

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 7:30am, 9am & 11am.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8:30am
in the Parish Center. Rosary recitation begins at
8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as
announced.

Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined dates. ***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@drv.c.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.



December 15, 2019 Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

Thrift Shop: (631) 475-4506, ext. 124; Tu, Wed & Th ~ 10am - 3pm; Sat ~ 10am - 1pm

We Pray

Saturday, December 14, 2019

5:00pm Lillian Catherine Henderson, *1st Anniv.*
Nicholas & Olga Veneroso
Thomas J. Stephens, *2nd Anniversary*
Pam Anderson
Marie & Luigi Russo

Sunday, December 15, 2019

7:30am Thomas Clark
9:00am Rosa Paez
11:00am Matthew Tosques, Jr., *1st Anniversary*

Monday December 16, 2019

8:30am Brian DePierro

Tuesday, December 17 2019

8:30am Alberta Fonseca, *1st Anniversary*

Thursday, December 19, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, December 20, 2019

8:30am Rev. Martin J. Klein

Saturday, December 21, 2019

5:00pm McGarvey & Grzymala Families
Rocco & Ernestine Mangino
Raymond & Eleanor Keating
Richard Dixon
Thomas Smith, *2nd Anniversary*
Al Breud

Sunday, December 22, 2019

7:30am Thomas Clark
9:00am John Pavacic
11:00am Anthony J. Ciuffo

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.

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

Agnes Cantarelli, Frank Cayea, Marie Robbins, Edgard Ugar, Joseph Tangel, Larry Zuaro, Barbara Eustace, Chong Skladel, Melanie Schmadtke, Joan McGrattan, Paul Mazza, Elizabeth Pagano, Paxton Swackhammer, Nello Liberatore, Martha Benvenuto.

We pray for all those who have died, especially:
Cornelius Considine.

The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgies are the gifts of
Grace Stephens and Family
In loving memory of
Thomas J. Stephens



The Candles
used at this weekend's liturgies are the gifts of
The Caracciolo Family
In loving memory of
Joe Caracciolo

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.stsylvesterli.org



"Lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And going into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him."

Matthew 2:9-11

Peace & Blessings of this Christmas Season.

Fr. Suglia and the staff of St. Sylvester

Please join your fellow parishioners as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve mass times are: 4:00, 6:00 & 10:00PM.

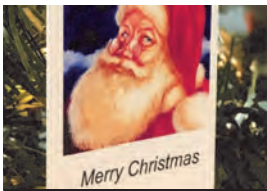
Christmas Day mass times are: 9:00 & 11:00AM

Mass times for the Solemnity of Mary are:

New Years Eve 5:00PM and

New Years Day 10:00AM

Parish Social Ministry



LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS!

Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, and gifts!
In just two days we raised over \$10,000 and assembled a beautiful free market
to serve over 60 families in our community!

TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION: LIVING GENEROUSLY BEYOND DECEMBER

BY TINAMARIE STOLZ | 12-06-19 | Ignatian Solidarity Network

I know this statement might make some people mad. But, I still feel called to say it. I do not understand how those who genuinely care about providing Christmas gifts to low-income families can simultaneously care so little about the systemic issues keeping them in poverty. How come Christmas goodness and generosity are detached from justice issues?

How can we have compassion for a child's Christmas morning and anger toward a free lunch program? How can we desire to give a child toys, but not a well-resourced school? How do we admit that low-income families struggle to afford Christmas gifts but insist they can financially provide daycare, health care, clothing, food, or housing?

Imagine a child who receives donated gifts on Christmas morning. Picture the joy on their face as they unwrap that special toy or game—Santa did come! Visualize their guardians. Imagine the happiness and peace well-up in their hearts. Think about the comfort they feel knowing their child's belief in Santa will live for another year.

Now imagine it is December 26th. For this family, it's back to work. The guardian heads to a full-time job, which pays \$9.00 an hour. The child plays without them. They come back for dinner but end up eating another peanut butter sandwich. It is the end of the month, and SNAP benefits do not reload until January. It's off to a weekend job, praying the tickle in their throat leaves with some tea. The child falls asleep in front of the TV.

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to the two feet of love in action—charity and justice. One foot is charity. Charity means there are givers and receivers. Usually, it occurs on a one-to-one basis; think the corporal works of mercy. For example, feed the hungry by donating to a food pantry. There is a giver of food and a receiver of food. Charity also addresses immediate needs. For instance, someone is cold, so they are given a free coat at a warming center. Other examples include donating clothes to a shelter or giving money to a non-profit organization.

I worked in a food pantry during my year of service in Detroit. I cannot adequately explain the importance of food donations—it literally kept our community fed. Contributions were crucial. But do you know what happened to those big Thanksgiving and Christmas canned-good donations come March? They ran out. And they were difficult to replace.

The other foot is justice. Justice is about changing social structures that oppress God's children. Usually, through advocacy, protesting, voting, lobbying, or contacting representatives about oppressive laws. Justice addresses root causes, while charity addresses the symptoms. Charity gives people food, and justice looks into why people are hungry in the first place. It analyzes broken or unjust systems, names the problem, and fights for long-term solutions.

At the end of my service year, I had a significant internal crisis. I remember crying to my spiritual director, "What was this all for? I'm going to leave, and they're still poor. I didn't do anything. I didn't change anything." He looked at me and calmly responded, "What made you think this year was about changing them? It was about changing you."

I learned one of the most important lessons of my life in that session. No amount of service in the pantry would have provided a living-wage or a local grocery store, and no amount of lobbying would have cured our community's hunger pangs for that same evening. If I wanted to be a change-maker, I would have to stop hopping and start walking. Because we can only move towards God's vision for the world with two feet—charity and justice.

I am often left disappointed with Christmas generosity because it usually only runs an extra trip to Target deep. There is nothing wrong with giving Christmas gifts to families in need. That is real authentic generosity and goodness. The invitation is to let that generosity go deeper than December and deeper into our wallets, our civic engagement, and our free time.

So this Christmas season and beyond, let us walk with two feet. Let us commit to an advocacy action for each donated item. Let's look into why our donations are going to one particular part of our city or state. What's keeping people in that area on the margins? Then let's take a step to encounter and befriend those we donate to. What organizations can we volunteer with? What non-profits or church groups are standing with marginalized communities? Next, let's take steps to promote and find long-term solutions alongside our new friends: vote, attend a town hall meeting, protest, call representatives, start a petition.

Is this a lot of work? Yes. That is why we cannot only live generously during December. Toys are important on Christmas morning, and just policies that keep people out of poverty are essential all year long.

Tinamarie Stolz is an adjunct theology professor and campus minister at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. She holds a master's degree in theological studies from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio.

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure ~ December 8, 2019

Regular ~ \$10,673

Renovation ~ \$266 Solar ~ \$45

Last Year's Collection ~ December 7, 2018

Regular ~ \$9,674

Faith Direct November Collections

Regular ~ \$11,324 Renovation ~ \$1,135 Solar ~ \$214

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019

Designated Goal: \$65,800.00

Amount Pledged to Date: \$42,215

% of Goal Pledged to Date: 64.6%

Number of Donors to Date: 159

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.

Reflection:

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Living Stewardship—Hospitality:

“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!” As we get closer to the day when Our Lord came to us as a child, let us continue to preach the Good News to others. Winter and the Christmas season may not always be a time of joy for all people (winter blues, grief over the loss of a loved one); let us bring to them the light of Christ.

Ushers Welcome All to Parish

We all are familiar with the ushers — men and women we see week after week greeting us with smiles as we prepare to enter the church for Mass. We take for granted that they will be there to welcome, to direct and to assist parishioners, as well as hand out bulletins, arrange for an Offertory Family to bring up the gifts and take care of your weekly donations of treasure in the collection baskets.

If you “a regular” who attends the same Mass each week, have you ever thought about joining our welcoming team of ushers? All that is required is a willingness to help and a smile! Ushering is an extremely important ministry as you become the first face many people associate with the parish. If you are smiling, helpful and welcoming (all hallmarks of St. Sylvester Parish!) people will leave with a good feeling and want to return. As a matter of fact, we believe so strongly in welcoming the stranger here that the word “welcoming” was added to our mission statement many, many years ago.

If you are interested in serving our faith community in this vital ministry, please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministries & Events Office by calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or email lzito@stsylvesterli.org. Come and be the face of Christ to others!

Faith Formation

Look what's new in 2020!



Be a part of the youth community
here at St. Sylvester Parish!

Come and see what's happening on
January 11, 2020
immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass in
the Parish Center Lower Level.

Everyone in Grades 6, 7 & 8 is welcome!
Bring your friends!
Food, Fun and Prayer!

What's Happening?

Get Involved!



Drawing Class

Mondays 10am to 12pm East Wing

Art Class

Tuesdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall

Art Class

Saturdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall



First Wednesday of the Month 10:30am to 12pm in the East Wing We knit, crochet, pray and share patterns. The shawls and lap robes are lovingly brought to the sick and homebound. Donations of yarn are appreciated and new members always welcome.

Senior Circle of Friends

Second and Fourth Fridays of the Month
12:30pm to 3:30pm

**There are no meetings in December.
We will start again on Friday, January 10, 2020.**

Support Groups

Al-Anon

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

Compassionate Friends

(For those who have experienced the loss of a child)
Second Friday of the Month at 7:30pm to 10:00pm

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 Monday of the month ~ 7pm ~ EW

Legion of Mary

Tuesdays ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Spanish Legion of Mary

Wednesdays ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 9

First Saturday Devotion

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

Religious Orders

Lay Carmelites

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



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Tuesdays, Doors open at 6:30pm, start time 7:30pm

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Come enjoy the game!





Opportunities to help with:

General Maintenance

Cleaning

Setting Up Tables & Chairs for Various Events

Other Interesting & Exciting Opportunities

Available Upon Request!

Please Contact Lori Zito: lzito@stsylvesterli.org

Volunteers to Help at Mass

Sacristan: Helping set up for Mass. Must be 18yrs. or older.

Training available. Please call 631-475-4506, Ext. 101.



Individuals and families are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas on the following Sundays immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass:

December 15th and 22nd.

Questions: email fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org



We are happy to announce that we will be having Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11:00 AM Mass on the following Sundays:

December 22nd, January 12th & 26th,
February 9th & 23rd, March 8th & 22nd and April 26th.

What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Children's Liturgy of the Word is when right after the opening prayer, but before the readings, children are called up by the priest and accompanied by Catechists to the Worship Room in the Parish Center. There, they hear and reflect on the readings at an age appropriate level, sing the Responsorial Psalm, the Gospel Acclamation and recite a simple Creed before returning to the church to join the rest of the community for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This will take approximately 20 minutes. During this time the adults and everyone else in the church will be hearing the readings as they usually do.

How can my child participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word?

When you come to the 11:00 AM Mass on the Sundays listed above, follow the directions of the priest when he calls the children forward to be sent to the Worship Room in the Parish Center. Any child in Level 1 or above is invited to participate. If your child has special needs or is shy, please feel free to accompany your child to the Worship Room.



The Children's Choir is open to all students in grades 2-8 in the parish. No audition is required, only enthusiasm for singing is needed. We will be singing the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during the Children's Liturgy of the Word. The Children's Choir (and the children involved in the Children's Liturgy of the Word) will also sing when we rejoin the full assembly for the remainder of Mass back in the church.

The Children's Choir and ALL children who would like to learn the music for the Children's Liturgy of the Word will rehearse at **10:00 AM** in the Worship Room of the Parish Center on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Please come join us and MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!

The Children's Choir is under the direction of Therese Blanton.
For information email tmkblanton@gmail.com
or call 631-928-0821

Holiday Gift Cards

Fill your Christmas Stocking - we offer over 300 retailer gift cards! **Orders will be placed on December 2nd, 9th and 16th with delivery within a week.** Please circle the denomination for each card ordered if it has more than one listed.

Apparel & Accessories	Qty
Aeropostale \$25	
American Eagle \$25	
Express \$25	
GAP/Old Navy/Banana \$25	
JC Penny \$25 & \$100	
Journey \$25	
TJ Maxx/Marshall \$25	
Department Stores	
Kmart \$25 & \$50	
Kohl's \$25 & \$100	
Macy's \$25 & \$100	
Target \$25 & \$50	
Walmart \$25 & \$50 & \$100	
Dining - Casual	
Applebee's \$25 & \$50	
Carrabas \$25	
Cheesecake Factory \$25	
Chili's \$25	
Chuck E. Cheese \$10	
Dave & Busters \$25	
Denny's \$10	
IHOP \$25	
Olive Garden \$25	
Outback \$25	
Red Lobster \$25	
Ruby Tuesday \$25	
TGI Friday's \$25	

Dining - On the Go	Qty
Dairy Queen \$10	
Dunkin Donuts \$10	
Panera Bread \$10 & \$25	
Starbucks \$10 & \$25	
Subway \$10	
Wendy's \$10	
Entertainment	
AMC Theatres \$25	
Barnes & Noble \$25	
GameStop \$25	
Regal Entertainment \$25	
Fandango \$25	
Home Décor	
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25	
Home Goods \$25 & \$100	
Michaels \$25	
Pier I Imports \$25	
Home Improvement	
Lowe's \$25 & \$100	
Home Depot \$25 & \$100	

Online & Mail Order	Qty
Amazon.com \$25 & \$100	
Groupon.com \$25	
Itunes \$15 & \$25	
Lands' End \$25	
L.L. Bean \$25	
Nook \$10 & \$25	
Specialty Retailer	
Bath & Body Works \$10 & \$25	
Best Buy \$25 & \$100	
CVS Pharmacy \$25	
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PetSmart \$25	
Ulta \$25	
Sporting Goods	
Bass Pro Shop \$25	
Cabela's \$25 & \$100	
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25	
Field & Stream \$25 & \$100	

Name	
Address	
Phone #	Total amount enclosed:
Order Date	# of Gift Cards Ordered:

If you have other favorite restaurants or retailers, please call the parish office at 631-475-4506 ext 101 to see if they participate!

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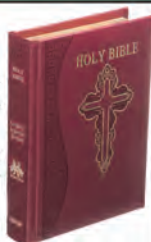
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