

Masses For The Week

Monday - February 18 (Presidents Day)

6:30 NO 6:30 MASS
9:00 James W. Comerford

Tuesday - February 19

6:30 John J. Jauregui, 4th Anniversary
9:00 Rita Grabowski & Wanda Evans

Wednesday - February 20

6:30 Melissa Dorsey
9:00 Ambrose & Elizabeth Hoolahan

Thursday - February 21

6:30 Arthur Chiampou
9:00 Antonio Barbosa, Anniversary

Friday - February 22

6:30 John J. Wolfe, 2nd Anniversary
9:00 Matilda Russo

Saturday - February 23

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced**
5:00 Louis Ruggiero, John & Gertrude O'Rourke
7:00 Barry Family, Living

Sunday - February 24

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Gertrude Parine
10:00 Mimi Gallagher
11:30 David Biggin
1:00 Rocco Vivolo
5:30 Vito J. Amarosa

Readings For The Week

Mon. Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tues. Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wed. Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
Thurs. Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12
Fri. 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
Sat. Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
Sun. **Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18** *God appeared to Abram and made a covenant to his faithful servant, promising many descendants and much land. Abram put faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as righteousness.*

Philippians 3:17-4:1 *Paul urged the Philippians to follow his example: "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord."*

Luke 9:28b-36 *Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. There he was transfigured before their eyes. A cloud overshadowed them, and a voice said, "This is my chosen Son. Listen to him."*

The Rectory Office is CLOSED on Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents Day. Please note that there is NO 6:30 a.m. Mass on that day. Thank you!

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Last Week February 9/10 Collection

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$12,939.59

Thank you for your generosity & support!

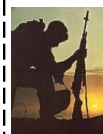
Reflection & Living Stewardship



Stewardship
A Way of Life

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who share their first fruits by using their talents and resources to welcome the newest members of our parish community through hospitality and invitation.



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.

Charismatic Prayer Group

As I was shoveling snow last weekend, I found that the path I made wasn't always on the sidewalk. The path on the grass was useable but the sidewalk was much better - just like the paths we make for ourselves and God's path for us! ***Our next meeting is Monday, February 25th in the Church - weather permitting. Bring a friend who is on a grassy path! Call (516) 993-9672 for any prayer requests or more information.***

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Feb. 11	#414 M/M Thomas J. Morici	\$25.00
Feb. 12	#250 Steve & Carole Kaiser	\$25.00
Feb. 13	#616 Helena Mulligan	\$25.00
Feb. 14	#271 Leonarda M. Dear	\$25.00
Feb. 15	#331 Jim Moran	\$250.00



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

Letter from the Pastor

I want to write about a very sensitive and complicated topic: homosexuality. In particular I write to those who may have children who are confused about their sexual orientation, who may be homosexuals themselves, or struggling with their sexuality. Over the last several years a number of states, including New York State, have allowed marriage between homosexuals. The Catholic Church has opposed this very strongly because we see marriage as instituted by God to be strictly between a man and a woman. It is the teaching of our church that any sexual acts outside of the sacred bond of marriage are against the teaching of our Lord. This would include sexual acts between people of the same sex.

It bothers me that in the eyes of Hollywood and the liberal media, to state what I just said is, at best, seen as an antiquated idea and, at worst, a form of bigotry against homosexual people. I think the media is very powerful in promoting what might be called a gay lifestyle as simply an alternate style of living a life. Our faith teaches what it teaches out of long-held convictions based on the Word of God. It seems that doctors, psychologists and other professionals are divided on what might be the reasons for same-sex attraction. Some would argue it may well be genetic, others that it occurs from psychological development, and still others that it may be a combination of both genetics and development. There is no absolute answer.

Having stated the Catholic Church's moral view on sexual acts, how should a parent respond to his or her son or daughter who may be gay? How should a gay person consider himself or herself in the eyes of the Church? How do we love and pastor our homosexual brothers and sisters while still maintaining our moral teachings? In 1997, the American Bishops addressed these questions in a document entitled *'Always Our Children.'* It is an eight page document that you can find online at no cost and I would encourage those struggling with such concerns to read it. I will give you some quotes from the document, but I urge you to read the entire document if this topic is of serious concern to you.

From "Always Our Children"

The purpose of this pastoral message is to reach out to parents trying to cope with the discovery of homosexuality in their adolescent or adult child. It urges families to draw upon the reservoirs of faith, hope, and love as they face uncharted futures. It asks them to recognize that the Church offers enormous spiritual resources to strengthen and support them at this moment in their family's life and in the days to come. In this pastoral message, we draw upon the gift of faith as well as the sound teaching and pastoral practice of the Church to offer loving support, reliable guidance, and recommendations for ministries suited to your needs and to those of your child. Our message speaks of accepting yourself, your beliefs and values, your questions, and all you may be struggling with at this moment; accepting and loving your child as a gift of God; and accepting the full truth of God's revelation about the dignity of the human person and the meaning of human sexuality. Within the Catholic moral vision there is no contradiction among these levels of acceptance, for truth and love are not opposed. They are inseparably joined and rooted in one person, Jesus Christ, who reveals God to be ultimate truth and saving love.

Because some of you might be swept up in a tide of emotions, we focus first on feelings. Although the gift of human sexuality can be a great mystery at times, the Church's teaching on homosexuality is clear. However, because the terms of that teaching have now become very personal in regard to your son or daughter, you may feel confused and conflicted. There are two important things to keep in mind as you try to sort out your feelings. First, listen to them. They can contain clues that lead to a fuller discovery of God's will for you. Second, because some feelings can be confusing or conflicting, it is not necessary to act upon all of them. Acknowledging them may be sufficient, but it may also be necessary to talk about your feelings. Do not expect that all tensions can or will be resolved. The Christian life is a journey marked by perseverance and prayer. It is a path leading from where we are to where we know God is calling us.

How can you best express your love—itself a reflection of God's unconditional love—for your child? At least two things are necessary. First, don't break off contact; don't reject your child. A shocking number of homosexual youth end up on the streets because of rejection by their families. This, and other external pressures, can place young people at a greater risk for self-destructive behaviors like substance abuse and suicide. Your child may need you and the family now more than ever. He or she is still the same person. This child, who has always been God's gift to you, may now be the cause of another gift: your family becoming more honest, respectful, and supportive. Yes, your love can be tested by this reality, but it can also grow stronger through your struggle to respond lovingly.

The second way to communicate love is to seek appropriate help for your child and for yourself. If your son or daughter is an adolescent, it is possible that he or she may be displaying traits which cause you anxiety such as what the child is choosing to read or view in the media, intense friendships, and other such observable characteristics and tendencies. What is called for on the part of parents is an approach which does not presume that your child has developed a homosexual orientation, and which will help you maintain a loving relationship while you provide support, information, encouragement, and moral guidance. Parents must always be vigilant about their children's behavior and exercise responsible interventions when necessary.

Generally, homosexual orientation is experienced as a given, not as something freely chosen. By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose. Some homosexual persons want to be known publicly as gay or lesbian. These terms often express a person's level of self-awareness and self-acceptance within society. Though you might find the terms offensive because of political or social connotations, it is necessary to be sensitive to how your son or daughter is using them. Language should not be a barrier to building trust and honest communication. Do everything possible to continue demonstrating love for your child. However, accepting his or her homosexual orientation does not have to include approving of all related attitudes and behavioral choices. In fact, you may need to challenge certain aspects of a lifestyle that you find objectionable. Urge your son or daughter to stay joined to the Catholic faith community. If they have left the Church, urge them to return and be reconciled to the community, especially through the sacrament of penance.

All in all, it is essential to recall one basic truth. God loves every person as a unique individual. Sexual identity helps to define the unique persons we are, and one component of our sexual identity is sexual orientation. Thus, our total personhood is more encompassing than sexual orientation. Human beings see the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart (cf. 1 Sm 16:7). God does not love someone any less simply because he or she is homosexual. God's love is always and everywhere offered to those who are open to receiving it.

To our homosexual brothers and sisters, we offer a concluding word. This message has been an outstretched hand to your parents and families inviting them to accept God's grace present in their lives now and to trust in the unfailing mercy of Jesus our Lord. Now we stretch out our hands and invite you to do the same. We are called to become one body, one spirit in Christ. We need one another if we are to ". . . grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love" (Eph 4:15-16). Though at times you may feel discouraged, hurt, or angry, do not walk away from your families, from the Christian community, from all those who love you. In you God's love is revealed. You are always our children.

I hope you find this material helpful to you in what is a very intense and difficult conversation in our society. May our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit speak to us in our Church as he leads us to wisdom seeking, compassion for others and love for our brothers and sisters.

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

**All Young Adults ~ You are invited to join us on
Monday, February 25 for our
Next Faith on Tap @ The Wantagh Inn, 3264 Railroad Avenue
Across from the RR Station**

Doors will open at 7:00/Talk begins at 7:30

**We are honored to have as our guest speaker Bishop William Murphy.
Come out as Bishop Murphy speaks about: "Encountering Christ in this Year of Faith"
For information email: msheridan@drvc.org**

Wedding Banns**3rd Edward Acerra and Jennifer Wagner****Banns Only (Marriage at another Church)****3rd Richard DiDonato and Marie Massaro**

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

This week the pantry is low on macaroni & cheese, coffee, tea, pasta & pasta sauce, mayonnaise, jams & jelly, canned fruit, pork & beans, canned tomatoes, tuna fish, chili, canned chicken, beef stew, peas, tissues, laundry soap, dish soap, diapers (size 4, 5 & 6), bar soap, juice boxes, bottled juice, sugar and oil.

As always, we are so grateful for the tremendous generosity of our parishioners. During the month of January, the pantry served 776 individuals and 309 families.

Food Pantry:

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

**Divorced, Separated and Single Catholics of
Long Island Widows and Widowers
Chair Person Rick Wilson
Nassau County Chapter Number One
PO Box 2031**

New Member Orientation
Non-Denomination-ALL WELCOME

Tuesday, February 26th at 8:00 PM
St. Frances de Chantal School
1309 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh NY
Please bring proof of single status to join
Refreshments are served after the meeting

For further information, please contact:
Carol (516) 794-4922 before 9PM or
Eileen (516) 661-4353

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Reminder: please call the rectory at 931-0818 to remove a name off the list.

*Helena Carroll, Pat Pedone, Vincent Valenti
Ledwin Mason, Leevalli Annearosa, Fran Pignataro
Skylar Vega, Catherine Dalessio, Leigh Murphy
Helena Mulligan, Richard Piernini, John Tortorice
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, Sharon Shiecko
Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell, Salvatore Accardi
Marie Bosco, Mary Donahoe, Robert Cakoyanis
Peggy Namiotka, Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson
Teresa Moran Theissen, Donna Pellicano*

2013 PSAT/SAT EXAM PREP COURSE

For the May 4th SAT Exam
Course will be held on
the following Saturdays:

March 2, 16 & 23**April 13, 20 & 27****9:00 - 11:30 a.m. in Marian Hall**

Course Fee: \$250 includes textbook
Contact: Mrs. Stutzmann
(516) 922-4888 x 5315

St. Dominic High School
110 Anstice Street
Oyster Bay NY 11771



*Week of Feb. 17-23, 2013
Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Loving Memory of
Tom Mitchell & Joe Hughes*

Rest in Peace***Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."***

***Frances Sanfilippo, Salvatore V. Marino
Helen Masucci, Veronica Voboril
Eleanor Masley***

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO OBEY
POLICY & PROCEDURE
REGARDING THE SAFETY OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS**

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

**FOR THE PROTECTION &
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.**

When the gates are closed or orange pylons are placed surrounding the school parking lot, it becomes a SAFE ZONE for PEDESTRIANS ONLY (i.e., parents and for anyone else dropping off or picking up children.)

You are, therefore, NOT TO PUSH THE GATES OPEN OR MOVE THE ORANGE PYLONS for the purpose of driving your car through to the school parking lot.

Please - only park in the church parking lot or municipal lot during the days and hours stated above.

**Thank you and God bless you
and our children!**

Father Pat, CSSR

**Falling Upward: Spirituality for
the Two Halves of Life**

Friday, March 1st, 7:30 pm - Saturday, March 2nd, 7:30 pm - Tabor Retreat Center, Oceanside - Using Richard Rohr's book *Falling Upward*, we explore how "falling down" can, in fact, be spiritually moving upward.

Perhaps "we grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right!" Please call 516.536.3004 for further details.

2013 St. John Neumann Essay Contest

As a young man, St. John Neumann wanted to be a priest but there were too many priests in his home country! He became a missionary to America, and was the first Redemptorist to profess vows in the United States. Today, the need for priests and for religious brothers and sisters is great. God is still calling people, but there are obstacles to answering that invitation.

This year's Neumann Essay topic is: **What are some of the obstacles to pursuing a religious or priestly vocation that young men and women face today, and how can they be encouraged to answer God's call?**

Contest is open to Catholic school students in grades 6-12. First place winners in each category will receive a \$300 scholarship; two honorable mentions in each category will receive \$100

Entries must be received by **March 1, 2013**. Winners will be announced on March 28, 2013. For details and contest guidelines, visit redemptorists.net.



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!**

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



The Life Teen Youth Ministry has Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction every 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Church. Our next service is Tuesday, April 9th. We fervently hope that you come and join us in prayer and adoration of our Risen Lord. The music and praise that are lifted up to Christ will bring you to a place of peace and hope. Everyone is welcome!

"It is not to remain in a golden ciborium that He comes down each day from Heaven, but to find another Heaven, the Heaven of our soul in which He takes delight." - Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 18: Presidents Day—Office Closed
- Feb. 19: Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM
- Feb. 22: Blessed Seelos Performance 7:00PM
- Feb. 26: Downtown Bethpage Focus Group 7PM (see p. 12 for details)
- Feb. 27: Parish Soup Supper 6-8PM
- Mar. 3: St. Patrick's Mass 1:00PM
Followed by Parade and Reception
- Mar. 12: Adoration - canceled due to Mission
- Mar. 9-13: PARISH LENTEN MISSION

SAINT PADRE PIO HOLY HOUR

Please join us for the Padre Pio Holy Hour on Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. His first and second class relics will be venerated.





**22nd Annual Bethpage St. Patrick's Parade
Honoring Deacon Thomas R. Hennessy
2013 Grand Marshal**

Sunday, March 3, 2013



Schedule of Events:

1:00 PM Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church

**2:00 PM Parade immediately following Mass
(through downtown Bethpage)**

3:30 PM Reception at St. Martin of Tours Auditorium and Cafeteria

Music and Entertainment - Food, Drinks and Good Cheer

Admission: \$5.00 per person – children under 12 are free



With sincere gratitude to our donors:

Underwriter

Chapey & Sons Funeral Home

Corporate Sponsors

Arthur F. White's Funeral Home, B. K. Sweeney's Parkside Tavern, Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Briarcliffe College, Bethpage Fire Department, King Kullen, Koch Insurance Agency, Northrop Grumman Corp., Unique Impressions

Benefactors

Jackie Reilly's Bar and Grille, Who-Ville Bar & Grille, Bethpage Tribune

Supporters

All About Floors, Bethpage Pharmacy, Bernich Insurance Agency, Bob & Fred's Collision Inc., Cartridge World Bethpage, Century 21 American Homes/Metro Realty, Emil's Complete Landscaping, LI Yellow Cab, Kravet Fabrics Inc., McGrath Financial Consulting, State Farm Insurance/Miraval Agency, Pat Slevin Realty, Speed-Rae Printing

Donors

Abble Awnings, Applied Electronics (J.V. Electric), B-Ray General Contracting, Bethpage Agency (Insurance), Bethpage Best Cleaners, Bethpage Florist, Catholic War Veterans Post 1938, Ciminelli's Pizza & Restaurant, Gainer/Mannara Agency (Allstate Insurance), Groomingdale's, Hardman Auto Electric & Repairs, Knights of Columbus-Hartigan Council, Marguerite and Co. Hair Salon, Opa Grille, Stuff-A-Bagel - Bethpage, VFW Butchorn Bros.

Friends

Apollo Contractors, Augenstein Family Dentistry, Balanced Life Chiropractic, Bethpage Barber & Styling, Bethpage Broadway Deli & Catering, Denis Mole Jewelers, Pappardelle's Pizza & Restaurant, Susan's Pub

Thank you also to the residents of Bethpage who have contributed to this event.



RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

When I was a little girl I lived in an apartment complex where the houses were all connected. On a summer's day or night, you could hear the voices of families that lived so closely together. There was no air conditioning in those days, so during the summer, the windows were open. I remember hearing families screaming at each other. I would hear children crying for very long periods of time, and threats to those living there. I remember asking my mother, "What is going on? Are they all hurting each other? Why are some families so quiet? Are they the happy ones?" My mother answered me in these words, "You don't know what goes on behind closed doors!" Domestic violence can be very loud for others to hear, and it can be silent - deadly silent. It can be played out in fear without a noise coming from behind those closed doors.

**NASSAU COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK
FORCE COMMUNITY
RESOURCE DIRECTORY DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence 465-4700
24 Hour Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline
542-0404

N.C. District Attorney's Office -

Crime Victim's Advocates 541-4967

N.Y. State Spanish Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 942-6908

Police Department 573 7000 Main # 911 Emergencies
571-9055

Family Court (to file family offence petitions) 571-9055

CHILD ABUSE

Child Abuse/Maltreatment Hotline (Albany)
(800) 342-3720

Mandated Reporters (800) 635-1522

N.C. Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect
747-2966

ELDER ABUSE

Adult Protective Services 227-8472

N.C. Dept of Senior Citizens (Senior HELP-LINE)
(800) 227-8900

N.C. Crime Victims Assistance Program (Crime Victims
Board Compensation Application Assistance) 573-3330
Spousal Abuse Group Education (SAGE) 935-6858

If you are experiencing abuse or know of anyone who is,
please refer to these agencies to get help.

Diana Hart Mirando



**Join the Young at Heart
for a fun trip to
The International Tattoo
in Norfolk Virginia**

"A spectacle of music & might!"

April 24, 25 & 26

**Cost is \$399 per person
double occupancy**

**For more details, please call
Dolores Stewart at 931-5795.**

What is a Tattoo?

Tattoos have evolved from a European tradition dating back to the 17th Century. They are ceremonial performances of military music by massed bands. Each Tattoo is different and influenced by the culture of the country in which they are presented. Most Tattoos now include civilian entertainment as well as military bands and emphasize the inclusion of performers from nations outside of the host nation.



FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

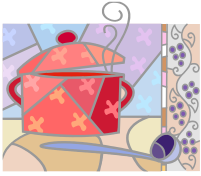
**Call Diana Hart Mirando
(C)830-5077 (H) 605-1979**

**ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24
HOURS, RACHEL'S VINEYARD RE-
TREAT (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.**



**Sharing a meal warms the heart and the stomach.
Warming the heart stirs the soul.**



IT'S THAT TIME!
ANNUAL LENTEN SOUP SUPPER
(includes meat AND meatless soups)



WHEN: Wednesday, February 27, 2013
WHERE: School Cafeteria
TIME: 6PM - 8PM

WE HAVE THE SOUP MAKERS! WE HAVE THE SPIRIT!
BELONG MORE DEEPLY...BRING AN OLD FRIEND,
A NEW FRIEND AND SHARE THE SPIRIT!
WE NEED SOUP SAMPLERS! WE NEED YOU!

Pre-Cana Ministry

As the Winter Session of the St. Martin of Tours In-Home Pre-Cana Program concludes, we ask you to pray for the following engaged couples:

Amanda Drauch and Joseph Sciabica
Lucy LaMendola and Nicholas Fescura
Jennifer Sigona and Joseph Sinacori
Elizabeth Stea and Timothy Kissane

We would also like to thank Debbie and Frank Mekalainas, the married couple who volunteered their time to share their marriage with our engaged couples.

If there is any married couple interested in working the In-Home Pre-Cana Program, please call us. We need you in order for this program to continue.

Deacon Jim & Carmela Biggin
(516) 796-5520

Lenten Home Masses

During the season of Lent, from February 13th through March 27th we want to offer our parishioners who are shut-ins and unable to attend Mass for reasons of health, the opportunity to have Mass in their apartment or home. One of the priests from our parish would come and say Mass, either during the day or in the evening. You would be most welcome to invite family, friends or neighbors. We would rule out Saturdays and Sundays since the priests have several Mass commitments already.

You do not have to fuss and clean your home. You do not have to prepare food. You do not have to have anything for the Mass other than a table or television food tray. The priest will bring all else that is needed. The goal is to simply allow a person who cannot attend Mass at the parish to have the opportunity of having Mass in the home.

If you would like to have such a Mass, or if you are a Eucharistic home visitor or family member who might wish this for someone, please contact me at woodscssr@aol.com or 931-0818. - Father Pat

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.

Online Redemptorist Lenten Retreat

No time to get out of town for a retreat? No problem. The Redemptorists bring the retreat to you! Join us on redemptorists.net **every Wednesday in Lent** beginning February 13 for a weekly reflection. Our retreat master, Fr. Joseph Krastel, offers food for thought on the topic **"The Spirit of Lent: Seven Meditations on the Work of the Holy Spirit."**

Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore) and/or Twitter (twitter.com/redemptorists) and get the week's reflection delivered right to your news feed!

Summer Camp 2013

July & August

St. Martin de Porres Marianist School
530 Hempstead Boulevard
Uniondale NY 11553
Phone: (516) 481-3303
Fax: (516) 483-4138

www.stmartinmarianist.org

Visit our school website for Summer Camp information. For students entering grades 1 -6 in September. Registration is taking place so don't miss out.
Call the school today to reserve your spot.

The Catholic Counseling Center 12 Ryder Court, Dix Hills NY 11746

Professional therapy, provided by NYS licensed therapists, is available to our parish and 147 other parishes. This program, under the direction of George A. Giuliani, PhD, Director/Psychologist, 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.

You may visit his website at
<http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.



Holy Family School...

"we make a difference one child at a time"

17 Fordham Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801~~~516-938-3846 x329

A Middle State Accredited School and a National School of Excellence

We offer:

- ♦ Full & Half Day Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten
- ♦ Full Day K through Grade 8
- ♦ Daily Morning and After Care for all grades
- ♦ "Side by Side" a program for 2 year olds and a parent, grandparent or caregiver
- ♦ NYS certified teachers who follow National Common Core Standards and Diocesan Guidelines
- ♦ Full Cafeteria lunch Services
- ♦ Grass field "recess" areas
- ♦ School & Parish Liturgies, May Crowning, Stations of the Cross and Sacrament Preparation
- ♦ Ongoing Community Outreach through our Service Club
- ♦ Band, Chorus, and Choir
- ♦ After School Enrichment Clubs including kick-line, twirling, computer, bagpipes, and much more
- ♦ Mock Trial, Student Council, Lego Robotics, and Drama Club
- ♦ CYO & Middle School Sports
- ♦ Boy and Girl Scouts.....AND SO MUCH MORE...

~Private tours of our school are available at any time.

For an appointment call 516-938-3846 x329~

Come; see for yourself, how dedicated our faculty, administration, and staff are to making a positive difference in the lives of each and every one of our students.

***** AN INVITATION TO AN IMPORTANT MEETING *****

Downtown Bethpage Focus Group, Tuesday, February 26th from 7—8:30 PM in St. Alphonsus Hall
(please RSVP*)

Our parish has agreed to host this informational discussion on the downtown Bethpage project. Last year Nassau County launched a Retail Market and Revitalization Study in downtown Bethpage. The County, along with its team of professional consultants from the firms of Nelson, Pope & Voorhis and Sustainable Long Island, is working with local stakeholders and the community to provide tools to attract and maintain economically viable businesses in the downtown. As part of this project, the team seeks to understand assets and opportunities of downtown Bethpage from a broad perspective of community organizations and businesses. You are cordially invited to participate in a focus group session for community organizations and faith-based groups.

Throughout the course of study, the Project Team has been and will continue to conduct an analysis of downtown parking, pedestrian accessibility and building design, along with a retail market study. More than 700 residents and business owners participated in a survey and results are being analyzed. Please visit www.downtownbethpage.com for more information and project updates.

The purpose of the focus group session is to foster dialogue and to hear your thoughts on possible strategies to improve long-term sustainability of downtown, ideas to attract new businesses and other ideas. Your input is essential to the success of this project and we hope that you can participate on February 26th.

* **Kindly RSVP** by contacting Sustainable Long Island at info@sustainableli.org or (516) 873-0230 or by sending a message through the **project website:** www.downtownbethpage.com.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Beginning the first Sunday of Lent and for the remaining Sundays of Lent, we will be singing the Penitential Rite of the Mass. (better known as the "**Kyrie**" or "**Lord have mercy**"). The leader of song at the mass will intone it and the congregation's responses are:

KYRIE ELEISON
CHRISTE ELEISON
KYRIE ELEISON

The melodies are simple and will sound familiar because they are from the same mass settings that we have been singing.

We hope that this will create a more solemn atmosphere during our Lenten masses and by participating, deeply bring our hearts and minds closer to the Lord.

THE LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC HAS A GREAT WEBSITE!

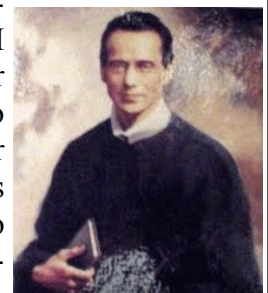
Now that the Long Island Catholic Magazine is underway, we are happy to announce the development of the Long Island Catholic website: www.licatholic.org. We encourage you to go to this vibrant and current source of information concerning ideas and events in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Bishop Murphy has a blog on this website and he welcomes interaction with you.

Rick Hinshaw, George Weigel, Father Bob Lauder, and Msgr. Jim McNamara are regular columnists. There is news not only about current events in our Diocese but also news about Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican.

All it takes is a click of a button at www.licatholic.org Why not add it to your favorites?

Spend Time with a Friend

I think we are all getting accustomed to the friendly face of Blessed Francis Seelos, CSSR whose statue is near St. Alphonsus Hall. I must admit though, that if I am coming home at night and as I get out of my car, I wonder who is that stranger near the garage. As you know, Blessed Francis Seelos was a Redemptorist who came to America in the 1840's from Germany as a missionary. He was known for his sanctity, his zeal for all people, as a kind confessor and a loving pastor. He was pastor of St. Mary's in Annapolis where your former pastor, Father John Tizio CSSR is the current pastor. Father Seelos died in New Orleans in 1867. He actually met President Lincoln during the Civil War!



I am happy to announce that we are having a one person play on the life of Blessed Francis Seelos, CSSR that will be held on Friday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. This play is being presented in many Redemptorist parishes throughout the United States.

There is no charge for admission but there will be a free will offering. I think this is a wonderful way to learn about one of the Redemptorist confreres who is on the way to becoming a saint.

Liturgical Ministry Training

TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. Session "A" is required of **all** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are also required to attend Session "B". Please write a letter to Father Pat expressing your desire to become an EM.

TO REGISTER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING: the pastor of the parish must send a letter to Bishop Murphy **at least 10 days in advance** requesting the training for each person attending. **This letter must mention the date and location of the session the person will attend.**

TIMES AND PLACES FOR MINISTRY TRAINING:

In Nassau:

EM "A" Session

April 6, 2013; 9 AM—1 PM

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

"B" session for Extraordinary Ministers

April 27, 2013; 9 AM—1 PM

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

In Suffolk:

EM "A" Session

April 13, 2013; 9 AM—1 PM

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

"B" Session for Extraordinary Ministers

May 18, 2013; 9 AM—1 PM

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

EVENING SESSIONS for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at St. Elizabeth, Melville.

Session "A" - Wednesday, April 10, 2013; 7:30—10 PM

Session "B" - Wednesday, April 17, 2013; 7:30—10PM

WORKSHOP FEES:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: \$30 per person (fee paid by St. Martin's)

Stations of the Cross—LENT 2013

Stations of the Cross is **every Friday in the Church at 7:30 p.m.** on the following dates:

**February 22 (canceled due to
Blessed Seelos performance at 7:30p.m.)**

March 1

March 8

March 15

March 22

If any of our altar servers would like to assist the priest or deacon assigned, please email gennysmt@hotmail.com with the date you would like to serve. Only one server needed at each service. Thank you!

Irish Night Dance

The Dominican Sisters of Amityville will be hosting their annual Irish Night Dance for the benefit of their senior sisters on **Saturday, March 2, 2013 at St. Brigid's School, Westbury.** The evening will begin with a Mass for **"Peace in the World"** at 7PM followed by a truly Grand Irish Celebration including Step Dancers, Bag Pipers and music by the "Celtic Connection Band" at 8PM. Back by popular demand is a traditional hot Irish dinner.

For more information or to purchase tickets for this fun evening (\$40 per person), please call the Dominican Sisters Development Office at (631) 842-6000 x238 or contact Sr. Patricia Koehler, O.P., Irish Night Chairperson for ticket information pkoehler@aol.com.

St. Martin's Lenten Giveaways

We give more than Ashes and Palms

Because of the inclement weather last weekend, I know that some of you were unable to attend Sunday Mass. We had distributed **"Pondering the Word of God"** booklets that will be used for parish scripture reflections.



They contain the Sunday Gospel for the upcoming weeks of Lent along with some reflection questions. Parishioners are asked to use these booklets as part of their Lenten practice. Please read the Gospel before the upcoming Sunday. You are then asked to reflect on the questions. If you wish, it would be great if you could reflect with members of your family on the same questions. During Lent we will be offering two 45-minute sessions on Fridays and Saturdays after the 9:00 a.m. mass as parishioners share the same questions with each other. Please make sure you get one of these booklets which are available in the Church. You are also welcome to fill out a commitment paper that shows your desire to do this practice for Lent. They will be placed on the altar during Lent as an offering to the Lord. You can drop these papers into the collection basket or give them to the ushers.

We will also be giving out **Lenten wrist bands** to wear as a witness to your Catholic faith. The ashes are washed away, but these bracelets are an excellent reminder to ourselves of Lent and also to others who may ask why we are wearing them. **Jesus tells us: *Let your light shine before others.***

Once again, our parish has received **Redemptorist Spiritual Reading Books** that contain a reading each day written by a Redemptorist or a Redemptorist Associate. These books are excellent resources to help us enter more deeply into Lent as we seek to grow in our love of Jesus Christ.

I would ask the Eucharistic home visitors to bring these materials to those you visit.

SO MANY TO THANK...

Buildings and Grounds: ***T.J. Hance***, head of maintenance, worked through the entire night on Friday, February 8th to Saturday the 9th to clear the parish parking lot for the weekend Masses. I believe that our lot was better cleaned than many of the streets and roads in the area. We are so blessed by his dedicated hard work. I also thank ***Pete Morici***, also from maintenance, along with ***Father Henry***. They did great work on Saturday morning shoveling steps and other areas of our property. Father Henry is a real-hands priest who can cook a meal, fix a computer and shovel snow. I get tired just watching him!

Celebration: We had a very nice ***Valentine Day's*** party after the Children's Mass this past Sunday. There were wonderful Valentine treats prepared by families of the parish along with gifts distributed by a very good-looking St. Valentine. Some were confusing him with Brad Pitt. I want to thank ***Ann Mele and Debra Hannabery*** for decorating St. Alphonsus Hall so well and for the wonderful coffee crew from the ***Christian Mothers Lauren, Grace and Helen.***

Gathering: Our ***Annual International Night*** was a wonderful success. Even though the date had to be changed due to the poor weather, we had a good crowd of parishioners who prepared a great variety of ethnic foods. It was a true Catholic event since we even had a 50/50 drawing as well as other raffles. The pastor, as food judge of the evening, awarded 26 first prizes for best foods, and never touched a drop of *Alka-Seltzer*®, although he did try an Italian beer that did not quite measure up the rich Irish lager. I want to thank the volunteer team who organized this terrific night: ***Laura Leigh & Dominic Agnese, Ronny & Tony Ciarniello, Patty & Matt Brown, Fran & Al Trotter and Ed & Sarah Indelicato.***

Kindness of Heart: Last and certainly not least, on behalf of the parish, I want to thank ***Mrs. Maria Conte and her young seventh grade religious education students*** who are preparing for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. After each mass on Super Bowl Sunday, they collected 30 cans of soup and \$1,120.00 from parishioners. This money will be given to our food pantry and will help feed many people in need. ***God bless all who donated and a special blessing to Maria and her team of students.***