

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:

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

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 @ 10:30am & 2:30pm. 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: Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass for those needing surgery, serious medical treatment,



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

July 7, 2019 ~ 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor's Column
SS Medford
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
INDEPENDENCE AND UNITY

July 7, 2019

Happy Fourth!!!

How did we get here so quickly? If you are like me, *tempest fugit* time flies! I feel like I was just scraping the ice off my car windows!

The 4th of July is one of the pre-eminent and great American holidays and holy days. Sure, Independence Day is a holiday, but a holy day? Perhaps we could examine the controversy. You know the one, where many became upset at the perceived lack of reverence for Christian faith at critical times during the year. We lamented the "Happy Holidays" greeting in place of Happy Easter, for instance. I must admit, I was one of them.



Let's look at the etymology of the word, its origin:

"The **word holiday** comes from the Old English **word** hāligdæg (hālig "holy" + dæg "day").

The **word** originally referred only to special religious days. In modern use, it means any particular day of rest or relaxation, as opposed to normal days away from work or school"

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holiday>).

Hence, holiday = holy day

Happy Holidays = Happy Holy Days

I know, it may not be that simple. But could it be? It is possible that every day can be unique or blessed? Especially when we have extra time to spend on recreation with our beloved? Something to ponder...I hope you had a restful weekend and perhaps some good fun with family, friends....whomever.

Today's Second Reading from Galatians:

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" - Saint Paul

Could I ask if you would pray for all of our service women and men, those in the armed forces and civil service-firefighters, police officers—all uniformed personnel. Please call us or email to let us know who should be included in our bulletin every week.

We all should celebrate our independence, but as the saying goes, freedom is not always free. When you think of them or see them, let us try and say a quick Hail Mary or Our Father. This will help us too, in that we can become people of regular prayer.

~ continued on next page

The Church has a fancy name for this kind of prayer - Aspirations. For example, "Dear Lord, protect our uniformed personnel and protect especially those whom they serve. May justice always prevail, and may all who encounter those who serve be treated with dignity, respect, and love." Or more simply, "help those whose job is to help others".

Many have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, going back almost 275 years now. And many others keep up safe here at home. We should not ignore that there is also a genuine danger to uniformed personnel as well. We must never take for granted their service to us and therefore give them our support.

Finally, recently, I have become good friends with a young man who has just begun service in the United States Marine Corps. He is a parishioner at my last assignment. I met him at Church one day, and I invited him to come to Mass before boot camp for a special blessing and send off. He came and continues to come. His name is PFC Vincent Guidone, and he is in the picture on the previous page.

One of the things we should do is help all of our service men and women when they return home. If any of you would like to meet me, a fellow veteran, please call to schedule an appointment. I think the Holy Spirit can do wonders as we make difficult transitions or are dealing with crises in our lives. Please call us or email to let us know who should be included in our bulletin every week.

Finally, let us pray for unity in our great nation. Our country was founded and prospered when our government has forged Great Compromises. We need to find a way to be welcoming, yet also safe and secure. Let us pray for all refugees, those who regardless of the situation, find themselves separated from loved ones. Let us find a way to become genuinely a united country! Hope springs eternal!

Lord, may we never boast, as Saint Paul teaches us, except in the cross of Christ. May we bear our crosses willingly, knowing they draw us nearer to you. May we always seek justice and never lose sight that absolute truth and justice resides solely in your kingdom. Through the intercession of Saint Sylvester, we make our prayer, guided by the Blessed Virgin Mary to Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Yours in Christ,



Father Suglia



What a gracious welcome I received last weekend from all of you whom I encountered, my first as your pastor! Thank you, thank you, thank you. I am truly blessed to be a member of the great parish community of Saint Sylvester in Medford!!! I am the luckiest priest on all of Long Island to be able to say that I am your pastor! Thank you to Fran, Tracey, Lori and Mike, as well as all the volunteers who made the hospitality after the 5pm and 11am Masses possible.

Last week I thanked Father Tom Coby for his welcome, hospitality and preparing me for what awaited me here (all good). Additionally, I would like to say what a great staff we have! I was able to meet all of them, both individually and as a group during May and June as I prepared to come to assume the role of pastor for this great parish. Thanks especially to Fran, Justin, Tracey, Joanne, Estelle, Mike, Theresa, Lori for your welcome and "coaching".

Finally, how lucky we are to have three great Deacons: Deacon Joe, Deacon Frank and Deacon George who happily have been showing me the "ropes".

DAS+

Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org
M, Tu, W ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th, Fri ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Su ~ 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
M ~ 10am - 3pm ; Wed ~ 10am - 3pm & 4pm - 7pm ; Fr ~ 10am - 12pm

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

We Pray

Saturday, July 6, 2019

5:00pm Paul Maniscalco
Edward Zatwarnicki
Frank Tornincaso, Sr.
Viola Hoehlein
Vincent DiPrima

Sunday, July 7, 2019

7:30am Eleanor Keating
9:00am William Fairbrother
11:00am Drew Natoli

Monday, July 8, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

8:30am Olga Auriemma

Thursday, July 11, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Friday, July 12, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, July 13, 2019

5:00pm Robert Edwards
Ann C. McKeown
Robert Pasfield
Mary Lepre
Dorothy Lopez
Carlos Marulanda

Sunday, July 14, 2019

7:30am William Kempel, Jr.
9:00am Nancy & Lenny Rich
11:00am John Perotti (8th Anniversary)

We pray for all who have died, especially . . .

Anton Vormittag, Mary Gioe.

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, Baby Emma Connolly, Barbara Eustace, Alice Fareello.

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.

Please remember that the Parish Center is only open in the evening on Wednesdays and that we close at 3pm on Fridays while we are on our summer schedule.



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

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure
June 30, 2019

Regular ~ \$8,837.00
Renovation ~ \$267.00
Solar ~ \$42.00

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few ..." ~ Luke 10

Bulletin Reflection: In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out disciples throughout the towns to preach the Good News. We too are called to go forth and preach the Good News to all we come across. There are many among us, maybe even some of our friends and family, who need to hear about God's Love for us.

Living Stewardship: This week we pray for all those who preach the Good News — our pastors, priests deacons and religious, as well as missionaries, lectors, and all Christians who spread the Gospel in their daily lives. May our prayers give them the courage and fortitude to be good stewards of the faith, and to share it with others — even when it is not easy or convenient.

Save the Date!

Our Parish Appreciation Breakfast for all volunteer ministers will be Saturday, July 20th at 10:30am at Villa Lombardi in Holbrook. Invitations have been sent out, but sometimes our computer generated lists miss someone (or the post office does). So, if you have not received an invitation and are part of a ministry here at the parish, PLEASE contact Lori Zito at lzito@stsylvesterli.org or 631-475-4506, ext. 115 because we want you to join in the festivities!

We ask that everyone kindly respond by Friday, July 5th as we have to give a final head count, and look forward to seeing you there !



Faith Formation

**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 becoming a member of
the Faith Formation Ministry as a Teacher/
Catechist, please call 631-475-4506 X 118
or email
faithformation@stsylvesterli.org***

Prayer Groups

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)*

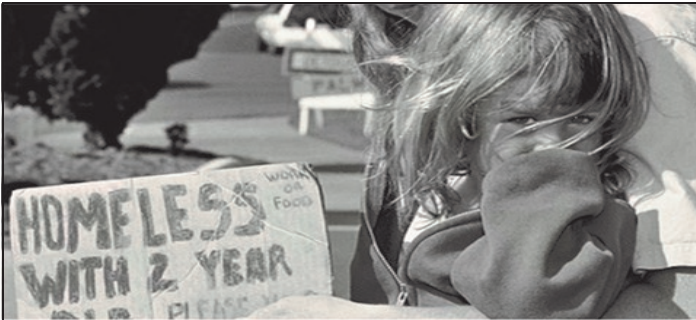
Third Order of Carmelites

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



***Congratulations and
blessings to all the
Graduates!***

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!



Our Thrift Shop is in particular need of girls' new and gently used clothing sizes 3-6x. Please bring all donations to the Thrift Shop during hours of operation. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Life

**EMERGENCY
BLOOD SHORTAGE**

**New York
Blood Center**

ST SYLVESTER'S CHURCH

Blood Drive

Sunday, July 14th

8:00am – 2:00pm

Parish Center
68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

**All Donors will also get a FREE Coupon to McDonald's!
Good for 1 Free Premium Sandwich or salad with any purchase!**

Donating is Safe & Simple.
Your donation will help to save up to THREE lives.

♥♦Thank You for Caring! ♦♥

- Must Bring I.D.
- Minimum Weight 110lbs.
- No New Tattoos for past 12 months.
- Age 16 – 75 (16 year olds must have parental permission)



For questions concerning medical eligibility.
1-800-688-0900 or visit www.nybc.org

For More info: Tony Speelman @ 631-236-6327

New York Blood Center

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Designated Goal: | \$65,800.00 |
| Amount Pledged to Date: | \$39,965.00 |
| % of Goal Pledged to Date: | 60.7% |
| Number of Donors to Date: | 136 |

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.**

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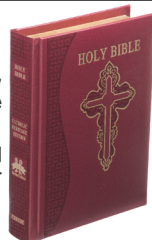
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