

Masses For The Week

Monday - December 31—New Year's Eve

6:30 NO 6:30
 9:00 Benasutti & Murray Families
 7PM Daniel Flynn, Anniversary (*Vigil Mass*)

Tuesday - January 1, 2013

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

9:00 Michael Russo
 12 Noon Gerald Meehan
 7PM Florence DeSario

Wednesday - January 2

6:30 NO 6:30
 9:00 Mary Godek

Thursday - January 3

6:30 James DeLucia
 9:00 Ryan Steubing

Friday - January 4

6:30
 9:00 Rick & Jim Wilson

Saturday - January 5

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced**
 5:00 Rose Cristallo & Joseph Stramandinoli
 7:00 Madeline T. Stein

Sunday - January 6

7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Al Kump
 10:00 Jerry Saloy, 3rd Anniversary
 11:30 Anthony Seminerio
 1:00 Domenico Corapi
 5:30 Rosemary Ogno

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
 Tues. Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:16-21
 Wed. 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
 Thurs. 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
 Fri. 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
 Sat. 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
 Sun. *Isaiah 60:1-6 Darkness covers the earth, and heavy clouds hang over the people. But the light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines bright.*

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 In Christ Jesus, Gentiles and Jews are co-heirs and co-sharers in the saving promise.

Matthew 2:1-12 The magi from the east followed the star until it stopped still over the house. They entered, found the child with Mary, prostrated themselves, and did him homage.



Divine Mercy Novena

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

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Last Week December 22/23 Collection

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: **TOTALS NEXT WEEK**

Thank you for your support & generosity!

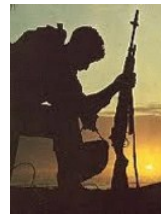
Reflection & Living Stewardship

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?



We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who embrace stewardship as a way of life. Their relationships with family, friends and co-workers are now different, influenced by a spirit of generosity and sharing, which affects all aspects of their daily lives.

Especially during this Holy Season of Christmas, 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 they be under the protection of the Holy Family now and always!



Charismatic Prayer Group

F.A.I.T.H.

Forward All Issues To Him

2012 was a tough year. We've seen or been through tremendous devastation, and horrific tragedy. Some have lost loved ones or jobs. Others have serious illnesses. It's important to have a strong Faith Foundation during tough times. Build your Faith now - you never know when you'll need it.

Our next meeting is Monday, January 7th in the CHURCH. Call (516) 993-9672 for any prayer requests or more information.

See HOP Club Winners on Page 6.

Letter from the Pastor

We always miss our beloved family members and friends who have died. Even if many years have passed, and the pure raw grief has abated, our deceased come to our minds very often, sometimes for no apparent reason. Sometimes we smile or laugh at an old memory as we share a story about them, or we feel a twinge of heartache and loss at the mention of their names. At certain occasions such as weddings, the birth of child, a graduation, it is often said, "Oh, how I wish Mom could be here to see this moment; she would be so happy."



I believe that Christmas is one of the times of the year when we experience very powerfully the sense that someone is missing. It may come to us as we pull out a certain ornament that was Dad's favorite, or as we sit down to Christmas dinner and miss Aunt Sally's special stuffing. A Christmas song is heard on the radio and we recall our sister, maybe more than 30 years ago, singing it at a Christmas pageant. This kind of remembering is bittersweet; it makes us happy and sad at the same time. Many of us visit the cemeteries where our loved ones are buried and bring grave blankets or plants to hold them in memory at Christmas.

If you had a recent death in your family (and recent is different for all us), Christmas can be a particularly painful time. While the whole world is singing *Jingle Bells* and *Joy to the World*, we walk about with a deep hole in our hearts. For some, a Christmas season of grief can be a very cruel time.

In 1997, my Mom died on December 6th, the feast of St. Nicholas. She was 87 and her body and mind had been failing her for many years. She spent much of her time in bed and in a wheelchair with the family wondering if she even knew us anymore. But when she died, I was struck with an overwhelming grief. I suppose I thought I was ready and prepared, but I suppose you are never ready for the loss of a parent, a brother, a sister, a close friend or God forbid, a child.

That first Christmas after her death, we choose to celebrate quietly with little festivity. I think the dinner was the most painful moment. Mom was always the family cook, and even in her old age, we always had her sit at the head of the table after my Dad had died. I believe we kept her chair empty that Christmas, and there was a deep emptiness in all of us around the table that we could not overcome.

A year later my sister planned a first anniversary Mass. She asked me to come home and say Mass for the family. It was a Sunday - December 6, 1998. When I came home, she asked me what time we should have the Mass since she was preparing food. I told her at halftime of the Jet game. She laughed and said Mom would have understood that since I was always holding up meals watching sports on television.

You may or may not recall that 1998 was a very usual year for the Jets. They were a good team that year! Bill Parcells was the coach and Vinny Testaverde was the quarterback. The Jets were playing the Seattle Seahawks in a very important game. The last play of the game had the Jets with ball on the five yard line with three or four seconds on the clock. After a timeout, the next play would be the last of the game. The Jets were losing by six points. If they scored a touchdown on the last play, they would win, if not it would be a terrible loss. The last play begins with Vinny dropping back as if to pass, but it was a surprise quarterback draw play. Testaverde, the slowest man that God had ever created, was running up the middle toward the end zone.

As the clock struck zero, our quarterback landed right on the goal line. The referee raised his hands and signaled a touchdown and I jumped off of coach rejoicing. However, this turned out to be a very controversial play. The television replay clearly showed that Testaverde was six inches short of the goal line. He should not have been awarded a touchdown and the Jets should have lost the game. Fortunately, this was before the referees could use television replay to change the call as they can today (I think this play was one of several events that brought about the change). So a happy priest said an anniversary Mass for his Mom.

The next day, my close friend Father John McGowan called me and asked how the day went since he knew it was the first anniversary of Mom's death. I told him about the Mass at halftime. He responded, "*That is your Mom's first miracle- a Jet win.*" I had a great laugh at what he said. What a year a difference had made in our family. We will always miss Mom, but the pain did lessen and the joy of so many good memories, as well as our faith in eternal life, enabled us to once again celebrate joyful Christmases.

I have always loved this quote from John Shea, a Catholic writer. I often send it to family and friends who have had a death over the past year.

The Missing Return

God does not let go of the human person. Although this rhetoric is meant to surprise and stagger us, it is informed by divine love, also holds onto people. Especially at Christmas we remember the dead and, although we know it will cause us more pain than pleasure, we cultivate their presence. We refuse to allow death any sovereignty. The birth of Christ proclaims that love rules. Perhaps that is why ghosts and Christmas go together. Not those who haunt Scrooge, clanging about with chains and threats and pushing for repentance, but the gently, unobtrusive spirits of people who have celebrated with us and who now are gone, the spirits of people have celebrated with us and who now are gone, the spirits of people sustained by love and, therefore, never far from where love is.

At Christmas the missing return. I am not sure why. If memories and unseen presence followed the liturgical calendar, their scheduled visits would be at Easter. After all, this is when death is revealed as empty, unable to entomb the elusive human spirit. But at Easter those who have passed through death seem to be in the far reaches of God, consigned to glory. However, at Christmas they seem to roam about the close reaches of God, bumping into the earthbound. Maybe it is the migration pattern of the spirit world. They winter on earth.

If you are struggling with loss this Christmas, be gentle with yourself and trust that healing will come. Your memories are precious. For the rest of us, lift a prayer and perhaps a toast to those we love with whom we shared so many past Christmases. - *Father Patrick Woods, CSSR*



Wedding Banns
No wedding announcements



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

This week the Food Pantry is in need of cereal, canned soups, canned fruit, dish soap, laundry soap, pasta sauce, Jello, canned chili & stew, pasta, mayo, peanut butter, jelly/jam and oatmeal.

Special thanks to the students and faculty at JFK Middle School's SADD Club. They adopted a family in need and collected gifts for them. They also collected toys for anyone else in need this Christmas. God bless you all!

Food Pantry:

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

Phone: (516) 931-7332

God bless you all for your continued generosity to the Pantry. May 2013 be a year of peace and joy among all peoples of the world!

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

*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 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
Jimmy Stiffa, Christopher Gratton, Sharon Shiepk*

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.**



*Week of Dec. 30 - Jan. 5, 2013
Altar Bread & Wine
In Loving Memory of
Kristine Benasutti*

Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

***Karen Leimeister, Anthony LeFande
Carmela Colavolpe***

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for these upcoming events in our bulletin

- Youth Ministry's Adoration Service: January 8
- Life Teen Information Meeting: January 9
- Life Line Screening: January 11
- Cub Scouts Fun & Faith Day: January 17
- Defensive Driving Course: January 26

FOR THE PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

Please note that while school is in session, the Religious Education Department will lock both gates leading to the school parking lot on the following days and times:

Monday and Tuesday
3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Please park outside the gates during these days and times.

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>.

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Dec. 24 #89	Blanche Gongolewski	\$25.00
Dec. 25 #379	Marion DeZervos	\$25.00
Dec. 26 #615	M/M Leonard Mormino	\$25.00
Dec. 27 #417	Marie Feeley	\$25.00
Dec. 28 #210	Elodia Rich	\$50.00

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.

POSITION WANTED: Nurses needed part time for day and evening shift. Practice your skills in an atmosphere conducive to providing quality care together with the Little Sisters of the Poor at Queen of Peace Residence. Must have long term care experience.

Fax resume 718-464-4308

COMING SOON! Life Line Screening

Life Line Screen is partnering with St. Martin of Tours in an effort to help save lives on **January 11, 2013 in St. Alphonsus Hall**. It is our mission to help bring awareness to vascular disease by offering to host a preventative stroke/vascular screening event. We are pleased to offer St. Martin's a \$10 donation for every member of the parish that signs up and attends this event.

Please sign up by calling the special Helping Hands registration number (1-800 324-9458). The first appointment is 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



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!**

ATTENTION CUB SCOUTS



Attend the CUB SCOUT FUN AND FAITH DAY on Saturday, January 17, 2013 at Saint Ignatius Loyola Gymnasium in Hicksville. A special day of prayer, song, games and a craft are planned. Cubs, Dens, Packs are welcome.

For further information contact the Catholic Scouting Office: (516) 678-5800 ext. 245 or scouting@drvc.org.



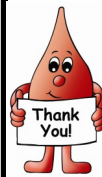
FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

January 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Eucharistic Chapel in reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

January 5th at 8:30 a.m. consisting of Rosary of Reparation, reading about Fatima and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Long Island Blood Bank would like to thank St. Martin of Tours for hosting the Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 19th, and for everyone who took the time and effort to donate. Twenty six pints of blood was produced and have been distributed at area hospitals.



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 Tuesday, January 8th. Everyone is welcome to come and adore our Lord and Redeemer.



DRIVER EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

Martin Z. Hirschfield, Executive Director
St. Martin of Tours is hosting a 6-hour
Class 1 Defensive Driving course

Cost: \$45.00 per person
Saturday, January 26, 2013
from 8:30AM—3:00PM

St. Alphonsus Hall
38 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage

REGISTRATION:

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

Camp Veritas

2013

August 11-17th

Camp Lakota- Wurtsboro, NY



Tired of the same old summer vacation?...

Check out Camp Veritas:

GoKarting, Dodgeball, Holy Mass,
Kayaking, Baseball, Adoration, Rock
Climbing, Swimming, Reconciliation,
Hiking & much more!

Informational

Meeting

January 9th

7pm

Youth Center

(rm. 107 of the school)

EKHoran@yahoo.com

www.campveritas.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Respect Life Committee would like to wish the family of St. Martin of Tours a Happy and Healthy New Year. May we find this New Year filled with peace throughout the world. May this New Year find us safe from storms and keep our children and grandchildren safe from all harm. May we appreciate and treasure the fact that we are Americans, and never take for granted the freedom fought by those who have sacrificed for us. May we continue to respect and preserve the right of every life, from conception to natural death.

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND WISDOM

Grant me the strength from day to day to bear the burdens come my way.

Grant me throughout this bright New Year more to endure and less to fear.

Help me live that I may be spite and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain when cherished hopes of mine prove vain,

Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage some fair tomorrow's spotless page.

Lord, as the days shall come and go in courage let me stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today help me put my faults away.

Let me be in big or little things, grant me joy which friendship brings.

Keep me from selfishness and spite; let me be wise in what is right.

Grant that I may bring no tear to any eye.

When this New Year in time shall end, let it be said I've played the friend.

Have I lived and loved and labored here, and made it a happy year!

Edgar A. Guest



FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Mirando
(C)830-5077 (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.

**If anyone would like to send a letter
or card to the parish in Newtown CT,
here is the address.**

**The Parish of St. Rose of Lima
46 Church Hill Road
Newtown, Connecticut 06470**



Central Nassau Guidance & Counseling Services Inc.

950 S. Oyster Bay Rd

Hicksville, NY 11801

Tel. (516) 822-6111 x 267

Fax (516) 342- 2496

**Helping You Recover From the Hurricane:
Project HOPE**

Project HOPE helps you move forward by offering free & confidential support that assists you and your families understand the emotional & physical reactions to the impact of Hurricane Sandy.

How we help:

- Group/ Individual Crisis Counseling
- Informational/ Educational Support
- Group Crisis Counseling
- Public Education
- Community Networking & Support
- Resource Linkage
- Assessment
- Referral

We are here for you and we will be in your community for the next year. We are available and are eager to assist our neighbors in any way possible to ease the burden left behind by Hurricane Sandy.

Senior Respite - An EAC Program
Education & Assistance Corp. In-home caregiver services
50 Clinton Street, Suite 107, Hempstead NY 11550
(516) 539-0150 ext. 218

We match caregiving families who need help with individuals able to help.

EAC's Senior Respite In-home Caregiver Service companions give caregivers a regular break so they can take care of themselves to better attend to their family's needs. An added benefit - a regular visit from a companion engages and stimulates the homebound person.

- **IF YOU ARE A CAREGIVER** - We have been helping Nassau County families for over 25 years. In addition to companion care, we provide a free in-home nurse's assessment and professional support and referrals to other services. We charge an affordable sliding scale fee based on caregiver income.
- **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRAIN AS A COMPANION** - We offer a stipend to companions. One 2-6 hour day weekly is all that is required. We will be soon holding a training call so call now.

EAC (Education & Assistance Corporation) is a not for profit Human Service Agency offering programs that help individuals and families in the metropolitan area since 1969 and is funded by the New York State Office for the Aging, Town of North Hempstead Project Independence and The Helen L. Morris Foundation. For more information, please visit our website at www.eacinc.org.

St. Joseph Renewal Center Schedule of Retreats and Presentations

Wednesday: January 2, 2013 – 1 - 2:30 pm/*Will be held on 1st Wednesday of month
 "Living with Alzheimer's and Dementia" Presenter: Josephine Daspro, CSJ, D. Min. *Free will offering*

Wednesday: January 2, 2013 – Evening Session 7:30 – 9:30 pm/**January 16, 2013** – Morning Session 10:00 am – 12:00 pm/"Deepening your Spiritual Practice through the use of Focusing"
 Presenters: Loretta Budd, Rosemarie Caruso & Kathy Porter Offering: \$15.00 per session

Wednesday: January 2, 2013 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Therapeutic/Guided Meditation (For Inner Healing)
 Presenter: Irene Moore, CCH/Meditation Therapist/Offering: \$15.00 (\$20.00 Individuals by appointment)

Tuesday: January 8, 2013 – 10:00 am to 12:00 noon/Women's Spiritual Gathering
 Presenters: Tina Cafaro and Joan Vessio/Offering: \$15.00

Saturday: January 12, 2013 – 8:00 to 9:30 am/Men's Spiritual Gathering
 Presenters: Michael Dunne and participants from the gathering/Offering: \$20.00 includes breakfast

Weekend of January 19 – 20, 2013 at 9 am Saturday to Sunday after lunch
 Men & Women's Overnight Retreat "Anger and Forgiveness"/Presenters: Jean Lynch, MS and Josephine Daspro, CSJ, D. Min./Offering: \$85.00 includes accommodations

Weekend of February 1 – 3, 2013 – Friday 4 pm – Sunday after lunch/Men & Women's Spirituality Retreat
 "Our One Great Act of Fidelity"/(Interfaith Christian Retreat)/Presenters: Doreen Beitter, Owen & Helen Farley, Josephine Daspro, CSJ/Offering: \$180.00 includes accommodations

All programs are held at St. Joseph Renewal Center, 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood, New York, 11717 – or call for reservations 631-273-1187 x 123.