

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:

Sat: 5pm; Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am & 11am
Parish Center: M, Tu, Th and Fr: @ 8:30am.
Holy Days as announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined Sunday afternoons. ***Prior to making plans***, call 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.

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:

Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass or call the Rectory at 631-475-0418 any time. For those needing surgery or serious medical treatment.



“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

August 11, 2019
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon Frank Rivera

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Theresa Ellner, Business Manager

Michael Lofaro, Administrator,

Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director,

Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahon, Director,

Parish Social Ministry

Lori Zito, Director,

Parish Ministries & Events

Office Information

Please note summer hours for the Parish Office!

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsyvesterli.org
Mon. Tues. Thurs. 9am-12pm & 1-5pm; Wed. 9am-12 & 1-8:30pm; Fri. 9am-12pm & 1-3pm;
Sun. 9:30am-12:30pm

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
Mon. 10am - 3pm ; Wed 10am - 3pm & 4pm - 7pm ; Fri. 10am - 12pm

We Pray

Saturday, August 10, 2019

5:00pm James Donaghy (*8th Anniversary*)
Bridget & Stephen Finn
Sarah & James Donaghy & Family
Helga & Paul Poola
Rudy Hauck

Sunday, August 11, 2019

7:30am Charles T. Bellizzi (*1st Anniversary*)
9:00am Alvin Oickle
11:00am Daniel Cella

Monday, August 12, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

5:00pm The People of St. Sylvester (Church)

Thursday, August 15, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester (Church)
7:00pm Charles Bellizzi (Church)

Friday, August 16, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, August 17, 2019

5:00pm James A. Perry
Linda Valentine
Charles Homan
Lorraine Owens
John Kalaydjian

Sunday, August 18, 2019

7:30am Maria & Manuel Fernandes
9:00am Charles Human
11:00am Richard Daly

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.

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

Bob Prentiss, Pam Hinton, Nina Caravana, Rosemarie Orrico, Donald Orrico, Vivian DeMello, Andrew D'Souza, Beatrice D'Souza, Joan McGrattan, Barbara Bellassai, Jim Newkirk, Agnes Cantarelli, Frank Cayea, Elizabeth Pagano, Paul Mazza, Andy Magyar, Baby Emma Connolly, Anthony O'Brien.

We pray for all those who have died, especially:

Maria Russo, Maureen Connolly, Alice Farello, Barbara Chin-Sang, Marie Grimaldi, and Agnes Marion Clark.

***The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgies
are the gifts of
Theresa Vilaro
in loving memory of
Charles Bellizzi***

***Congratulations and God's Blessings on
Lucy & Gaetano Curatolo who
celebrated their Golden Wedding
Anniversary by renewing their vows
here last Saturday.***

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.

Visit our website at: www.stsyvesterli.org



Pastor's Column
SS Medford
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
For All the Saints

August 11, 2019

This past Tuesday, we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration. Next Thursday, we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation.

These two great feasts of Jesus and Mary help us to unpack the "mystery of faith." Every time we attend Mass, we hear those words sung or spoken. Faith is a mystery, a consent to something beyond our total comprehension. God is greater than us, much greater. It rests then that He must be beyond our understanding. Saint Anselm gives us this: The study of God (our faith, theology) is faith seeking understanding.

In the Transfiguration, Jesus shows himself in his glorified body. He does so to just a select few of his followers, and he appears speaking with Moses and Elijah. These are two of the super Prophets of Israel.

We may wonder why he chooses just a few to reveal his glorified body? There on Mount Tabor are only Peter, James, and John. The three would be key players in the early days of Christianity: Peter, our first Pope, James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem and John as Evangelist, Prophet and the one who Jesus entrusted the care of his Mother to.

Speaking of Mary, her Assumption was declared on Saints Day in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The question of Mary being assumed into Heaven was a profound spiritual question that was debated about for years among theologi-

ans around the world. Finally, in the late 1940s, Pope Pius asked that the Bishops of the world gather these opinions and send them to the Vatican so he could pray and, with God's guidance, decide if this Dogma should be declared.

He did and what the Dogma of the Assumption means is that Mary was lifted body and soul directly into Heaven at the end of her earthly days. Jesus loves his Mother so much that he lifts her instantly into Heaven when she finishes her earthly pilgrimage. What a most fitting tribute to His earthly Mother that helps us understand His mercy, compassion, and love for creation.

Our Feasts on the Catholic Calendar are meant to inspire us to holiness as we examine the mystical events and persons that dot creation history and our tradition. They help us take a supernatural outlook so that we may focus what awaits those who are the just and the good. It is never too late to start; God's efficacious mercy is ever-flowing. Let us contemplate the transcendent truths of our faith so that we may live every moment as supernatural people.

Yours in Christ,

Father Suglia



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 11, 2019
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Church continues to suffer as a result of past sins of sexual abuse of minors. Victim survivors of abuse and their families also continue to carry the terrible effects of that abuse. We pray that the fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon the Church to purify and sanctify her. It is also important that we are all aware of recent developments that will cause uncertainty and present serious challenges for us in the months and perhaps years ahead.

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Child Victims Act (CVA) into law last February. The CVA suspends for one year any statute of limitations associated with alleged sexual abuse of a minor. This law will allow currently time-barred lawsuits to be brought against individuals as well as public and private institutions, regardless of how many years or even decades ago the abuse may have taken place.

When the one-year window to file lawsuits opens on August 14, 2019, hundreds, if not thousands of lawsuits are expected to be filed across New York State against dioceses, parishes, municipalities, public schools, hospitals and a broad range of not-for-profit charitable organizations, both religious and non-religious. The financial impact of this law may be far reaching.

However, if we are people of the Paschal Mystery, we enter the unknown with what we do know – that the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ will sustain and strengthen us in the days ahead. The power of the Resurrection overcomes despair.

No doubt, we will hear about many past failures. We will again hear the heart wrenching stories of victim survivors. I have personally met with survivors of abuse, their families, friends and loved ones. I have listened at a deep level to their stories of tragedy, betrayal, trauma and their heroic efforts to engage in the process of healing. Their lifelong wounds of trauma run so deep, that only the warmth of the Holy Spirit can begin to touch, relieve and heal them. Together, we pray that the fire of the Holy Spirit brings the light of true repentance and reform, moving the Church to continue listening and responding with the humility and compassion of Jesus Christ.

It is also important that we be aware of what is already happening and has been happening for many years in our Diocese as to the extraordinary work that goes into child protection. First, the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People was established in 2003. Many years of hard work have made this office one which puts the safety and well-being of children first, and seeks to reach out to and support victim survivors of abuse. It works to ensure the screening and training of every person who works in or volunteers for the Church. If you are an employee or a volunteer in your parish, you know about background checks, VIRTUS training and the call for every member of the Church to be vigilant in protecting children.

For years, we have worked closely with law enforcement whenever an allegation of abuse is made against a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Our confidential hotline (516-594-9063) is closely monitored, and calls made to it are returned within 24 hours by a licensed mental health professional. Allegations of abuse are promptly reported to the appropriate district attorney's office and are thoroughly investigated. In addition, pastoral care and mental health support is offered to any abuse survivor who needs assistance.

These are just a few of the reforms, efforts and safeguards that have been in place since 2002 in our Diocese, and have made the Church on Long Island a truly safe environment. And we do not rest there. We continually work to discern the best ways to adjust and enhance our child protection practices, to raise consciousness in the Church and society about vigilance and to support survivors of abuse.

In 2017, we initiated our Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP) to provide a confidential mechanism for survivors to receive compensation and some measure of healing and justice. We intend to continue this program for the foreseeable future, even after the CVA takes effect, so survivors can, if they wish, be heard in a fair, respectful, confidential and timely way. To date, 370 people have filed claims with our IRCP. The vast majority of claimants – 277 to be exact – have accepted compensation totaling just over \$50 million, with 75-80 claims still being processed.

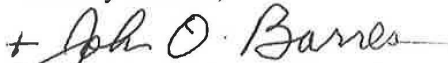
We have worked diligently with our financial and legal advisors to assess our financial position and maximize the availability of insurance coverage to meet the demands that will likely be imposed by anticipated CVA litigation. Please also know that parish collections and financial donations made through the Catholic Ministries Appeal will continue to be used, consistent with our commitment to our parishioners, to support the Diocese, and its ministries and pursue the goals of the Catholic Ministry Appeal. The parish offertory and Catholic Ministry Appeal funds have not and will not be used to resolve claims for clergy sexual abuse.

The work of the Church – of administering the Sacraments, of teaching, healing, advocating, serving, and ministering to the poor and vulnerable – can and must continue, despite the sins of the past. I speak in greater detail about all of this, and about the Diocese's robust safe environment practices and commitment to them, in a Catholic Faith Network (CFN) special video which you can view on CFN television, the Diocesan website (www.drvc.org) and on Diocese of Rockville Centre social media platforms.

The coming months will require perseverance and prayer if we are to emerge even more dedicated to Christ's saving mission. As the opening of the CVA window takes place near the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, we are reminded to turn to Mary our Mother and draw courage from the one who did not look away from her suffering Son. She waited patiently, suffered with Him, and shared in His victory over sin and death.

This is the same Mary who, as Mother of the Church, gathered with the Apostles in the locked room, waiting for the power of the Holy Spirit to descend at Pentecost. As we enter a time of Paschal Mystery suffering, may Mary guide us, so that together we may continue to carry out the mission of her Son: the building up of the Kingdom of God throughout Long Island and the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John O. Barres", with a stylized cross or initial to the left.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Assumption of Our Lady ***Holy Day of Obligation ~Thursday, August 15th***

In preparation for the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, which commemorates the end of her earthly life and assumption into heaven, Fr. Suglia would like to have a novena said. Beginning Tuesday, August 6th and going nine consecutive days ending Wednesday, August 14th, a novena will be said before morning Mass in the Worship Room of the Parish Center, beginning at 8:15AM. A novena can be said both publicly and privately. On Wednesday



during the week when morning Mass is not held, the Worship Room will be opened for those who would like to say the novena together. The Worship Room will not be opened on Saturday morning, August 10th, and Sunday morning, August 11th, so you may wish to say the novena privately those days.

On Tuesday, August 13th, in the spirit of community, there will be hospitality after the morning Mass in the East Wing of the Parish Center.

What is a Novena?

A novena is a vocal prayer, or series of vocal prayers, that you commit to praying over an extended period of time. Most novenas are directed to God through a particular saint (e.g. the St. Joseph Novena), so you are asking for the saint's prayers each day for a specific intention. Some novenas are longer (e.g. the 30-day St. Joseph Novena or the 54-day Rosary novena), but traditionally they are nine days. These prayers are usually linked to a specific devotion (for instance, a devotion to a particular saint) or liturgical celebration (a novena for Pentecost). When we use

this kind of prayer, we align our minds and hearts with the meaning of the words, giving God praise, renewing our faith and trust, asking God for things we need or desire, or all of the above.

The first novena was inspired by Christ Himself who, at the time of His Ascension into Heaven, told the Apostles to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit (at Pentecost); the Apostles went to Jerusalem and prayed with our Blessed Mother for nine days, awaiting the gift of the Spirit (Acts 1). The Holy Spirit then descended upon Mary and the Apostles in the Upper Room. The Novena to the Holy Spirit is the first novena.

As Matthew Kelly says, "a Holy Moment is when you make yourself completely available to God." So please join fellow parishioners during these nine days leading up to the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady and turn this novena into your "Holy Moment."

Parish Social Ministry



Wash Kits for the Homeless

Every summer we create hundreds of wash kits to support the Stand Up for the Homeless event at the end of August where over 800 people receive access to multiple services in a single day! In preparation, we will once again be hosting a community service event making wash kits for the homeless. We are in need of travel size hygiene items – shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, washcloth. Please continue to donate these items by placing them in the donation bin in the church or bringing them directly to Clare House.

Thank you for your generosity!



Back to School Program

During the summer months of July and August we will be collecting financial donations to support our Back to School program. Donations can be made electronically on our website, or via cash/check in an envelope marked "back to school" and placed in any collection basket, brought to the parish center or Clare House. All donations will be converted to gift cards.

Why gift cards, you may ask?

It is fundamental that we strive in all our service activities to empower those on the margins. Gift cards allow clients to make their own decisions about what supplies, bags, shoes, etc. they would like for their family. This enhances their agency in the process and respects their human dignity as individuals. With this in mind, please consider making a donation to support our families in need.

Thank you for your generosity!

Faith Formation

*On-Line Registration Has Been Extended
Until August 18, 2019!*

Please go to www.stsylvesterli.org and click on Faith Formation and then Registration.

**If you are interested in serving as a
Teacher/Catechist,
please call 631-475-4506 X 118
or email
faithformation@stsylvesterli.org**

**In the fall, we will have the
following opportunities for Teachers/Catechists:**

Level 4 ~ Mondays 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

OR

Wednesday ~ 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Level 5 ~ Tuesday 5:45

Level 6 ~ Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Home Taught Level 4 ~ 6 specific Saturdays
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

All Are Welcome!!!!

***Did you know that we have an
Individualized Faith Formation Program
for children with special needs?***

If your child has special needs, and has been
diagnosed with:

Autism

ADD or ADHD

Reading Disability

Cognitive Speech Delay

ODD or Other Behavioral Concerns

Sensory Processing Disorder

Other Health Impairment

....please know that there is a place for your child
in the St. Sylvester Faith Formation and
Sacramental Program. We have been blessed with
volunteers who are educated and experienced in
working with children with special needs
and their families.

Please call the Faith Formation office at
631-475-4506, Ext 118

so that we can help in placing your child in the class
that will be most beneficial for them.

Stewardship

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize



Formation



Hospitality



Prayer



Service

Gifts of Treasure

August 4, 2019

Regular ~ \$8,512

Renovation ~ \$389

Solar ~ \$170

Reflection

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus stresses the importance of doing what is good now. We do not know the hour the Lord is coming, or when we are called home, so we must constantly be doing good for the Lord.

Living Stewardship... Formation

Today is always the best time to make a change for the better. If you don't already have a set time for prayer everyday, begin today. See when the next available time for Confession is here at the parish and make a commitment today to go.

"Stewardship is discipleship. We strive to put God first in all things and to follow where Our Lord might lead."

~ Archdiocese of St. Louis

Thrift Shop Request

Our Thrift Shop is in need of all summer/early fall clothing, especially men's jeans and children's clothing. Please bring all new and gently used items during business hours.

They are also seeking someone who can help bring bags of unusable, soiled or rained on items to the dumpsters on Monday mornings. If you are able to assist us in this way, please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministries Office, 631-475-4506, ext. 115.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY?

Believe it or not, we are already planning for this year's Holiday Fair!!



Our Holiday Fair Crafters will begin meeting twice monthly in the evenings on Wednesday, September 4th to plan and create items for our November 16th & 17th Fair. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministry & Events Office by calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or by emailing to lzito@stsylvesterli.org.

We will also begin accepting donations in September of new items, event & movie tickets, etc. for our Holiday Fair raffle baskets. Thank you for your generosity !!

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$40,575.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	61.7%
Number of Donors to Date:	139

Your donation can make a difference!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish: St. Sylvester Church

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please place in collection basket
or return to the Parish Center. Thank you.

Pizza with a purpose.



Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:

St. Sylvester RC Church

Wednesday, August 7th 11:00am – 10:00pm

Wednesday, August 14th 11:00am – 10:00pm

Wednesday, August 21st 11:00am - 10:00pm

Wednesday, August 28th 11:00am- 10:00pm

California Pizza Kitchen

Smith Haven Mall

618 Smith Haven Mall

Lake Grove, NY 11755

(631) 382-9610

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at **cpk.com** and receive a **free** Small Plate for registering.



california
PIZZA KITCHEN

FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profits schools are eligible to participate in CPK's FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Not valid for delivery orders. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.

What's Happening?

Get Involved!

Drawing Class

Mondays 10am to 12pm East Wing

Art Class

Tuesdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall

Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Wednesday of the Month 10:30am to 12pm in the East Wing

Art Class

Saturdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall

Senior Circle of Friends

Second and Fourth Fridays of the Month
12pm to 2:30pm (*summer hours*)

Attention Volunteers and Any Interested Adult

There will be an awareness training session...
"PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN"
(Also known as Virtus)

**On Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
in the East Wing of the Parish Center**

This training, required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre for all volunteers, instructs adults in the importance of continuous awareness and vigilance in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment in our parish and community.

The goals of the session are to help adults understand:

- * The signs of sexual abuse.
- *The methods and means by which offenders commit abuse.
- *The five-empowerment steps one can use to prevent abuse.

You may register at www.virtus.org and click on the VIRTUS online link.
Questions please call the Parish Office at 631-475-4506, Ext. 101

Support Groups

Al-Anon

Meets every Thursday 9:30am to 12:00pm

Compassionate Friends

Second Friday of the Month at 7:30pm to 10:00pm

Over-Eaters Anonymous

Will return in the fall.

Moving On Widows/Widowers Peer Support Group

Will return in the fall.

Divorced & Separated Support

If you are going through the pain of marital separation or divorce, we have a parishioner with a degree in psychology and a background in social work who will be happy to meet with you here in the Parish Center to support you at this difficult time. Please contact our Parish Social Ministry Office at Ext. 122 if you would like to set up an appointment.

Prayer Groups

Please see the Website for more details for Prayer Group Meetings

Holy Hour & Adoration

2nd Friday of the month ~ 8pm ~ WR

Charismatic Prayer Group

1st, 3rd & 4th Fridays of the month ~ 8pm
Worship Room

Women's Prayer Group

3rd Tuesday of the month ~ 7pm ~ EW

(In August meets on the 3rd Wednesday; no July meeting scheduled)

Legion of Mary

Tuesdays ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Spanish Legion of Mary

Wednesdays ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 9 (*summer hours*)

Third Order of Carmelites

3rd Friday of the month Mass ~ 7pm ~
Worship Room Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing

First Saturday Devotion

First Saturday of the Month 9am to 10 am Worship Room