Masses For The Week				
	- December 3 Thomas & Eloropae Mullon			
	Thomas & Florence Mullen			
	Edward Rasmussen			
	December 4 Pat Gore			
	Charles A. Harvey, Jr., 5th Anniversary ay - December 5			
	Stanley Lomot, Nicholas & Ustina Drobig			
9:00	John J. Dooley, Jr.			
	- December 6			
	Dorothy Gore			
	Rose Provenzano			
	December 7			
	In Thanksgiving			
9:00	Carmine Carlo			
7:00 p.m.	Katherine & Michael Healy—Immaculate			
-	Conception Vigil Mass			
	- December 8 - Immaculate Conception			
9:00				
12 Noon	Bridget Ridge			
The 5:00 &	& 7:00 are for the First Sunday in Advent			
5:00	John & Delia Connaughton			
7:00	Julia & Fred Zoitke			
Sunday - I	December 9			
7:00	The People of the Parish			
8:30	Amelia Regateiro, 5th Anniversary			
10:00	George & Doris Held			
11:30	Suzanne Moortgat			
1:00	Jerry Hansen			
5:30	Robert Kuhlke			
	Readings For The Week			
Mon.	Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11			
Tues.	Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 10:21-24			
Wed.	Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37			
Thurs.	Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27			
Fri.	Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31			
Sat.	Genesis 3:9-15, 20;			
	Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38			
Sun.	Baruch 5:1-9 Rejoice, Jerusalem, and be			
	glory of God will shine upon you. The moun-			
	valleys will become a level plain. "God is			
	rael in joy."			
	us 1:4-6, 8-11 Paul prayed for the Philippians			

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 Paul prayed for the Philippians that the good work begun in them may be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ."

Luke 3:1-6 The word of God was spoken to John the Baptizer. From that time on he went about proclaiming a baptism of repentance, saving, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Nov. 26	#310	Joan Skrypek	\$25.00
Nov. 27	#175	Robert S. Lomot	\$25.00
Nov. 28	# 58	Kathy & John McKerlie	\$25.00
Nov. 29	# 59	M/M Frank Dillon	\$25.00
Nov. 30	#287	Jean Axmacher	\$50.00

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Last Week November 24/25 Collection Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00 Amount Received: \$19,037.58

Thank you for your support & generosity!

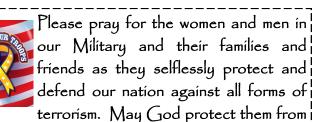
Reflection & Living Stewardship



"Be on guard," Jesus warns in to-Stewardship day's Gospel, "lest your spirits be-A Way of Life come bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow

the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use this liturgical season of Advent as a means to belong more deeply to Jesus and to one another!



all harm! May we remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

> Charismatic Prayer Group

Roadblocks

We've seen so many in the past few weeks. Trees came down, roads were flooded, power lines fell. Usually, you can easily find your way around a road block but sometimes you may need help. It's the same with life's road blocks. We are here to help. Come and share your story. Our next meeting is Monday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall. Call 516-993-9672 for more info or answers to any questions.



Divine Mercy Novena

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

Letter from the Pastor

First Sunday of Advent



If the media and the merchants have their way, Black Friday - a term I never heard growing up, seems to be more important in their eyes than the recently celebrated Thanksgiving Day. Full disclosure: I like to Christmas shop for family and friends, but I do most of it on the internet. The Monday after Thanksgiving is now called Cyber Monday since it the day experts say is the greatest day of the year for internet buying.

I do recall a few years ago going into the Belly of the Beast, by shopping in Manhattan on the Friday after Thanksgiving. My niece was home from North Carolina with her husband and their three children. The kids love to go into The City as we Brooklynites call Manhattan. The oldest, Thomas, has an addiction to dirty water hot dogs. While I would be suggesting lovely Irish pubs to stop in for a nice juicy burger, he would be saying, "Uncle, Pat, just one more dog, please..." Micaela at the time was at the age where her top priority on our city trip was going to American Doll. I believe that God will take many years off of my days in purgatory for the hours I spent in that store where little and not so little girls delight in the thousand of costumes and accessories available for the dolls. There is even a beauty parlor for the dolls to get dolled up in. Now as we walked in this store, Thomas and my godson Brendan would be registering major complaints; they did not want to be seen in a doll store, and Brendan felt that his time at the Times Square Toys R' Us was being squandered. The last stop was the toy store. You can imagine what that store was like on Black Friday. I took more elbows from pre-teens than I did when I played hockey, and got blocked more by shoving adults than my days of playing football the seminary. I was a bruised warrior. Having spent most of the money I had on the hot dogs and high heels for the dolls, I told Brendan he could have anything in the store that was less than \$25.00. This was a big mistake since Brendan wanted to look at every Lego ever made and find the price on them, which is not always easy. I felt like I was with an accountant, constantly adding and subtracting prices, since he was determined to get as many toys as he could for the sum of money I had set. Finally, I told him I was out of energy and he had to decide.

I write this story not as a critique on Christmas shopping or an attack on materialism. I really enjoyed the day as I do most things that involve Christmas preparation. Still, I was growing tired and stressed. I needed some time on my recliner, getting a snooze. I hold that image out to you this Advent Season. Enjoy all the fun and delight of Christmas preparation. All the decorating, the shopping, the card-writing, the baking, the tree buying are about Jesus. Anyone of us can get so busy, so worn out that we grow exhausted.

Advent reminds us that Christmas is about more than shopping and decorating; it is preparation time to enter into the depth of the mystery of Christmas and the deepest mystery that God so loved us that he became a baby born in Bethlehem. Our parish is having three nights of music, prayer, quiet, and reflection on the wonder of God and his coming among us. They are all on Wednesdays: December 5th, December 12, December 19th, at 7:30 p.m. In the midst of all the wonderful activity of preparing for the holidays, these will be special moments to keep us focused on our Lord Jesus and refreshed in our day to day living during Advent. I do hope you give yourself this gift and invite a friend, especially someone who may not have been to church in a while. I think they will be blessed if they do attend.

Father Pat, CSSR woodscssr@aol.com www.smtbethpage.org



The Vincentians and Parish Outreach volunteers gathered at the St. Martin of Tours pantry after their regular Saturday morning meeting to fill Thanksgiving boxes for families who come to the parish pantry for food. The food boxes were labeled with each family's name and arranged in alphabetic order. The volunteers formed an assembly line, filling each basket with an assortment of fruits - oranges, apples and grapes - vege-tables - carrots, potatoes and green beans - the makings for salad and, of course, stuffing mix and cranberry sauce.

Before leaving, the families were invited to visit the dessert room to look over the array of desserts to add to their Thanksgiving feast. There were some difficult choices ranging from pies, cakes, cookies, candy and hot chocolate mix. The kids' favorites - Whoopee Pies - were piled in the middle of the room. Finally, a turkey or roasting chicken was added to the food for the family's Thanksgiving feast.



tin's plus six baskets from the Syosset America were given to

In all, 39 Thanksgiving baskets from St. Martin's plus six baskets from the Syosset Homemakers' Club and six baskets from the Martial Arts of America were given to

families who live in our community. And on Tuesday, 80 individual turkey dinners donated by B.K. Sweeney's and 30 dinners from the Crossroads Restaurant were given to single clients.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who made this Thanksgiving so special for pantry clients: Nathal and Nathal from the Hunts Point Distribution Center for the fresh fruits and vegetables; Gerri McCarthy's Girl



Bakers from the 6th grade CCD class.

s Point Distribution Center for the fresh fruits and vegetables; Gerri McCarthy's Girl Scout Troup and Marie Conti's sixth grade CCD class who donated home baked goods' the members of Life Teen for the dinner rolls; LI Cares, the staff of St. Joseph Hospital, 7th grade CCD, Charles Campagne PTA, Bethpage AARP Chapter 56201, St. Martin of Tours Christian Mothers, Augenstein Family Dentistry, Cub Scouts Troop 403 and Roves Beauty Salon for the food, party goods, gift cards, turkeys and gift baskets. And thank you to all the countless families who donated items and never left their names.

God bless you all for your generosity in bringing the "table of plenty" to so many families in our community.

Wedding Banns No wedding announcements



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

The week the Food Pantry is in need of dish soap, diapers (sizes 5 & 6), baby wipes, coffee, sugar, ketchup, and Chef Boyardee canned pastas. Thank you for all that you do!

Food Pantry: 208 Broadway, Bethpage Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM Thursday: 2:00PM - 7:00PM

Phone: (516) 931-7332

Help Our Family <u>A Parish Family In Need</u>

On Sunday, November 25th, John and Linda Henehan's house in Bethpage was completely destroyed by a fire and they lost their home. John and Linda have three young children. They did not want any help, but we insisted because they are part of our parish family. John had been very active in our religious education program as a hall monitor and volunteer. His son was an altar server. They are presently staying in the rectory guest house. I would ask if you could make either a financial donation or a gift card donation for them, it would be most helpful. We are not looking for clothes at this time. You may leave your donation at the rectory.

Thank you for your kindness at this most difficult time in their lives. - Father Pat

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.

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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, Leevalli Annearosa, Walter Looney 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 & Dad, Gina Cava Helena Mulligan, Bill Kelly, Salvatore Milo, Jr. Matthew Messina, Anne Cramer, William John Staudt

Tabor Retreat Center, Oceanside NY Contemplative/Advent Programs

Into Great Silence is a wonderful way to begin Advent. Filmed in the French Alps at the Grande Chartreuse Monastery, it follows the silent life of the Carthusian monks as they go about their daily routine. The film will be screened Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m., \$10 (refreshments included).

We invite you to join Rev. Thomas More Fahey, RGS for a day of Marian reflection and prayer focused on the spiritual classic *A Woman Wrapped in Silence.* Tuesday, December 11, 9:30 am—2 pm, \$35 (lunch included).

If you would like a hands-on experience with the Japanese art of flower arranging, Dr. Anne Skamai will instruct guests who will leave with a beautiful floral arrangement. *The Way of Flowers as a Contemplative Practice,* Saturday, December 15, 9:30 am—12:30 pm, \$35 (includes all materials).

Please call (516) 536-3004 or email taborretreats@juno.com for further details.



Week of Dec. 2 - Dec. 8, 2012 Altar Bread & Wine In Loving Memory of Rita Carroll

Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Robert D. Coiro, Anna "Patsy" O'Connor Marie F. Karchinski מממממממממממממממממממממממממממ

Notes from the Music Ministry Calling all singers...adults, teens and chil-dren...The St. Martin's Music Ministry needs you! St. Martin's Parish is planning some wonderful events/liturgies for 2012-2013 which will include the participation of the Music Ministry. Advent and Christmas plans are already in place so don't miss out on being a part of this exciting and faith-building experience. All groups are starting to re-hearse, so join now! *"If Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?" ...Music Ministry Side Note* The 5:30 Life Teen Mass is in need of profi-cient musicians (instruments needed at this time are quiter drums and fluta). Anyone

cient musicians (instruments needed at this time are guitar, drums and flute). Anyone willing to volunteer their time, there is one practice and one mass weekly. *Call Elena Scollo, Music Director for more information or if you have any questions at*

(516) 713-8854.

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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.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, KINGS

Sign up below for the Christmas Eve Children's

Pageant at the 6:00 PM Mass, and return to the rectory to the attention of Genny Mitchell. Practice will be on Thursday, December 20th at 4:00 PM in the Church.



Name(s) & Ages

Phone No.:

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.

Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity An Old Fashioned Christmas

Our General Meeting is Tuesday, December 4th at 7:30 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall (parish hall). Since this is our Christmas Party to celebrate the birth of Christ, please bring an ornament to decorate our tree and take home a different ornament at the end of the evening.

We are having a GRAB BAG, so please bring a NEW \$10 wrapped gift (in only 1 package). You will receive a number when you enter and as your number is called you will pick a gift.

We are also having a cookie swap. Please bring a dozen cookies which will be shared. This way everyone will have a dozen different cookies on their plate. Also bring a container to take the cookies home with you. A Birthday Cake for Jesus will be served. Christmas carols will be sung, raffles 4/\$5.00 and 50/50 for \$1 each will be sold.

A Blessed Christmas to All!!

All women welcome to celebrate with us.

(If you haven't paid your dues (\$ 10), you may do so at the meeting.)

THE GIVING TREE



Once again the Giving Tree is ready in the Gathering Area! On the tree are Gift Card requests.

Please take one and return the tag and the Gift Card and place it in the mail slot of the Rectory Office Door no later than MONDAY, DECEMBER 10/TH.

Thank you in advance for all you do. God bless you all and have a happy, holy Christmas!

WREATH SALE

The Bethpage Boy Scouts Troop 604 will be selling wreaths again this year during the weekend of December 8 & 9 after all masses. Your \$20 donation for these beautiful wreaths will be helping to support our scouting program here in Bethpage. Thank you and God bless you all!



Rosary for Life In the Chapel

Please join us for a Rosary for Life in the EU-CHARISTIC CHAPEL every Wednesday evening at 7PM. We join together to <u>not only</u> 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: <u>prayerssmtbeth-page@gmail.com</u>. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity. Remember, it is for any-thing 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.

St. Joseph Renewal Center 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood

WORKSHOPS: Call for reservations at (631) 273-1187 x 123 and for more information on the following:

December 5th 1—2:30: will be held 1st Sunday of the month—Living with Alzheimer's and Dementia. Free Will Offering

December 5th 7:30 PM December 19th 10:00 AM "Deepening Your Spiritual Practice Through the Use of Focusing." Offering: \$15 per person

December 5th 7:00-8:00 PM Therapeutic/Guided Meditation Offering: \$15 (\$20 individual session by appointment)

December 5th 10:00—3:00 PM Advent Day of Prayer "*Are you Ready to let a TI-NY HAND take yours?*" Offering: \$35.00 includes lunch

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

THE LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

The Long Island Catholic has now become a magazine. The format change is much more than from newsprint to glossy paper. The content has changed as well. The magazine is more formational than informational by focusing on individual faith stories from Long Island Catholics. It highlights the benefits of being Catholic and explores Catholic faith and spirituality. Columns on parenting and work are helping parents apply their faith to everyday life. The diocesan website will continue as a primary source for daily updated news.

The first issue contains a great article by Sister Ann Shields on Spiritual Fitness. (BOW DOWN, THE MEANING OF THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE). Some of the highlights: SPIRITUAL EXERCISE: I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO HAVE A MANGER SCENE IN YOUR HOME BEGINNING WITH ADVENT. Each day visit that little crèche and gaze upon this reminder that God loved you so much. He would come down to you. He would stoop so that you could gaze on Him and see Him eye to eye in order to save your from your sins and lead you home!

THIS LITTLE CHILD IS YOUR SAFETY, YOUR SECURITY, YOUR SAVIOR, THE ONE WHO CON-QUERED ETERNAL DEATH FOR YOU! Does it take faith to believe that? Of course. So come to the crèche and kneel, bow down and ask God for faith.

WHEN WE BOW DOWN BEFORE THAT MANGER, WE ARE SAYING IN EFFECT; "LORD, I KNEEL BEFORE YOU. I need your help. Your saving grace in my life. I need to grow in faith that I might be able to trust You with my life."

THEN ON CHRISMAS EVE, GO TO CHURCH AND BEFORE MASS, GO TO THE MANGER AND OF-FER THAT SMALL BABY YOUR WHOLE LIFE. To begin again, follow Him or to follow Him more closely. That infant is your Savior, your Lord, your Redeemer. God paid the ultimate price for your life. His life to save yours. Bow down and accept his gift. His gift that is beyond price. To read this article in its entirety go to www.drvc.org. Vol. 1 Issue 1. Dec. 2012

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE LONG IS-LAND CATHOLIC.

> THE LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC PO BOX 9000 ROOSEVELT, NY 11575-9000 www.licatholic.org



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.smtbethpage.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!**

Holy Face of Jesus Holy Hour

Please join us on Monday December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. in the church for the Holy Face of Jesus Holy Hour in reparation for blasphemy and the wounds to His Holy Face. All will be blessed with Holy Infant of Prague oil.

Please note that the Masses for the Immaculate Conception are as follows:

Friday, December 7, Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 8, there are only TWO Masses - 9:00 a.m. and 12 Noon.

The 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. masses on Saturday December 8th are for the First Sunday of Advent.



We will be selling Christmas trees again this

year at St. Martin's parking lot. Come and pick out a beautiful tree either on Friday, December 14th from 4:00—7:00 PM or on Saturday, December 15th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All trees are \$35.00. The proceeds will benefit the Youth Ministry of St. Martin's.

EUCHARISTIC 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. <u>The</u> next service is Tuesday, December 11th.

BELONG MORE DEEPLY

The Diocese of Rockville Centre has invited parishes to share in a program called Belong More Deep*ly*, whose purpose is to invite people to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord through their Catholic Faith. We know many Catholics go 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.

Young Adult Club

The introductory meeting that was scheduled for the Young Adult Club was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy. The meeting to measure interest would be on Sunday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

Some of the ideas that might be discussed as possibilities are:

• Faith on tap - 25 to 40 year old Catholic singles and divorced. Go to a bar/restaurant and get to

know one another.

- explain what the group is about
- · difficulty of meeting new friends in a nice environment
- day group trips
- nights out once or twice a month (if it's a good crowd possibly more)
- once a month prayer group (Fr. Pat or Fr. Henry)
- · speakers on life and religion for our age group

Please contact Danielle at <u>danic627@yahoo.com</u> if you are interested in such a group.

The Long Island Catholic Collection December 2, 2012

The Long Island Catholic newspaper is becoming a monthly magazine –10 times per year. The magazine's primary focus will shift from news to inspiration and formation through individual faith stories and new columns to help Catholics of all ages live a more faith-filled life.

By contributing a minimum of \$20 to the annual *Long Island Catholic* collection on Dec. 1-2, 2012, (\$10 off the regular \$30 subscription price) you will receive 10 issues of the new diocesan magazine in the mail. Don't miss a single issue of the new *Long Island Catholic Magazine*.

For more information on the new magazine call 516-594-1000.

VIRTUS

Virtus training is a MUST for anyone who would like to volunteer your time in the parish. The next training session at St. Martin's is on Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM in the Faculty Lounge of the school.

Please register by visiting drvc.org and click on Virtus on the homepage. Come by St. Martin's rectory office and ask for Screening Consent Forms prior to the training date.

Art on the Vine at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Dec. 9th from 2 to 6 pm Includes:

Wine Tasting by Pindar Vineyards; commentary by Joseph Bertuccio, wine expert and author; exhibit and sale by professional artists; tours of seminary art, chapels, library and unique "folk art"; refreshments, music, silent auction, raffle, Chinese auction, valet parking

\$50 per guest - proceeds benefit the education and formation of our seminarians, our future priests.

For ticket information call 631-423-0483 or bmalone@icseminary.edu

Advance purchase is preferred; however, tickets will be sold at the door.

DRIVER EDUCATION CONSULTANTS Martin Z. Hirschfield, Executive Director

St. Martin of Tours is hosting a 6-hour Class 1 Defensive Driving course

> Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 8:30AM—3:00PM

St. Alphonsus Hall 38 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage

REGISTRATION:

call Driver Education (631) 360-9720 Monday-Friday 9AM to 4PM. Minimum enrollment: 15 people Maximum enrollment: 40 people

A Heartfelt Letter of Thanks

Mr. Frank Amalfitano, President & CEO of The United Veterans Beacon House, Inc. sent a letter of thanks to our parish. In part, Mr. Amalfitano said that "we are touched and grateful for your parish's willingness to run a donation drive to benefit the homeless and at-risk veteran population we are devoted to serving. We would especially like to thank Rosalie Malerba for organizing the drive; without her efforts, this very successful drive would not have been possible."

"Thank you to Pastor Patrick Woods and all the parishioners of St. Martin of Tours who participated. Your generous donations of household items including blankets, pillows and sheets will truly make a difference in the lives of those we serve. We hope you and your families have a joyous holiday season."



Excellence Quality Service Innovation Leadership

New York Blood Center - B L O O D D R I V E

St. Martin's is hosting a BLOOD DRIVE on Wednesday, December 19th from 2:30—8:30 PM St. Alphonsus Hall (Parish Hall). To be a good donor you must:

- Bring valid photo or signature ID
- Minimum weight of 110 lbs
- Age 16-75 (16 year olds must have parental consent available at www.nybloodcenter.org)
- Eat well (low fat) and drink fluids
- No tattoos for past 12 months unless applied in NJ.

Time slots begin at 2:30 and every 15 minutes up to and including 8:15 p.m.

You may call the rectory at 931-0818 to leave your name, phone number and the time you would like to reserve, or you can email gennysmt@hotmail.com.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to give blood, please call 1-800-688-0900.

A Christmas Homecoming

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you are a daily Mass attendee or an occasional Mass participant, the Parish of St. Martin of Tours welcomes you and invites you to grow more deeply in the love of our God who so loves us that he came among us as a baby.



Advent Homecoming Celebration

December 5th December 12th December 19th 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. I'll Be Home For Christmas Don't Miss the Star O Come, Let Us Adore Him Songs of Christmas

These services will be about 50 minutes in length.

Reaching Out During Advent

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. Letters were given out at the November 24/25 masses; they are still available this weekend, December 1/2. This letter is an invitation to join us at one of these evenings and for the Christmas events of the parish.

You can also give it 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!

What is the Meaning of the Advent Wreath?



The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On the wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent one candle is lit each Sunday as part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Advent Wreath Candles

Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. In the center sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Each week on Sunday, an additional candle is lit. On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior.

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	Adult Choirs Rehearsal Schedule	
	Monday December 3rd 7:00 pm - Regular 8:30 and 11:30 Choir Practice 8:00 pm - Midnight Mass Christmas Rehearsal (seasonal singers please attend)	
	THURSDAY DECEMBER 6TH - NO CHOIR PRACTICE DUE TO RELIGOUS ED EVENT	
	Monday December 10th 7:00 pm - Midnight Mass Christmas Rehearsal (seasonal singers please attend)	
	Thursday December 13th 7:00 pm - 8:30 and 11:30 Choir Practice	
	Monday December 17th 7:00 pm - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal (All members of music ministry must attend)	
	Wednesday December 19th 7:30 pm - LESSONS & CAROLS (PLEASE BE IN THE CHURCH AT 6:30 PM)	
	Thursday December 20th7:00 pm - 8:30 and 11:30 Choir Practice8:00 pm - Midnight Mass Christmas Rehearsal (seasonal singers please attend)	
	Sunday December 23rd - Mass as usual	
	Monday December 24th - Midnight Mass Pre Concert/Midnight Mass Concert begins at 11:00 pm (PLEASE BE IN THE CHURCH AT 10:45 PM)	
	Tuesday December 25th - Christmas DayMass as usual	
	REGULAR 8:30 AND 11:30 CHOIR PRACTICES WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY JANUARY 10TH.	
	LIFE TEEN BAND, PLEASE CHECK WITH CHRIS FOR YOUR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE. 🌋	
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ſ	Dedication of the Statue of Saint Bernadette	
	Please join us on <u>Saturday, December 8th after the 9:00 a.m.</u> as the statue of Saint Ber- nadette of Lourdes is dedicated to our parish. It is located by the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes on the Seaman Avenue side of the church. We want to especially acknowledge the Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity and thank them for their generous contribution of this statue. All are welcome to attend and join the Christian Mothers on this happy occa- sion.	

Children's Music Ministry Christmas Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday, December 5, December 12 - Regular Practice at 5:00 PM

Monday, December 10, December 17– Extra Christmas practices at 5:00 PM

Wednesday, December 19 - Advent Lessons and Carols at 7:00 PM (we will practice songs on Wednesdays)

Thursday, December 20 - Christmas Pageant Practice at 4:00 PM for anyone who is participating followed by Children's Choir Practice at 5:00 PM.

Monday, December 24 - Family Mass and Christmas Pageant in the Church at 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 26 & January 2 - NO PRACTICES THOSE DAYS!

Sunday, December 30, January 6 - Sing at 10:00 AM Mass as usual. (We will just sing Christmas Carols)

ST. KILIAN ADVENT MISSION

Father John McGowan and I will be giving an Advent Mission (similar to what we did at St. Martin's last year) at St. Kilian's parish in Farmingdale. You are welcome to attend and laugh at the jokes even though you have heard them many times.

Please do not come on Wednesday, December 5th since that is the night our own parish is having its first of three nights of the Advent Retreat. The other two nights are the 12th and the 19th.

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST OUR REDEMPTORIST ADVENT MISSION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 THROUGH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

St. Kilian Church 485 Conklin Street, Farmingdale, NY 7:00 pm Rosary, Music & Gathering 7:30 pm Mission Preaching Begins

	1 8 8
Sunday:	Our Longing for God
Monday:	Reconciliation with God and One Another (Reconciliation available)
Tuesday:	The Wonder of the Incarnation
Wednesday:	The Mystery of Life, Death and Resurrection
Thursday:	The Community of the Church (The Eucharist will be celebrated)