

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 8, 2019 Second 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 7, 2019

5:00pm James Bledsoe
Ralph Frevola
James Frevola
Peter Frevola
Lucy Gordon
Frank Viola

Sunday, December 8, 2019

7:30am Antoinette Spenelli
9:00am Louis DiCicco & Carmela DiCicco
11:00am Deceased & Living Members of Matteo, Caravana, Fusco Families

Monday December 9, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester
7:00pm Mass for Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 10 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, December 12, 2019

8:30am Joseph Ficarra

Friday, December 13, 2019

8:30am Rev. Martin J. Klein

Saturday, December 14, 2019

5:00pm Lillian Catherine Henderson
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

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 Uga, Joseph Tangel, Larry Zuaro, Barbara Eustace, Chong Skladel, Melanie Schmadtke, Joan McGrattan, Paul Mazza, Elizabeth Pa-

We pray for all those who have died, especially:

Donna Becker and Cornelius Considine.

HOLY HOUR

Please join us Friday,
December 13th in the
Worship Room, from 8-9 pm.



“I Am with you always”


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



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is December 8th. Since this year (2019) it falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, we will celebrate this feast on Monday, December 9th, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass and 7:00 p.m. Mass in the church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

is a process, which welcomes those who wish to inquire about joining the Catholic Church. Along with the guidance and support of members of the St. Sylvester RCIA Team and the community, those who are inquiring, explore the loving presence and action of God in their lives, have opportunities for deepening their prayer life, and prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation: **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.**

If you have never been baptized & are interested in becoming a Catholic or, if you are a baptized non-Catholic but would like to become a Catholic, please email fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

Would you like to get involved in the RCIA Team?

We always welcome new members to the RCIA Team. You can help by sharing your faith, being a sponsor, or making coffee and cake. There are always opportunities for ministers of Scripture Sharers, Catechists, Sponsors and Hospitality. Training and support is available. For more information please email fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

Adult Confirmation

**Were you Baptized Catholic, received First Holy Communion
but for whatever reason
never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation?
Coming to St. Sylvester Parish March 2020....**

A program for adults who would like to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes will begin March and end late May with the celebration of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

For more information or to register please email fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.



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.

Christmas Decorating



**Individuals and families are invited to help decorate
the church for Christmas on Sunday
December 8th, 15th and 22nd
immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass
in the church!**

Questions: email fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org

Parish Social Ministry



The Parish Social Ministry Team invites you to join us for a seasonal event to support families in our community with whom we have developed a special relationship...

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS!

Saturday December 7, 4-7pm

Sunday, December 8, 8am-1pm

1. Come before or after mass on the first weekend of December **ONLY**. (Parish Center, East Wing)
2. Make a donation of any amount (cash, check, credit) to light up the holiday season for one of our Clare House families and receive a tag to help decorate our Christmas trees!
3. Write a note to that family expressing holiday wishes, season's greetings, or another sentiment.
4. If you choose, bring a small unwrapped gift (toy, book, or winter clothing) for our Free Market.

Enjoy music, hot chocolate, candy canes, and a festive atmosphere! Special appearance by Santa Claus on Sunday, 9:30-10:45am – come take your picture with this jolly fellow!

Where Does My Money Go?

All donations will be converted into gift cards by the PSM team before distribution to clients. 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 food, gifts, decorations, 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.

Meet the Families of Clare House

- Melissa is a single mom of three children. An unexpected medical emergency with one of her children forced Melissa to take an unpaid leave of absence from her job as a medical assistant. While she was able to use her savings to cover essential bills, it has been difficult to cover all of the household expenses.
- David and her husband Logan have two children, one of whom has severe disabilities that have resulted in very large medical bills. Trica and Logan both work, however, due to their daughter's medical needs, they have both been forced to take unpaid time off from work.
- Maria and her mother emigrated from Mexico two years ago. Maria works in a nearby hotel while attending ESL classes at the local library. She is saving money to move her and her mother out of the studio apartment they currently share. She hopes to return to school to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education.
- After being released from an inpatient drug rehabilitation program, Kevin found himself with no place to live and no employment prospects. He has been working with our case manager to explore education, training and employment programs. Kevin reports that he would like to help others suffering from addictions.
- Gloria is currently raising her four grandchildren. She had been retired for several years when her grandchildren were placed in her custody. She has returned to work but has found it difficult to find full-time employment that provides enough for her to support her new, larger family.
- Brian and Olivia are a newly married couple that recently moved from Ohio to Long Island to help care for Olivia's elderly grandmother. Olivia's grandmother has Alzheimer's disease and requires round the clock care. Brian was able to find a job at a local hardware store, while Olivia has been providing care for her grandmother. Olivia is also pursuing her GED and reports that she would like to become a nurse someday.

Stewardship

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize



Formation



Hospitality



Prayer



Service

Gifts of Treasure ~ December 1, 2019

Regular ~ \$9,053

Renovation ~ \$225 Solar ~ \$343

Last Year's Collection ~ November 30, 2018

Regular ~ \$8,552

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.**

Ministries at Work Behind the Scenes Thanksgiving Week

As we celebrated Thanksgiving and began the season of Advent, we were inundated with commercials about turkey feasts with all the trimmings and Black Friday sales. In the middle of all the busyness, parishioners belonging to two of our ministries set aside their own holiday preparations to make sure our parish was ready for Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent.

Our team of Missal Changers arrived at the church on the Tuesday morning before Thanksgiving to remove all of the old missals and place all the new ones in the plastic covers and then in the pews — a daunting task! We began using the new missals for the First Sunday of Advent (last weekend) so the time to get the task done was really very limited.

Next, in keeping with a long-held (and delicious!) St. Sylvester's tradition, our parish's Baking Ministers brought literally hundreds of fresh baked pumpkin breads to the church to be blessed and distributed to those attending Mass on Thanksgiving morning.

We give thanks at this time of year — and all year long — for these ministers and the hundreds of others who share their gifts so generously with the parish.

Reflection:

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks of today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Living Stewardship—Service:

A popular saying around this time of year is "Keep Christ in Christmas." This is true in so many ways, and one way is to do good for others. We have been given gifts by God to use for the service of others; there is no better time to start than now. Consider making a donation at our Parish Social Ministry's "Light up the Holidays" event to help a family in need.

Faith Formation

If you have not already registered your child for Faith Formation, please call 631-475-4506 X 118 to make an appointment to come in and register. Thank you!

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

**We currently have the following opportunity for a Teacher/Catechist:
Level 4 ~ Mondays 5:45 to 6:45 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.

What's Happening!



The Office of FAITH FORMATION
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

January 2020 through March 2020
Register Online WWW.DRVC-FAITH.ORG

RCIA Level I

St Martin of Tours, Bethpage

Thursdays, January 16, 23, 30,
February 6, and 13, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ministry of Consolation Level I

St. Aidan, Williston Park

Wednesdays, January 22, 29;
February 5, and 12, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Building

Intercultural Competences in Ministry

St. Frances Cabrini, Coram

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 27;
March 12, and 19, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Or

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt

Mondays, February 10, 24;
March 2, 9, and 16, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Catechist Training Level II

St. James, Setauket

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Bereavement Conference

St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh

Saturday, March 21, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bereavement Ministry

Facilitator Training Level I & II

St. Mary's, East Islip

Saturday, March 28; April 4, 18, 25;
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and June 6, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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



Sponsored by
St. Sylvester's Knights of Columbus

507 Long Island Avenue
Medford
(VFW Building)

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

FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE, LOCAL

Come enjoy the game!





Children's Liturgy of the Word

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 8th & 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	
Sally's Beauty Supply \$25	
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!