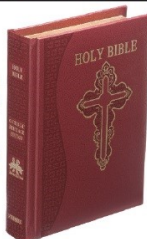
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