# 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:

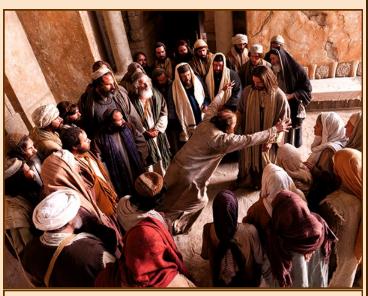
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

#### 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.



*"He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." ~ Mark 1:27* 

## The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 31, 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 30, 2021

5:00pm Edward Vanucci~ 12th Anniversary Elizabeth Zatwarnicki~5th Anniversary William Lazar

Sunday, January 31, 20219:00amThe People of St. Sylvester11:00amRalph Reynolds

Monday, February 1, 2021 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday,February 2, 20218:30amRev. Msgr. John A. Alesandro

*Thursday, February 4, 2021* 8:30am Marie LoSchiavo

*Friday, February 5, 2021* 8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, February 6, 2021 5:00pm Gerard A. Brockhoff Francesco Grillo~1st Anniversary

Sunday,February 7, 20219:00amFelicity Borrero11:00amAlbert Kammere

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



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

## Janet Connolly and Carmella Masem.

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.



# We Pray



Please pray for all who are sick, especially . . . John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Ralph Cerqueira, Theresa Mazza, Harold O'Connell, Frank Vancek, Thomas Wilson, Loretta Romaine, Julio Munoz and Brian Greck.

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.





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 <u>Wednesday morning at 9am</u>. The program will stop accepting reservations on <u>Friday at 3pm</u> (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 <u>5PM</u> AND <u>11AM</u> —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 SATUR-DAYS 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 <u>do not</u> 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**

## **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 fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.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 fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.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.stsylvesterli.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 <u>faithformation@stsylvesterli.org</u>

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@stsylvesterli.org

# Stewardship



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

January 24, 2021

**Regular** ~ \$4,762 **Renovation** ~ \$50 **Solar** ~ \$15

Last Year 's Collection ~ January 26, 2020 Regular ~ \$8,958

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

> <u>Christmas 2020</u> \$29,125 (final total)

## Faith Direct for January 2021

**Regular** ~ \$13,890 **Renovation** ~ \$802 **Solar** ~ \$177

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!!!



## It's a New Year — Why Not Try Faith Direct E-Giving?

As we slowly ease our way into 2021, a very different new year to be sure, but one still filled with God's hope and promise ,we continue to seek new ways to share the Good News of Christ's love and reflect His care and mercy to everyone throughout the community. We are reaching out to you to consider beginning a new way of giving for this new year, E-Giving, to help sustain the parish and continue to build God's Kingdom and reflect the promise of Christ's love.

Giving electronically through Faith Direct allows us access to consistent funding to plan how we can continue to minister to our



parishioners and the larger community, while reducing envelope printing and mailing costs for us — as well as check and postage costs for you. No more hunting for misplaced envelopes or worrying if your donation arrived in the mail — and it saves paper too!

How do you get started? Using your computer, smartphone or tablet, simply visit our parish website and look for word "here" just below our large "Online Giving" logo on the home page. You may also call 1-866-507-8757 or text 'Enroll" to 631-201-5922. The parish code is NY285 and funds may be drawn from a credit or debit card or a bank account great for cash back bonuses or frequent flyer miles! Whichever way you choose to fund our mission, we thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## **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 <u>one</u> 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 <u>not</u> 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**



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

HOLY ANGELS REGIONAL SCHOOL 1 Division Street, Patchogue, NY

## Virtual Open House and Registration Beginning January 31, 2021

For more information, please visit us at <u>www.holyangelsregional.org</u> or contact the Main Office at 631-475-0422

#### GIVE YOUR CHILDREN THE ADVANTAGE THAT LASTS A LIFETIME!

Through Faith We Grow A Rich Curriculum with Innovative Special Classes Engaging After School Activities Early Childhood Academic Program Before & After Care Pre-K through Eighth Grade



## 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!

## 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: <u>www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2021</u>

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!





