### St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763 www.stsylvesterli.org (631) 475-4506

A community praying, growing, serving & welcoming in Jesus Christ.

#### Eucharist:

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

#### Baptisms:

Celebrated on pre-determined Sunday afternoons. *Prior to making plans*, call Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

#### Reconciliation/Confession:

Saturday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the Sacristy or by appointment 631-475-4506, Ext. 101 or email dsuglia@drvc.org

#### Confirmation:

In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office.

#### Marriage:

Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm; Saturday @ 11:00am, 12:30pm, & 2:00pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

#### Anointing of the Sick: & Dying:

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



#### July 28, 2019 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor
Deacon Joseph Mystkowski
Deacon Frank Rivera
Deacon George Riegger, Retired
Theresa Ellner, Business Manager
Michael Lofaro, Administrator,
Faith Formation

Frances McMahon, Director,
Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahon, Director,

Parish Social Ministry

Lori Zito, Director,

Parish Ministries & Events

#### **Office Information**

#### Please note summer hours for the Parish Office!

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

**Faith Formation Office:** (631) 475-4506, ext. 118; email: faithformation@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, July 27, 2019

5:00pm The Deceased and Living Members of the

Matteo, Caravana & Lupia Families

Richard Louis Poelker Ray Cunningham Leroy "Scotty" Girard Carmela "Milly" Russo

Sunday, July 28, 2019

7:30am Linda Scarola 9:00am Sally DeLong

11:00am Richard Louis Poelker (1st Anniversary)

Monday, July 29, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

*Tuesday, July 30, 2019* 8:30am John Natoli

**Thursday, August 1, 2019** 8:30am Frank Caracciolo

Friday, August 2, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, August 3, 2019

5:00pm Rose Bosco

Ronald Uhrie Lois Eckert,

John Marcovecchio Daniel Derico

Sunday, August 4, 2019

7:30am Grace Scarola 9:00am Ellen Chand 11:00am Robert Frank In order to keep our Sick List up to date, we will remove all names at the end of each month. Simply call or email the Parish Office if you wish to place someone on the list. Please remember that for the sake of privacy, this request must be made by either the sick person him/herself, or by an immediate family member.

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

Bob Prentiss, Pam Hinton, Andy Magyar, Baby Emma Connolly, Elizabeth Pagano, Joan McGrattan, Barbara Eustace, Chong Skladel, Officer George Day, Jim Newkirk, Marie Grimaldi, Kenneth Kocher, Agnes Cantarelli, Frank Cayea.

We pray for all those who have died, especially: Frank Belluccia.

#### The Bread and Wine

used at this weekend's liturgies are the gifts of Jackie Picard in loving memory of John & Blanche O'Keeffe



#### 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 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Morality & Social Media

July 28, 2019

This week I am away (see below). We spoke two weeks ago about the first of the four Cardinal Virtues, prudence. Today let us consider temperance before we delve into our scripture (the other two are fortitude and charity).

Temperance is among the more essential virtues that we can teach our children. We, as God's children, must always be conscious of it to grow in virtue (goodness). A synonym for temperance is moderation. If we acquire the trait of "moderation" then we understand what it means to be temperate. We have probably heard the wisdom and prudence in the saying, "Everything in moderation."

Imagine if teenagers practiced temperance well-some do I am sure. Parents would never have to ask them to put their smart devices "down." In a family gathering, let's say a family meal home or with extended family, a prudent decision would be to leave these devices in the car. The temperate decision would be that if taken with us, they are turned off. Clearly, the wisdom is evident: the greater good is for family and friends to devote their time together in conversation with hopefully much joy and laughter.

It is essential that parents are conscientious about when they give or allow access to their children to smart devices like phones or tablets. The longer you wait, the better. Cognitive Science studies show that the earlier the child has unfettered access to mobile devices, there are some serious potential consequences. It will be more difficult for them in the teenage years and beyond in leading a disciplined life of prayer, studies, and morality with these all consuming distractions.

I don't mean to pick on teenagers here, we were all teenagers once, eh? But we should know better and then apply that wisdom to new media. The landmark moment of "New Media" was 1994 in the widespread use of the simple cell phone and then the internet explosion. These interfaces are not evil in themselves, on the contrary, much good can come from prudent and temperate use of them. Let us not use them to displace better priorities.

In our Gospel, Jesus teaches us the *Our Father* prayer, the only prayer that He teaches us in all of the New Testament. It must be important. Whether we focus on "thy will be done," God's providence or "forgive us

our trespasses" - or other excerpts - this prayer has profound depth and meaning to our Christian Discipleship.

Jesus often takes time to pray alone in solitude to God the Father, our Father, and Creator also. How are you doing with your personal prayer? Our faith is always, every day about turning over the best leaf possible. It is never too late to redouble our efforts in prayer, in fact, it is the dynamism that is inherent in individual prayer life. Remain in the battle, so said many of our Canonized saints. We see this is the witness of Saint Catherine of Sienna and Saint Josemaria Escriva, two of my favorites. Do you have a favorite(s) saint?

Thy will be done....God is in charge. Forgive us our trespasses....I am a sinner, not perfect but always trying for the better!

I want to express our sincere gratitude to the priests that are covering for me this weekend: Most notably, our Pastor of merit, Fr. Ed Kealey. Fr. Ed and I had lunched a few weeks back, and his fondness for us here at Saint Sylvester abounds. Also, to Father Roger Landry and Father Dave Atanasio. Father Roger works for Pope Francis at the United Nations (UN) in NYC, and Father Dave is our Chaplain at Saint John the Baptist Diocesan High School.

I am in the midst of a ten-day retreat/workshop with about two dozen priests from around the country that I have gotten to know from my membership in an international priestly fraternity. I have been involved with this group since 2014 and every summer we make a trip of this length together. Pray for us and be assured of my (our) prayers for you.

Carther A. Sugha

Yours in Christ,

Father Suglia

# Assumption of Our Lady Holy Day of Obligation ~Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

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



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

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

#### What is a Novena?

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

meaning of the words, giving God praise, renewing our faith and trust, asking God for things we need or desire, or all of the above.

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

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

#### **Faith Formation**

#### The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS JULY THROUGH OCTOBER REGISTER ONLINE WWW.DRVC-FAITH.ORG

#### Basic Religious Studies Course Series

St. James, Seaford

Morality

July 22 - July 25, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Liturgy and Sacraments

July 22 - July 25, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### School of Missionary Disciples **Information Session**

Spanish

St. John of God, Central Islip Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington

Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **Summer Seminar Series: Integrated Family Catechesis**

Morning sessions at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Evening sessions at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Retention after Confirmation - July 22, 2019

Morning - St. Bernard, Levittown Evening - St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

Spirituality of the Catechist and the Child - July 23, 2019

Morning - St. Joseph, Ronkonkoma Evening - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst

Formation in Early Childhood - July 24, 2019

Morning - Our Lady of Grace, Babylon

Evening - St. John the Evangelist, Riverhead

#### Catechist Training for **New and Nearly New Catechists**

Immaculate Conception Church, Westhampton Beach

August 12, 14, 19, 21 and 26, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph, Ronkonkoma

August 13, 15, 20, 22 and 27, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Deer Park

September 9, 11, 16 and 18, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### Taller para Nuevos Catequistas

Ss. Parroquia de Cyril y Methodius, Deer Park

9, 11, 16 y 18 de setiembre, 2019. 6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m.

#### **Divorce & Beyond Support Group**

From 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

St. Kilian Parish, Farmingdale

Thursdays, September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,

November 7, and 14, 2019

Notre Dame, New Hyde Park

Wednesdays, September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,

November 6, 13, and 20, 2019

#### Bereavement Facilitator Training Level II

Our Lady of Victory, Floral Park

Mondays, September 30, October 7, 21, and 28, 2019

from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Parish, East Islip

Saturdays, September 28 and October 5, 2019

from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

St. Rosalie Parish, Hampton Bays

Saturdays, October 19 and 26, 2019

from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### On-Line Registration Has Been Extended Until July 31, 2019!

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

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

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

**Level 4**  $\sim$  Mondays 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday  $\sim 4:30$  to 5:30 p.m.

Level 6  $\sim$  Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

#### *All Are Welcome!!!!*

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

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

Autism

ADD or ADHD **Reading Disability Cognitive Speech Delay ODD** or Other Behavioral Concerns **Sensory Processing Disorder Other Health Impairment** 

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

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

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

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

#### Stewardship

# One Family in Mission









Called to Evangelize

**Formation** 

Hospitality

Prayer

**Service** 

#### Gifts of Treasure July 21, 2019

Regular ~ \$8,325 Renovation ~ \$225 Solar ~ \$43

#### Reflection

Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's gospel, "Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted." Prayer and Formation are powerful and they are the path to spiritual growth. Is a Christian complete without them?

#### Living Stewardship...Formation

Jesus is forming us to become prayerful disciples by teaching His disciples how to pray. Make sure to take time out of your day to place yourself in prayer before the Lord.

The **Readings for the Week** can be found on our parish website home page by clicking on the "Daily Readings" button. You may also access the readings for the month directly from the USCCB website, www.USCCB.org. Simply click a date on their Daily Readings Calendar to bring up the readings for that particular day.

Stewardship is counter-cultural. While society encourages us to continually strive for more and more, stewardship helps us to recognize that we already have more than enough. In fact, we have enough to share.

~ Archdiocese of St. Louis

#### CHIRISTMAS IN JULY?

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



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

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

#### **Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019**

Designated Goal: \$65,800.00

Amount Pledged to Date: \$40,575.00

% of Goal Pledged to Date: 61.7%

Number of Donors to Date: 139

Your donation can make a difference!

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish: <u>St</u>	. Sylvester Church
Name:	
Address:	
Phone: _	

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

#### **Parish Social Ministry**



#### Wash Kits for the Homeless

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

Thank you for your generosity!



#### **Back to School Program**

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

#### Why gift cards, you may ask?

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

Thank you for your generosity!

#### **Parish Life**

#### Communion for the Homebound

Do you know someone who is no 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.

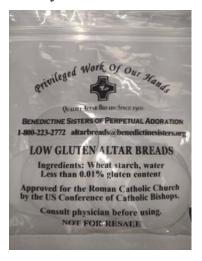
## **Attention Gluten Free Communicants!**

99.9% Gluten Free Hosts are used at Saint Sylvester Parish.
When you ask for "Gluten Free" hosts please be aware that our hosts are

low gluten, not gluten free.

The good news is that these hosts, pictured below, are 99.9% gluten free. That means that these hosts have has less gluten than most gluten free foods. Did you know, most gluten free pastas for instance, do not meet the 99.9% gluten free standard, that the Catholic Church has for low gluten hosts?

We hope this information will be helpful to you in your practice of receiving Holy Communion.



#### What's Happening?





Saturday, September 14, 2019

St. John the Baptist High School, West Islip

Doors open at 8:00 a.m. for registration. Blessing and Commissioning at 2:30 p.m.

Featuring Keynote Speakers





Dr. Mary Healy

Bishop John O.Barres

For more information and to register online, please visit **druc-faith.org** 

#### Get Involved!

**Drawing Class** 

Mondays 10am to 12pm East Wing

Art Class

Tuesdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Art Class

Saturdays 9am to 12pm Patricia Desmond Hall

Senior Circle of Friends

Second and Fourth Fridays of the Month 11:30am to 2:30pm Summer Schedule

#### Support Groups Al-Anon

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

#### **Compassionate Friends**

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

#### **Over-Eaters Anonymous**

Will return in the fall.

#### Moving On Widows/Widowers Peer Support Group

Will return in the fall.

#### **Divorced & Separated Support**

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

#### Prayer Groups

Please see the Website for more details for Prayer Group Meetings

*Holy Hour & Adoration* 2nd Friday of the month ~ 8pm ~ WR

Charismatic Prayer Group

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

Women's Prayer Group

3rd Tuesday of the month~ 7pm ~ EW

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

Legion of Mary

Tuesdays ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Spanish Legion of Mary

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

Third Order of Carmelites

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

First Saturday Devotion

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

#### Summer Blood Drive Recap



On July 14th, over 70 people came and donated blood for our Summer Blood Drive! As a result, Saint Sylvester Parish was able to provide Long Island Blood Services with 62 units of blood products.

The Saint Sylvester's Council of the Knights of Columbus, under the leadership of Rich Neubauer, provided a continental breakfast menu for all donors. Thanks to Co-chair Rich Muller, Dave Rollo, Henry Smith, Bruce Boziwick, Greg Keeton, Leo Hessler, Manny Alarcon and the other Brother Knights who were there throughout the Drive to cheerfully serve our donors.

The breakfast was enhanced as always through the generous donation of rolls by Grippi's 7-11 and bagels courtesy of Bagels Your Way Café. These establishments most definitely deserve our gratitude and your patronage.

I especially want to once again thank our donors for taking the time and making the effort to help their fellow man. Our fall blood drive is already scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Tony Speelman Blood Drive Chairperson



#### N Dynamic Catholic

Be Bold, Be Catholic,"

Many of you may be aware through bulletin pieces that you have read and emails you have received, that Dynamic Catholic offers a free email program during Advent and Lent that guides you on an incredible journey toward the Best Version of Yourself.

But did you know that they also offer a daily email program that delivers simple, powerful messages to your inbox daily?

To sign up for these daily inspirations, go to

https://dynamiccatholic.com/daily-reflections

#### GIVE YOUR ENVELOPES A VACATION!

Tired of searching for envelopes as you are running out the door for Mass only to find you have no cash on hand and just used your last check?

Faith Direct offers a simple solution where you can give your weekly offering electronically, either through a bank account or credit card, with no fuss. Just think of the great vacations you can take with all those accumulated credit card miles!

It's so easy to enroll online — our parish code is NY285. Isn't it time to give your envelopes a permanent vacation?!

# Thank you!



A heartfelt thank you to Chris Gueli and Anthony Szalkowski of New England Wood Works. They provided the material and labor for our new portable confessional located in the Sacristy. The Church teaches that the penitent and the confessor have a right to anonymity with a fixed grill between the penitent and the confessor and that confessions should be heard in a confessional (Canon 964.2). This directive is now a reality here at Saint Sylvester Parish in Medford.

#### Just a reminder:

Reconciliation/Confession is now being heard on Saturday from 4:00PM - 4:30PM before the 5:00PM mass.

#### Attention Volunteers and Any Interested Adult

There will be an awareness training session... "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN"

(Also known as Virtus)

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

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

#### The goals of the session are to help adults understand:

The signs of sexual abuse.

The methods and means by which offenders commit abuse.

The five-empowerment steps one can use to prevent abuse.

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

We give thanks for all who serve in the Lord's name and pray for God's continued guidance. We are determined to provide safety and protection for the children and young people of our faith community.

Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!



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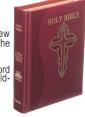
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