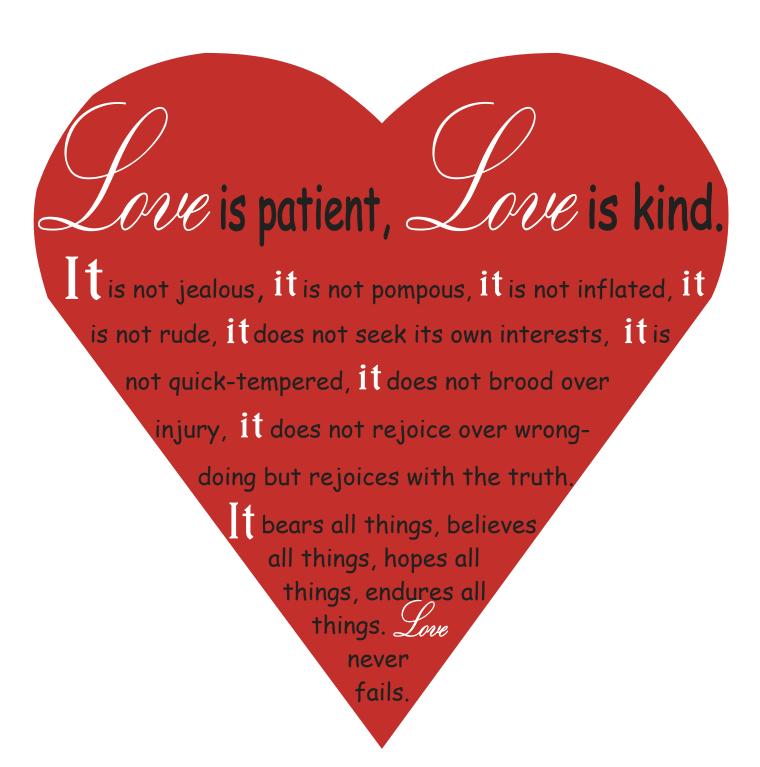
# St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

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



February 3, 2019
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# We Celebrate!

#### Eucharist:

Weekends: Sat: 5pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am & 11am Holy Days as announced

Weekdays: M, Tu, Th and Fr: Mass in the Parish Center @ 8:30am

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

Reconciliation: Saturday at 12 noon or by appointment.

**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, or serious medical treatment, or seeking spiritual healing.

# We are here for you!

## Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Thomas W. Coby, Pastor Deacon Joseph Mystkowski Deacon George Riegger, Retired Deacon Frank Rivera Theresa Ellner, Business Manager

Michael Lofaro, Faith Formation Administrator Frances McMahon, Director of Faith Formation and Music Ministers Justin McMahon, Parish Social Ministry Director Lori Zito, Director of Parish Ministries & Events

## Office Information

**Parish Office**: (631)475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631)475-1057 email: parishoffice@stsylvesterli.org M, Tu, W  $\sim$  9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th, Fri  $\sim$  9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Su  $\sim$  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!

**Clare House:** (631)475-4506; Fax (631)475-6058

 $M \sim 10$ am - 3pm Wed  $\sim 10$ am - 3pm & 4pm - 7pm Fr  $\sim 10$ am - 12pm

**Thrift Shop:** (631)475-4506

Tu, Wed & Th  $\sim 10$ am - 3pm; Sat  $\sim 10$ am - 1pm

#### 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**

Saturday, February 2, 2019

5:00pm Donna & Henry Hartmann

Robert Edwards Stephen Gaita Thomas Fitzpatrick Fred Backhaus

Sunday, February 3, 2019

7:30am Virginia I. Yaeger 9:00am Douglas M. Phelps, Sr.

11:00am Matteo, Caravana & Confessore Families

Monday, February 4, 2019 8:30am Marie LoSchiavo Tuesday, February 5, 2019

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Thursday, February 7, 2019
8:30am Joseph Reaid
Friday, February 8, 2019
8:30am Louis Lufker
Saturday, February 9, 2019
5:00pm Robert Edwards

Frank Silvestri Patricia Raymond Dr. Marcell Frey

Deacon Frank Rivera (Living)

Andy Magyar (Living)

Sunday, February 10, 2019

7:30am Charles Bellizzi

9:00am Susan Keesser (6th Anniversary)

11:00am Marie Touhey

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

Eva D'Amato, Nina Caravana, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Sasha Medile, Nef Nieves, Joanne Clarke, Michelle Clark, Martha Benvenuto, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Michael Dolan, Hilda Gonzalez, Vinnie Callanan, Olivia Bazirgan, Alice Micali, Baby Isabella Steo, Diane Garvey, Jerry Noschese, William Lyon, John Phelan, James Dunn, Brian Mullins, Baby Emma Connolly, Desmond McDay, William Arens, Paul Mazza, Betty DeFrancis, John Katsiafas, Vivian Bollmann, Lois Eckert, Eileen Cavalcante, Bill Lyon, Gioe Family, Salvatore D'Amato, Jim Newkirk, Baby Julian Atz, Elizabeth Pagano, Louis Zabato, Iris DelValle, Andy Magyar, Joanna Fernandes, Morgan Lynn McNamara

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

Nicholas Buonamico

Mass Intentions & Weekend Memorials are available for 2019. Please make arrangements through the Parish Office.

	READINGS FOR	THE WEEK
2/4:	Heb 11:32-40	Ps 31:20-24
	Mk 5:1-20	
2/5:	Heb 12:1-4	Ps 22:26-28, 30-32
	Mk 5:21-43	
2/6:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15	Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18
	Mk 6:1-6	
2/7:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24	Ps 48:2-4, 9-11
	Mk 6:7-13	
2/8:	Heb 13:1-8	Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9
	Mk 6:14-29	
2/9 :	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21	Ps 23:1-6
	Mk 6:30-34	
2/10:	Is 6:1-8	Ps 138:1-5, 7-8
	1 Cor 15:1-11	Lk 5:1-11

#### The Bread and Wine

used at this weekend's liturgies



are the gifts of
The Bennett Family
in loving memory of

Virginia I. Yaeger

## Fourth Week of Ordinary Time

The readings this week seem to be about healing and call.

This could be the week when we discover what a handicap fear itself is in our life. It may be the reason we don't ask or even reach out to touch Jesus for healing. This may be the week we are being invited to no longer be afraid and to let our Lord love us and heal us. Touching his cloak, without words, may be enough for us.

This week, like so many, can be a time for us to be consciously aware of our being called - placed in a position of being his disciple. In that situation, whatever way the invitation comes to us, we are clearly facing an opportunity to be a source of good news, rather than bad news; to love tenderly, rather than selfishly; to be a gatherer of others, rather than a divider; and to be a source of compassion, rather than a heartless judge. And, when that happens, we can delight in spending a bit more time with Jesus, comforting us for being his disciple there. We can "come away with him" for even a brief moment and give thanks that we had that taste of his ministry, happening through us. onlineministries.creighton.edu



#### THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks.
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Thank you to Sr. Pat Duffy for sharing this poem.

# Parish Life

SAINT SYLVESTER PARISH	I QUESTIONNAIRE Date:					
Please return this questionnaire	e to:					
Of P.	By MAIL to: Diocese of Rockville Centre     Office of Clergy Personnel     P.O. Box 9023     Rockville Centre New York, 11971-9023					
• Or <b>FAX</b> to: 516-764-3467						
Or <b>EMAIL</b> to: clergyperse	onnel@drvc.org					
signment Board in making rec	bout the parish are very important in assommendations to Bishop Barres concern se check any of the following that you fee nment in the space below.	ing the appointment of a new				
Accountability/Authority	Life Issues	Religious Education				
Adult Faith Formation	Liturgy/Prayer/Sacraments	Senior Citizens				
Ecumenical/Interfaith	Married Couples	Social Justice				
Evangelization	Multi-Cultural Issues	Stewardship				
Family Ministry	Parish Outreach	Youth/Young Adult Min.				
Finance	Regional School	Other				
Please print clearly						

# **Parish Life**

#### The Week Ahead

Monday ~ February 4, 2019

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

Spanish Legion of Mary ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 9

Carmelite Council Meeting ~ 6:30pm~ Clare House

First Reconciliation ~ 7pm ~ Church

Baptism Class ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Tuesday ~ February 5, 2019

Art Class ~ 9am ~ PDH

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 2

Christology ~ 6:30pm ~ PDH

Overeaters Anonymous ~ 7pm ~ Room 9

Choir Rehearsal ~ 7:30pm ~ Choir Room

Wednesday ~ February 6, 2019

Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ 10:30am ~ East Wing

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Community Dance Rehearsal ~ 8:30pm ~ PDH

Thursday ~ February 7, 2019

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ February 8, 2019

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ PDH

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ WR

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Level 1 Meeting ~ 9am ~ Parish Center

Home Taught ~ 10:30am ~ Parish Center

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Children's Choir ~ 10am ~ Worship Room

Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass

Hospitality after 9am & 11am Masses in PDH

# Senior Circle of Friends



The Senior Circle of Friends meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Their next meeting is February 8th at

12:30pm in PDH. Come join the fun & games. Bring a friend and meet some new ones!

# Holy Hour

Time spent with our Beloved Savior in Adoration can become the most profound, meaningful, joyful, peaceful and healing experience we could ever encounter.

Please join us this Friday, February 8th from 8pm — 9pm in the Worship Room.

Give yourself the gift of an hour of peace.

# Hospitality Sunday

Let's get together for refreshments and fellowship in Patricia Desmond Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, February 10

after the 9am & 11am Masses.

Enjoy delicious refreshments as you chat with friends, meet new ones and catch up on what's happening.

Share a Smile Stay Awhile!

### The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets once a month to knit, crochet, Knit One,

pray and share
patterns. The lap
robes and shawls are
lovingly brought to the
sick and homebound,

Good Shepherd Hospice, Brookhaven Hospice and dialysis patients.

Pray Too

Their next meeting will be this Wednesday, February 6th at 10:30am. All are welcome!

# St. Sylvester Flapjack Fundraiser

Applebee's

1935 N. Ocean Avenue Farmingville, NY 11738

Satunday, February 23rd, 2019 8am - 10am

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 and can be purchased after Masses on February 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17 and in the Parish Office ~ 631-475-4506, ext. 101

Meal Includes: Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage (coffee, juice, soda or tea). Ticket valid for pancake event only. Applebee's® menu items are not included as part of purchase.

<u>All</u> proceeds benefit St. Sylvester Parish.

# Clare House - Parish Social Ministry



The mission of Clare House - Parish Social Ministry is to engage parishioners in social justice and outreach activities that allow us to live out the Gospel call to serve others and to build the Kingdom of God. Clare House is a community space where we offer direct service to our neighbors facing difficulties of all kinds, and expand our understanding and application of Catholic Social Teaching through the use of Praxis. We employ the "See, Judge, Ad" Method to examine pressing social problems.

We strive to build authentic relationships with every individual who walks through the door and commit to journey in solidarity with them. We offer assistance to alleviate immediate needs. Clients receive access to: food pantry, thrift shop, case management, advocacy, information and referral, and other resources.

By utilizing education, advocacy, and community organizing we put our faith in action to address structural issues and eliminate systemic injustice. We feed the hungry and ask why they are hungry.

#### Need Assistance? Want to Volunteer?

Monday 10am - 3pm Wednesday 10am - 3pm, 4pm - 7pm Friday 10am – 3pm

631-475-4506 x122 clarehouse@stsylvesterli.org

#### Constructive Feedback?

I welcome email and letters via post to express feedback on any aspect of our program. Dialogue is essential for clarification of thought. Thank you to those who have contacted me. I look forward to continuing our conversation!

Justin McMahon, Director jmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org



# No Stranger Among Us

By Lucas Sharma, S.J.

"Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep"

Like the people gathered by Ezra in the first reading, there are many reasons we might weep when we hear the words of the law. Though we profess to be a nation of immigrants, our laws become increasingly more harsh, punitive, and exclusive toward immigrants. Our nation turns to its own security over the common humanity of the stranger among us. We excuse this behavior by calling attention to the need to care for our own, to protect ourselves from the unknown threat, and use the existence of these very laws as the reasons we ought to do nothing. We keep the stranger strange so that we may not know anything that could be called strange among us.

This is troubling to us because it is, in fact, the law that is strange. In the Gospel, in reading the Scriptures, Jesus proclaims that the law has been fulfilled. Yet it is a different law—one directed at liberating captives, bringing glad tidings to the oppressed, and setting captives free. It is a law that says the stranger is welcome—and that someday, we will no longer have a concept of stranger because we will all be one human family. It is our aspiration—the community we are called to build.

Ezra read from the authentic law—the law of God—the law that said that if we are together, we will not be sad but will rejoice. In our rejoicing, we will allot portions to those who had nothing prepared. We will give to the one called stranger so that we will no longer have any strangers. In the hearing of this law we will see that the law of God, these are spirit and life. And we will rejoice and build a more inclusive community.

We are invited to turn our hearts to those in our lives—the living Ezra or Jesus among us—so that we will be ready to rejoice, to sort out the broken law of humans from the living law of God, so that all might thrive and be fulfilled. And, in that day, not only will we rejoice, but we will be one. We won't need to keep the stranger strange because in fact no one will be ever considered strange again.

# Clare House - Parish Social Ministry



# Clare House Market \*Wish List\*

We are desperately in need of personal hygiene items!

Bar Soap/Body Wash

Deodorant (Men's/Women's)

Shampoo

Shaving cream

Conditioner

Razors

Toothpaste (adult/child)

Feminine pads/tampons

Toothbrushes (adult/child)

Toilet Paper!

# 2019 Parish Social Ministry Survey

Social Ministry is about identifying the issues in front of us (the signs of the times), reflecting on those issues in the light of our faith (scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, social analysis), and making a determination about how God is calling us to act!

We want to know

What are the most important issues for us to consider in 2019?

What local, national, and global problems are most relevant and feel most critical to you?

What problems do you face in your own life?

Submit Response Here:



# http://tiny.cc/2019PSMsurvey

At it's best the Gospel is meant to challenge but also to empower! The good news is that God is on the side of justice, peace, and prosperity for all. We are called to be co-creators with God in building the Kingdom, the beloved community, here on earth.

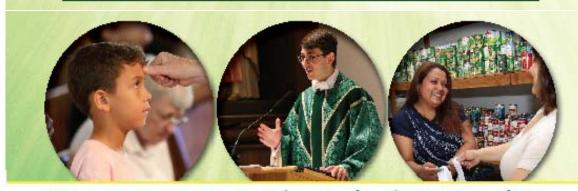
No one can do this work alone but together we can accomplish all our most sacred dreams for a better future.

In solidarity,

Justin McMahon and the PSM Team

# **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

# 20 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Witnessing Forgiving Loving Helping Teaching Igniting Evangelizing Teaching Igniting Evangelizing Forgiving Loving Helping Witnessing

Supporting Dramatic Missionary Growth in Our Community

"Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others."

- Pope Francis



# Please consider making a gift to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

For more information, to watch our video or to make a donation, visit www.drvc.org/CMA or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296



Make checks payable to: Catholic N	Ministries Appeal		
Parish St. Sylvester Church		Pledge:	\$
Name		Down payment:	\$
Address			
Phone:	_ Signature:		_Date:

# Stewardship

## Gifts of Treasure

January 27, 2019

# Faith Direct

It's Easy It's Safe It's the Way to Give!

To learn about or enroll in this automated giving program, just log onto www.faithdirect.net and use our Church code NY285

#### Reflection

In today's first reading, God calls Jeremiah to be His voice in the world. In today's society, it is not always easy to stand up for what is right – but fear not! God is with us as He was with Jeremiah.

## Living Stewardship

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who listen to the voice of God in their lives and answer His call by standing up for the poor and the marginalized. In doing so, they become the voice of God in the world.



# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE SEEKS HELPERS FOR PARISH/COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our Fundraising and Social Activities
Committee is interested in developing
more fun parish and community-centered
events for our parishioners to enjoy,
while also raising some money in the process. They have some good ideas, but
would like extra sets of hands to help
make them a reality.

Do you have a knack for organizing or decorating? Are you the family party planner? Do you enjoy meeting others while serving food or refreshments? Or, maybe you are the neighborhood helper, the one they call when they need assistance bringing tables up from the basement or the friend who helps with the set-up and clean-up for summer barbecues and graduation parties? Perhaps you are the mom or dad who helps out at the school plant sale, the holiday boutique or field day — if so, we welcome your gifts and your energy!

Please contact Lori Zito in the Parish Office at 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or email to Izito@stsylvesterli.org if you are able to lend us your hands and your funloving spirit for these events.



# **Faith Formation**

## **Adults Seeking Confirmation**



Were you baptized Catholic, received First Holy Communion, but for some reason never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation? Coming to St. Sylvester on Tuesdays, **beginning March 12, 2019** is a process for adults who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. For details, call Fran McMahon at 475-4506 ext 107.

Lifelong & Ongoing

## Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Are you interested in learning more about your faith? Consider taking courses that will help answer some of your questions and illuminate Church teaching in a way that will deepen and build up your faith!

St. Sylvester Parish will be offering the courses needed to receive the \*Basic Certificate from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

New Testament

Instructor: John McMahon & Fran McMahon Dates: Saturdays; February 16, 23; March 2, 9

Time & Place: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the East Wing of the Parish Center

Cost for each course is \$40. Payment due at first session. Materials will be provided.

To register go to <u>www.stsylvesterli.org</u> and click on Faith Formation and then on Adult Continuing Education Opportunities. Follow directions to register on line.

Any questions, please call 631-475-4506 Ext. 118

\*To receive the Basic Certificate from the Diocese of Rockville Centre you must complete the following courses: Hebrew Scripture, The Church, The New Testament, Christology, Liturgy & Sacraments, and Morality.

#### RCIA is for those who....

- Have never been baptized and are interested in becoming Catholic.
- Are baptized non-Catholic but would like to become a member of the Catholic community.
- Are baptized Catholic but never received Communion and/or Confirmation.
- Are struggling with questions about life, death, suffering, hope, forgiveness, love, God . . .
- Are Catholic and would like to be a member of the Team and help by sharing your faith, being a sponsor, or setting up hospitality.

If you would like more information, please speak with Fran at 475-4506 ext 107.

# **Faith Formation**

#### Reminders

- First Reconciliation for Level 2 children will take place on Monday, February 4th and Monday, February 11th at 7pm in the Church. Parents, please check your Level 2 Family Calendar to find when your child will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- There is a Level 1 Meeting for children and their parents on Saturday, February 9 at 9am in the Parish Center. Parents, please sign your child in with their catechist and then proceed to Patricia Desmond Hall (lower level) for a presentation. Parents must remain in the building while their child is here. Please have your child bring their folder, workbook, pencil and completed 3rd Mass Reflection Form.
- Home Taught children will meet Saturday, February 9 at 10:30am in the Parish Center.
   Parents, please sign your child in/out of their classroom, and have them bring their folder and workbook.

# Children's Liturgy Of the Word

We are happy to announce that we will be having Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of every month. Come join us next Sunday, February 10th at 11am in the Church.



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.

#### Altar Servers



If you are a boy or girl in Fourth Grade or older and if you are interested in helping at Mass, consider becoming an Altar Server. Altar Servers serve one or two times a month, at the Mass your family usually attends. Altar Servers serve in pairs or sometimes three at a Mass. Duties of an Altar Server include carrying the Cross in the opening and closing Processions and leading the gifts to the Altar, holding the book for the Priest, assisting with Communion and other items that may come up seasonally. You will receive training. If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please call the Parish Office at 631-475-4506 ext. 118 and leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted.

# **Community News**

An Fully Living the Second Half of Life: Journeying with the Prodigal Son ~ February 15—17 at the Cenacle. Jesus revealed the dynamics of healing all of life in his greatest parable, the Prodigal Son. During the second half of life, we are to journey from being angry at our self (prodigal) or at another (elder brother) to becoming the Father celebrating all of life. Jesus reveals the key to being healed as the prodigal son gets healed and called back to life while the elder son gets more negative and runs from life. This retreat is for those in the second half of life who want to become fully alive and be sages, not just aged! Presented by Fr. Matthew Linn. Offering is \$250, commuters \$195. Please call 631-588-8366 for more information or to make a reservation.

*Tomorrow's Hope Foundation Fundraiser* ~ 5K and Fun Run, Saturday, March 30, 8:30am at St. Joseph School in Garden City. The mission of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is to ensure the excellence as well as the continuance of Catholic Schools on Long Island by increasing awareness and by providing scholarship and program funding for the needs of students and schools. The Tomorrow's Hope Foundation gives hundreds of children each year the opportunity to attend Catholic elementary school. Please come and support this worthwhile cause.

*Pilgrimage with Fr. Mickey Bancroft* ~ On August 28, 2020, Fr. Mickey will be leading a pilgrimage to see the "Passion Play" in Oberammergau, Germany. This play is held every 10 years from May to October. After landing in Munich, we will tour Dachau, the Concentration Camp from WW II, and after watching the "Passion Play", make our way through Salzburg, Venice and lastly to Milan to view Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper painting. Mass will be celebrated every day for those who wish to attend. Arrangements through Regina Tours. Contact Angelica:1 –800– CATHOLIC ext 250 or e-mail <a href="mailto:avillegas@groupist.com">avillegas@groupist.com</a>

*Tax Help by AARP at Pat-Med Library* ~ Wednesdays beginning February 6 from 12-4pm. Free volunteer run tax preparation and assistance serving low and moderate income taxpayers. Please call 631-654-4700 to register.

Women's Breakfast ~ Magnificat ~ Mary Undoer of Knots ~ Swan Lake Club in Manorville, Saturday, February 16 9:30am—12:30pm. Please join us for a morning of praise, worship and healing as Barbara Campbell shares her powerful testimony on how the love of God was made manifest in her life; especially in the miraculous healing of her eyes from a disease that threatened to leave her blind. For the past 35 years she has worked as a registered nurse and family therapist, using her gifts to draw people into a deeper experience of God's love through the healing of mind and heart. Tickets are \$30. Please contact Bernadette Gorycki at 631-399-1949 to register.

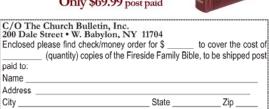
*AARP Smart Driver Course* ~ Wednesday & Thursday, February 27 & 28 from 10am—1pm at Pat-Med Library. Completion of this course helps those who attend to become better, safer drivers and may include a reduction of violation points on their license and a discount on automobile insurance. \$20 with AARP card and \$25 without AARP card. Call 631-654-4700 for registration information.

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