

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:

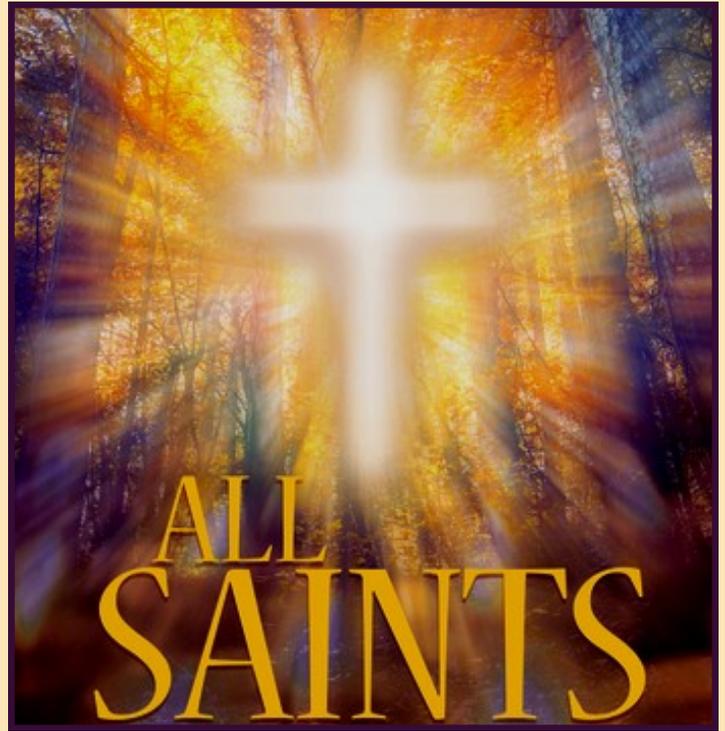
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults
and young adults can also be confirmed at
Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation
Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

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.



November 1, 2020
All Saints

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

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@stsyvesterli.org
Mon., Wed. & Fri. ~ 9am-12pm

Faith Formation Office: (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: faithformation@stsyvesterli.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, October 31, 2020

5:00pm Trina Bozzo
Walter Reich
Luigi & Maria Russo
Albert Breud
Augustus Suglia

Sunday, November 1, 2020

9:00am For All Souls
11:00am For All Souls

Monday, November 2, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

8:30am Owen Pabon

Thursday, November 5 2020

8:30am Gladys Cruz

Friday, November 6, 2020

8:30am Ed Turowski ~ 5th Anniversary

Saturday, November 7, 2020

5:00pm Bob Prentiss
Luigi & Maria Russo
Charles "Ronnie" Stalker
James Wuelfing ~ *Living*
Mateo Camacho ~ *Living*

Sunday, November 8, 2020

9:00am Rita E. Bennett, William Gartung
11:00am Deceased Members of Legion of Mary



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

***Michael DeLuca, Grace Lechleitner,
and Anthony DeLorenzo***

*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 infor-
mation, to: ecareccia@stsyvesterli.org or call
631-475-4506, ext. 101.*

Thank you and God bless.

Remembering all souls.

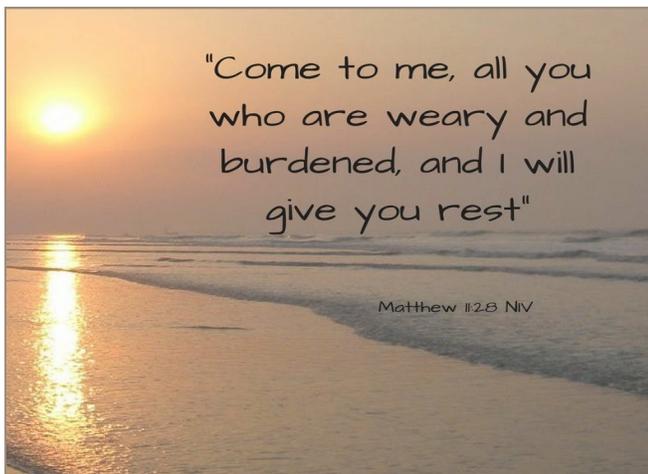
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon them.*

We Pray



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

Melanie Schmadtke, John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Nicholas Grizopoulos, Mark LaGatta, Terri Weinstein, Lisa Gallaudet, Marge Golden, Michelle Clark, Richard Cuccienello, Evangeline Hurst and Joanne Polan.



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.

PRAYER, the world's greatest wireless connection



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

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

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

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





Congratulations and Blessings to Stefan, Dennis, and Justin, who celebrated the Rite of Acceptance on Sunday, October 25th, at the 9am Mass and made public their intention to join us as members of the Church.

They will continue to meet remotely with the RCIA Team as they prepare to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Eastertime 2021.

We invite you to join in supporting them with your prayers throughout the next months as they grow closer on their journey to becoming disciples of Christ.

We look forward to the day they join us and share fully in Communion at the Lord's Table.



Stefan, Dennis, and Justin from left to right in photo.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE

\$11,000 IN PRIZE MONEY!*

\$50 per ticket



1st Prize ~ \$5,000

2nd Prize ~ \$3,000

3rd Prize ~ \$2,000

4th Prize ~ \$1,000



Please support this special raffle to help offset the financial loss of not having our annual Holiday Fair!

Tickets can be purchased beginning Monday, October 26th in the Parish Office, online through our website, www.stsylvesterli.org, and outside after select Masses.

For website purchases, an official numbered ticket will be mailed to you once your ticket purchase order is received.

Drawing is Monday, December 7th at 11am!

*If total prize money is not received, prize money will be reduced.

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 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.**
- **No bulletins will be distributed. Please read the bulletin online.**
- **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**

Revised & Simplified Faith Formation Program 2020-2021 !

Dear Parents/Guardians and Catechists,

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 a curbside pickup of the materials (books, calendar, 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 will not begin until Monday, November 30, 2020 to give everyone time to adjust to the school schedules, etc. and will end in May.
- ◆ 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@stsyvesterli.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@stsyvesterli.org

For more information or if you have questions, please email faithformation@stsyvesterli.org

What Is Stewardship?

Usually at this time of year, I would be leading the parish's annual Financial Stewardship Renewal, something that has taken place here for the better part of 20 years. Sadly, there is nothing usual or normal about the time we are living through right now, and so we have made the decision not to do a formal financial renewal this year – particularly as we recognize how generous you have been to us in these past months.

However, Stewardship is not just about renewals and witness speakers – it is a vibrant and challenging way of living, of thinking, that truly transforms lives!

Over the course of the next few weeks, I will be highlighting the different dimensions of Stewardship – what it means to be an active, committed steward and why it is such an important part of our faith; perhaps more crucial to living out the Gospels than ever before.

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Let's begin with what it is not. Stewardship is not just a program that runs its course and goes away to be replaced by the next, best thing. Stewardship is an integral part of our faith; it describes a way of living that prioritizes putting our faith into action and encompasses many areas. You will often hear the 3 "T's" mentioned – time, talent and treasure -- and there is a tendency after awhile to dismiss it as a tired phrase. However, here at St. Sylvester we have been a "Stewardship Parish" for over 20 years, with truly remarkable results.

Our parishioners give of their time to the parish as volunteer ministers in so many ways here through prayer and action, and in numbers that are way above and beyond many parishes! The gifts, abilities and talents that these hundreds of people generously share with our faith community, including many of you who are reading this now, are just extraordinary!

The faith community of St. Sylvester also understands that treasure is a necessary component of Stewardship. However, it is not simply giving for giving's sake – there is a recognition that there is a spiritual component to our financial giving. We offer our monetary donations in gratitude for our blessings and to further the mission and the ministry of all the good things that happen here -- continuing to build the Kingdom of God here in Medford and beyond. This is why in normal times when we take up a collection, your donations are included in the Offertory Procession.



Stewardship also encompasses the environment, taking care of the earth as our common home -- something Pope Francis focuses on beautifully in his encyclical letter "*Laudato Si*".

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, recognizing the importance of the spirituality which defines Stewardship, released a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship entitled, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response" back in the early 1990's. It is quite detailed, but there is one sentence that has always summed it all up for me, "*As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others and return them with increase to the Lord.*"

May we have the courage to continue to live our lives as faith-filled stewards and bring the Light of Christ to others, especially in these dark and challenging times.

~ Lori Zito

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

October 25, 2020

Regular ~ \$6,379

Renovation ~ \$255 Solar ~ \$20

Last Year's Collection ~ October 27, 2019

Regular ~ \$ 7,570

Faith Direct Totals ~ September 2020

Regular ~ \$11,113

Renovation ~ \$782 Solar ~ \$167

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!

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Creator God,

Life is your gift to me.

Through Baptism,
you invite me to share the fit of my life
in service to others.

Be with me as I choose each day
to show your Presence in our world.

Give me the courage and generosity
to respond to your love, to your call.

I pray especially for those
who serve you in ministry throughout
the parishes of Long Island.

May we bring the Good News to those in
need.

Keep us close to you.

Open the minds and hearts of many others
— men, women and young people —
that they may accept your challenge to
build the Kingdom in our parishes.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Stewardship
a way of life

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

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

2020

Civil Dialogue: A response to Jesus' call to love our neighbor

Jesus uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to answer a question that is both searing and simple: "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10: 29). Our familiarity with this parable makes it easy for us now to identify as "neighbor" those on the margins of our society such as those experiencing homelessness or poverty. But how often do we see our neighbor in the person who disagrees with us?

As Catholics, our strong tradition of social teaching compels us to be actively engaged in the building up of our communities. This is achieved by being involved in the political process—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.

What is needed is good, honest, civil dialogue. This means that we must treat everyone as worthy of being at the table, worthy of our respect, and worthy of being heard. In short, it means treating everyone as our neighbor.

We undermine our commitment to human life and dignity when we fail to see the dignity of those who have a different viewpoint. We must detach from the bitterness that surrounds us and seek a better path. A commitment to civil dialogue

can help us make real and authentic human connections, which breaks down the barriers that divide us.

Engaging in civil dialogue can help our faith communities create a new space to model love for our neighbors and respect for the dignity of all.

Tips for Engaging in Civil Dialogue:

1. Listen first and seek to understand the whole picture.
2. Ask questions for clarification.
3. Use 'I' statements; pay attention to body language.
4. Listen to what feelings are present and pay attention to how you respond.
5. Summarize what you've heard and ask for feedback.



Civil dialogue can best be defined as the ability to enter meaningful conversation with people whose viewpoints may be different from our own, who have a different background or experiences, or who come to a different conclusion about the best way to promote the common good. We enter into civil dialogue because we want to build a community that is rooted in understanding one another. God's love for each person requires us to remember that someone who disagrees with us is still a beloved child of



God who deserves our love, respect, and care.

An important ingredient to civil dialogue is commitment to the truth. While respecting the dignity of all, we acknowledge that not all viewpoints are equally valid. We have the responsibility to speak truth with love. In addition, all who exercise their freedom of speech have an obligation to ensure that they come to conclusions based on data from credible and reputable sources, and that care is taken to avoid seeking the truth selectively, that is, only when it is convenient to us.

Civil dialogue is different than remaining silent in the face of disagreement. Listening to opposing views is a part of seeking clarity and can be a creative process. In civil dialogue, all are invited to bring and share their values, beliefs, and questions. We seek first to understand how our views on a topic are different and why. We ask questions to be sure we understand one another. In thinking critically about how we arrived at our own view points and listening to the experiences of others, we can sometimes arrive at new understanding and even find common ground.

Pope Francis has remarked, “Dialogue allows people to know and understand one another’s needs. Above all, it is a sign of great respect, because it puts the person into a stance of listening, and into a condition of being receptive to the speaker’s best viewpoints. Secondly, dialogue is an expression of charity because, while not ignoring differences, it can help us investigate and share the common good. Moreover, dialogue invites us to place ourselves before the other, seeing him or her as a gift of God, and as someone who calls upon us and asks to be acknowledged.”ⁱ

ⁱ Pope Francis, *Jubilee Audience at St. Peter’s Square*, October 22, 2016.

Just like any authentic human connection, the process of dialogue is complicated, often uncomfortable, and requires vulnerability and trust. We must rely on our faith in Christ who taught us that everyone is truly our neighbor. Promoting civil discourse is one way we can put this teaching into action.

Interested in learning more about civil dialogue or about how your community can engage in civil dialogue more often? Join USCCB’s *Civilize It* Campaign to help promote dignity beyond the debate. A version of this campaign was first implemented by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and is a call for all people to civilize our conversations. Visit civilizeit.org for more information, to take the pledge, or plan an opportunity for civil dialogue in your community.

If you are part of a group looking to create an opportunity for civil dialogue in your community, it may be helpful to consider these questions:

1. Is our intention to facilitate greater understanding, or merely win a debate?
2. Whose voices are we including? Whose are missing? Who else should be invited to the conversation?
3. How can we remember our shared human dignity and deescalate the situation when we feel ourselves become tense?
4. What guidelines could the group set together that will keep the conversation centered on dialogue instead of debate, and honor the dignity of all people present?





What does it mean to form my conscience?

Catholics have a long tradition of engagement in the public square. Sometimes that engagement requires making difficult moral decisions that impact our own lives and those of others. Our conscience can help guide the decisions we make. The Second Vatican Council guides us: “Always summoning [one] to love good and avoid evil, the voice of conscience can when necessary speak to [one’s] heart more specifically: do this, shun that” (*Gaudium et Spes* 16). However, our conscience doesn’t just come to us when we are born. We must work throughout our lives to form it through prayer, learning, and conversation.

How do I form my conscience?

It takes time to form our consciences so that we can make well-reasoned judgments about particular, real-life situations. The Church teaches that it is important to work continually on conscience formation so we can be prepared to make decisions whenever the opportunity arises. Some specific ideas to form your conscience are:

- 1) Begin by **being open to the truth** and what is right.
- 2) **Study Sacred Scripture** and the **teaching** of the Church.
- 3) **Examine the facts** and **background information** about various choices and be discerning in where we gather information.
- 4) **Prayerfully reflect** to discern the will of God (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, no. 18).

Additionally, it is important to consider how our community of faith can help us form good consciences through some of these steps:

- 1) Seek the **prudent advice** and **good example** of trusted leaders and others to support and enlighten our conscience.
- 2) Learn about the **authoritative teaching** of the Church.
- 3) Pray for the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** to help us develop our conscience.
- 4) Regularly partake in an **examination of conscience** to hear God’s voice in your life.¹

Doing the work of forming our consciences can seem daunting. Fortunately, we have many church teachings that can help us in this important task. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is an important resource for U.S. Catholics and helps us prayerfully reflect on how we can apply Church teaching in our civic life. “Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere “feeling” about what we should or should not do. Rather, **conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart**, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil.”²

Here are some questions for further reflection:

1. When has my conscience guided me to “do good and avoid evil”?
2. What are some key resources I can use to form my conscience?
3. Forming conscience is a “lifelong task.” What do I do to *regularly* form my conscience? What more should I do?

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2000, no 1777

² USCCB. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. Washington, DC: 2015, no. 17



CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) releases a document before each presidential election to help Catholics prepare to vote. The document (Link: "[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)") lists 47 issues that Catholics should consider when they vote. To view a chart with all 47 issues and the current political beliefs of the two major presidential candidates please visit www.catholicvoterguide.com

Can Catholics vote for a candidate who supports an "intrinsically evil action?"

According to the Bishops: Yes.

- Catholics can vote for a candidate *despite the fact* that they support these positions "for other morally grave reasons," when we "perceive the proper relationship among moral goods" (34-35). This means that Catholics can vote for a non-pro-life candidate if his/her stance on the other "moral goods" demand our attention because of "morally grave reasons."
- Catholics cannot vote for a candidate *because* they support positions that allow intrinsic moral evils to be permitted.
- Catholics can vote for a candidate who supports certain intrinsically evil actions to "limit the damage" caused by the actions of opposing candidates (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 570).
- Remember: "The responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election" (7).

Can Catholics be single issue voters?

According to the Bishops: No.

- "A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support" (42).
- But, Catholics "may legitimately disqualify a candidate from receiving support... if a candidate's position on a single issue promotes an intrinsically evil act" (42).
- In Summary: A Catholic voter can "disqualify" a candidate based on "a single issue," but they cannot vote for a candidate based on "a single issue." Catholics *can* be single issue "disqualifiers," but not single issue voters.
- Remember: "The responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election" (7).

Quotes from "Faithful Citizenship:"

34. "Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that **perceives the proper relationship among moral goods**. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, **if the voter's intent is to support that position**. In such cases, a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil."

"At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity."

35. "There may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate's unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may **reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons**. Voting in this way would be **permissible** only for truly grave moral reasons, not to advance narrow interests or partisan preferences or to ignore a fundamental moral evil."

42. As Catholics **we are not single-issue voters**. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet if a candidate's position on a single issue promotes an intrinsically evil act, such as legal abortion, redefining marriage in a way that denies its essential meaning, or racist behavior, a voter **may** legitimately disqualify a candidate from receiving support.

THRIFT SHOP REQUEST

The Thrift Shop is in dire need of boys' clothing sizes 3 through 6X!!

Please drop off your gently used boys' clothing during the Thrift Shop's Hours of Operation, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-3pm, or place them in the clothing bin.



We ask that you DO NOT leave anything outside the doors of the Thrift Shop as they either get wet or destroyed by animals and are then unusable. Thank you for your generosity.

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, including emails with Father Suglia's messages and links to the weekend Mass, please go to the website's home page (right next to the bulletin graphic you clicked on to read this), click the word "[here](#)" below the *Contact Information* graphic and update your email and cell phone information.

Thank You !

MEDFORD BLOOD DRIVE

The Medford Fire Department will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, November 17th from 2:30pm through 8:30pm at the Oregon Avenue Fire House on the truck room floor.

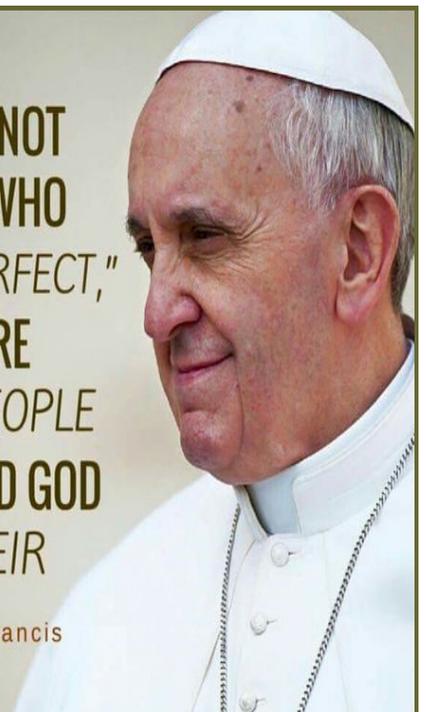
Please consider donating if you are able as many blood drives have been cancelled during this pandemic.

Masks are required to be worn at all times and social distancing will be observed.



**HEROES COME
IN ALL TYPES**

Saints ARE NOT
"SUPERMEN" WHO
ARE "BORN PERFECT,"
BUT RATHER ARE
ORDINARY PEOPLE
WHO FOLLOWED GOD
"WITH ALL THEIR
HEART." pope francis





The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Upcoming Workshop

Basic Virtual Religious Studies Course (2020)

Via Zoom

New Testament

August 17 – August 20, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Church

August 24 – August 27, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Christology

August 31 – September 3, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers

Via Zoom

Evening

Oct 12, 19, 26; Nov 2, and 9
7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mornings

Oct 13, 20, 27; Nov 3, and 10
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information, workshops, or to register online,
please visit drvc-faith.org/event

RELIGION AND ROCK

Tune into “*Religion and Rock*,” a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock radio program with Msgr. Jim Vlaun, which airs on Sundays from 7:00am - 8:00am on *BAB 102.3 FM* or *95.3 FM* on Long Island’s East End.

Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, The Catholic Channel* and at 11:00 PM on *XM Satellite, Channel 117*.

This Sunday’s theme is
The Saints in Our Lives ~ don’t miss it!

To listen online, or receive more information regarding “*Religion and Rock*,” go to www.ReligionandRock.com or to “*Religion & Rock*” on *ITUNES*.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.”

God invites your marriage to be filled with His graces. Accept His invitation by participating in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience via Zoom** for seven sessions every Monday and Thursday evenings starting on November 2 - 23 from 7-9:30 PM.

Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call John and Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit us at

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For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, 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.



A Special Prayer for
All Souls Day, November 2nd

Their lives change but do not end

A Prayer Offered by Pope Francis

We entrust to you, O Lord,
the souls of our beloved dead.

May none of them be afraid to meet You,
after their earthly pilgrimage,
but may they always hope to be welcomed
in the embrace of your infinite mercy.

Lord, may no earthly thing
ever separate us from You,
but may everyone and everything
support us with a burning desire
to rest peacefully and eternally in You.

Amen.



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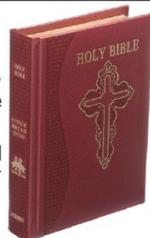
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