

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 Sunday afternoons.

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@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 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.



October 20, 2019
29th 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

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, October 19, 2019

5:00pm

Emmerich Beslanovics
Maria & Luigi Russo
Joseph D'Angelo
Paul Graniello, Sr.
Susan Sullivan
Shirley Campo

Sunday, October 20, 2019

7:30am

Patricia Criscouli

9:00am

Bessie Misiano

11:00am

Richard Daly (2nd Anniversary)

Monday October 21, 2019

8:30am

Nicolas Stagnitta

Thursday, October 24, 2019

8:30am

Jeanne K. Themann (5th anniversary)

Friday, October 25, 2019

8:30am

The People of St. Sylvester

Saturday, October 26, 2019

5:00pm

Jacqueline London
Carl Roman
Frank Viola
Mary Jane Milway
Arlene McDonnell

Sunday, October 27, 2019

7:30am

Donald borgia

9:00am

Emilia Palatino

11:00am

John J. Murray

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 . . .

Agnes Cantarelli, Andy Magyar, Baby Emma Connolly, Frank Cayea, Joan McGrattan, Bob Prentiss, Chong Skladel, Bill Berger, Matthew Tonle, Marie Robbins, Edgard Ugaz, Joseph Tangel, and Nina Caravana.

We pray for all those who have died, especially: Evelyn Evelyn Valentin, and Lawrence Murray.



There will **not** be morning Mass on Tuesday, October 22nd, due to Confirmation. Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers.

Please keep Fr. Suglia in your prayers as he is installed as our Pastor this weekend. "God bless Fr. Suglia!"

As we begin our Stewardship renewal, please take this time to read the letter and commitment form in this week's bulletin. Thank you for making Stewardship "a way of life" here in the parish.

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



Dear Friends:

As I approach my 30th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on October 21, 2019, I would ask your prayers for a very special and specific intention for the future of the Catholic Church on Long Island.

Pray that 30 young men – 30 seminarians for 30 years of priesthood – will enter the seminary in August 2020.

Let's call on the Holy Spirit together to provide a rich harvest of vocations to the priesthood for Long Island!

And let's express our gratitude to the holy and dedicated priests who serve us with such Good Samaritan dedication each day in our evangelizing parishes.

Gratefully in Christ,

+ John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre



The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
NOVEMBER 2019 THROUGH MARCH 2020
REGISTER ONLINE WWW.DRVC-FAITH.ORG

31st Annual Mass For Deceased Children

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre

Saturday, November 16, 2019
12:30 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.

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



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Golden Wedding Anniversary Liturgy Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years



This Fall, couples who have been married 50 years will be honored at a special Mass on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at Maria Regina Roman Catholic Church in Seaford.

Mass will begin at 2:00 pm, with Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski presiding. Please contact the Parish Office to register. Space is limited, and registration will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Registration forms can also be found on the diocesan website www.drvc-faith.org. If you have any questions you may call 516-678-5800, ext. 223.

Faith Formation

With the exception of Level 1, registration is closed from October 19th through November 4th so that we can prepare for the start of classes!

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 ~ Mondays 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Level 6 ~ Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday 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.

FALL FLOWER SALE A "MUM"UMENTAL SUCCESS

Our Gardening Club Ministry once again ushered in the Fall by selling a spectacular assortment of colorful mums, Montauk daisies, kale and aster, raising \$1,855 net profit for the parish!

Special thanks to Sue Rothe and Terri Vilardo for all their hard work in organizing the October 5th & 6th sale, and to all the Gardening Ministry members who assisted throughout the weekend. This weekend-long event could not happen without your many hands — and green thumbs!

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Forge River Nursery in Mastic (formerly Sandy's Garden Center in Farmingville) for their ongoing kindness to the parish, and of course, too all of you who purchased flowers to brighten your homes and support our endeavors!



Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

October 13, 2019

Regular ~ \$7,967

Renovation ~ \$205 Solar ~ \$45

Our God is a Most Generous God!



This weekend we begin our Fall Stewardship renewal.

At this time of year we focus on God's gift of treasure, how we responsibly use our

monetary blessings to continue to build The Kingdom of God and strive to be the "Light of Christ" to others.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019

Designated Goal: \$65,800.00

Amount Pledged to Date: \$41,380.00

% of Goal Pledged to Date: 62.9%

Number of Donors to Date: 145

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

CHRISTMAS ALREADY?



Believe it or not, we are already planning for this year's Holiday Fair on November 16th & 17th!

Our Crafters are already meeting to create items to sell at our Fair and we welcome handcrafted donations from parishioners.

We are also looking for those who are interested in helping out at this year's Holiday Fair with our Raffle Tables, Christmas Café and Granny's Attic areas. If you are looking for a fun way to get involved here in the parish, this is it!

Interested in being one of our volunteer elves this November? Please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministry & Events Office by email to lzito@stsylvesterli.org.

P.S. ~ Gently used items for **Granny's Attic** will be accepted from **November 8th through 14th ONLY**. No TV's please.

Vendor Tables Are Still Available :

For information please contact mteachb@optonline.net



We have also now begun accepting donations of new items, event & movie tickets, gift cards, etc. for our popular Holiday Fair raffle baskets.

Thank you for your generosity!



St. Sylvester R. C. Church

Stewardship Office

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

Phone: 631-475-4506 Fax: 631-475-1057

October 17, 2019

Dear Faithful Parishioner,

Christ Be Our Light! Four simple words that say so much about who we are as people of faith. In the darkness that now seems to permeate all corners of our nation and our world, we are called to the light of Christ's love and compassion and to bring that bright light to others. As faith-filled stewards, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God and that true Stewardship involves developing and using these gifts to build up God's kingdom and serve and assist others. This is what it means to put our faith into action!

Each fall as a parish community, we are challenged to think and pray about God's generosity in our lives and the ways we respond monetarily in gratitude for that generosity. Enclosed is a Stewardship Commitment Form asking you to prayerfully consider the sharing of your financial resources in all areas of your life. After prayer and reflection, determine if you can **"Take-a-Step"** by increasing your level in giving – whatever that may be. Please consider that your donations help us to continue to bring the light of Christ to others by supporting our many ministries and outreach efforts and to literally keep the lights on. **Whatever you decide is right for your family at this time, we ask that you bring your completed Take-a-Step Commitment Card to Mass on November 2nd and 3rd and place it in the offering basket or drop it off at the parish office.**

The light of Christ has always shone brightly here at St. Sylvester with so many joyfully sharing their gifts here and throughout our larger community. Please know that you have our sincere appreciation for your ongoing commitment to our parish and for your active participation in this faith community. May our generous God bless you as you continue your journey toward the light of His presence.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia
Pastor

Lori Zito
Stewardship Director

Five Elements of Financial Stewardship

1) Planned:

The decision to give is just that – a decision. It requires prayer, reflection, thought and time, so that it is integrated with other financial decisions as part of a careful, intentional response to God's generosity.

2) Proportionate:

Our giving is proportionate to what God has given us. Our response to God's generosity in our lives should be proportionate to what we have received from God.

The "right" portion should be an expression of our gratitude to God for God's generosity in our lives. Some people have chosen to use the biblical tithe (10%) as a goal for their giving in a particular year. Others have chosen to give an hour's wages for each employed person in the family. Some people come up with other ways. Whatever method you choose to determine how much you will give as part of your financial stewardship plan, always do it as part of your prayer and reflection, and consider two things:

- a. Give half of what you decide to the parish and the other half to other charities and organizations.
- b. Take-a-Step to the next level of giving if it is possible this year.

3) From Our Substance:

The proportion of our gift becomes sacrificial when it comes from our substance rather than our abundance. When we give out of our substance, we are changed in the process.

4) A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Our gifts are most appropriately presented at the Offertory of the Mass. The Eucharist is about thanksgiving, and it is a perfect way to demonstrate a grateful response to the unfathomable love God has shown us.

Too often, we want to separate the issue of giving money from what we may perceive are more "spiritual" aspects of our faith life. Yet, the commitment to share our financial resources is of the most important expressions of what our faith means to us.

Offering our gifts at Mass places them in an appropriate context of prayer, praise, sacrifice, and thanksgiving. We can express our joy in having received and in being able to give. We give a portion of the tremendous gifts that have been given to us—the most important of which we celebrate at the Eucharist. There is no better time, then, to fulfill our commitment to the stewardship of financial resources.

5) A Gift:

No gift is truly a gift unless it is given freely without reservation or condition. The gifts of God are given to us in just such an unconditional manner, and we are called to model our giving after God's.

Stewardship doesn't buy anything. It doesn't buy happiness or love or a tenfold return on our investment. It doesn't buy heaven. The motive for giving is not the expectation of getting something back.

We are able to give what we give because God has already given to us. Stewardship is really a response, then, to the generosity of God and to our call as baptized Christians.

Take-A-Step Commitment Card

After prayerful contemplation, I/we commit to respond to God's generosity in my/our lives by Taking-a-Step to:

- ☐ Increase my/our financial gift to \$_____ per week.
- ☐ Keep my/our weekly financial gift at its current level.
- ☐ Consider "Faith Direct" Electronic Automated Giving.
- ☐ Get involved in parish ministry.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please tear off this section and return it to the Parish. As part of our understanding of Stewardship as a way of life, all are asked to renew commitments regardless of the level of giving that is planned. THANK YOU !

Parish Social Ministry



Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the month of October we are collecting food in the church lobby every weekend, before and after masses. These food items will be brought to the church basement every Monday morning following daily Mass. Our level 7 children will help to sort and date the donated items and they will be assembled into a "Free Market." Clare House clients will be invited to shop at our Free Market. We hope to facilitate Thanksgiving celebrations and share the bounty of the harvest season with those in need!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thanksgiving Items Needed:

Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce
Gravy
Canned Vegetables (Corn/Green Beans/Peas/Carrots/etc.)
Yams/Sweet Potatoes
Canned Fruit (Apples/Peaches/Cherries/Pumpkin/etc.)
Nuts
Cake Mix/Pie Crust/Desserts
Other Seasonal Non-Perishable Foods

Special Request From Clare House Pantry:

Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste
Feminine Hygiene Items



Coping with the Holidays 2019

An opportunity to meet as community for a group discussion around grief and hope after the loss of a loved one. We will share practical suggestions about navigating the holiday season.

Saturday, November 2nd, 2019

12:00noon - 1:00pm

St. Sylvester, Parish Center, East Wing

FREE to attend

No registration required

Fellowship and refreshments

For more information, please call:

Clare House - Parish Social Ministry

631-475-4506 x122



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:

October 27th, November 10th & 24th, 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

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 ~ 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



With the arrival of autumn, I'd like to invite you to join Faith Direct, our parish's electronic giving program.

Our to-do lists can get lengthy during this season, but Faith Direct's eGiving program will give you one less thing to remember each week--no more envelopes to find before you go to Mass.

You can either go online to faith.direct/NY285 or text the word ENROLL to (631-201-5922)

Thank you for your prayerful support of St. Sylvester.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Suglia

How the Diocese of Rockville Centre Has Been Addressing Child Protection and the Clergy Abuse Scandal



The sexual abuse of minors is a horrifying sin and a crisis in our society at large. Even one instance of the abuse of a child by a member of the clergy is far too many. However, it is a **myth** that the abuse crisis only exists in the Catholic Church. It is also a **myth** that the Church has done nothing to address this problem.

This does not diminish the shame of what occurred in the Church in the past. But, if we fail to see and deal with the reality of the sexual abuse of minors across all levels of society: in schools, hospitals, institutions, all religious and secular organizations, and especially in families, then we will fail in our duty to truly protect all children.

What does the Diocese do to protect children?

- **All accusations of abuse** (whether credible or not) made against any member of the clergy, employee or volunteer, are promptly reported to the district attorney's office, regardless of when the abuse may have occurred. **This policy has been in place since 2003 in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.**
- **The diocese has released the names of all** clergy, employees and volunteers that we are aware of having ever been accused of the sexual abuse of a minor (whether credible or not) to the proper law enforcement authorities.
- All priests, deacons, diocesan and parish employees, and volunteers are **background screened**.
- All priests, deacons, diocesan and parish employees and volunteers are required to attend the **VIRTUS** course: *Protecting God's Children*. Offered in multiple languages, these classes are designed to **educate** everyone in the Church on the **prevention of child sexual abuse**, making participants aware of the signs of abuse, the methods used by offenders to commit abuse, and steps used to prevent such abuse.
- Children attending parish faith formation programs are taught safety awareness through the program: *Think First & Stay Safe: Child Lures Prevention*. Youth enrolled in diocesan elementary and high schools receive safety awareness training beginning with nursery school and continuing throughout high school.
- Rigorous **psychological screening** is done for all men discerning **vocations to the priesthood**, and this continues throughout the five-year period of seminary formation. In addition, all seminarians receive training in diocesan child protection policies.
- **Codes of Conduct** have been published and mandated for all clergy, employees, volunteers and youth, to clearly define what is and what is not acceptable when interacting with children and young adults.
- In **2003**, the Diocese of Rockville Centre established an **Office for the Protection of Children and Young People**. This Office works collaboratively with other Diocesan offices to ensure the safety and well-being of children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- A longstanding **Diocesan Review Board (DRB)**, comprised mostly of lay men and women with expertise in the fields of psychiatry, law enforcement, jurisprudence, psychology and expertise in sexual abuse of minors/child protection, functions as a consultative body advising the Bishop. The DRB helps in the assessment of reports of sexual abuse of minors and advises the Bishop in the determination of the cleric's suitability for ministry.
- Since the inception of audit reviews in 2003, the Diocese has participated in 14 audits and found to be in compliance with standards as outlined in the **Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People** for each audit period.

What does the Diocese do for victim survivors of child sexual abuse?

- The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People has a three-fold mission:
 To **promote healing and reconciliation** with the victim/survivors of sexual abuse of minors
 To **ensure the protection** of the faithful for the future
 To **ensure the accountability** of our procedures
- We have a dedicated phone line for reporting abuse **(516)594-9063**. All allegations are responded to within 24 hours of the report. Outreach to the victim survivor is initiated, **counseling assistance** is offered to survivors and, when appropriate, to family members; and a determination is made regarding the necessity of additional support services.
- The Diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator is available for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as a minor by anyone working for the Church.
- In 2017, the Diocese of Rockville Centre initiated the **Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP)** to offer an opportunity for some measure of healing and justice to those who were abused by diocesan clergy. The IRCP program allows survivors of clergy sexual abuse to file confidential claims and receive financial compensation. **It continues** to offer survivors a confidential option for reconciliation. To date, 370 people have filed claims with our IRCP. The vast majority of claimants - 277 to be exact—have accepted compensation totaling just over \$50 million, with 75 – 80 claims still being processed. This program is currently ongoing.

Facts:

Independent analysis by John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University confirm that the vast majority of reported offenses took place between the 1960's and 1980's, then declined sharply. The allegations that we have received in the Diocese of Rockville Centre follow that same pattern.

Since the year 2015, **nationwide** there have been only 17 reported cases of current clerical sexual abuse in the Catholic Church as reported by CARA. In the Diocese of Rockville Centre during that same time there have been zero reports of a current incident of clergy sexual abuse. This shows that the efforts of the Catholic Church for many years now throughout the country, and in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, have been working.

The Work that Must Continue

The work of the Church – of administering the Sacraments, of preaching the Gospel, teaching, healing, advocating, serving, and ministering to the poor and vulnerable – can and must continue, despite the sins of the past.

The months and years ahead of us will require perseverance and prayer if we are to emerge as a Church even more dedicated to Christ's saving mission. We are reminded to turn to Mary our Mother and draw courage from the one who did not look away from her suffering Son. She waited patiently, suffered with him, and shared in his victory over sin and death.

This is the same Mary who, as Mother of the Church, gathered with the Apostles in the locked room, waiting for the power of the Holy Spirit to descend at Pentecost. As we enter a time of Paschal Mystery suffering, may Mary guide us, so that together we may continue to carry out the mission of her Son: the building up of the Kingdom of God throughout Long Island and the world.

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.

Greeters Sought for Funeral Masses

Do you have the gifts of welcoming and compassion? Are you usually available on weekday mornings? If so, our parish would like you to consider using your gifts in serving as a Lazarus Greeter at our Funeral Masses.

As a Greeter, you would welcome the family and friends of the deceased to the parish at the time of the funeral, hand out funeral booklets, light the incense used during the Mass and assist with any other special needs that may arise.

If you feel called to serve others in this way, please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministry & Events Office, 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or email to lzito@stsylvesterli.org.

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.

Parents Guardians!!

***Please accompany your
child to the restroom if
needed during Mass!***

***Thank you for your
cooperation.***



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>

Just a reminder:

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

Call Us Today to Schedule Your Visit!

The
Bristol
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HOLTSVILLE | 5535 Expressway Drive North
(631) 828.3600 | thebristol.com



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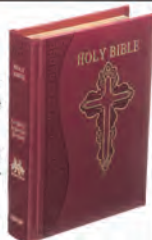
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