

Masses For The Week**Monday - November 12**

6:30 Louis Devlin
9:00 All Soul's Novena

Tuesday - November 13

6:30 NO 6:30
9:00 Rose Provenzano

Wednesday - November 14

6:30 NO 6:30
9:00 Marjorie Start

Thursday - November 15

6:30 NO 6:30
9:00 Leonard Parine

Friday - November 16

6:30 NO 6:30
9:00 Robert Preziosi, 3rd Anniversary

Saturday - November 17

9:00 Legion of Mary
5:00 Millie Savady
7:00 Madeline Stein

Sunday - November 18

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Rosa Rufa
10:00 Joseph T. Ryan
11:30 Ann Pepe
1:00 Jerry Hansen
5:30 Daniel Lannon

Readings For The Week

Mon. Titus 1:1-9; Luke 17:1-6
Tues. Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10
Wed. Titus 3:1-7; Luke 17:11-19
Thurs. Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25
Fri. 2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26-37
Sat. 3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8
Sun. *Daniel 12:1-3 "I, Daniel, heard this word of the Lord: 'At that time...your people shall escape.'"*

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 "Brothers and sisters: By one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated."

Mark 13:24-32 The Son of Man will appear from heaven in power and glory. He will "gather his elect from the four winds."

Rectory Office is closed on Monday, November 12th in observance of Veterans Day. It will open on Tuesday, November 13th at 9AM.

***Divine Mercy Novena***

***Every Friday at 2:00 p.m.
in the Eucharistic Chapel
ALL ARE WELCOME!***

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**Last Week November 3/4 Collection**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$

Thank you for your support & generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Both widows in today's readings gave all they had to the work of the Lord, one using all her remaining food to feed Elijah and the other offering her two copper coins to the temple treasury. Good stewards give all that is asked and trust God to be faithful to His promises.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who give without hesitation, not from their surplus, but from their substance.

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! May we remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for God and country on this Veterans Day.

**Charismatic Prayer Group*****"Ya Got Power?"***

It's **THE** question of the week! It occurred to me as I sat reading by candlelight, that my power has never been out. **God** is my power and He has never let me down. Pray for those who have lost their homes and businesses and not just their electricity.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 19th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Call (516) 993-9672 for more info or prayer requests!

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Nov. 5 #456	Ann Mirto	\$25.00
Nov. 6 #398	Kevin Ross	\$25.00
Nov. 7 #480	Louis Ciarmella	\$25.00
Nov. 8 #575	Carol Berner	\$25.00
Nov. 9 #507	M&J Bissonnette	\$50.00

Letter from the Pastor

I was deeply saddened by the re-election of President Obama. From informal conversations, I know this is true for some of our parishioners. In truth, I have some good friends who voted for the President. They felt he was a man who would be better for the poor and down-trodden than would be Governor Romney. They also liked his foreign policy. Although I do not agree with them, I respect their honestly drawn opinions. They are and will continue to be my friends. I believe we accomplish far more by dialogue and conversation than by judgment and rejection.

I am no political expert. I was certainly concerned about President Obama's views on abortion, religious freedom, and other such issues. I was also concerned about his ability to improve the economy. I believe when the economy is working well then the poor do better also. I found his first term of office uninspiring. In truth I could say the same for some members of the Republican Party over the past four years. Mitt Romney struck me as a good leader.

But the elections are over and we have elected our president. He deserves our prayers as St. Paul reminds us in *1 Timothy 2: I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.* Whether or not we like President Barack Obama or his policies, he has an incredibly important responsibility to shoulder. This does not mean that one does not work to promote policies that he/she believes in that are in opposition to the President. We should and must. Still, I am of the school that the President deserves our respect, even when we disagree with him.

We know the truth that there is no advantage to be gained in being bitter or angry. That is destructive to others and ourselves. I had a powerful experience the other day. St. Alphonsus Hall was filled with clothes, bottled water, diapers, toilet paper, blankets, and toiletries. There was an amazing outpouring of generosity to those whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Many parishioners, including members of the Life Teen Ministry, came forward to sort the items. There were volunteers who drove the materials to the staging area at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Syosset. They did this in spite of the gas shortage.

As we were doing this work, we had only one goal: to help people in great difficulty. I did not know the politics of those who were doing the sorting, the driving to Syosset, or of those who would use these things. I only know we were Americans trying to help one another in a hard time. I do not believe our nation will fail; I have read too much American history to think that.

My counsel to all of us, be Democrats or Republicans, is to be good Americans, and even more importantly, live the Gospel of Jesus Christ as faithfully as we can. May God bless America and President Obama.

Rosary for Life In the Chapel

Please join us for a Rosary for Life in the EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL every Wednesday evening at 7PM. We join together to not only lift up the lives of babies born and unborn, their mothers and fathers and all those that are experiencing a crisis pregnancy, but ALL LIFE, from conception to natural death. We pray for Rachel's Vineyard that helps all those who have suffered.

Email Your Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests can be sent to: prayerssmtbethepage@gmail.com. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity. Remember, it is for anything that you would like to petition our Blessed Redeemer, whether it be finding a job, losing a loved one, help through a hard time or thanking Him for a favor received.

The feast of our parish patron, St. Martin of Tours , is November 11th. Since it falls on a Sunday, we are not able to liturgically celebrate the feast on this day. Here is some information from the website *AmericanCatholic.org*

A conscientious objector who wanted to be a monk; a monk who was maneuvered into being a bishop; a bishop who fought paganism as well as pleaded for mercy to heretics—such was Martin of Tours, one of the most popular of saints and one of the first not to be a martyr. Born of pagan parents in what is now Hungary and raised in Italy, this son of a veteran was forced to serve in the army against his will at the age of 15. He became a Christian catechumen and was baptized at 18. It was said that he lived more like a monk than a soldier. At 23, he refused a war bonus and told his commander: "I have served you as a soldier; now let me serve Christ. Give the bounty to those who are going to fight. But I am a soldier of Christ and it is not lawful for me to fight." After great difficulties, he was discharged and went to be a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers (January 13).

He was ordained an exorcist and worked with great zeal against the Arians. He became a monk, living first at Milan and later on a small island. When Hilary was restored to his see after exile, Martin returned to France and established what may have been the first French monastery near Poitiers. He lived there for 10 years, forming his disciples and preaching throughout the countryside. The people of Tours demanded that he become their bishop. He was drawn to that city by a ruse—the need of a sick person—and was brought to the church, where he reluctantly allowed himself to be consecrated bishop. Some of the consecrating bishops thought his rumpled appearance and unkempt hair indicated that he was not dignified enough for the office. Along with St. Ambrose (December 7), Martin rejected Bishop Ithacius's principle of putting heretics to death—as well as the intrusion of the emperor into such matters. He prevailed upon the emperor to spare the life of the heretic Priscillian. For his efforts, Martin was accused of the same heresy, and Priscillian was executed after all. Martin then pleaded for a cessation of the persecution of Priscillian's followers in Spain. He still felt he could cooperate with Ithacius in other areas, but afterwards his conscience troubled him about this decision. As death approached, his followers begged him not to leave them. He prayed, "Lord, if your people still need me, I do not refuse the work. Your will be done."

Comment: Martin's worry about cooperation with evil reminds us that almost nothing is either all black or all white. The saints are not creatures of another world: They face the same perplexing decisions that we do. Any decision of conscience always involves some risk. If we choose to go north, we may never know what would have happened had we gone east, west or south. A hyper-cautious withdrawal from all perplexing situations is not the virtue of prudence; it is, in fact, a bad decision, for not to decide is to decide."

Quote: On a bitterly cold day, a famous legend goes, Martin met a poor man, almost naked, trembling in the cold and begging from passersby at the city gate. Martin had nothing but his weapons and his clothes. He drew his sword, cut his cloak into two pieces, gave one to the beggar and wrapped himself in the other half. Some of the bystanders laughed at his now odd appearance; others were ashamed at not having relieved the man's misery. That night in his sleep Martin saw Christ dressed in the half of the garment he had given away, and heard him say, "Martin, still a catechumen, has covered me with his garment."

Patron Saint of: Horses, Soldiers

Wedding Banns

2nd John Seidita & Melissa Ostrom



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

This week the Pantry is low on: Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6), baby wipes, toothpaste, chili, beef stew, beans (not green beans), hearty soups, pasta (no elbows), sugar, mayo, ketchup, cream corn, canned fruit, stuffing, cranberry sauce, yams, oil and rice. As always, thank you for your generous hospitality to the less fortunate.

If anyone could use a brand new electric clothes dryer, please call the Parish Outreach Office at 516-931-7332. A woman moved to this area from Texas and now has a gas home and would like to donate this dryer to someone who could use it. The dryer would need to be picked up.

Food Pantry:

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

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. The next service is this Tuesday, November 13th.

GLUTEN, PEANUT & DAIRY FREE HOSTS

St. Martin's always has a supply of hosts available for anyone who is allergy-sensitive to these types of foods. 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.

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

*Fr. Dennis Billy, CSsR, Fr. Brendan Greany, C.Ss.R.
Fr. Tom Siconolfi, CSsR, Fr. James Small, CSsR
Helena Carroll, Pat Pedone, Vincent Valenti
Ledwin Mason, Mia Perciballi, Leevalli Annearosa
Barbara Hunsinger, Fran Pignataro, Skylar Vega
Catherine Dalessio, Leigh Murphy, Helena Mulligan
Richard Piernini, John Tortorice, Donna Melkum
Joseph Simon, Douglas Torres, Patricia Hall
James Robertson, Amy Hayes, Mom and Dad
Helena Mulligan, Bill Kelly*

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Next week, November 17 & 18, we will take up the Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development which includes Home Missions (CCHD).

CCHD was founded 40 years ago by the bishops of the United States when they realized that the lives of those in need would not improve until the systems and policies that keep people in poverty were changed. For 40 years, CCHD has funded community groups that seek justice and create lasting change.

Fight poverty in America. Defend human dignity. Give to the CCHD Collection.

The American Legion Women's Auxiliary will be selling poppies after the 10:00 and 11:30 masses on Sunday, November 11th. They are grateful for your support.

Week of Nov. 11 - 17, 2012

Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
Monica Horner*

**Rest in Peace**

*Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
Ellen Dickson, Stanley Golembiowski
George S. Wroniecki, Kenneth J. Quaganti*

Wanted: Turkeys or Turkey Coupons

St. Martin of Tours St. Vincent de Paul Conference is gathering food for Thanksgiving baskets which will be distributed to needy families through this parish on Saturday, November 17, 2012.



The conference is in need of turkeys or turkey coupons to make the baskets complete. Please bring donated turkeys to the Parish Outreach Office at 208 Broadway on Monday, November 12 or Thursday, November 15th or the rectory.

An Open Letter to our Pastor

Dear Father Pat,

Thank you for opening St. Alphonsus Hall's door to those in need of a cup of hot coffee, tea, soup, plenty of cake and a kind word, as well as a place to charge our cell phones and other electronic devices for free after Hurricane Sandy left some of us without power.

You, your fellow priests and the parishioners who helped in any way are to be recognized and appreciated by all of us who partook of this thoughtfulness. God bless all of you for your compassion!

*In His Name,
Young at Heart Senior Group*

Baptism Companions

St. Martin of Tours Baptism Program is in need! Volunteers called "***Companions***" are at the heart of this program. They are the people who reach out to these families with the newborn babies. They guide and journey with them through the Gathering, Baptism, and Reflection.

Our parish has many young families with young children and in order to reach out to these families, we need more Companions. **If you think that you may be interested in this ministry, please call Deacon Gene Capobianco at 516-933-4690.**

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ROSARY CONFRATERNITY

CMRC's General Meeting will be Tuesday, November 13th and is our Thanksgiving feast. We will provide the turkey, but please be sure to bring the side dish you chose for our sharing table. If you did not pick a side dish, please call Laurel Rasmussen at 681-4211 to see what sides we need.



We are making up a Thanksgiving basket for a family in need so please bring a non perishable item for the basket.

If you have not paid your dues (\$10), you can do so at the meeting by seeing Louise Smith.

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Mirando
(C)830-5077 or (H) 605-1979

**ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS,
RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT
(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 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>.

**PLEASE HELP OUR VETERANS**

There will be a box for donations of twin sheets, pillows and blankets in the Gathering Area of the church this weekend, *November 10th and 11th*. Someone will plan to be there after each weekend mass. Any questions, please contact Ro at 796-2016. Want more info about Beacon House? go to <http://www.uvbh.com/>

Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development which includes Home Missions (CCHD). CCHD was founded 40 years ago by the bishops of the United States when they realized that the lives of those in need would not improve until the systems and policies that keep people in poverty were changed. For 40 years, CCHD has funded community groups that seek justice and create lasting change. **Fight poverty in America. Defend human dignity. Give to the CCHD Collection.**

This and That

- Our parish buildings survived the Hurricane pretty well. We lost electricity for only about 30 hours so we were very lucky. I was amazed that not one daily Mass was missed; they were said by candlelight. There was some damage to shingles on the roof of the Church, the food pantry, and the rectory. Our Book of the Gospels did receive some water damage as a result of water that came through the bell tower. We were blessed to have no flooding. Father Henry does a wonderful job in monitoring our property. The outpouring of clothes, toiletries, food and water to the hurricane victims has been astounding to me. What a good-hearted people you are. The diocese has been working with us on how to bring these materials to those in need. You certainly have shown a most compassionate heart to all those who are suffering so much. Our parish also donated \$200.00 worth of pillows to the Red Cross shelter in Levittown. I appreciated the Life Teen Group and all who helped sort out the donations and those who drove them to St. Edward the Confessor in Syosset. At this point, we do not need anymore donations unless we are given a specific need. So, I would ask that you not bring clothes and other items to St. Alphonsus Hall.
- I want to give a great big thank you to all who worked on making our Halloween Party a wonderful evening, especially for the children of all ages. The decorating crew did a great job as did the cooking team. Some of the parents had organized wonderful games for the little ones, and the music was delightful. Father Ciya, in his Elvis Costume, won the grand prize, which is a trip to Graceland. He still does not know who Elvis is. We had many volunteers who did so many tasks to make the night fun. I am so grateful to all of you. I was not able to attend the party but there was someone who looked like me in a Tim Tebow costume. Someone said to me (Tim Tebow), Father, the parish gave Halloween back to the kids since many of them had lost it with Hurricane Sandy. Thank you to all who helped and all who attended.
- I want to thank all those who have helped in St. Alphonsus Hall in making coffee and donating snacks to those who have stopped by to charge their electronics, have some warmth and have a chat. People have been so kind and generous, especially during the storm.
- I want to thank Patrick Donovan, his father Ken, the members of Boy Scout Troop 604 and their leaders, who built the beautiful bench next to the Father Seelos statue. This bench is in memory of Patricia Donavon & Mary-Gwen Imbornoni - two wonderful wives and mothers who left us far too soon. May they be in the arms of Jesus. I hope to have a blessing of the statue in the near future.
- A word of thanks to Francesco's Bakery for their donation of cakes and loaves of bread to the parish - thank you!
- We will be closing registration for the book club on November 15. We have a good number of people, but if you are interested, please contact me at woodscssr@aol.com or 931-0818.
- In honor of our wounded war veterans, our parish has made a donation of \$250.00 to *Horseability*. One aspect of this program is to help wounded war veterans to ride horses as part of their recovery.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**HURRICANE SANDY**

As you read this article today, some of you may have rode out the ravages of Sandy safe and warm. Some of you may have lost your heat, your electricity, your communication with loved ones. Others might have had to leave their homes unable to return for a long time or maybe not at all.

Hurricane Sandy made its way up the East Coast taking a terrible toll on most of all who live here. We read in the paper, or if lucky enough to have had power, read or watched the Jersey Shore be forever transformed as many of the lives of those who were in her path. The destruction in Rhode Island, homes burning to the ground, or being washed away as people stood helpless. Many remain in the dark, without food, water, heat or possessions. Many have stood the ultimate pain of losing a loved one, and in their darkest hour, begin to plan a funeral.

My son Michael lives out in Montauk Point, Long Island. He called me as Sandy was about to hit. He told me about fishermen who had tied their boats to a pier and watched as the waters rose over it, smashing their boats together. He described these men as they fought to untie their boats, which are their livelihood at the Point. Still as Sandy began to near, others were in her path. He told me of a woman that had been in the community all of her life. She was walking her dog not far from where my son was calling for others to abandon the area; he did not see her. The following day it was reported that she was walking her dog and was swept away in just an instant!

I am breathless when I see the kindness of people during these times of tragedy. Just about every block I pass there are extension lines from one house to another, sharing power to a neighbor. Families opening their doors and sharing their homes with loved ones. Friends looking in on each other, shelters, churches all lending a helping hand. Some are without homes, without gas, without a safe haven. Some have lost their ability to earn a living, and suffer a feeling of hopelessness.

We lost our power for only a few days, and were lucky enough to get it back last Saturday. Our children and grandchildren are staying with us, while others come in and out to warm up or take a bath and get something to eat. We have been blessed.

May we pray for an end to the suffering. May we pray for those who are lost and alone, that help will come and help them on a path to regain their lives. May God watch over all of you and keep you safe, always.

Deep in the palm of his hand.
God bless each and every one of you!
Diana Mirando

Thank you to those who were able to drop off their baby bottles during this terrible storm. The Life Center will be leaving empty crates in the Gathering Area for anyone who has not returned it or need more time. The Life Center of Long Island sends its prayers to the parish of St. Martin's during these hard times.

If you have any questions, please call Diana Mirando at 830-5077. Thank you all again, and God Bless!

Couples Hoping For Children are invited to join us at St. Ignatius Retreat House each month as we explore where God is in the waiting, struggles, disappointments & joys of the journey towards parenthood. Couples who are considering parenthood, those struggling to conceive and those awaiting an adoption are encouraged to attend. 7:30pm-9pm.

Pre-registration required by calling 516-621-8300. \$20 per couple/session. Dates: Nov. 13, Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9.



St. Martin's Life Teen program is for all high school aged teens (9th-12th grade). Life Teen gathers every Sunday for the 5:30pm Youth Mass and every Sunday night from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Center (room 107 of the school) for our Life Nights. Each week we gather to grow in faith and friendship with Christ & each other. Check out our parish website for a calendar of events at www.smtbethepage.org or contact Erin at EKHoran@yahoo.com.



The Edge program is for all middle school aged student (6th-8th grade). Edge meets every other Thursday evening from 7-8:30pm. This program is a wonderful way for young adolescents to grow in their faith as well as build lasting friendships.



Parent Life is designed to give parents an opportunity to support their parish ministry programs while strengthening their own relationship with Christ and His Church. Parent Life meets once a month on Sundays following the 5:30pm Mass in the school building.

All parents and adults are welcome!

LIFE TEEN, PARENT LIFE AND EDGE EVENTS

We will be holding our annual Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinners for Edge, Life Teen and Parent Life. Edge will be held on Thursday, November 15th at 6:30 p.m.



Middle Schoolers and their families are invited. Everyone needs to bring a side (hot if it needs to be) or dessert (enough to share). We will be holding our dinner in St. Alphonsus Hall. Please RSVP to Erin to ensure enough turkey!!!

Life Teen and Parent Life will share a Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner on Sunday, November 18th following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Everyone needs to bring a side (hot if it needs to be) or dessert (enough for everyone to share).

Food can be dropped off in St. Alphonsus Hall before the 5:30 Mass. Please RSPV to Erin to ensure enough turkey!!!

BELONG MORE DEEPLY

The Diocese of Rockville Centre has invited parishes to share in a program called *Belong More Deeply*, whose purpose is to invite people to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord through their Catholic Faith. We know many Catholics to mass only occasionally, perhaps at Christmas and Easter. We do not judge them. Some of these good people are your children, family members and friends. Still we love our Lord Jesus and the Eucharist and wish they too were able to join in community more actively.

We have distributed cards in the pews that you can put the initials or first name of someone you would like to remember in prayer that they might belong more deeply to our faith community. You can fill them out at any time and place them in the church in the box in front of the icon of our Lady of Perpetual Help.

During Advent, our parish is preparing three one-hour evenings of prayer, reflection, and music on Wednesday, December 5, 12 & 19 at 7:30 p.m. A letter will be prepared that will be given out at the masses on the weekends of November 24/25 and December 1/2. This letter will be an invitation to join us at one of these evenings and for the Christmas events of the parish. We will give a letter to you to give to whomever you wish as part of our parish outreach. These nights will enable all of us to slow down a bit during the rush of the Christmas season, and we hope that there will be those who will come at your invitation. God bless you!

Changing of the Date of Confirmation: I appreciate that many families were upset with my decision to cancel the confirmations on Wednesday, November 7th. I would want you also to know that many families were upset that I was considering having the confirmations on November 7th. It was clear to me that whatever decision was made would bring disappointment and frustration to some people. As I considered what happened, I wish I had made the decision sooner. I will not try to defend what happened as much as let you know how I decided.

I am very concerned about how many of our parishioners do not have heat and electricity. With the cold coming in, this is well beyond an annoyance to a dangerous situation. I had hoped to have the confirmations on its planned date. I know that the young people were ready and excited about the process. We had done all the preparations to make the day as spiritual as possible. After the hurricane, I was concerned about as to whether we should consider a cancellation. I did consulting with the other priests, the staff, and in particular with those responsible for religious education. However, I am the one who made the decision so please do not blame them.

This past weekend, November 3 and 4, we had all our masses and they were well attended. We also had a very large gathering at our Halloween Party on November 2nd. The religious education program met on Saturday, November 3 and also on Monday the 5. I did ask at the Masses I celebrated how many people had power and it was clear to me that many did not have it as of yet. I had a sense that things were slowly getting back to normal in our parish (certainly not in many other places) and that we could continue with the confirmation. People told me that they hoped the confirmation would go on.

I did receive phone calls from some who asked me about canceling the confirmation since they had no lights and it was clear that some relatives and family members could not attend since it was very hard to get gas. I listened to these calls. There was also mention about an impending Nor'easter on Wednesday.

When I met with the families for the practice on Monday, November 5, I told them we would proceed with the confirmation. I told them I knew some sponsors could not make it, as well as family members, but I thought it best to go since we could not be sure of when we could get a date with the Bishop. I also knew a cancellation, when people were already in town for the celebration and party plans had been made, would be upsetting. Certainly, confirmation above all is a sacrament: a spiritual encounter with the living God. I also know it should be a happy and joyful time for the family of the confirmed person. It was difficult to know what to do. I promised families that I would do all I could to, at future masses, to welcome sponsors and family members who could not attend, and give a special blessing to them and their confirmed young person.

On Tuesday, several more people called me, now with concerns about the impending storm. Since we just had gone through one of the most devastating storms in recent history, I could certainly understand their fear. Whatever else was to happen, I did not want to put anyone in danger. I talked to Bishop Nelson Perez, the Bishop who would confirm our young people. He was most gracious and helpful. He told me it was my decision and he would respect whatever I decided. So, as I thought about all this, and as I talked to others, I felt it best for all involved, particularly because of the impending storm, to delay the confirmation. I waited as long as I could (maybe too long) to see if we could still have the confirmation. As I studied the whether reports, I decided it safest, in spite of the confusion and upset it would cause, to delay the confirmation until December 7, a date that was available on Bishop Nelson's calendar. The ceremonies will be at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. I am sure this new date will probably not work out for some people who may have other plans. Perhaps, sponsors and family members will have other commitments. I regret that, but I felt the safety of all is most important. I cannot know what the weather will be like on December 7. We still have to deal with their schools.

I tried to do the best I could and I apologize for any inconvenience that you have experienced. My only consolation is that however much this was frustrating, it does not even come near what so many others experienced at the hands of Hurricane Sandy. I am most appreciative of the how well our religious education coordinators, Pat Ryan and Laura Leigh Agnese, as well as Deacon Jim Biggin have dealt with this evolving situation. They are terrific. Thank you and God bless you. You are most welcome to email me at woodscssr@aol.com or call me if you have further concerns or issues you want to bring to me. I pray that December 7 will be a very happy, Holy Spirit filled day for our confirmation candidates.

In the Name of the Most Holy Redeemer,
Father Patrick Woods, CSSR



The Golden Harvest Festival & Raffle

Raffle limited to only five hundred tickets at \$100 each
...fifty cash prizes for excellent odds of one in ten!

WHEN: Drawing will be held at a Festival Party
Saturday evening in the School Cafeteria at 8PM on November 17th.

\$100 per chance - go it alone or share a ticket with others!

LIST OF PRIZES

First Prize	\$5,000
2 Prizes	\$2,000
3 Prizes	\$ 500
4 Prizes	\$ 200
20 Prizes	\$ 150
20 Prizes	\$ 125



50 Prizes!...only 500 tickets!...and a Party, too!

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW
IN THE GATHERING AREA
BEFORE *and* AFTER ALL MASSES
(including the 5:30PM on Sunday)**

**AS WELL AS IN THE RECTORY OFFICE
DURING THE WEEK!**

