

# St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

[www.stsylvesterli.org](http://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](mailto:dsuglia@drv.c.org)

## ***Confirmation:***

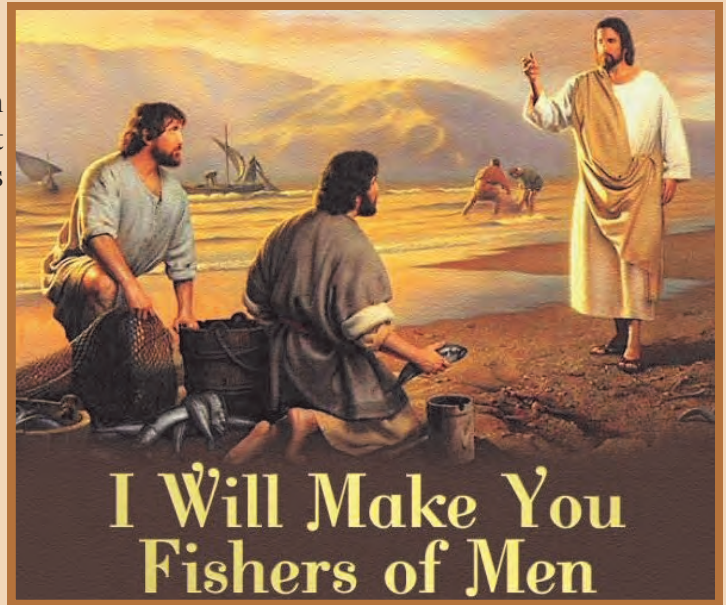
In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and  
young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost.  
Please call the Faith Formation Office 631-475-  
4506, Ext. 118.

## ***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.



**January 26, 2020  
The Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

## **Pastoral Leadership Team**

**Rev. Dennis A. Suglia**, Pastor

**Deacon Joseph Mystkowski**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## We Pray

### ***Saturday, January 25, 2020***

5:00pm Luigi & Maria Russo  
 Edward Vannucci  
 Kathleen Marsala  
 Edward Fink  
 Thomas Gluick

### ***Sunday, January 26, 2020***

7:30am Edith Canatella  
 9:00am Bessie Misiano *1st Anniversary*  
 11:00am Luigi & Maria Russo

### ***Monday, January 27, 2020***

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

### ***Tuesday, January 28, 2020***

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

### ***Thursday, January 30, 2020***

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

### ***Friday, January 31, 2020***

8:30am Luigi & Maria Russo

### ***Saturday, February 1, 2020***

5:00pm Luigi & Maria Russo  
 Mario J. Tagliamonti III *17th Anniv.*  
 Catherine Muhlenforth  
 Francisco Ramirez

### ***Sunday, February 2, 2020***

7:30am Virginia I. Yaeger  
 9:00am Linda Coughlin *1st Anniversary*  
 11:00am Linda Molano

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, Joan McGrattan,, Nello Liberatore, Martha Benvenuto, Grace Stephens, Mary Worthington, Paul Mazza, Chris Frey, Rose Osterberg, Mario Gambino, Brody Kuenzler, Melanie Schmadtke, Christopher Ewart, and John McGarvey.*

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

*Ricardo Bustamante, Marie Pollio, Jerome Koehler, Thomas Gluick and Dolores Forgione.*



Do you know someone who is not longer able to attend Mass but would like to receive the Eucharist? Please have them or a family member call our Parish Social Ministry Office at 631-475-4506, ext 122 to arrange for a visit from an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

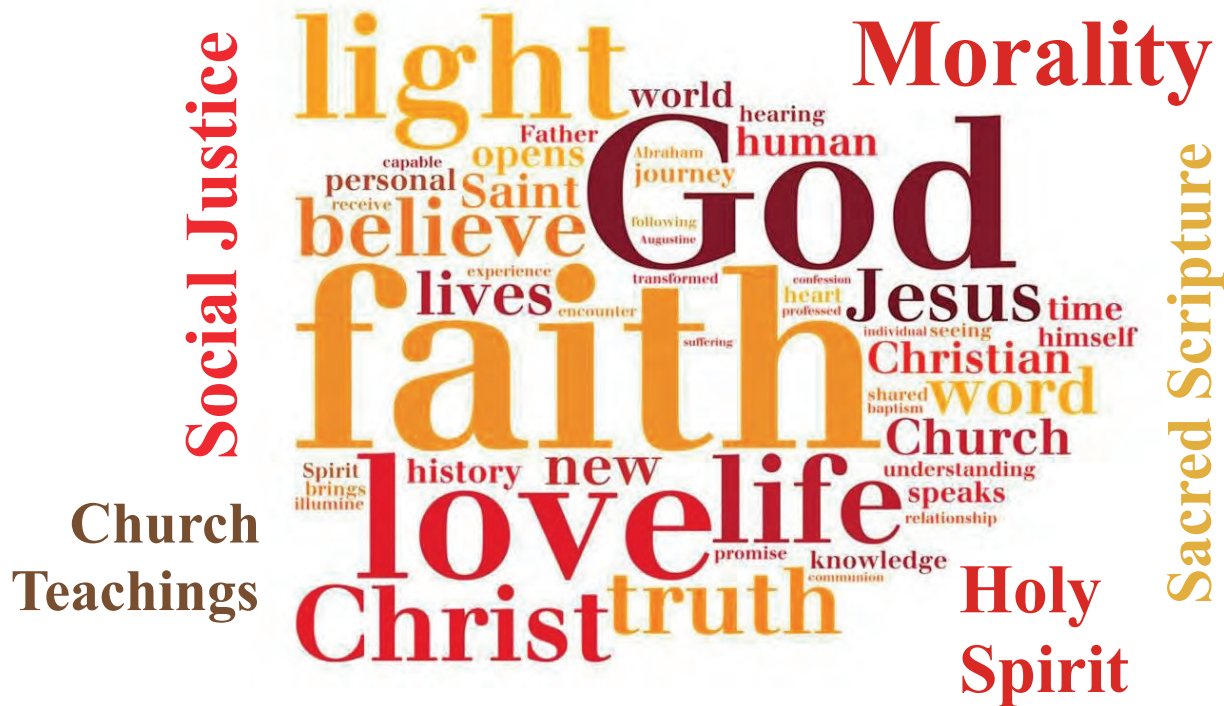
### HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

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](http://www.stsylvesterli.org)**



Fr. Suglia will be offering  
Adult Faith Formation Classes during Lent  
and would like to gather some thoughts about what we,  
as Catholic Christians in the parish  
are passionate, or interested in learning more about.

Therefore, we will be holding an  
**Informational Meeting on**  
**Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**in the East Wing of the Parish Center**  
**so that we may share our ideas!**

*All are welcome!*



## Pastoral Council Being Formed

Father Suglia has decided to form a Pastoral Council here at St. Sylvester and is seeking your assistance in doing so.

The role of the Pastoral Council is to work with the pastor in fostering the parish's mission and establishing long-term goals for our faith community. Father is seeking active parishioners who joyfully participate in the life of the parish and have the ability to engage in a meaningful way about the needs, feelings and hopes of their fellow parishioners. Council members would be responsible for meeting with Father Suglia on a weekday evening once a month.



**If you know a parishioner who you feel would be an asset to our new Pastoral Council, please nominate him/her in writing to Father Suglia directly, stating the reasons why you support this candidate and also including your name and phone number for reference. You may also send an email to Fr. Suglia at [dsuglia@drvc.org](mailto:dsuglia@drvc.org).**

Thank you for your input as we begin this new endeavor.



## Special "Word of God Sunday" Prayer Service

Pope Francis has added "*Word of God*" Sunday this year as a new day on the calendar for this Sunday (January 26th) and all three Vicariates in the Diocese will host a prayer service on this day to reflect on the Word of God.



The prayer service for our Vicariate (The Eastern Vicariate) will be held at 3pm at St. John the Evangelist Church in Riverhead. The special guest speaker will be Bishop Emil Wcela who is a renowned Scripture scholar.

*"May the Sunday of the Word of God help His people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred scriptures." ~ Pope Francis*

## 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!



# Stewardship

## One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

### *Gifts of Treasure*

January 19, 2020

Regular ~ \$9,104

Renovation ~ \$ 120    Solar ~ \$35

*Last Year's Collection ~ January 20, 2019*

Regular ~ \$7,204



### *Reflection:*

In today's Gospel we witness the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry. Previously in this chapter of Matthew, Jesus was tempted by the devil but He never gave in. As stewards, we will experience temptations, despair and setbacks but we must pray that the Holy spirit can help us throughout it all!

### *Living Stewardship—Prayer:*

This week, let us, as faith-filled stewards, remember to give some time back to God. Prayer is such an important tool that we can use to help us grow closer to God. Using the time we have been given to pray is beyond important.

Please join us in celebrating our newest Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EM's) who were commissioned by Fr. Suglia at the 5pm Mass last Saturday evening.

From left to right: Jean Colaianni, Theresa Peluso, Fr. Suglia and Renee Kazel. Jean and Renee will serve at the Sunday 7:30am Mass and Theresa will serve at the Sunday 11am Mass. May God bless them as they begin their new ministry!

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' "

— Martin Luther King, Jr.





## Parish Social Ministry

# CIVILIZE IT



### DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

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.

### 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](http://www.wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it)



## JUSTICE, PEACE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Respond to Pope Francis' challenge to listen to the needs of and empower persons in poverty by participating in Poverty Awareness Month in January.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus tell us "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17). In fact, every single time we go to Mass we are reminded that Christ came to fulfill God's promises of peace and justice. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we are invited to prioritize those who are forgotten and abandoned, those who are sick and vulnerable.

Read about how parishes in Baltimore are publicly proclaiming Christ's message of peace and justice.

Reflection: How does the Gospel require us to respond to the needs of persons in poverty? What can you do to proclaim the good news of God's love today?

<https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/>

## **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](mailto:fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org) or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

## **Adult Baptism**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org) or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

## Faith Formation

*If you are interested in registering your child for Faith Formation, please call 631-475-4506 X 118 for information on how to get started!*

**From time to time we have opportunities for Substitute Teachers/Catechists or Hall Guardians on Mon. & Wed. 4:30, 5:45 & 7:00 pm & Tues. 4:30 & 5:45 pm Each for 1 Hour**

**If you are interested in serving as a Substitute Teacher/Catechist/Hall Guardian please call 631-475-4506 X 118 or email [faithformation@stsyvesterli.org](mailto:faithformation@stsyvesterli.org)**

***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 Workshop

**Building Intercultural Competence in Ministry -**  
*A workshop addressing the changing cultural landscape in our Faith Formation Programs.*

**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.

**Desarrollando Competencias Interculturales para el Ministerio -**  
*Se ofrecerá un Taller para abordar el panorama multicultural en los programas de Formación de la Fe.*

**St. Frances Cabrini, Coram**

Jueves 6, 13, 27 de febrero; 12, y 19 de marzo, 2020  
10:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m.

O

**Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt**

Lunes, 10, 24 de febrero; 2, 9, y 16 de marzo, 2020  
6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m.

### Basic Religious Studies Course Series

**St. Mary's Elementary School Building, Manhasset**  
3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Old Testament

Mondays, February 24; March 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2020

New Testament

Mondays, March 30; April 6, 20, 27; and May 4, 2020

Christology

Mondays, May 11, 18; June 1, 8, and 15, 2020

### Divorce & Beyond Support Group

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Melville**

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2020  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Retreat Day for the Elect of 2020

**Seminarij of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington**

Sunday, March 8, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Un Día de Retiro para los Electos de 2020**

**Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción, Huntington**

Domingo, 8 de marzo, 2020

2:00 p.m. a 6:00 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 -

*For the Bereaved and those Ministering to them.*

**St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh**

Saturday, March 21, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training Level I & II

**St. Bernard, Levittown**

Saturdays, 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.

### Annual Afternoon of Prayer & Enrichment - Ministry of Consolation

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Melville**

Thursday, May 14, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information, workshops, or to register online,  
please visit [drvc-faith.org/event/](http://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



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



## 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 ~ 4pm ~ WR

### *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



## Canceled for January & February!

Sponsored by

**St. Sylvester's Knights of Columbus**

507 Long Island Avenue  
Medford  
(VFW Building)

### Beginning March 2020

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

FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE, LOCAL

Come enjoy the game!





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:

January 26<sup>th</sup>,  
February 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>.

***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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tmkblanton@gmail.com)  
or call 631-928-0821

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Donate in **January 2020**,  
and you will be entered to win a trip  
for two to **Cancun, Mexico**



*CHURCH OF SAINT SYLVESTER*

**Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am – 2:00pm**

**Lower Level - Parish Center**

**68 Ohio Avenue - Medford**

**URGENT NEED! Save up to 3 lives!**



#nybloodcenter

[www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org)

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**New York** Blood Center



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

-Matthew 25:31-46

Please join us for St. Sylvester's Middle School Ministry on Saturday, February 1st, immediately following 5:00 mass. We will be baking, putting together goody bags and making Valentine's Day cards for those in need.



## Faith

Following in Jesus's path and building our relationships with God.



## Community

Building friendships and working together to become the best version of ourselves.



## Service

Using the gifts that God gave us to be of service to others.

# Attention All Drivers

*(of all ages)*

*Defensive Driving Course*

*Sponsored by*

*St. Sylvester Columbiettes*

*This is a great way to reduce your insurance costs while brushing up on many important points for safe driving.*

WHEN: Saturday , February 15, 2020  
TIME: 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.  
PLACE: St. Sylvester Parish Center, East Wing  
68 Ohio Ave., Medford, NY 11763  
COST: \$35.00

You **must** pre-register...

Please contact Nancy at 631-289-2095

Limited Seating, so please call early.

Refreshments will be served!



## Super Bowl Sunday Bake Sale

The Third Order of Carmelites will be having a Bake Sale next Sunday, February 2nd (Super Bowl Sunday) after all Masses in the lower Church lobby.

Pick up some delicious, homemade desserts for the big game and support our Carmelites!



## Hospitality Sunday

Come by Patricia Desmond Hall  
(Lower Level of the Parish Center)  
after the

9am & 11:00am Masses on

**February 9, 2020.**

Treat yourself to some coffee and goodies, as well as fellowship with other parishioners!





Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!

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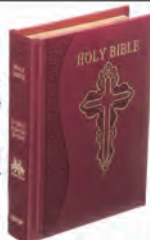
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