

Masses For The Week**Monday - February 25**

6:30 George & Dorothy Riggins
9:00 Rev. John Radley, CSSR

Tuesday - February 26

6:30 Jan Rhea
9:00 Joseph P. McCabe & Family

Wednesday - February 27

6:30 Vito DeFanis
9:00 Christopher Rochford (birthday remembrance)

Thursday - February 28

6:30 Eve Cagna
9:00 Raymond Godek

Friday - March 1

6:30 Francis Mauren
9:00 Lina Giannuzzi, Anniversary

Saturday - March 2

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced**
5:00 Allan Smith
7:00 Patrick A. Quaranto, Sr.

Sunday - March 3

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Gerard Trotter
10:00 Frank Portelli
11:30 Patricia Ann Rochon
1:00 Glenn Hughes
5:30 Cacilia Mazzaro

Readings For The Week

Mon. Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tues. Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wed. Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thurs. Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Fri. Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;
Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Sat. Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun. **Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15** *The Lord appeared to Moses in a flaming bush telling him he would lead Israel out of bondage in Egypt to freedom in the promised land. The Lord God would accomplish this.*

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 *Just as Israel sinned during its desert sojourn, so to have the Corinthian Christians sinned on their way to the promised land. They might let the fate of those who were "struck down in the desert" be an example to be on guard, lest they fall.*

Luke 13:1-9 *Jesus told his followers they need to reform their lives. A tree that bears no fruit will be cut down. The followers of Jesus have been given time to repent and bear fruit.*



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

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**Last Week February 16/17 Collection**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00
Amount Received: \$17,132.86
Ash Wednesday: \$5,904.00

Thank you for your generosity & support!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Peter, James and John wanted to build a "booth" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But Jesus knew He must keep moving toward His crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

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



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**

God owes us nothing. But yet He gives us everything. What have you given God lately? Make us part of your Lenten sacrifice. Come and take the journey to Calvary with our prayer group.

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. 18	#207	M/M Salvatore Aquilina	\$25.00
Feb. 19	#56	Alice Tighe	\$25.00
Feb. 20	#611	Linda Connelly	\$25.00
Feb. 21	#65	Jeanette Maiello	\$25.00
Feb. 22	#128	Janet Dion	\$50.00

Wedding Banns***No weddings scheduled.***

***"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.

Food Pantry:

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

Phone: (516) 931-7332

Sharing the Good News

Last week we began our Lenten practice of sharing the upcoming Sunday Gospel. I hope that you have had the opportunity to slowly read and think about the Gospel that will be proclaimed on the coming Sunday. They are in the booklet, ***Pondering the Word***, that was given out over the last two weeks. You are also invited to consider sharing with your family. How great it would be for a family to spend fifteen minutes or so sharing the Gospel!

We also have two gatherings, one at 9:45 a.m. on Friday and another at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. Last week we had two faith-filled gatherings of parishioners reflecting on the word of God. You do not have to be an expert on the Bible or a theologian. You simply have to share what you have received from reading the Gospel. The more people we have, the more ideas I get for sermons! (I'm not sure if that would frighten you since you may think the sermon will never end!) - Father Pat

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 Dalesio, 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, Donna Pellicano
William John Staudt, Jimmy Stiffa, Sharon Shiepk
Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell, Salvatore Accardi
Marie Bosco, Mary Donahoe, Robert Cakoyanis
Peggy Namiotka, Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson
Teresa Moran Theissen, Christine Ketchem*

HOLY HOUR

There will be a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, February 28th at 3:00 p.m. Come and attend any or all of the hour before Our Lord.



It would be a wonderful prayer time for Lent.

Father Pat CSSR



*Week of Feb. 24– March 2, 2013
Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Loving Memory of
Thomas E. Giovenco*

Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

***Vincent Busuttil, Anna I. Belatore
James R. O'Reilly, Joseph Nacewicz***

Letter from the Pastor

I have a personal favorite memory of Pope Benedict XVI. The Holy Father made a trip to the United States in 2008 and on April 19th, one of his stops was at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Pope Benedict said Mass at 9:00 a.m. for priests and religious. As the Provincial of the Redemptorists, I was given a ticket to the Mass and invited to concelebrate along with hundreds of other priests. We had to be in the Cathedral two hours before the Mass for security reasons. I was disappointed with my seat since I was on a side aisle and I knew he would process down the main aisle of the great church. As the Mass began, there was a great sound of welcome as Pope Benedict came down the aisle. I remember seeing an elderly nun in full habit standing on a pew to get a better view of him. I was a bit judgmental about her and thought she should not be standing on a pew in St. Patrick's.



The Mass was beautiful and it was a great inspiration to see the Holy Father. There is something about the symbolisms of the successor of Peter that is capturing in a very profound way. As the more than two-hour Mass ended, I was dreaming of a lunch and a bathroom. To my great surprise, the procession at the end of Mass came down the side aisle where I was sitting. Eventually, I was only about ten feet from the Pontiff. I was so excited, and forgetting about my earlier judgment of the nun, I stood on the pew to get a better view and to take a picture. My heart fluttered a bit to be so close to him.

When I left church, I looked at my cell phone and I saw several phone messages and texts. It seemed that right as I stood on the pew as the Pope was passing, I was seen on television. My friends and confreres wanted to know why the Provincial was standing on a pew in St. Patrick's Cathedral! I thought of a Seinfeld episode where George Costanza is captured on television at the U.S. Tennis Open sloppily eating a massive dish of ice cream. I am still trying to live down that moment.

As was most of the world, I was shocked with the news that Pope Benedict XVI is resigning from the papacy at the end of February. The resignation of a pope had not occurred in more than six hundred years. This was big news. In spite of the increasing secularization in the world, there is something about the papacy that captures world-wide attention. Even hardened non-believers get caught up in the stories about the popes, their deaths, their resignations, and their elections. There is no greater religious figure that captures the attention of the world than the Holy Father. People may disagree with him, oppose him, be angry with him, love him, but they do **not** ignore him.

Some feel that Benedict should not have stepped down from his office. They point to Blessed John Paul II who remained pope until his death in spite of very serious medical concerns that severely limited him. Ironically, some were also upset that John Paul II continued in office. I deeply admire both men. They were men of conscience who did what they thought was what God was asking them to do. Pope John Paul II gave a powerful witness to the mystery of dealing with aging and suffering. Pope Benedict XVI gave us a strong witness to letting go when you can no longer do a particular ministry. Both are admirable virtues.

Naturally, the media is giving us reviews of the Papacy of Benedict XVI. Some are balanced and respectful while others are outright mean and hostile. I can take or tell a joke about the Pope (I appreciated the humor of the New York Post headline that said Pope gives God a two week notice), but I resent the mean spirited sarcasm of many the late night comedians and talk shows. They will soon be forgotten and people will read the writings of Benedict for centuries to come.

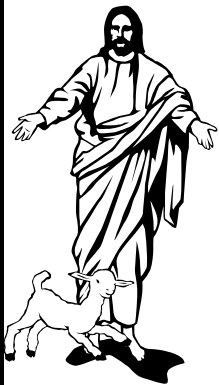
We know the media loves elections and they will cover the election of the next pope like a presidential election in the United States. Someone asked me if there are politics in the Church, and I jokingly said there was politics at the Last Supper among the apostles. We do remember James and John, along with mother, asking Jesus to give these two men the highest place in the kingdom of God. In whatever walk of life, wherever there are two or more people, there is politics. This does not bother me. I believe in the mix of the humanity of the cardinals is also the presence of the Holy Spirit.

It sometimes bothers me when the media tells us that the next pope must modernize the church to get more members. There are certainly many issues that our church and the next pope must grapple with such as the power of secularism, consumerism and its impact on the poor, world peace, the decline of practicing Catholics in Europe and the United States, the need for priestly vocations in the first world, the continuing tragedy and horror of the results of clergy sex abuse, the role of women in the Church, questions about divorce and remarriage, priestly celibacy, and concerns about marriage and its sanctity, the pastoral care of homosexuals, and countless other issues. The challenge the Holy Father has is to reach out to all peoples while not eroding the doctrine of the Church revealed to us by God in his Son Jesus Christ and the Sacred Scriptures. I would say that some mainline protestant churches have sought to change their practices to make them more in line with current modern thinking and the attendance of their communities has plummeted far more than has our own members.

I pray in gratitude that God bless Pope Benedict XVI with a graced retirement and in a faith-filled hope that the Holy Spirit will guide our church in the election of our next Holy Father.

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

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI



O God, true Shepherd of all the faithful, look with kindness on your servant, Pope Benedict XVI whom you set as head and shepherd of your Church. We give you thanks for your grace at work in him as he has led us by word and example: in his teaching, in his prayer, and in his great love.

Grant him your strength in frailty, comfort in sorrow and serenity amid the trials of this world; and guide your Church, built on the rock of Peter, with the power of your Spirit as we continue on the path that leads to you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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

Since I will be away giving a mission from March 2-7 at Our Lady of Hope parish in Middle Village, I am asking for your prayers during this time. Our own parish mission will be held the following week from March 10-13 with Fathers James Wallace and Kevin O'Neil. I am sure our mission will be a wonderful time of grace.

The Annual Lenten Soup Supper is one of our parish's highlights during Lent. We enjoy the tasty soups made by our parishioners as we gather in prayer and community. Whatever money raised is used to feed the hungry so it is a wonderful way to enter into the spirit of Lent.

Please come and support the hungry and all those who have worked very hard to make this gathering a special time in our parish. See page 10 of this bulletin for more details.

Father Pat, CSSR

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 EK-Horan@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 Thèrèse of Lisieux

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 26: Downtown Bethpage Focus Group 7PM (see p. 12 for details)
- Feb. 27: Parish Soup Supper 6-8PM
- Feb. 28: Holy Hour 3PM
- Mar. 3: St. Patrick's Mass 1:00PM
Followed by Parade and Reception
- Mar. 12: Adoration - canceled due to Mission
- Mar. 10-13: PARISH LENTEN MISSION

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

March 1st for one half hour after the Stations of the Cross in the Eucharistic Chapel in reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:30 p.m.



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

March 2nd at 8:30 a.m. consisting of the Rosary of Reparation, reading about Fatima and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



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

Sunday, March 3, 2013



Schedule of Events:

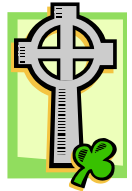
1:00 PM Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church

**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

Being both mother and father to a child or children is a difficult job. Many single parents face this challenge today along with holding down a full time job. This prayer is for all of you who face raising a family alone.

Prayer for a Single Parent

My Lord and Holy Companion, I am alone in the awesome task of making a home. I ask Your holy help to show me how to take on the responsibilities of both mother and father.



Direct my heart so that I may dispense the qualities of both parents: gentle compassion on one hand, firm discipline on the other. May I transmit true tenderness couples with true strength.

The days are long and the nights lonely, yet with Your divine support, the impossible will unfold as possible and our home will be more than a house.

My efforts to be two persons find my time directed to a great degree towards the needs of others, yet I as well, am in need of comfort and love.

Let my prayer, my Lord and Secret One, renew my energy and remind me that I am not alone. For You, my Lord, are with me! The pathway of tomorrow is hidden from me; perhaps it is just as well.

May the unknown future only cast me into deeper trust and love of You and fill my heart with love enough for two. Amen.

For help and guidance go to
www.catholiccharities.cc/aboutus.html



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.**

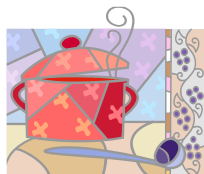


**Sharing a meal warms the heart and the stomach.
Warming the heart stirs the soul.**

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!**

Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

**VENDORS WANTED
Spring Craft Fair
Saturday, March 16th 2013
10:00 a.m. 'till 4:30 p.m.
Newbridge Road (Rt 106)
& Stewart Avenue**

**All profits support the Holy Trinity's
Student Activities**

**For more information please e-mail
TitanClub@HolyTrinityHS.echalk.com
or call 433-2900 x 119**

**Molloy College
Spring Open House**

**Sunday, April 28, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

**Molloy College
1000 Hempstead Avenue
Rockville Centre NY 11571-5002**

(516) 678-5000 ext. 6230

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

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>.

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!

God Gives Everyone the Right Measure of Happiness

You knew all my intimate thoughts and cleared up all my doubts. I once told you how astonished I was that God does not give equal glory in heaven to all His chosen. I was afraid they were not at all equally happy. You made me bring Daddy's tumbler and put it by the side of my thimble. You filled them both with water and asked me which was fuller. I told you they were both full to the brim and that it was impossible to put more water in them than they could hold. And so, Mother darling, you made me understand that in heaven God will give His chosen their fitting glory and that the last will have no reason to envy the first. By such means, you made me understand the most sublime mysteries and gave my soul its essential food.

—St. Thérèse of Lisieux
from *The Story of a Soul*
(New York: Double Day, 2001)





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

~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.**

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH MISSION MARCH 10-13, 2013

Father James Wallace CSSR and Father Kevin O'Neil CSSR

THEME: UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF FAITH

EVENING SERVICES FOR THE MISSION

7:15 p.m. Meditation Music
7:30 p.m. The mission service begins

Sunday evening March 10: Theme: *Faith as Gift of a Relationship*
Monday evening March 11: Theme: *Faith as Gift of a Understanding*
Tuesday evening March 12: Theme: *Faith as Our Response through Worship*
Wed. evening March 13: Theme: *Faith as Our Response in the World*

MORNING LITURGY AND INSTRUCTIONS

Monday, March 11: Mission Mass at 9:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall

"The Christian Moral Life as Living in Christ"

Tuesday, March 12: Mission Mass at 9:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall

"The Christian Life as Dying in Christ"

Wednesday, March 13: Mission Mass at 9:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall

"Catholic Decision-Making at the End of Life"



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—10 PM

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:

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!

THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Palm Sunday in the Church
7:30 p.m.**

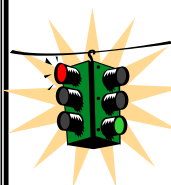
Once again Saint Martin of Tours presents the *Living Stations of the Cross* presented by SMT parishioners. This is a narrative of each of the fourteen stations as well as hymns performed by the cast.



Come and experience Christ's walk down the *Via Dolorosa* on Palm Sunday Evening. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Church and should last approximately 45 minutes.

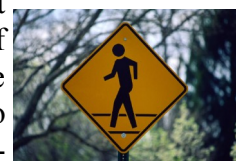


Enhancing the Environment...



Signs and symbols are a part of our lives. They, with or without words, clue us in to some kind of message. Traffic signs are not placed to relieve us from the boredom of a trip but for our safety. I thought that I would use some of them to get the message of Lent across in the display in the Fellowship Area. The area is a good place for the display because it contains our old Baptismal font reminding us of the beginnings in the Faith and the windows are the signs and symbols of the Seven Sacraments. These remind us of the gifts of grace and strength given to us by Jesus. There are also the signs of the Alpha and the Omega reminding us that God is the Beginning and the End.

The display asks us to ponder on the Gospel readings in the booklet given to all. We cannot know Jesus and the Father's Saving Plan of Love without knowledge of the Word of God. One of my favorite signs is the "pedestrian walking" which is an open invitation to all to walk in and share with the community of St. Martin's. Know someone who has been away from church? Become a walking companion.



I also like the sign of darkness in the tunnel. All of us have known darkness in our lives but at Baptism we received the Light of Christ and that light due to our shortcomings may ebb at times but it can never be extinguished. The arms of Jesus always extend out to us as a reminder of His love and forgiveness.

The footsteps are ours walking on this journey of Lent. When we go on any trip, we plan and pack. We take what is necessary for us to have a good time. Our Lenten trip asks us to pray, repent, and give alms. It asks for self-reflection so that we may move outside of "me" to others. One of the best ways to tour is to have a travel agent. We have the Master in Jesus Christ. He has already shown us the way, His Way. We have salvation as a guarantee and Jesus shows us what is expected as a result of our relationship with Him. Read the signs and be reminded of the love and the compassion of Jesus Christ. Some of our trip will be bumpy and sometimes we may even lose our way but our Travel Agent is always there. He will never cancel our reservations or leave us stranded.

The table on the sanctuary has one of my favorite reminders ever written. ***"It was never nails that kept Jesus on the cross but love."*** On the footsteps below you will see St. Paul's definition of love. Include that in your Bible readings. They are the footsteps of part of the core of our faith. Try one or more during your Lenten journey and note how you can bring joy to yourself or to someone else. Love never fails...It didn't with Jesus. Try it! Put a little love in your heart as the song says and watch it enhance your environment. - Ann Hughes

