

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:

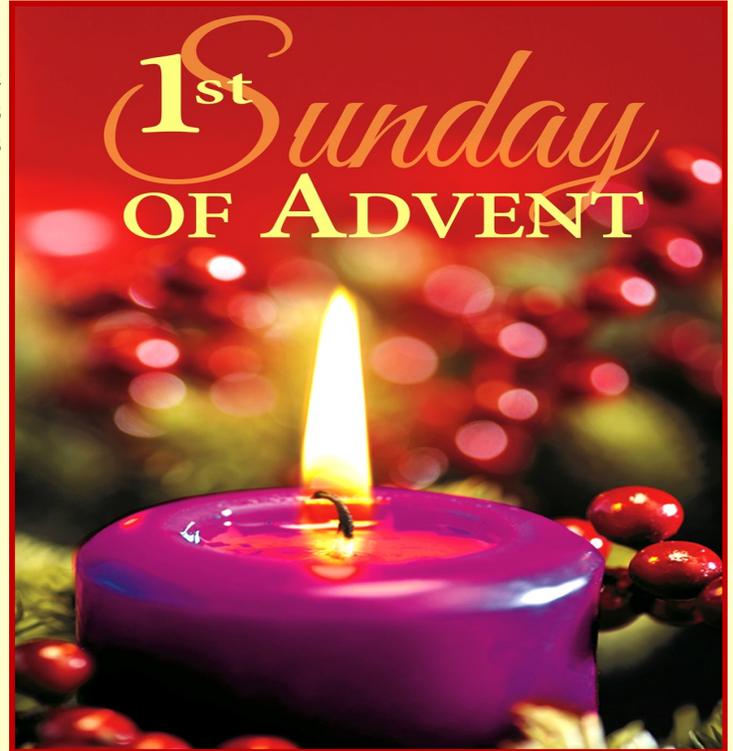
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults
and young adults can also be confirmed at
Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation
Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

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 29, 2020

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Rev. Dan Picciano, Weekend Assistant

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@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 ; 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, November 28, 2020

5:00pm Kenny Lazarus
William & Margaret Wilkey
Lydia Trotta
Maribeth Silva
Herbert Singer

Sunday, November 29, 2020

9:00am Donald Gallagher ~ *22nd Anniversary*
11:00am The Living & Deceased Members of
the Caravana, Matteo & Fusco Families.

Monday, November 30, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, December 3, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, December 4, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, December 5, 2020

5:00pm Thomas Smith ~ *3rd Anniversary*
James Bledsoe
Ralph, Frevola
James Frevola
Peter Frevola
Lucy Gordon
Elizabeth Pagano

Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:00am Edward Cossack
11:00am Vito & Alice Farello



We remember and pray for those who have died, especially: **Sandra Bayron, Evan Kloppenburg, Maria DiMagro and Ralph "Skip" Acquaro.**

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.

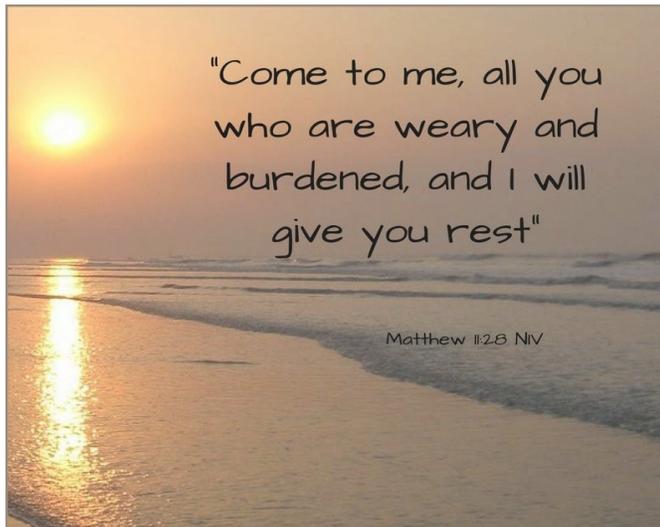


We Pray



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

John McGarvey, Grace Stephens, Evangeline Hurst, Joan Polan and Ralph Cerqueira.



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
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**

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

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

Due to early printer deadlines for the Thanksgiving Holiday, our financial stewardship numbers for November 22nd will appear next week.

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!

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Share the Light!

Happy Advent! The first candle lit on the Advent Wreath is sometimes called the candle of hope — and hope is what we all need by the bucketful right now!

This year has certainly been a challenge — a worldwide pandemic causing business and job losses and the closing of our churches and schools; large protests, street violence, terrible storms, wildfires and finally a contentious and divisive election. Some days it just seems that the news can't be any darker and that we are living the life of Job, doesn't it? And yet, despite it all, we now join together to focus on the coming of Christ, the Light of Hope, and our calling as faithful stewards to bring that light to others.

Advent is a time of great anticipation for us as Christian stewards. The candles on the Advent Wreath serve as physical reminders of how God lights our way through the darkness. It is during these weeks that we joyfully prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus. We happily ready not only our hearts, but also our homes, to celebrate the Lord's birth with our family and friends. It is a time which brings out the best in everyone, and we need to internalize that joy and goodness and share those gifts with others in whatever ways we can, even though times are hard — especially because times are hard.

May the gifts you give and receive this Advent fill your lives with joy, faith and wonder and bring you hope and peace.

~ 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

Thanksgiving 2020

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 GENEROSITY!

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY285>



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

Parish Social Ministry

Coping With Your Grief at the Holiday Season

Twenty Five Positive Activities During The Holidays© Grief Care Fellowship©

Keep yourself in the Word of God for comfort and encouragement

Maintain your daily quiet time - allow the Lord to minister to you

Plan to attend some church holiday musicals and special programs

Keep a journal of "special blessings" during the holidays from the Lord

For a special blessing write out something you are thankful for every day

Design a "memory box" of your loved one's favorite holiday items

Make or purchase a "memory item" and place it in the memory box

Design or purchase a special memory holiday ornament

Plan a special donation to an organization your loved one supported

Use the monies you would have spent to buy gifts for a children's charity

Purchase a special gift in your loved one's name and give it to a charity

If you have not done anything with your loved ones personal possessions:

Give them to someone who liked and will appreciate that item

Enclose a note that shares your loved one's appreciation for them

Give clothing to a homeless shelter, men's or women's shelter

There are organizations that can help you make something new out of personal items, such as quilts, bed covers, and other memorial items

Try to send holiday greeting cards, and special notes for special friends

Make a special "Christmas Memorial" of some of your loved one's personal items

Reach out and be with other grievers - encouragement and comfort becomes mutual

Parish Social Ministry

Coping With Your Grief At The Holiday Season© *Twenty Five Positive Reminders During the Holidays©* **Grief Care Fellowship©**

Planning your holiday season will assist in reducing your level of stress. Having some plan is better than no plan at all. You cannot ignore the holidays; they are just as real as your grief and they are going to happen. You cannot wish them away, you cannot sleep them away and you cannot ignore them. The following is a brief overview of some of the thoughts we shared in our "Grieving Through The Holiday Seminar."

First and foremost Christmas is a reminder of our Lord's love and grace

Make time to attend spiritual holiday activities

Maintain a journal of God's blessings at this season

Realize your holidays will never be the same, they will be difficult

Expect your emotional grief to become more amplified at this time

It is okay to feel sad and miss your loved one

Decide ahead of time where to spend the holidays, have a plan

Communicate ahead of time with family/friends you plan to be with

Remember that other family and friends may be grieving also

Be honest in telling others what you do or do not want to do

Allow others to minister to you - and you to them

Remember that it is okay to seek professional counseling

Journal your holiday thoughts, ideas, wishes and events

Don't feel guilty if you feel like you need to leave a festivity

Have some form of plan so if need be you can excuse yourself from the activity

Be sensitive to your own feelings of "holiday overload", eliminate some activities

Do not allow others to tell you how to spend your holidays

Determine what traditions you want to keep, what to change, develop new traditions

The holidays can be hectic, especially in your grief, allow yourself "quiet times"

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

The St. Sylvester Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the sale of their Christmas Wreaths once again!

This year, they will **ONLY** be taking orders in advance and the deadline for ordering is *today*, November 29th. You may order your wreath(s) by calling 631-289-2493 or 631-289-2095.

The Christmas Wreaths will be delivered to St. Sylvester and are available for pick up this weekend and next weekend, December 5th & 6th.



Merry Christmas!

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, or place them in the clothing bin.



We ask that you **DO NOT** leave anything outside the doors of the Thrift Shop as they get ruined and are then unusable. Thank you for your generosity.

RELIGION AND ROCK



Tune into "*Religion and Rock*," a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock radio program with Msgr. Jim Vlaun, which airs on Sun-

days from 7:00am - 8:00am on *WBAB 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 **R&R 45th Anniversary** ~ 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**.

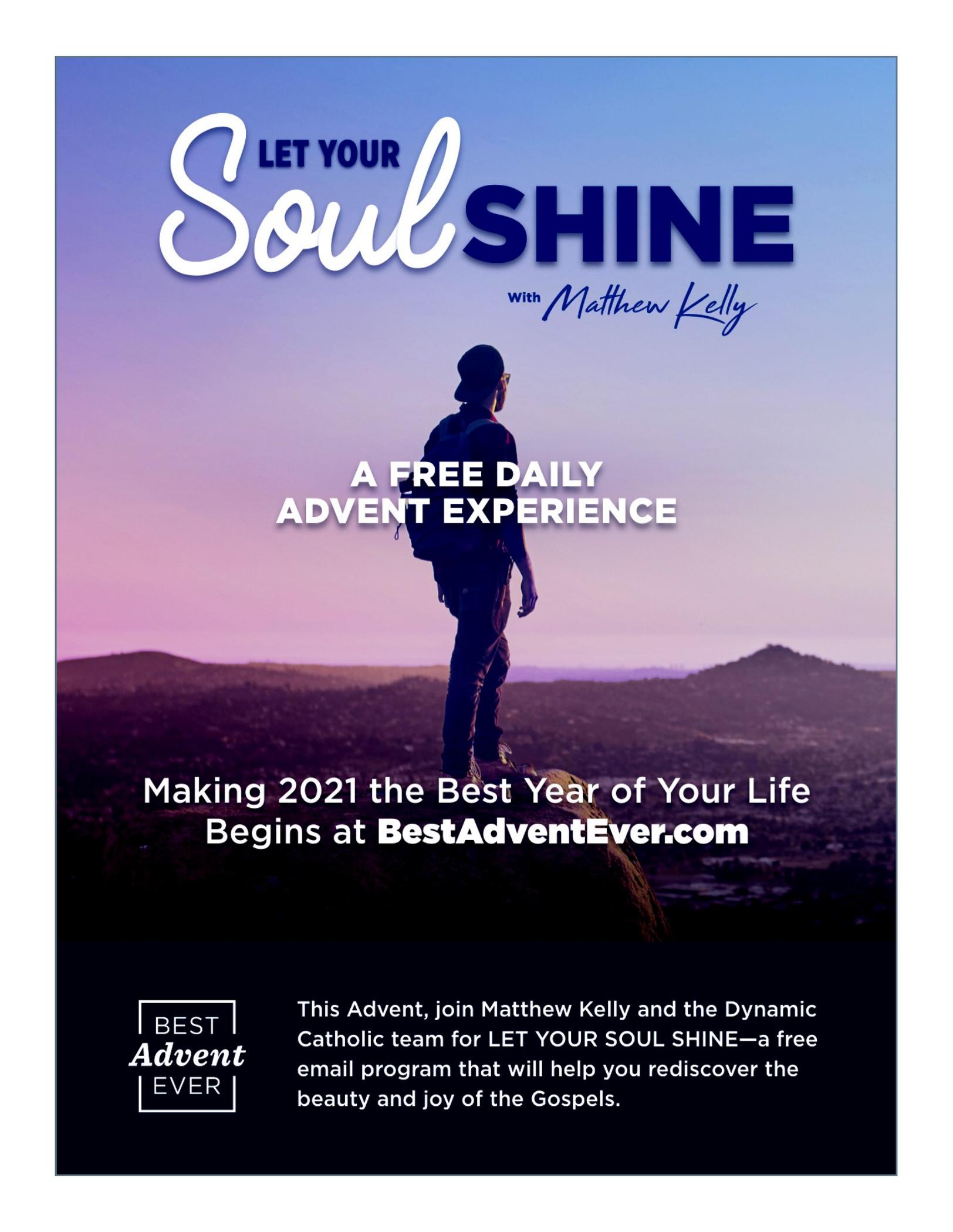
RICK HINSHAW BEGINS BLOG POST



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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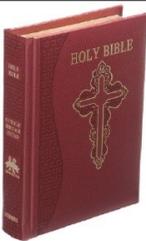
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