

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 9am & 11am.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 8:30am in the Church. Rosary recitation begins at 8:15am before morning Mass. Holy Days as announced.

Baptisms:

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

Reconciliation/Confession :

For those seeking spiritual healing.

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

**“I SAY TO YOU,
[FORGIVE] NOT
SEVEN TIMES
BUT SEVENTY-
SEVEN TIMES.”**



September 13, 2020
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

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., Wed. & Fri. ~ 9am-12pm

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
Please call the number above or press the number "5" on the parish phone message for assistance.

Thrift Shop: (631) 475-4506, ext. 124 ; Tues. & Thurs. ~ 10am-3pm

We Pray

Saturday, September 12, 2020

5:00pm Annette Bourdon
Ann Iannielli
Eileen & Ted Maass
William Dowler II
Deceased & Living Members of Matteo, Caravana,
& Confessore Families

Sunday, September 13, 2020

7:30am The People of St. Sylvester
9:00am Manuel Esteves ~ *9th Anniversary*
11:00am Donald Tierney ~ *3rd Anniversary*

Monday, September 14, 2020

8:30am The People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

8:30am Beatriz Lazarus

Thursday, September 17, 2020

8:30am Anthony Sikorski ~ *5th Anniversary*

Friday, September 18, 2020

8:30am Augustus Suglia

Saturday, September 19, 2020

5:00pm Suzanne B. Lafferty ~ *1st Anniversary*
Jane Winkler
Maryann Mahlstadt
Augustus Suglia
John Yacobellis

Sunday, September 20, 2020

7:30am The People of St. Sylvester
9:00am Doris Greene
11:00am Lillian Bigus



**We remember and pray for those who have died,
especially:**

***Theresa Gonyon, Louis Wilson,
and Josephine Chebat.***

*If you have had a close family member pass away and
would like him or her placed on this list, please send the
name of the deceased with the correct spelling, along with
your name and contact information, to: ecarecia@stsylvesterli.org or call 631-475-4506,
ext. 101. Thank you and God bless.*

**The Readings for the Week can be found
on our parish website home page by click-
ing on the "Daily Readings" button.**

**You may also ac-
cess 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.**



HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

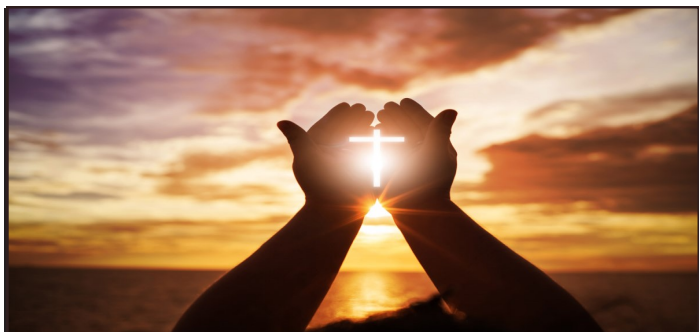
TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary McMahon, LCSW, Director.

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.

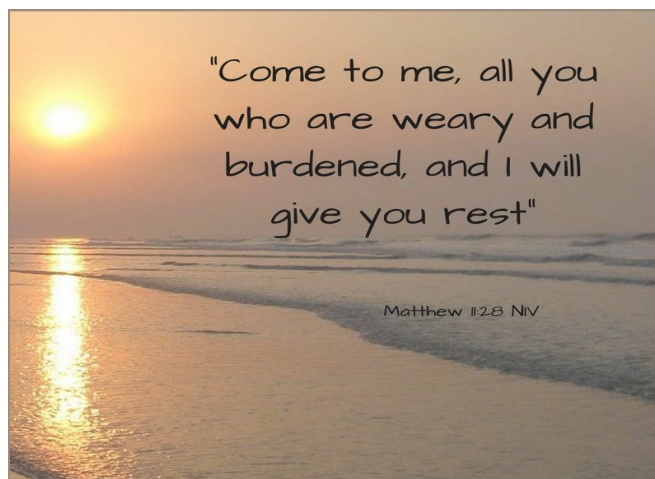
Visit our website at: www.stsylvesterli.org

We Pray



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

**Melanie Schmadtke, John McGarvey,
Grace Stephens, Nicholas Grizopoulos,
Mark LaGatta, Faith LaGatta, David
Raynor, Terri Weinstein, Christina
Chebuske and Lisa Gallaudet.**



***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 some-
one on the list. Please remember that for
the sake of privacy, this request must be
made by either the sick person him/
herself, or by an immediate family
member. Thank you.***

**PRAYER, the world's
greatest wireless connection**



Please pray for world peace and
all public servants
including the following who are
serving on active duty:

**Captain Meghan Munisteri, D.O., Army
Captain Maurice "Joe" Grosso, Air Force
1st Lieutenant Hannah Grosso, Army
1st Lieutenant Michael Dustin, Army
1st Lieutenant Michael Hawkins, Army
Petty Officer 2nd Class Elena Greck, Navy
Lieutenant Nicoli Carlson, Navy
Captain Holly Grosso Carlson, Army
Captain Peter Duff, Army
Ensign Brett Reilly, Navy**

***If you have a family member who is
currently serving on active duty in the
military and would like his or her name added to
this prayer list, please call
631-475-4506 Ext. 101 or email
ecareccia@stsylvesterli.org Please notify
the same of any change in status.
Thank you.***

***Romans 12:12
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.***



NEW MASS SCHEDULE

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE
NOW ADDED A SUNDAY MASS !**

**SUNDAY MASS IS NOW CELEBRATED AT 9AM AND 11AM.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO LONGER A 10AM
MASS !**

THE SATURDAY EVENING MASS WILL REMAIN AT 5PM .

**YOU MUST STILL REGISTER FOR THE MASS OF YOUR
CHOICE (5PM, 9AM OR 11AM) EACH WEEK FROM
WEDNESDAY AT 9AM UNTIL FRIDAY AT 3PM.
TO REGISTER, GO TO THE PARISH WEBSITE AND CLICK
ON THE RED BOX TITLED
“Weekend Mass Sign Up”
LOCATED ON THE HOME PAGE.**

**EACH MASS IS STILL LIMITED TO 80 SEATS.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ALL SOCIAL
DISTANCING PROTOCOLS AND BRING YOUR SEAT
CONFIRMATION WITH YOU FOR THE USHERS.**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE !

PARISH INFORMATION

As we continue to navigate through this challenging time, we are pleased to be able to say that things are beginning to open up here at the parish, although in a limited way. We are happy to communicate the following:

WEEKEND MASSES ARE CELEBRATED AT 5PM ON SATURDAYS AND 9AM AND 11AM ON SUNDAYS. You must register to attend these Masses weekly through our parish website beginning each Wednesday morning at 9am. The program will stop accepting reservations on Friday at 3pm (or sooner if it reaches a maximum of 80 people for that particular Mass). Ushers will check your registrations at the door before entering the church and will seat you. The pews in the church are marked off to maintain social distancing.

WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOW BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE AT 5PM AND 11AM —LINK AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE. If you click on the Mass and it has already begun, you will have the ability on *YouTube* to rewind the Mass to the beginning while it is in progress. Don't worry if you are unable to rewind — the Mass in its entirety will also be available immediately after its conclusion. Live streaming will allow you to attend Mass at home simultaneously with your fellow parishioners in the church, and with much clearer video and sound than we have been able to offer in the past.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED ON SATURDAYS AT 4PM IN THE CHURCH. Unfortunately due to limited seating, you cannot remain for the 5pm Mass after Reconciliation if you have not reserved a seat ahead of time.

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES ARE CELEBRATED ON MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 8:30AM IN THE CHURCH. You do not need to register for these Masses.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 9AM TO 12PM TO ASSIST YOU WITH MASS CARDS, ANNOUNCED MASSES, MEMORIALS, SACRAMENT CERTIFICATES, ETC.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE CHURCH AS WELL AS IN ALL PARISH BUILDINGS AND AREAS.

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to navigate the public celebration of Mass within State Guidelines, St. Sylvester Parish will offer Mass on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM & 11AM.

Please note the following important information:

- **At this time, the bishop still dispenses all the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.**
- **Our Sunday worship will continue to be posted on the website for those who are vulnerable, for those who have a health impairment that would make them more susceptible to serious illness, for those who might not be feeling well, or have a fever, and for those who are caretakers for other people who are vulnerable. If you are in any of these situations, you are encouraged to continue to remain at home and worship online.**
- **Restrooms will be open for emergency use only! Please use bathroom at home!**
- **There is a mandatory online reservation system for all who wish to attend Mass. Please register beginning Wednesdays at 9am by going to www.stsylvesterli.org**
- **Please print out your registration information or have available on your phone as you will be asked to show your registration before entering the church.**
- **Masks or other face coverings must be worn by all participants.**
- **Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass so your reservation may be confirmed and you may be shown to your seat. Capacity at this time is limited to 25%.**
- **Seating will be done according to social distancing guidelines. You will most likely not be sitting in your “usual” seat. Families may sit together at Mass. There is no “saving seats” or asking to be seated in a particular seat.**
- **The Offertory procession and passing of the donation basket will be omitted.**
- **If you wish to make a contribution, there will be baskets at the entrance and exit. Contributions may also dropped at the parish center or made online.**
- **The Sign of Peace or other greetings will not be exchanged.**
- **Directions will be given for Communion, which will be distributed after Mass as you are leaving the church. Please follow the directions of the ushers.**
- **No bulletins will be distributed. Please read the bulletin online.**
- **Please go directly to your car, as no congregating is permitted.**
- **We will continue to keep you updated on changes as we move forward.**

This is a work in progress, so as we move forward there may be changes. We appreciate your patience and want you to know that our first priority is that those attending Mass will be safe.

**Yours in Christ,
Fr. Suglia**



*Baptism is the door to life
and to the
Kingdom of God.*

*Let us welcome the newly baptized
into our community of faith
during the month of
August 2020*

*James Joseph Bissett, V
Kevin John Brown
Gabriella Jean Fank
Mia Illiano
Violet Jordan Mathon
Giovanni Kevin Tobin
Joseph Charles Uvari
Nicholas James Ventura*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A "HEAVENLY HELPER"?

Wanted: Parishioners willing to clean God's house.

Qualifications: A desire to give the gift of your time and energy to God, a love of our beautiful church and friendly parishioners, and a belief that cleanliness is truly next to godliness.



As we begin to return to the "new normal" of more Masses, sacraments and events being held in the church, it is our goal to put together a team of volunteer ministers who would come in and quickly sanitize the designated pews and other high traffic areas of the church between celebrations to maintain a clean and safe environment for all.



All "Heavenly Helpers" will be trained and supplied with masks, gloves and cleaning supplies. (Angel wings are not included, but our prayers and thanks are!) If you are able to assist by serving in this way, please contact Lori Zito by emailing to lzito@stsylvesterli.org or calling 631-475-4506, ext.115. **Thank you !!**

Revised & Simplified Faith Formation Program 2020-2021 !

Dear Parents/Guardians and Catechists,

We have revised and simplified the St. Sylvester Faith Formation Program so that it will be **more manageable and yet still meaningful** for all involved, Catechists, students, and their families.

As school districts are moving forward with plans for the school year, it has become clear to us that parents and students may be challenged by the newness of what lies ahead. This combined with parents changing work situations has caused us to take another look at the Faith Formation Program we are offering and how we can be more accommodating to all.

If you have already registered your child, we hope this will make life a little easier. If you have not yet registered your child, the hope here is that with this more accommodating schedule, you will now reconsider registering them.

Here is the revised and simplified Faith Formation Program for 2020-2021 Year for Levels 1 through 7!

- ♦ Arrangements will be made for a curbside pickup of the materials (books, calendar, etc.) needed for each of your children so they can work from home.
- ♦ There will be 4 virtual meetings on the Zoom platform, for the year, that we ask students to try their best to attend (with the help of a parent). So, for example, if you registered your child for a Level 5 class on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., your child's class will be held four (4) times virtually on 4 specific Mondays at 4:30 p.m. according to the Level 5 Calendar. If you registered your child for Level 3, 4 or 5 Home Taught the virtual; meetings will be held on Saturdays according to the Home Taught Level 3, 4 or 5 calendars. Level 1 will be Home Taught and have four (4) virtual meetings on specific Saturdays according to the Level 1 calendar.
- ♦ The calendar will not begin until Monday, November 30, 2020 to give everyone time to adjust to the school schedules, etc. and will end in May.
- ♦ Parents with children who have special needs!
Parents, for students who are in the Individualized Faith Formation Program or whose needs would make it difficult to stay focused virtually, we will work directly and individually with you to accommodate your child's needs. Please go ahead and register your child for the next Level in the Individualized Faith Formation Program. If you have questions, please email faithformation@stsylvesterli.org
For more information or if you have questions, please email faithformation@stsylvesterli.org

Blessings,

Fran, Mike and Terese

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Registration 2020-2021 Year Has begun and will continue on-line!

Parents, if you have not yet received an email with important registration information and directions on how to register your child for 2020/2021 Faith Formation year, please email us at faithformation@stsylvesterli.org

Due to COVID 19, this year, registration will take place online.

Our goal is to be sure all who attend Faith Formation are safe and stay healthy. Thank you for your patience!

Adults: We know that formation in faith is ongoing and life-long and therefore St. Sylvester's ministers of RCIA and Adult Confirmation are prepared to walk with you as you deepen your relationship with God, yourself and others. For information please email to: fmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org



Did you know?
*Our homes are called the School of
Christian Life and the
Domestic Church!*

“Childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable. Indeed, family catechesis precedes... accompanies and enriches all forms of catechesis.” *General Directory for Catechesis, John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Catechesi Tradendae (October 1979): AAS 71 (1979), pp. 1277-1340*

***For more information or questions
please email
faithformation@stsylvesterli.org***

Stewardship

One Family in Mission



Called to Evangelize

Formation

Hospitality

Prayer

Service

Gifts of Treasure

September 6, 2020

Regular ~ \$5,405

Renovation ~ \$150 Solar ~ \$80

Last Year's Collection ~ September 8, 2019

Regular ~ \$8,571

Faith Direct for August 2020

Regular ~ \$12,943

Renovation ~ \$787 Solar ~ \$172

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU
to all those who, in the spirit of stewardship, continue to financially support the mission and ministry of the parish!!!

Will & Estate Planning

Consider leaving a legacy of faith by remembering our parish in your will or bequest. Saint Sylvester RC Church is a fully compliant charitable organization registered as a 501(3)C non-profit.

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

Thank You and God Bless!



Letting It Go

Forgiveness. Just the word alone provokes strong emotions in people, and yet it is one of the themes central to Christ's ministry. In the First Reading from the Book of Sirach we are challenged, "*Forgive your neighbor's injustice, then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?*"

Let's face it, forgiving someone who has hurt us deeply is hard, *really hard*. Every family has those relatives who have not spoken to each other in decades. Why? Pride, stubbornness and perhaps a tinge of revenge get in the way and nobody wants to be the first to "give in." And yet as Christians, Jesus calls us to forgive — not just once or twice or seven times as Peter was hoping for in today's Gospel, but infinitely.

The question is how — how do we as faithful stewards forgive someone who has hurt us terribly? How do we let it go? So often we are reluctant to allow the wounds to heal because we don't want to get out of our comfort zones and confront things head on. It is just easier to stay angry. This is our human nature.

God always forgives us, His beloved children, for the selfish and unjust things we do. And so, as compassionate and humble stewards created in the image and likeness of God, we must also forgive. I'll be honest, there are days when I just can't do it; I cannot summon the compassion or the courage. And it is at those times that Jesus carries me, *carries us*, as faithful stewards, until we can face our own weaknesses and find our capacity to forgive.

This week, pray for the courage and compassion to reach out to someone who needs your apology, your forgiveness, or both. Pray for those family members who haven't spoken in decades that they may find their way back to one another. Our time here on earth is short, but God's love, mercy and forgiveness are with us now and forever.

~ Lori Zito

Parish Social Ministry



Clare House - We are here to help!

We no longer have drop in hours open to the public. If you have an emergency situation that requires assistance please call our intake line. Please leave only one complete message stating your name, number, and primary need: 631-475-4506 x122

Emergency Food Distribution is held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. A full new client intake is required, including documentation of all income and expenses, to access resources at Clare House. A member of our staff will contact you to complete this intake interview over the phone. Documentation should be provided electronically whenever possible.

We regularly post resources to our Twitter feed @clarehouse99

<https://twitter.com/clarehouse99>

We are NOT soliciting physical donations at this time. If you wish to support our mission please consider making a donation through Faith Direct. Click "Make a One-Time Gift Now" and then write "Clare House - PSM" in the Note. Thank you for your support!

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY285>



Thrift Shop is Open!

St. Sylvester operates a community thrift shop filled with a variety of goods at extremely affordable prices - often much lower than traditional thrift shops! Hardworking staff and volunteers stock the shelves with a high level of detail. Often the items available are very high quality. Excess clothing which cannot be sold or used is donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and furthers their mission to serve the poor. Clare House clients can receive a voucher, based on financial need, to obtain items at no cost.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

All items must be placed inside the bin. To donate items which do not fit in the bin, please call during hours and speak to a member of our team.

Please DO NOT leave items outside the thrift shop, they are destroyed by exposure to the elements.

Thank you for your support!

CONTACT

631-475-4506 x124

HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday
10:00AM - 3:00PM



The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Upcoming Workshop

Basic Virtual Religious Studies Course (2020)

Via Zoom

New Testament

August 17 – August 20, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Church

August 24 – August 27, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Christology

August 31 – September 3, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Building Intercultural Competence for Ministers

Via Zoom

Evening

Oct 12, 19, 26; Nov 2, and 9
7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mornings

Oct 13, 20, 27; Nov 3, and 10
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Retrouvaille Weekend You Can Help Heal Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.



RELIGION AND ROCK

Tune into “*Religion and Rock*,” a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock radio program with Msgr. Jim Vlaun, which airs on Sundays from 7:00am - 8:00am on **WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM** on Long Island’s East End. Listen on Saturdays at **11:00 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, The Catholic Channel** and at 11:00 PM on **XM Satellite, Channel 117.**

**This Sunday’s theme is
Stress ~ don’t miss it!**

To listen online, or receive more information regarding “*Religion and Rock*,” go to www.ReligionandRock.com or to “*Religion & Rock*” on ITUNES.

“Virtual” Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called **Restore – Rekindle – Renew**. This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for seven sessions on Monday evenings, September 14 to October 26, from 7-9:30 PM.

Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$50 application fee is required.



For more information or to apply, call John & Toni Torio at 718-344-3700, or visit them at <https://wwmenyli.org/>

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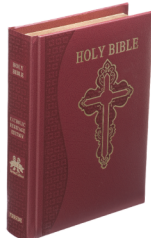
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