

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.



January 5, 2020 The Epiphany of the Lord

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
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, January 4, 2020

5:00pm Laura Mockler
Roberta Doyle
Mildred Hammer
Salvatore Randazzo
Barbara Palmer

Sunday, January 5, 2020

7:30am Josephine Amadora
9:00am Diane Casablanca, *15th Anniversary*
11:00am Ronald Rosen

Monday, January 6, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

8:30am Eleanor Gathmann

Thursday, January 9, 2020

8:30am Brian McDonald

Friday, January 10, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, January 11, 2020

5:00pm Linda C. Milano
Maria Russo
Cecilia Dorothy Giannandrea
Robert Prentiss
Donna Becker

Sunday, January 12, 2020

7:30am Marion Parisi
9:00am Magdalena Pogorelz
11:00am Joseph Tamborello

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 Ugaz, Joseph Tangel, Larry Zuaro, Barbara Eustace, Chong Skladel, Melanie Schmadtke, Joan McGrattan, Paul Mazza, Paxton Swackhammer, Nello Liberatore, Martha Benvenuto Grace Stephens and Mary Worthington.

The Bread and Wine
used at this weekend's liturgies

are the gifts of
The Jennings Family

in loving memory of
John & Mary Jennings



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



Pastor's Column
SS Medford
The Epiphany of the Lord

December 29, 2019

Merry Christmas! The Christmas Season has just begun with the Church celebrating Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord on January 12th. Let us enjoy these days and not be in such a hurry to put Christmas behind us.

We can identify with the Holy Family because of the adversity they faced. When we face adversity, we should look toward Jesus, Mary and Joseph and recall especially how Mary and Joseph sought God's consolation and peace when faced with a dilemma. Let us continue to rejoice at the Birth of the Savior as we walk these days with the Holy Family.

I wanted to thank all of you for so many warm Christmas greetings, cards and smiles as we celebrated the Nativity of the Lord. Your support and love are much appreciated.

I would like to also thank the staff and volunteers who decorated our beautiful Church. Doesn't the worship space look incredible?! Thanks to you who stepped up and pitched in! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Rev. A. Duglia



Middle School Ministry

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

Be a part of the young 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.

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 Fran McMahon at 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 Fran McMahon at fmcMahon@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506 X 107.

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

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 22, 2019

Regular ~ \$14,906

Renovation ~ \$165 Solar ~ \$0

Last Year's Collection ~ December 23, 2019

Regular ~ \$9,030

Renovation ~ \$245 Solar ~ \$139

*Due to publication deadlines,
the Offerings for Christmas and December
29, 2019 will appear in next week's bulletin.*

2019 Catholic Ministry Appeal Totals

Thank you to the over 200 parishioners who participated in last year's Catholic Ministry Appeal. Your contributions of over \$43,000 will go a long way in enabling the Diocese to continue its mission of helping others and providing training and support to continue to build God's Kingdom throughout Long Island.

Reflection:

The Three Wise Men in today's Gospel reading are perfect examples of stewards. They traveled from afar to visit the Christ Child and brought their gifts to Him as a way to show their homage. We too have been given gifts that we can present before the Lord and use for the betterment of others.

Living Stewardship—Service:

In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds us that we have been given the gift of Faith to go out and spread the Good News. We are in church today because of someone who spread the Word to us. Let us be at God's service and spread the Word to someone else this week.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ENCOURAGED TO SERVE THE HOMEBOUND

There is a special group of about 30 Eucharistic Ministers (EM's) who give of their time to bring the Body of Christ to those in our parish who are too ill or frail to come to Mass on the weekend. They go about their important ministry quietly, connecting those who are infirm and homebound back to the parish.

When these EM's give of their time to bring Holy Communion to our parishioners who cannot physically join us in the church, they truly serve as the Hands of Christ, reaching out with Christian compassion to continue to include them in our faith community.

Several of those who generously bring the Body of Christ to the Homebound leave Medford in the winter months for warmer, southern climates, creating gaps in the Homebound Communion schedule. **In order to ensure that every parishioner on our Homebound List receives Communion at least twice a month, we are seeking other Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion willing to fill in those gaps and perhaps even remain to expand our schedule in the future.**

If you are currently a Eucharistic Minister and can give of your time to serve the parish's Homebound, or feel called to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and share your gifts in this way, please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministries & Events Office by emailing lzito@stsylvesterli.org or calling 631-475-4506, ext. 115.

Create Your Legacy of Faith at St. Sylvester Parish!

As committed stewards, we strive to live our lives in gratitude to our most generous God and to recognize our many gifts and talents as blessings lovingly given to us by Him. We are called as Christians to develop these special gifts and share them for the betterment of others. One of the most impactful ways of ensuring the future of St. Sylvester is through a legacy gift. This kind of gift can take many forms such as a simple bequest as a part of your estate plans and can be of great benefit in helping fulfill your own personal financial objectives, while also ensuring that St. Sylvester remains strong and vital after you've departed. It is our sincere hope that you will prayerfully consider assisting our parish in one of the following ways:

Gifts from a Will or Trust

Taking care of family first, you can support our parish through a bequest in your last will and testament or living trust. A bequest may include cash, specific property, or a share of the estate and may be made in honor or memory of a loved one.



Gifts of Stock, Bonds, etc.

The donation of stocks, bonds and mutual funds directly to St. Sylvester significantly increases your tax deduction and the amount of income the parish receives.

Gifts from Retirement Plans

Gifts of retirement assets are another simple way to leave a gift by naming our parish as the beneficiary of either a percent of the full amount of your IRA or 401k. *Please note: Your gift must be made directly to our parish from the IRA. If you receive money first, you will be taxed on it like any other distribution.*

Gifts of Life Insurance & Real Estate

It is easy to name St. Sylvester as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or to transfer ownership of a paid-up policy to our parish. St. Sylvester may also be named as the beneficiary or co-beneficiary to almost any kind of personal property or real estate.

Please contact Father Suglia directly if you have already made provisions for St. Sylvester or if you would like to remember us when you conduct your estate planning. Thank you and God bless!

Faith 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

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

Basic Religious Studies Course Series

St. Mary's Elementary School Building, Manhasset

Old Testament

Mondays, January 6, 13, 27, February 3, and 10, 2020

New Testament

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

Christology

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

Church

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

3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

RCIA Level I

Our Lady of Grace, West Babylon

Wednesdays, January 15, 22, 29 and February 19, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Or

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

**We will start again on Friday, January 10, 2020.
Happy New Year!**

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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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 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

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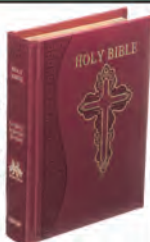
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