

Masses For The Week

Monday - April 2

6:30 Kristine Benasutti
 9:00 Karen Naclerio Negrin, 3rd Anniversary
3:00-6:00PM CONFESSIONS
7:00-8:00PM CONFESSIONS

Tuesday - April 3

6:30 William & Dorothy Dmuchowski
 9:00 Michael & Amelia De Cicco
7:00-8:00PM CONFESSIONS

Wednesday - April 4

6:30 Joseph Patrick McCabe
 9:00 Gertrude Perine
7:00-8:00PM CONFESSIONS

HOLY THURSDAY - April 5

9:00AM Morning Prayer
 7:30PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
 9:00PM Adoration until 11:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY - April 6

9:00AM Morning Prayer
 10:00AM Stations in Bethpage State Park
 3:00PM Liturgy of the Passion
 7:30PM Liturgy of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY - April 7

9:00AM Morning Prayer
 1:00PM Blessing of Bread/Food
 8:00PM Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY - April 8

7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Pellegrino Raia

 10:00 Michael (Mickey) Catapano (Church)
 10:00 AUDITORIUM (no intention)

 11:30 Vito J. Amarosa (Church)
 11:30 AUDITORIUM (no intention)

 1:00 Carmelita A. DeGuzman
NO 5:30PM MASS

Readings For The Week

Mon. Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11
 Tues. Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wed. Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25
 Thurs. Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-15
 Fri. Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
 John 18:1-19:42
 Sat. Exodus 14:15-15:1; Romans 6:3-11
 Mark 16:1-7
 Sun. Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4;
 John 20:1-9



Divine Mercy Novena

No Divine Mercy on Good Friday

Saint Maria Faustina

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Last Week March 24/25 Collection

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00
 Amount Received: \$17,817.14

Thank you for your generosity & support!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ - emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who have committed to supporting the vision and mission of Jesus - to build the Kingdom of God - by serving others through ministry.

Please pray for the women and men in our Military and their families and friends as they selflessly protect and defend our nation against all forms of terrorism. May God protect them from all harm!



Charismatic Prayer Group

THE COLORS HAVE RETURNED

And unless you're allergic, the display of colors is a welcome and hopeful sign of spring - renewal and new life. We too are being renewed thanks to Jesus' extraordinary and immeasurable love for us! Come and give praise to God for the Gift of His Son. You can give up a couple of hours - you know what He gave up for you!



Our next meeting is Monday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Call 516-993-9672 for answers to any questions or for prayer intentions. ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Mar. 26	#182 Joseph & Angela Achtziger	\$25.00
Mar. 27	#639 Gina Hignell	\$25.00
Mar. 28	#219 Jean McCormick	\$25.00
Mar. 29	#179 Ellen & John Gulli	\$25.00
Mar. 30	#296 Rosemarie & Lou Gaccione	\$50.00

John Neumann Relics to Come to St. Martin of Tours on the weekend of April 14-15, 2012

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. John Neumann and the 150th anniversary of his death. Throughout this jubilee year, we have been celebrating this graced time with preaching about the Saint and the opportunity to be blessed by his relics. We members of the Redemptorists, in particular those of us from the Baltimore Province as are the Redemptorists who serve you here at St. Martin's, take great pride in this saint since he was one of the founding members of our Province in the 19th century. He was the first man to be professed in the United States as a Redemptorist. He was also the first American male citizen (he was a naturalized citizen) to become a saint. He did great work for immigrants, for the promotion of Catholic schools, and in developing devotion to the Eucharist. He was a humble ordinary man who did great things for God and his church. We will have special preaching at the weekend masses on the 14th and 15th. Come and join us and tell your friends. The following is a brief biography.

Saint John Neumann - Feast Day January 5

This American saint was born in Prachatitz, Bohemia (Czech Republic) in 1811. He was taken the same day to the parish church, baptized and named for one of the patron saints of his homeland, John Nepomucene. He was a small and quiet boy with four sisters and a brother. His father Philip, a native of Bavaria, owned a small stocking mill and was a minor village official. His mother Agnes was a Czech, a devout woman who attended Mass daily.

John spent two years at the diocesan seminary in Budweis, then transferred to that of the archdiocese at the University of Prague, where he completed his studies in 1835. His academic record was excellent, and he had an exceptional skill in mastering languages. In addition to his native German and Bohemian, he knew Italian, Spanish, Greek and Latin. In Prague, he undertook to learn English and French as well. In later life, he taught himself Gaelic in order to minister to Irish immigrants.

He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests. John wrote to bishops all over Europe but the story was the same everywhere - no one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest but all the doors to follow that vocation seemed to close in his face.

John didn't give up. He was inspired by the missionary writings of Bishop Frederic Baraga in America, and because he had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers, he wrote to the bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. In order to follow God's call to the priesthood, John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor but that did not matter because John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. In January, 1842, he took the vows to enter the order in Baltimore, Maryland, and became the first Redemptorist in the New World. After six years of difficult but fruitful work with the order, he was appointed the order's provincial superior in the United States. Neumann was naturalized as a citizen of the U.S. in Baltimore on February 10, 1848. John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. Bishop John Neumann chose the motto of "Passion of Christ strengthen me" in his Coat of Arms. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100, and the number of parochial school students in his diocese grew from 500 to 9,000. He also introduced the School Sisters of Notre Dame to the New World to assist in religious instruction and staffing the orphanage. John wrote many Catholic newspaper and magazine articles. He also published two catechisms and a Bible history in German. He also introduced many teaching orders to the United States.

In October 1854, Bishop Neumann traveled to Europe to be present in Rome for the promulgation by Pope Pius IX of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Afterwards, he made the only return visit of his lifetime to his homeland. John never lost his love and concern for the people. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

In 1860, John Nepomucene Neumann died due to a stroke at the age of 48 while walking down a street in Philadelphia. He was canonized by Pope Paul VI on June 19, 1977, and became the first American bishop to be so honored. His feast day is celebrated on January 5th.

Wedding Banns**1st Mark Bononi & Lauryn Tiedemann**

"Whatever you do for one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me."

This week the pantry can use catsup, mayonnaise, coffee, canned vegetables such as creamed corn, mixed vegetables and peas, canned tuna and canned chicken, chili, beef stew, hearty soups especially chicken varieties, broths, bath soaps, canned and bagged beans and diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6. As always, we are very grateful for your generous support!

Food Pantry:

208 Broadway, Bethpage
Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM
Thursday: 2:00PM - 7:00PM
Phone: (516) 931-7332

RECTORY HOURS

Please note the rectory hours
for the Triduum and Easter

Holy Thursday: 9:00—2:00 pm
Good Friday: CLOSED
Holy Saturday: 9:00—7:00 pm
Easter Sunday: CLOSED (as usual)
Easter Monday: CLOSED

Please note that there is **NO** 6:30 a.m. on Monday April 9th. There **is** a 9:00 a.m. mass.

HOLY FACE HOLY HOUR

Please join us for the Holy Face of Jesus Holy Hour on Monday, April 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the church in reparation for blasphemy and the wounds to His Holy Face. All will be blessed with the Holy Face of Jesus oil.

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 if you or a loved one are able to be taken off the sick list.

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

*Christine Mascia, Mary Peterson
Maria Cipriano, Henry Niemczyk, Robert Loughran
Jim Duggan, Patricia Morrone, Flora Spinosa
Barbara Scully, Phil Alfano, Richard Messina
Sylvester Brady, Fran Contillo, Wayne Durr
Matthew Guigno, Mary Henson, Mike Barry
Augustin Ordek, Mary Morgan, John Annon
Josephine Calline, Warren Delauro, Richard Pyranski
William Sinacore, Christine Lino, Alyric Jackson
Sr. Kate McBarron, Mildred Bortnick, Leevalli Annearosa
Therese Mikulus, Joseph Frestachi, Henry Fenyo
Michael Lavin, Vincent Busutil, Erich Jurkwich
Patricia LoBianco, Christopher Deleon, Dorothy Quinn
Mary Mullaly, Marguerite Foley, Vivian Durr
Melonie Walsh, Gail Waiter, Victoria DiPaula
Joan Conklin Walsh, Gina Montamaro, Owen Sullivan
Jimmy Crichton, Douglas Torres, Kathy Byrnes
Marion Luciano, Ledwin Mason, Michael Duggan
Virginia Holt, Marie Rondino, Tyler Brandimarte
Lisa Mancini, Andy Holt, Pat Cannota, Diane McHugh
Ellen Murphy, Kaitlin Pulice, Bob MacCulloch
Lillian DeLaurentis, Godeliva Pagan, Helen Carroll
Angela Calendrille, Florence Borzell, Helena Carroll
Rayne Michelle Janko, Renee Weiner, Nicole Wolfe Huebner
Dorothy Froehlich, Donna Peluso, Anne Cramer
Joann Cama, Mark & Karen Arthus, Cynthia Venson
Joann Cicero, Pat Rosetti, Santa Parisi, Donna Melkun
Kevin Sisco, Christina Klienfeldt, Margaret Cavaliere
Cindy Aldrich, Fr. Dennis Billy, CSsR, Brianna Cardinao
Sharon Depalo, Edith Magee, Baby Mackenzie
Anna Maria Testa & Windy, Fred Nelson, Jan Rhea
Mary-Gwen Imbornoni, Patrick Murphy, Bill Kelly
Fr. Brendan Greany, C.Ss.R., Nicholas Guarino
Bud Pehrsson, Joanne Flores, Alfred Urbanski
Baby Madeline Smith, Bernard Kearney
Edward Indelicato, Sr., Andrew Bartolozzi, Patricia Heitzman
Fr. Tom Siconolfi, CSsR, Mom and Dad, Barbara Hunsinger
Marion Astonino, Fred Tavarrelli, Lucille Pancucci
William John Staudt, Patricia Marcel, Bonnie Castora
Jim Robertson, Frances Sutton, Janice Lipp, Joseph Pierini
Robert Hennessy, John St. Angelo, Harold Hand
Colin Flood, Paul Remsen, Louise Wilson, Alfred J. Murphy
Kevin O'Toole, Frances Sharkey, Joni Lora
Bill Pidgeon, Mary & Raymond Gimbut*



Week of April 1 - 7 2012

Altar Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of Kristine Benasutti

Rest in Peace

*Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
Frank Livoti, Frances Stuhlmuller*

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Lent exists so that we can prepare ourselves for the Easter Triduum. Triduum comes from a Latin word meaning “three days.” The three-day observance begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper in the evening of Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and ends with evening prayers on Easter Sunday. One twenty-four hour is just not enough time to truly experience and celebrate this tremendous mystery. **The solemn liturgies of the Triduum are the most important liturgies of the Church year. These liturgies teach us the meaning of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.** The richness of the symbols and rituals help us to experience the mysteries of Jesus’ final hours, His passion, suffering - and His rising from the dead. In a special way, during these three days, we come together as the people of God to remember the saving act of Jesus, the miracle of His resurrection – and to celebrate our faith and identity as Christians. Because Christ was willing to die for our sins and was raised from the dead, death is no longer the end of life for us. It is the beginning of a **NEW LIFE** in Him. How can we pay close attention—so that we can enter deeply into these mysteries? The Church suggests that we fast, especially on Good Friday and, if possible, Holy Saturday, too. Why fast? The purpose of the fasting is to gain awareness into the mysteries of the Triduum. Fasting from food – and sin -- and increasing our acts of love, we stand at the foot of the cross on Good Friday – and think about Jesus dying for all of us. What greater love? “Jesus, you love me so much, you died for me.” Fasting helps us to become aware of our hunger for Jesus — and our desire to be like Him. It causes us to eagerly desire to receive our Easter Eucharist.

HOLY THURSDAY

The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, which includes the washing of feet, is the **ONLY** Mass celebrated on Holy Thursday. We watch as Jesus shares His last Passover meal with His friends. We hear Jesus giving us the Sacrament of the Eucharist. He tells us, “Do this in remembrance of me.” The washing of the feet is a sign and symbol of the service we are called to live. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper ends in silence without a closing procession, because our celebration has not ended. We **ALL** are invited to spend some time with Jesus, to “keep watch” with Christ, in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as we prepare for Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY

It is a day of quiet fasting and mourning. It includes: the reading of the Passion of Jesus. We stand as the Passion is proclaimed. We listen and remember again how Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Then, we participate in the Adoration of the Cross. The Cross is the means of our salvation. We come forward; we bow before it, kiss it, touch it, or stand in front of it and say a short prayer.

EASTER VIGIL

It is the high point of the Easter Triduum celebrating the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. It includes: blessing the new fire, Lighting of the paschal candle, singing Alleluias, The Easter Proclamation, and Initiation of Catechumens.

EASTER CARDS

We have Easter cards in the rectory office from the Redemptorist Office of Mission Advancement. An octave of Masses will be said at Saint Alphonsus Church in Rome in the presence of the original picture of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help who is the great patron of the Redemptorists. You are welcome to list the names of people you wish to have remembered at these Masses when you take one or more of these Easter cards. It is a lovely card to send to someone at Easter since you will be including them in eight Masses that will be celebrated in a very special site.

EASTER FLOWERS

There are envelopes in your packets to donate to the Church for the flowers that we will use at Easter. You are welcome to list the names of people you wish remembered in prayer on the envelopes. These envelopes are kept on the altar during the Easter season as a way of holding these special people in prayer. For those who do not receive envelopes, there are some available in the Church and in the rectory office if you wish to make such a donation in memory of loved ones.

Letter from the Pastor

There is tradition at the Texas A.M. College called the twelfth man. It goes back to 1922 when the Texas Aggies were playing Centre College. Several of the Texas players were injured and the team was running out of players. So the coach looked into the stands and called down one of the students and told him to suit and be ready if he was needed. Since that time, at every Texas A.M. home game, the entire student body stands for every moment of the game to show, that like that moment in 1922, they stand ready to support their team when needed. I like the story because it shows who involved and committed are the students to their team.

In some ways, our liturgies of Holy Week ask us as Catholics to become ready and stand with our Lord Jesus as he makes his journey from the triumphal entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and then proceeds to the Last Supper, to the Cross of Calvary and his Glorious Resurrection. The Holy Week celebrations call us to not only be participants but to become actively involved in our liturgical celebration. We are invited to walk the journey with Jesus.

So, on Palm Sunday, we carry palm and have it blessed as we remember Jesus coming into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, as the people waved palm and sang out, "Hosanna to the Son of David." We join the crowd in proclaiming that Christ is Lord. On Holy Thursday, some of us will have our feet washed as we recall Jesus before he sat down for the Last Supper, putting on an apron and washing the feet of the disciples. He was giving them and us a most powerful witness in loving service to one another. Later at the liturgy, after we have eaten his body and blood, we are invited to sit with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as we recall his lonely moments in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Good Friday is the day of the Cross. We walk in precession as we see Jesus carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem. Perhaps, we will go to Bethpage State Park and join other parishioners in the walk of the stations and ponder God's love for us. At the services in Church, we will hear the Passion read and we will take the part of the crowd, calling for our Lord's death on the cross. We will then depart in silence as we feel an ache in our hearts for all that our loving Jesus has done for us.

And, at the Easter Vigil, we will see a new Easter fire, bless our Paschal candle, renew our Baptismal vows, and proclaim Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus has been raised from the dead by His Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. Holy Week. What a week for us to become swept up in the most powerful and moving liturgies that our Church has. However busy you may be with your Easter preparation, I invite you to stand up and walk with Christ, to enter into his dying and rising for you and for me. May God bless you with a most graced-filled celebration of the dying and rising of Jesus.

Father Pat, CSSR
woodscssr@aol.com

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ROSARY CONFRATERNITY

CHINESE AUCTION AND DINNER Tuesday, APRIL 3, 2012

Doors open at 6:30—Dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Chinese Bingo and Dinner in the Parish Hall with Cash Prizes, Raffles and 50/50! Tables of 10 or share a table. Tickets donation is \$20 per person. A full Chinese dinner, dessert & refreshments will be served.

Upon entrance you will receive one bingo card. Additional cards are \$1.00 each. For tickets please call Janet at 433-9340.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE DMV Approved-Insurance/Point Reduction

Driver Education Consultants is offering a 6-hour Class 1 defensive driving course on **Saturday, April 21 in the Parish Hall from 8:30 - 3:00.** The cost is \$45.00 with a minimum enrollment of 15 people and maximum of 40.

The 6-hour classroom course is presented by the National Safety Council-certified instructor who with the help of modern, multimedia techniques, offers you a new approach to learning accident prevention skills. You'll receive a course guide to use in class and to keep for future reference.

You can call the rectory at 931-0818 and leave your name and phone number.



**Saint Martin of Tours
is launching a
redesigned website**

www.smtbethpage.org

**Coming to you
this Easter!**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT BETHPAGE STATE PARK

Please join us on Good Friday, April 6th for the Stations of the Cross at 10:00 a.m. in the picnic area beyond the polo field of Bethpage State Park.

Prayer booklets will be provided.
Carpooling is suggested.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TRAINING

For those interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, please write a letter to the pastor stating your desire to do so. The following are locations for mandatory ministry training. *Please state which sessions you prefer for both "A" and "B."*

E.M. "A" Session -
Sat., April 14 from 9AM to 1PM
Kellenberg High School, Uniondale

E.M. "B" Session -
Sat., May 19 from 9 AM to 1PM
Kellenberg High School, Uniondale

IF YOU PREFER EVENING SESSIONS:
St. Elizabeth, Melville

"A" Session -
Wednesday, May 2 from 7:30 to 10 PM

"B" Session -
Wednesday, May 9 from 7:30 to 10 PM

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Monday - April 2

3:00-6:00PM CONFESSIONS

7:00-8:00PM CONFESSIONS

Tuesday - April 3

7:00-8:00PM CONFESSIONS

Wednesday - April 4

7:00-8:00PM CONFESSIONS

HOLY THURSDAY - April 5

9:00AM Morning Prayer

7:30PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

9:00PM Adoration until 11:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY - April 6

9:00AM Morning Prayer

**10:00AM Stations in
Bethpage State Park**

3:00PM Liturgy of the Passion

7:30PM Liturgy of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY - April 7

9:00AM Morning Prayer

1:00PM Blessing of Bread/Food

8:00PM EASTER VIGIL

**EASTER SUNDAY
MASSES IN CHURCH**

**7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM; 1:00PM
NO 5:30PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY
MASSES IN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
10:00 & 11:30AM**



Life Teen: There is NO Life Night after the 5:30 p.m. mass this Sunday. Instead we will be serving pizza after mass then attending the Living Stations of the Cross which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the church. All are welcome! Our next Life Night is April 15 from 7-8:30.

Edge: Our next meeting is on April 27. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome!

Parent Life: All parents of middle and high school youth are invited to attend Parent Life Meetings. Contact Erin for the next meeting date or for more information.

Please visit our website: www.SMTLifeTeen.com for photos and more information! To contact Erin, you can e-mail EKHoran@yahoo.com.

We were able to collect more than 35 prom dresses which were donated to a local charity for any teen who needed help in getting ready for their big night! Thanks to all who contributed.

LIFE TEEN'S AUCTION

Our auction date is Friday, April 13th in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. We are collecting any new and unused items for auction that can be dropped off at the rectory. Please be sure to mark it "*for the Life Teen Auction.*" Thank you!

LIFE TEEN'S EASTER SUNDAY MASS IS AT 1:00 P.M. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US! THERE IS NO 5:30 P.M. ON EASTER SUNDAY.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



The Life Teen Ministry has Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction on the 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Church. Our next Adoration service is Tuesday, April 10th. Everyone is welcome to join us in adoring, praising and loving Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Any baptized adult who has received Eucharist can attend a four-session Confirmation class which will begin on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call Deacon Jim Biggin at the Religious Education office at 822-9768 or home at 796-5520. Confirmation for adults will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 27th at the 11:30 Mass.

St. Martin of Tours Bereavement Group



There is currently an eight week group session that began Thursday, March 22 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall for anyone who has recently lost a loved one. Please call the rectory to register your name and phone number.

“Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” Matt 11:28

The Catholic Counseling Center

Professional therapy, provided by NYS licensed therapists, is available to our parish. This program, under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani is provided by the Catholic Counseling Center which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or the diocese. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments are available by calling Dr. Giuliani at 631-243-2503 or go to their website at <http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS

St. Martin's always has a supply of hosts available for anyone who is on a gluten free diet. Please seek out the sacristan *before mass* so that the priest is prepared to include it for consecration. Please be sure to follow this procedure every time you attend mass.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE STANDING UP FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Friday, March 23rd at noon, Americans stood together with a rallying cry: **STAND UP FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**. Cardinal Dolan said, *He expects Catholics to take our message to the streets!* And that is exactly what many did! The rally was called *Stand Up for Religious Freedom! Stop the HHS Mandate!* Cities and sites all over America held signs and gathered with American flags in peaceful protest to the HHS Mandate that requires all employers provide free contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs through their health plans, even in violation of their consciences. The rally was organized by the Pro-life Action League and Citizens for a Pro-Life Society to oppose the mandate. One of the sites on Long Island was at the offices of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand in Melville. It was a beautiful sight to see the youngsters running with American flags as their parents and grandparents held up signs and stood alongside each other as horns beeped and people waved them on. They walked passed the offices of Senators Schummer and Gillibrand and prayed together, and sang, "God Bless America." So many came together to make known, that we want freedom to practice our faith without government intervention by protecting our First Amendment rights.

LENTEN PRO-LIFE PRAYER

Father of all mercy, we thank you for this season of grace and light. We know that sin has blinded us. Draw us ever closer to you, in prayer and penance. Give all your people a clearer understanding of the profound dignity of every human life, including the children in the womb. As we prepare to celebrate the death and Resurrection of Christ, strengthen our joy in the fact that life has already conquered death. As we prepare to renew the promises of our own baptism this Easter, grant that we may live more faithfully as the children of God and the People of Life. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Mirando (C)830-5077 or
Jerry Mirando (C)830-5085

ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS
(631) 243-2373. Baby Safe Haven, Safe Babies, Safe Place at 1(877) 796-HOPE. Adoption, Foster Care, Maternity Services, Catholic Home Bureau 1(800) 592-4357.



**The Diocese of Rockville Centre
Golden Wedding Liturgy Honoring
Couples Married 50 Years or More**

This spring, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at liturgies on Sunday, April 22nd at St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville and Sunday, May 20th at Maria Regina in Seaford. Both liturgies will begin at 2:30 p.m. Couples may register for ONE liturgy. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the rectory.

Registration must be received by the Office of Worship by April 5th for the April liturgy and by May 3rd for the May liturgy. There will be additional celebrations in the fall for those who may find that more convenient. If you have any questions you may call (516) 678-5800 extension 207.

**DIVORCED, SEPARATED AND
SINGLE CATHOLICS OF LONG ISLAND
WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS**

**NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER NUMBER ONE
PO BOX 2031**

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTAION
NON DENOMINATION-ALL ARE WELCOME
TUESDAY, APRIL 24 AT 8PM**

**THE MEETING IS HELD AT
ST. FRANCES DE CHANTAL SCHOOL
1309 WANTAGH AVENUE, WANTAGH**

**PLEASE BRING PROOF OF SINGLE STATUS TO JOIN.
REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED AFTER THE MEETING.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL CAROL AT 516-794-4933 BEFORE 9PM
OR MIKE AT 516-799-6541**

REMINDER TO ALTAR SERVERS

If you have volunteered to serve at Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, please be sure to attend the practice sessions as follows:

HOLY THURSDAY PRACTICE

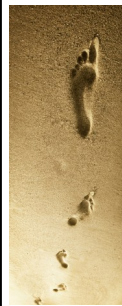
Tuesday, April 3rd at 4:00 in the church

GOOD FRIDAY PRACTICE

Wednesday, April 4th at 4:00 in the church

Deacon Tom Hennessy will be doing the training. Please be sure to be on time unless you have already informed us otherwise. Many thanks for your service to St. Martin's!

**THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE
CROSS**



Come and journey with the St. Martin of Tours Players as they present the *Living Stations of the Cross* on Palm Sunday, **April 1st at 7:30 PM** in the Church.

Beginning with hymns that reflect the Passion of Christ, the narrations will bring you back to the time of Jesus' trial, Passion and Death. It is an excellent way to begin Holy Week.

On behalf of the Parish of St. Martin's, I want to our deepest appreciation to Mr. Larry Reilly and all the coaches and assistants who direct our CYO basketball teams. Yesterday, as an end of the season program, they invited the parents and children to the 1:00 p.m. Mass and then to a party in the school cafeteria. It was so good to see the young of our parish at the Mass wearing their uniforms that proudly say St. Martin's. We have 200 boys and girls that are very actively involved in the CYO of our parish; the program has been growing over the years. At the party, the parish was presented with several trophies that our teams have won. The parish priests also received lovely jackets with St. Martin of Tours Basketball on them.

One of the challenges that our CYO program faces is that they have to rent space to practice and play since we have no gym. It has been a dream that someday we can fix up the school auditorium so that it could be used for basketball and volleyball. This would be expensive, especially in light of other repairs and expenses that our parish will face. However, one of the major concerns that we have as a parish is reaching out the young and their families and seeking to involve them in the life of the parish. I believe that the CYO program is doing that now and has the potentiality to touch many lives in the future. Thank you to all involved in this program.

Father Patrick Woods CSSR