

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 27, 2019
30th 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 McMahan, Director,

Faith Formation & Music Ministers

Justin McMahan, Director,

Parish Social Ministry

Lori Zito, Director,

Parish Ministries & Events



**Pastor's Column
SS Medford
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

October 27, 2019

Words cannot express my gratitude to the parish for the Installation Mass this past Saturday at 5pm. For those who could not make it, many of you personally expressed your appreciation to me as well. THANK YOU!

This is my first time being a pastor, so I have never experienced a moment such as this. Although it may have seemed that focus was on me, permit me to suggest an alternative: us.

We as a parish community, we as a staff here to be a service to the flock as, most notably, the Body of Christ. That is what Saturday was all about. And genuine love for what has been built by you, the good people of God up until this moment. Things like a new parish center in the mid-90s, a new Church in the mid-2000s, and many more wonderful and beautiful things that perhaps are not so easy for the eye to recognize.

These material things are dwarfed by the love and support that we, as a parish community, are known by. Father David Regan, in his remarks during the Mass, captured this well. We are known as an active community of faith that can be counted on to “pitch-in” in fair or foul weather.

To be sent here by Bishop Barres to be your humble shepherd, I am eternally grateful.

A heartfelt thanks for your gifts, your cards, your handshakes and your hugs. There was truly an atmosphere of joy this past weekend....let us continue as we walk together into eternity.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Suglia

*Installation Mass
Fr. Suglia, Pastor
St. Sylvester Parish ~ October 19, 2019*



Office Information

Parish Office: (631) 475-4506, ext 101; Fax (631) 475-1057; email: parishoffice@stsyvesterli.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@stsyvesterli.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 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

Monday October 28, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

8:30am Denise Ann Coleman

Thursday, October 31, 2019

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester
5:00pm All Saints Vigil Mass

Friday, November 1, 2019

8:30am Owen Pabon
7:00pm All Saints Mass

Saturday, November 2, 2019

10:00am Mass of Remembrance
5:00pm For All Souls
Luigi Russo
Cesarino & Toscano Families
Deceased Members of Legion of Mary
Mildred & Gerald Prentiss
Ronald, William & Joseph Buckley

Sunday, November 3, 2019

7:30am For All Souls
9:00am For All Souls
11:00am For All Souls

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 Towle, Marie Robbins, Edgard Ugaz, Joseph Tangel, Nina Caravana and Larry Zuaro.

We pray for all those who have died, especially: *Lawrence Murray.*

Friday, November 1st, is All Saints Day. A holy day of obligation. Masses are Thursday, October 31st at 5pm and Friday, November 1st at 8:30am and 7pm. All Masses are in the church.

Mass of Remembrance . . .

Saturday, November 2nd at 10am.



You are invited to come and pray with us. We will remember all who have died, particularly those who have been buried from this parish in the past year.

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.stsyvesterli.org

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.



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.

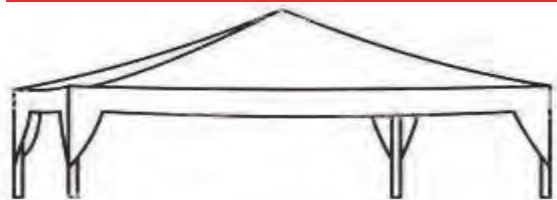
You can either go online to faith.direct/NY285 or text the word ENROLL to (631-201-5922)

Thank you for your prayerful support of St. Sylvester.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Suglia

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus for your gracious donation of a tent for the Garden Club! This will help provide shelter from the rain during the Fall and Spring Flower Sales!

St. Sylvester Flower Sale



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

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

October 20, 2019

Regular ~ \$7,570

Renovation ~ \$180 Solar ~ \$10

Faith Direct September Collections

Regular ~ \$9,138 Renovation ~ \$1,005 Solar ~ \$209

We Are Accountable As We Share Our Gifts!



As part of our fall Stewardship Renewal, we encourage you to take the time to reflect on God's generosity in your life in light of Christian discipleship. Do I recognize that *everything* I have comes from God? If so, how do I respond to these blessings?

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019

Designated Goal: \$65,800.00

Amount Pledged to Date: \$41,405.00

% of Goal Pledged to Date: 62.9%

Number of Donors to Date: 146

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.

Serving those Who Serve

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, (AMS), provides a full range of pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces. Services and programs provided include, *Vocations, evangelization and Catechesis, Sacramental Records, Tribunal and Veteran Affairs*. The AMS receives no funding from the military or the government and relies solely on private donors. Next week there will be a special envelope marked "serving those who serve". Please place it in the second collection basket.

Reflection

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells us of two individuals. A proud Pharisee and a humble tax collector. The latter, even though he was a tax collector, went home justified while the other did not. The tax collector's humility was of great importance.

Living Stewardship—Formation

Our hero in today's Gospel reading is the tax collector who humbled himself before God. God wants us to be humble and always seek out His mercy. This week, be patient with those around you and realize that you are not the only person in the world. Let us become humble.



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!

Stewardship

It is our responsibility as committed stewards to make available to you the status of our finances, ministries and sacraments. The Annual Report of Parish Life that follows over the next few pages gives an overview of our current finances and also provides details on our ministries and the number of those receiving sacraments.

Thank you for your continued spiritual, ministerial and financial support

Financial Stewardship ~ September 1, 2018- August 31, 2019

Revenues

Total Regular Collections	(Includes Weekends, Christmas, Easter, Flowers, Fuel & Air Conditioning)	\$ 627,611
Total Fund Raising	(Includes Holiday Fair, Plant Sales, Gift Card Sales, Pancake Breakfast & Raffles etc.)	\$ 99,476
Total Parish Programs	(Includes Faith Formation, PSM/Outreach, Thrift Shop, etc.)	\$ 122,390
Total Other Revenue	(Includes Funerals, Baptisms, Weddings, Votive Candles, Rent, Grants, Bulletin Income, Bequests, etc.)	\$ 74,634
Total National/Diocesan Collections	(Includes Diocesan, Mission, etc.) (Includes Interest & Gain/Loss on Investments)	\$ 15,662
Total Non Operating Revenue		\$ -
Total Income:		\$ 939,773

Expenditures

Total Salaries		\$ 414,021
Total Fringe Benefits	Health Insurance, Disability, Pension, FICA, etc	\$ 106,083
Total Fund Raising Expense	Includes Initial Purchase of all Gift Cards (Scrip), start up costs for Plant Sales, Pancake Breakfast, Raffles etc.	\$ 59,804
Total Parish Programs	(Includes Faith Formation, PSM/Outreach, Thrift Shop, Stewardship etc.)	\$ 54,090
Total School Subsidies	Holy Angels Regional School	\$ 91,366
Total Printing & Office		\$ 56,746
Total Other Expenditures	(Includes Diocesan Assessment, Liturgical, Hospitality etc.)	\$ 92,242
Total Rectory/Household	(Includes Food, Laundry, Household)	\$ 11,828
Total Diocesan Collections	(Includes Diocesan, Mission, etc.)	\$ 15,662
Total Building, Utilities and Maintenance	(Includes Utilities, Insurance, Maintenance, all interior & exterior repairs (ie: parish center lower level, outside steps, etc.) not covered by insurance	\$ 147,337
Total Expenditures:		\$ 1,049,179
Total Deficit		\$ (109,406)

Stewardship

Current Parish Support Contributions

Over the past fiscal year, envelopes were sent out to 613 families each month. Throughout the year, approximately 274 families use envelopes. The largest group of weekly envelope donations are in the \$10.01 to \$20 range.

The envelope giving pattern of our parish for an average weekend in the last fiscal year is shown in the following chart:

Number of Families	Amount Per Week	Number of Families	Amount Per Week
1	\$ 1 or less/week	43	\$21-30/week
20	\$1-5/week	31	\$31-40/week
37	\$6-10/week	49	\$41-60/week
62	\$11-20/week	20	\$ 61 or more/week

We also currently have 110 parishioners who use Faith Direct Electronic Giving for their weekly donations which average approximately \$2,423 weekly, not including Christmas & Easter.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how an increase in your shared financial gifts can help continue our mission to be the hand of Christ in our parish and throughout the world.

Our contributions are received through Faith Direct, envelopes and loose cash put into the collection baskets during mass. Those that use Envelopes or Faith Direct have the option to claim the charitable donation on their tax returns.



For it is in giving
that we receive.

Francis of Assisi

quotefancy



Children's Liturgy of the **Word**

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
Worship Room Meeting ~ 8pm ~ East Wing



Sponsored by
St. Sylvester's Knights of Columbus

507 Long Island Avenue
Medford
(VFW Building)

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

FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE LOCAL

Come enjoy the game!



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.

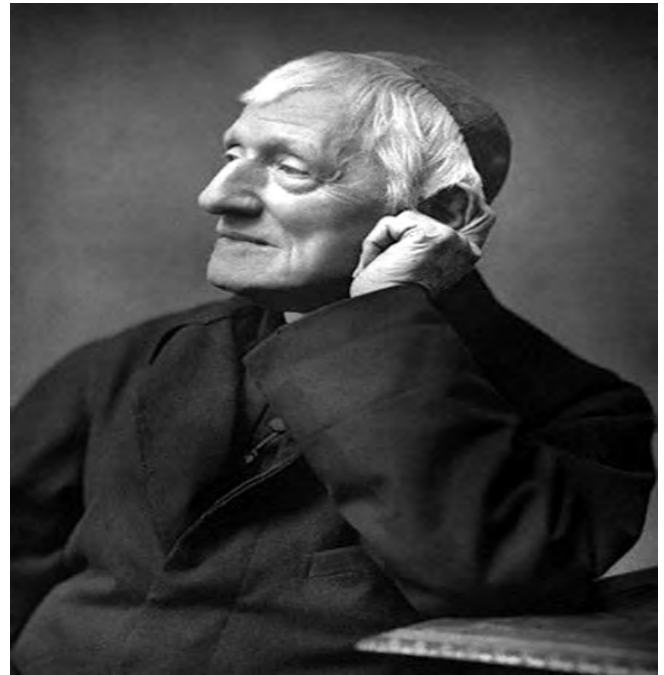
If you feel called to serve others in this way, please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Ministry & Events Office, 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or email to lzito@stsylvesterli.org.

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.

Just a reminder:

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

The Pope canonized Saint John Henry Newman Sunday, October 13th



A Prayer to My Life

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.