

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:

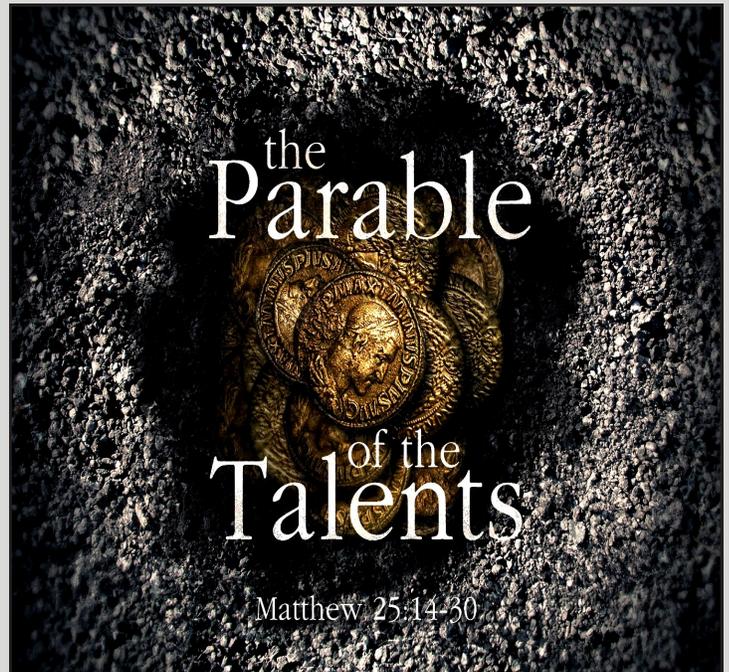
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults
and young adults can also be confirmed at
Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation
Office 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

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 15, 2020
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 14, 2020

5:00pm Salvatore Mazzeo
Luigi & Maria Russo
Rosemarie Terlizzi
Phyllis Holt
Augustus Suglia

Sunday, November 15, 2020

9:00am Barbara Cullen ~ *21st Anniversary*
11:00am Camille "Cookie" Rotundi

Monday, November 16, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

8:30am Ricardo Bustamante

Thursday, November 19, 2020

8:30am Wilma Espoy

Friday, November 20, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, November 21, 2020

5:00pm Donna Becker
Augustus Suglia
Salvatore Rinaldi
Teresa Scheff
Vincent Troisi

Sunday, November 22, 2020

9:00am Dorothy & Vincent Sauer
11:00am Theresa & Jules Diasparra



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

***Louise LaBarbara, David Saccente and
Lydia Trotta.***

***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@stsylvesterli.org or call
631-475-4506, ext. 101.***

Thank you and God bless.



***The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgy***

***are the gifts of
Victoria & John Olexa***

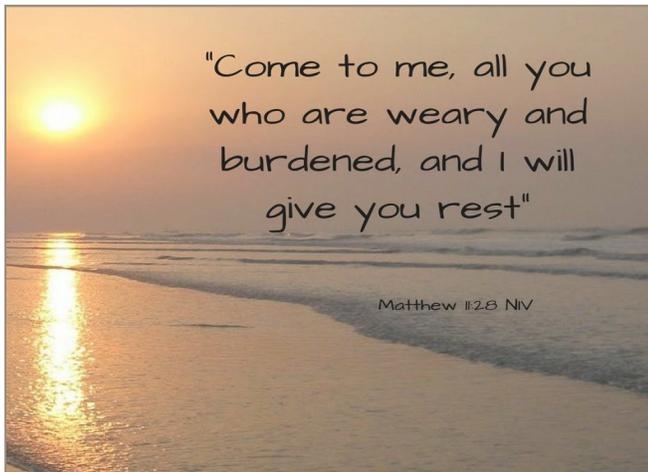
***in loving memory of
Richard Daly***

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 Joan 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
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@stsyvesterli.org Please notify the same of any change in status. Thank you.

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



Jesus' Divine Mercy

Dear Father Suglia,

I want to thank you for the honor of allowing me to donate and dedicate the Divine Mercy painting to St. Sylvester's Church on behalf of the Pagano family, in loving memory of my wife, Elizabeth. I feel compelled to write you this letter because although I am truly grateful, I want this painting to become a symbol and message of Jesus' Divine Mercy Chaplet and to share its message and meaning with all our faithful parishioners of St. Sylvester's Church, and anyone who may gaze upon it that may not be aware of the graces it represents.

Our Lord's Message that I want to share —

In 1935, St. Faustina received a vision of an angel sent by God to chastise a certain city. She began to pray for mercy, but her prayers were powerless. Suddenly she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Jesus' grace within her. At the same time she found herself pleading with God for mercy with words she heard interiorly:

- Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us.

As she continued saying this inspired prayer, the angel became helpless and could not carry out the deserved punishment. The next day, as she was entering the chapel, she again heard this interior voice, instructing her how to recite the prayer that our Lord later called "the Chaplet." This time, after the phrase "have mercy on us" Jesus instructed her to add the words "and on the whole world." From then on, she recited this form of prayer almost constantly, offering it especially for the dying.

The Lord made it clear that the Chaplet was not just for her, but for the whole world. He also attached extraordinary promises to its recitation.

"Jesus said - Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the Merciful Savior. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation.

~ *continued*



Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy. Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will.”

Our Lord also appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her: “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.” O blood and water which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I Trust In You! - This is what is represented on the painting which Jesus had instructed St. Faustina to have painted, now hanging in our church.

My friends, aren't we all sinful people — and we absolutely do not deserve the goodness and love our Father shows us — but each and every time we stray, He relentlessly calls us back to Him and shows us incomprehensible grace and mercy. When we understand the wildness of God's never-ending mercy, we will be compelled to live it out in our own lives. All of us should be showing mercy as well, especially during these times of uncertainty and chaos. So the next time someone you know strays and messes up, don't correct them or make them feel bad about it; show them a little glimpse of the mercy God shows us every day. Don't ration your mercy; give it away freely just as our Father abundantly gives it to us.

I hope all of us will look upon this painting with great comfort and humility in what it represents; this painting is truly God's gift to all of us.

Thank you, and God Bless us all!

Your Friend in Jesus - Philip Pagano & Family

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

We will be celebrating our regular Thanksgiving Day Mass on Thursday, November 26th at 10am in the Church.

You must please register for this Mass through our parish website. Registration will begin on Monday, November 23rd at 9am and end on Wednesday, November 25th at 9am.

Please note that we will not be distributing pumpkin breads this year, but still invite you to bring your own bread and wine to the Mass to be blessed. For everyone's safety, we ask that you wear a mask and keep your items to be blessed with you in the pew instead of leaving them up near the altar.

Let Us Give Thanks.



May God bless you and your families!



Baptism is the door to life and to the Kingdom of God.

**Let us welcome the newly baptized
into our Community of Faith
during the month of
October 2020**

*Kaylyn Marie Berry
Isabella Rae Brancato
Thomas Christopher Camarco
Jaxx Mason Landon
Cadence Noelle LaRosa
Peyton Renee Lauten
Brandon Arturo Linares
Emily Priscilla Linares
Madison James Ohayon
Nicholas James Scarpata
Katheryne Natalia Torres*

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 of Treasure — Generosity, Gratitude and Funding the Mission

Today Jesus gives us the parable of the talents, in which different amounts are given by the master to the servants with an expectation that they will invest them somehow and return them with a profit. I always felt badly for the servant who, consumed by fear of losing his one talent and angering the master, simply buried it in a hole in the ground. He took the sure bet, as many of us do at times; but that is not what God wants from us. **God wants us to recognize, expand, develop and grow all of the gifts He has given us, including our money and our talents, not for personal gain, but in gratitude to serve others and continue to build His Kingdom here in Medford and throughout the world.**

Look, I understand that nobody wants to talk about money (especially this year), but if we are trying to live a Stewardship way of life we must understand that *everything* we have is given to us by God, *including* our money or “treasure.” Generosity and gratitude are the hallmarks of true Stewardship. To live life as a steward there must be a realization somewhere along the way that we don’t just *have* to be generous, we *get* to be generous. We are each called at our Baptism to a life of Christian action and the proper use of our treasure is part of that. As someone said in a webinar I recently attended, we are *born* generous, but then forget over time how to *be* generous.



Joyful giving is an opportunity to show gratitude to God for our blessings and to care for and love one another. Our time and our talents are extremely important in how we show gratitude, but so is how we use our treasure. Money and possessions are spoken about hundreds of times in the Bible — it is important as

Christians to look at how we view and spend our money. Do we give enough to fund God’s mission adequately according to what we have been given, or does Dunkin’ Donuts get more from us than we donate to the church?

There is so much pressure in our society to do what others do— but we are instead called to be disciples.

The late Bishop McGann, in his letter which introduced Stewardship as a “Way of Life” to the Diocese of Rockville Centre over 24 years ago, echoed the words of the USCCB in saying, *“The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards.”* He continues with the question, *“Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church?”*

Usually at this time of year I send out a letter to the parish along with a commitment card asking that you prayerfully consider your financial Stewardship —the amount you are giving to the parish and other charities. As many are experiencing job losses, illness and other life upheavals and uncertainties right now, we do not feel it is an appropriate time for us to ask you to formally commit to an increase in your financial giving. I will ask you though to prayerfully reflect on what you spend your God-given financial blessings on each week and to give what you can generously and joyfully to further Jesus’ mission here on earth. I also encourage you to increase your time spent in prayer — in particular to pray for all those who are struggling in so many ways due to the pandemic and for those unable to provide the basic necessities for their families at this difficult time in our history.

I will close with the reassuring final words of Bishop McGann’s Stewardship letter, *“I remind each of you that you are not in this alone. We travel together as pilgrims in this life. Let us encourage each other to stand firm and take heart for God promised to be with us always. The Spirit will show us the way.”*

May God continue to lead us forward as faith-filled stewards in courage, compassion and love for the Trinity and one another. ~ Lori Zito



Stewardship
A Way of Life

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

November 8, 2020

Regular ~ \$9,208

Renovation ~ \$90 Solar ~ \$30

Last Year's Collection ~ November 10, 2019

Regular ~ \$ 8,635

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!

Faith Direct Electronic Giving Supports Parish; Saves Costs and Paper

When anybody mentions weekly giving to the church, one's mind automatically goes to the weekly donation envelopes which have been part of our weekend collections as far back as I can remember. We still send out hundreds of envelope packets regularly for your financial stewardship, but there is another, simpler way to regularly support our parish and its mission — electronic giving.



Here at St. Sylvester we offer online giving through a company named Faith Direct, and its benefits are many. For you, there is no more hunting for your envelope each week, worrying about the mail being late or those annoying bank fees for check usage. It also gives you the ability to thoughtfully and prayerfully plan your donations and earn miles or cash back on a credit card if you should so choose.

Electronic Giving allows us access to consistent funding to plan how we can continue to minister to our parishioners and the larger community, and reduces our printing and mailing costs (which keep rising). Also, less envelopes mean less paper used —which is a win for the environment too!

How do you get started? Simply visit our parish website and look for the large "Online Giving" button on the home page. You may set up an account online, by phone or even by text! You can contribute, weekly, monthly or make a one-time donation. Our parish code is NY285 and is also listed on the sign up page.

Whichever way you choose to fund our mission, we thank you for your continued support and generosity!

~ 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. You may order your wreath(s) by calling 631-289-2493 or 631-289-2095. The Knights will also be taking orders after the Masses next weekend, November 14th and 15th, as well as on November 21st & 22nd.

The Christmas Wreaths will be delivered to St. Sylvester and will be available for pick up on the weekends of November 28th & 29th and 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.

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.



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, 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 !

A close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is draped and has a soft, natural lighting. The text is overlaid on the flag in a white, serif font with a subtle drop shadow.

With Respect
Honor
and Gratitude

Thank You Veterans



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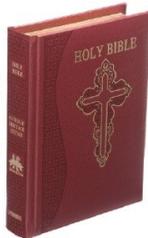
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