

### ***Masses For The Week***

#### **Monday - April 29**

6:30 Maria Antoinette Ramsey Raccioppi  
9:00 The Sirianni Family

#### **Tuesday - April 30**

6:30 Mary Kerrigan  
9:00 Cornelius Doolan, 5th Anniversary

#### **Wednesday - May 1**

6:30 Madelaine Di Figlia  
9:00 Madeline, Catherine & Elizabeth Reilly

#### **Thursday - May 2**

6:30 Mary & Thomas LaGanga  
9:00 Rev. Joseph J. Ryan, OMI

#### **Friday - May 3**

6:30 George Ruff  
9:00 Thomas Campbell

#### **Saturday - May 4**

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**  
5:00 Louis Ruggiero, John & Gertrude O'Rourke  
7:00 Julia & Fred Zoitke

#### **Sunday - May 5**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
8:30 Rose & Arthur Cordone  
10:00 In Honor of Saint Joseph  
11:30 The Meehan Family  
1:00 Terence Barry  
5:30 Robert Agresta

### ***Readings For The Week***

Mon. Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26  
Tues. Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a  
Wed. Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8  
Thurs. Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11  
Fri. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14  
Sat. Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21  
Sun. **Acts 15:1-2, 22-29** *A controversy arose among the disciples whether or not gentile converts were to be circumcised according to Mosaic law. At a Jerusalem meeting, the Holy Spirit, the apostles and the elders decided gentiles should not be burdened by such laws.*

**Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23** *An angel carried the visionary to the top of a mountain to view the holy city Jerusalem coming down from God in heaven. There was no temple because the Lord God and the Lamb were the temple.*

**John 14:23-29** *Jesus said his disciples, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."*



Saint Maria Faustina

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

### ***Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift***

#### **Weekend Collection for April 20/21**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$16,972.00

***Thank you for your generosity & support!***

### **Reflection & Living Stewardship**



In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples - and us - a new commandment: "Love one another." Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who share their gifts of hospitality with others and through ministry such as greeters, ushers and welcome committees.

### **Charismatic Prayer Group**

***God is complete.***

***Completely perfect***

***Completely loving***

***Completely forgiving***

***Completely on your side***

***Come celebrate the awesomeness that is our God!***

***Our next meeting is Monday April 29th at 7:30 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall. Call (516) 993-9672 for any prayer requests or more information.***

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 especially during this Easter Season.



### **St. Martin of Tours HOP Club**

**SEE WINNERS ON PAGE 10.**

***St. Martin of Tours Wedding Banns*****No announcements**

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

Thanks to all for your continued generosity to those in need. This week the Pantry could use coffee, tea, hearty soups, pasta (no elbows or spaghetti), jams or jellies, canned fruit, Jello, peas, mixed vegetables, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, dish soap, juice and juice boxes and toothpaste.

**Food Pantry:**

208 Broadway, Bethpage

Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Thursday: 2:00PM – 7:00PM

Phone: (516) 931-7332

***Guided Meditations***

There will be two guided meditations to relax and replenish with the gospel allowing for reflection and introspection with the Holy Spirit.

- **The first is THIS Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 a.m. Mass in St. Alphonsus Hall.** We moved it from the church due to the comings and goings after each mass on Sunday mornings.
- Or you may wish to join us on Sunday, the 5th of May at approximately 6:30 p.m., following the 5:30 Life Teen mass.

Both meditations will last about a half hour. Many parishioners have found meditation a very helpful way to assist in their prayer life as a way of communicating with the Holy Spirit within themselves and thus reducing stress.

*All are welcome!*

- 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 Dalessio, Leigh Murphy  
Helena Mulligan, Richard Piernini, John Tortorice  
Joseph Simon, Douglas Torres, Gina Cava  
James Robertson, Amy Hayes, Mom & Dad  
Helena Mulligan, Bill Kelly, Salvatore Milo, Jr.  
Matthew Messina, William John Staudt, Jimmy Stiffa  
Sharon Shiepk, Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell  
Salvatore Accardi, Mary Donahoe, Robert Cakoyanis  
Christine Ketchem, Peggy Namiotka, Pat Cannata  
Barbara Thompson, Nicole Cagna, Donald Castor  
Barbara Mangiamiele, Joann Bruno, Nick Markakis  
Patsy Carni, Henry & Marie Niemczyk, Dorothy Quinn*

**Full of Grace:****The Second Greatest Story (N)ever Told****St. Martin of Tours Parish Presentation****Wednesday evening, May 29, 2013****7:00 PM**

You and your guests are invited to an exploration of the Apparitions of the Virgin Mary. One of the most moving spiritual presentations you will ever see by retreat director Tony Bellizzi. Preview on youtube: "[full of grace trailer.mov](#)"

*Sponsored by St. Martin of Tours  
Religious Education*

*Week of April 28 - May 4, 2013**Altar Bread & Wine**In Loving Memory of**Lucy Speelman****Rest in Peace******Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."******John Speelman***

## *Message from the Pastor*

I am very big Jackie Robinson fan. How I came to be his admirer is not exactly clear to me. It may be that I was born and raised in Brooklyn, and I take great pride that the borough of churches and bars was the first place where baseball was integrated and the long established color line was broken. I went to one Brooklyn Dodgers game in Ebbets Field when I was five or six years old, and I am not sure Jackie played in that game. My Dad, an Irish immigrant to America, loved the Brooklyn Dodgers and played ball with my friends and I when we were kids. He taught me to love the underdogs of baseball. One of my earliest childhood memories was hearing the pots and pans banging on my block, 58th Street, when the Dodgers finally won the World Series against the Yankees on October 4, 1955. There was a great celebration in my neighborhood and all over Brooklyn.



**Mr. Jackie Robinson  
Mr. Branch Rickey and guess  
who the "invisible man" is in  
the middle!**

I have read several books about Jackie Robinson. *I Never Had it Made* was his autobiography; *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*; *1947 When All Broke Loose*, and Roger Kahn's *The Boys of Summer*. The other

day I saw the movie *42*, a movie that told the story of how Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey, the general manager of the Dodgers, broke the long held code that a black man could not play baseball in the Major Leagues. *42* was the number that Robinson wore when he played. Although I am sure that some of the movie was kind of *Hollywood-ed up*, I think it was a wonderful telling of a very moving and powerful story. Besides Jackie Robinson, and his wife Rachel, the other key figure in the breaking of the color line was Branch Rickey. Rickey has been considered one of the most innovative men in the history of baseball and is credited with creating the minor leagues and spring training. Historians debate why he took on the great challenge of bringing the first black man to the major leagues. Branch Rickey was a businessman and he knew that African-American fans would flock to see Robinson play. He also knew that he was a very good player who would help the Brooklyn team win. Still, I think the strongest evidence is that he did it because it was the right thing to do. There is a memorable line in the movie where Rickey says with great passion: *I am a Methodist. Robinson is a Methodist, and God is a Methodist!*

In some ways, it is very painful to watch what Jackie Robinson went through that first season. He was taunted terribly by the other teams, the fans, and given a cold reception by his own teammates. He was thrown at by many pitchers and spiked by some of his opponents. There were times when hotels where the team was to play would not allow Robinson to stay. Jackie Robinson was a fierce competitor who would back down from no one. Still, he had promised Rickey that he would turn the other cheek rather than get into fights with other players. Rickey felt that if Robinson fought back, the experiment would fail and race riots in the stands might even occur. As I watched the movie, I was conscious that generation after generation of African-Americans has faced terrible bigotry and oppression because of the color of their skin.

*42* is also a story of conversion. Many of the Dodgers, some of them from the deep South of the 1940's who were raised with deep prejudice slowly began to respect Jackie as a player, appreciate him as a human being, and grow to care about him as a friend. That is an amazing story of conversion. The same thing was happening to many Americans. There are those who would argue Jackie Robinson may have as much an impact on changing America's ideas about race as did the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

It was two Christian men who made this happen — Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson. Two men of courage and conviction. When Rickey first told Robinson of his plan, and that Robinson must not argue or fight with those who would taunt him, he opened a book published in the 1920s, Giovanni Papini's *"Life of Christ,"* and read Jesus' words: *"But whoever shall smite thee on the cheek, turn to him the other also."* Robinson knew the Gospel and knew what was required of him. He replied, *"I have two cheeks, Mr. Rickey. Is that it?"* This meeting between the two Methodists, Rickey and Robinson, ultimately transformed baseball and America itself.

In a recent article in the Wall Street Journal, Chris Lamb wrote the following: *It took awhile for Robinson as a young man to understand what that faith in God meant. He was involved in more than one fight, and scrapes with the law, prompted by racial antagonism. Arnold Rampersad, in his 1997 Robinson biography, describes how the teenager was rescued from the streets by the Rev. Karl Downs, the minister of Scott United Methodist Church in Pasadena. Downs became a father figure to Robinson and brought him back into the church. Downs became the channel through which religious faith "finally flowed into Jack's consciousness and was finally accepted there, if on revised terms, as he himself reached manhood," Mr. Rampersad writes, "Faith in God then began to register in him as both a mysterious force, beyond his comprehension, and a pragmatic way to negotiate the world." From that point on, Robinson made a habit of praying beside his bed before going to sleep.*

The same articles goes on to say: *As influential as Rev. Downs had been, though, no one had a more profound impact on Robinson's life than Branch Rickey, whose religious devotion was such that he didn't attend baseball games on Sundays. During their first meeting, after Rickey had read aloud the passage from Papini's "Life of Christ," he also asked Robinson to read from the section about "nonresistance." Robinson understood what was needed for him to succeed.*

After I left the movie, it stayed with me. I thought about the institutional blindness of that age and how ignorant people could be. But that might not be fair. I have to ask myself if I carry prejudice against other people, maybe because of their race, their age, their sexual orientation, their religion, their education, or their economic status. I need to examine my own heart and see where I may be blind to my Brothers and Sisters. It is far easier to watch the movie and cheer 42 than to look into my own heart. The Gospel can be haunting: *"What you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me."*

Father Pat, CSSR

woodscssr@aol.com; www.smtbethpage.org



## *May is the Month of the Blessed Mother*

The world is resplendent with spring's increased light and new growth. It is Mary's month in the Easter season and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of Heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was worthy to bear. During the remainder of Easter time, let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

"The month of May, with its profusion of blooms was adopted by the Church in the 18th century as a celebration of the flowering of Mary's maidenly spirituality...With its origins in Isaiah's prophecy of the Virgin Birth of the Messiah under the figure of the Blossoming Rod or Root of Jesse, the flower symbolism of Mary was extended by the Church Fathers, and in the liturgy, by applying to her the flower of the Sapiential Books-Canticles, Wisdom, Proverbs and Sirach.

"In the medieval period, the rose was adopted as the flower symbol of the Virgin Birth, as expressed in Dante's phrase, 'The Rose wherein the Divine Word was made flesh,' and depicted in the central rose windows of the great gothic cathedrals from which came the Christmas carol, 'Lo, How a Rose 'Ere Blooming.' Also in the medieval period, when monasteries were the centers of horticultural and agricultural knowledge, and with the spread of the Franciscan love of nature, the actual flowers themselves, of the field, waysides and gardens, came to be seen as symbols of Mary..."

**John S. Stokes**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 28: Guided Meditation **after** 10:00 mass
- Apr. 28: *Damien* performed by Casey Groves
- May 3/4: First Friday/First Saturday Devotions
- May 4: First Holy Communion 10:30 & 1PM
- May 5: Guided Meditation **after** 5:30 mass
- May 7: Christian Mothers Crowning of Mary
- May 11: First Holy Communion 10:30 AM
- May 14: Youth Ministry Adoration 7:00 PM
- May 18/19: Life Center of L.I. Baby Shower
- May 20: Knights of Columbus BLOOD DRIVE
- May 29: Full of Grace Presentation 7:00 PM

### 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.

### Life Center of Long Island Baby Shower

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH & SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

in the Fellowship Area (Seaman Avenue side)

*After All Weekend Masses*

The month of May is filled with celebrating Mother's Day. We would once more ask you to celebrate the birth of babies by donating what you can to the Life Center. These mothers and their babies are in need of:



Baby wipes, diapers, formula, breast pumps, baby powder, oil, swabs, monitors, car seats, pack & plays, baby clothing - newborn to toddler size 3. Slightly used items are welcomed.

***Thank you for your constant support and generosity!***



If anyone is interested in joining the **LEGION OF MARY**, please call the rectory at 931-0818 and leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Meetings will be at 208 Broadway (Parish Outreach building).

***The object of the Legion of Mary*** is the glory of God and the grace of His Mother through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work.

If you would like to learn even more, go to [www.LegionofMary.org](http://www.LegionofMary.org).

### St. Martin of Tours/K of C #5033

Catholic War Veterans #1938

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, May 20th; 2:30pm - 8:30pm

517 Central Avenue

Bethpage Knights of Columbus

**Your donation will help to save up to THREE lives. Our community hospitals need your help. Please share this lifesaving gift! Thank you for caring!**

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Bring ID with signature or photo.
- Minimum weight 110 lbs.
- Age 16 - 75 (16 year olds must have parental permission. Age 76 and over need doctor's note)
- Eat well (low fat) & drink fluids
- No tattoos for past 12 months
- For questions concerning medical eligibility call 1-800-688-0900.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact:**

**Jack Batt @ (516) 868-8192**

 **New York** Blood Center



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](http://www.smtbethpage.org) or contact Erin at [EKHoran@yahoo.com](mailto:EKHoran@yahoo.com).



The Edge program is for all middle school aged student (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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!**

## 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, May 14th. 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!

## Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity A Special Message to Our Members

Dues are in order. They are \$10 per year. Many members are asking about being a "**Member in Good Standing.**" As a member in good standing, you can:

- Run for office
- Vote in elections
- Receive Healing Mass Cards for sick members
- Receive memorial cards for a deceased mother, father, husband or child
- Special wake service for the Christian Mother Rosarian
- Honor guard at the funeral mass

Any member who wants to return to be reinstated can please call Louise Smith at 735-1375, and she will check your standing. So far we have had several members reinstated and experienced how happy they are to return.

If you would like to pay your dues for 2012-2013, send a check payable to CMRC and address it to: Louise Smith  
3794 Windsor Drive, Bethpage NY 11714

For a membership card, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and one will be sent to you. The continued good works of the organization - to keep the altars, baptismal robes, help Parish Outreach - **all depend on you and your dues.** May God bless us all!

## Other News from Christian Mothers

On Tuesday, May 7, 2013 we will be Crowning our Blessed Mother followed by the Living Rosary. This will all begin promptly at 7:30 P.M. in Saint Alphonsus Hall. Election of officers will then take place.

Refreshments will be served. ALL women are welcome!

## PAPAL AUDIENCE

Father John Tizio, our former pastor, recently led a pilgrimage to Italy with his parishioners from St. Mary's in Annapolis. Some of our parishioners also went. Here is a beautiful account of Rosemarie Gaccione meeting Pope Francis followed by Tony and Barbara Amoroso's moving experience. I asked them to share their stories with us. - Father Pat

*I would like to share a wonderful experience I had last week while on a pilgrimage to Rome. During a Papal Audience, at which approximately 40,000 people were present, I had the very special honor of meeting and speaking with Pope Francis, (a very special, kind and loving man). I was seated in the handicap section in the front row. At the conclusion of the Pope's address to the general audience, the handicapped people were taken and lined up along the side wall.*

*The Pope was in his pope-mobile and when he came to the handicapped section, he got off and proceeded to come to each and every person with a greeting and blessing. The love and adoration shown by the throngs of people was just so moving. As for me, I realized once again, how God has showered me with many blessings through the years despite all my health issues, climaxing with the honor of meeting and speaking with His Holiness. A moment in my life I will never, ever forget! - Rosemarie Gaccione*



*Recently my husband Tony and I had the opportunity to travel to Italy. It has always been a dream to return to my father's roots. We visited Milan, Venice, Florence, Padua, Assisi and ending in the Eternal City of Rome. We visited so many huge, ornate basilicas and churches. They were so beautiful but somehow difficult to grasp spiritually.*

*That feeling changed when we went to the Redemptorist Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We attended a private Mass celebrated by Fr. John Tizio. When we entered and walked down the center aisle and looked at the beautiful but simple surroundings, we knew we were home. There was such a peaceful presence. We truly felt the Spirit working. I visited the gift shop where I stood in awe at the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the garments of St. Alphonsus. I am grateful for this wonderful experience!*

*Barbara Amoroso*

### **First Friday Devotions**

*May 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Eucharistic Chapel in reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

### **First Saturday Devotions**

*May 4th at 8:30 AM consisting of the Rosary of Reparation; reading about Fatima and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*



## **Attention Book Club Members**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 4th at 7:15 PM in the Faculty Lounge of the School.

***Looking forward to our next session!***

## RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

### CARDINAL O'MALLEY'S ADDRESS AT THE BOSTON MARATHON INTERFAITH MEMORIAL

*Excerpts from Cardinal O'Malley's address:*

"This year's Patriots Day celebrations were marred by an act of senseless violence that has caused us all great shock and pain. It made us realize the horror of the September 11th terrorist attacks and is a stark reminder of the darkness that can lurk in the human heart and produce such evil. And yet, the same tragedy brought us together as a community like nothing else ever could. The generous and courageous response of so many assures us that there resides in people's hearts a goodness that is incredibly selfless. We saw that when summoned by great events we can be remarkably committed to the well-being of others, even total strangers. We became a stronger people, a more courageous people, and a more noble people. The police, emergency workers and even bystanders and passers-by did not hesitate to put themselves in harm's way to help the injured and the frightened.

This Patriots' Day shakes us out of our complacency and indifference and calls us to focus on the task of building a civilization that is based on love, justice, truth and service. We do not want to risk losing the legacy of those first patriots who were willing to lay down their lives for the common good. We must overcome the culture of death by promoting a culture of life, a profound respect for each and every human being made in the image and likeness of God and we must cultivate a desire to give our lives in the service of others.

In the face of the present tragedy, we must ask ourselves what kind of community do we want to be; what are the ideals that we want to pass on to the next generation. It cannot be violence, hatred and fear. The Jewish people speak of *Tikkun Olam*, "repairing the world." God has entrusted us with precisely that task, to repair our broken world. We cannot do it as a collection of individuals; we can only do it together, as community and family. Like every tragedy, Monday's events are a challenge and an opportunity for us to work together with a renewed spirit of determination and solidarity and with the firm conviction that love is stronger than death."

*The Respect Life Committee sends their prayers to the people of Boston, to the families that have lost loved ones, to the families that will gather to help their injured, to all those that responded to the tragedy of that day. And may humanity never again be sacrificed for ideology.*

#### 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, Catho-  
lic Home Bureau 1(800) 592-4357.

**FATIMA DAY—MONDAY, MAY 13th**  
**SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE ISLAND**  
**258 Eastport Manor Road**  
**MANORVILLE NY 11949**

**"The Triumph**  
**The battle has begun...which side are you on?"**  
**Powerful new Medjugorje film**

**10:00 AM Stations of the Cross**  
**11:30 AM Holy Mass**  
**12:30 PM Lunch**  
**1:30 PM Viewing of the movie "The Triumph"**  
**3:00 PM Benediction**



Bishop Murphy is looking for a coordinator from each parish to handle the parish arrangements for his Pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington D.C. If you are interested, please fill out the form below and bring it to the rectory, and we will inform his office. If anyone else is interest is going, please contact the rectory at 931-0818.

**Thank you, Father Pat**

Bishop Murphy is happy to announce that there will be a Diocesan Year of Faith Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. **Saturday, September 28, 2013.**



**LOCAL COORDINATOR VOLUNTEER:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Father Pat,

On behalf of FREE, we would like to thank you for your support of our fundraising efforts to send the FREE Players Drumline to Walt Disney World. In addition, we wish to thank Deacon Jim Biggin and his wife Carmela for their time in helping to sell tickets after many Masses for the past three weeks.

The articles in the church bulletin and the announcements by our priests after Mass were extremely helpful in publicizing our cause. The "Breakfast at Applebee's" ticket sales and donations **exceeded \$3,000!!** We are **MOST** grateful and feel blessed to be part of such a generous community!

**Sincerely,**

***Ro & Steven Malerba  
and Joe, Barbara & Jenny Pace***

**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>.

**HOP CLUB WINNERS**

Apr 15 #195	John G. Donald	\$25.00
Apr 16 #358	M/M John M. Schuman	\$25.00
Apr 17 #442	Robert/Kathy McCormick	\$25.00
Apr 18 #341	Elaine Toomey	\$25.00
Apr 19 #348	M/M Ronald Kenney	\$250.00
Apr 22 #202	Vincent Raab	\$25.00
Apr 23 #187	Linda Menendez	\$25.00
Apr 24 #556	Ann Mirto	\$25.00
Apr 25 #396	John & Ethel Toland	\$25.00
Apr 26 #403	Joseph Cagna	\$50.00

**To the Parishioners of  
St. Martin of Tours**

We would like to say a great big **THANK YOU** for your support of the FREE Players Drumline. Your generosity has helped make our dream trip to Orlando a reality. We are **very grateful** to you all!

***Jenny Pace and Steven Malerba***

## Saint Damien of Molokai Performance

**We are delighted to welcome back Mr. Casey Groves to St. Martin of Tours this Sunday evening, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 p.m. for a one person performance of *Damien*.**



On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Casey gave a wonderful performance on the life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. I believe that those who attended were very moved by the performance.

Since Mr. Groves will be back in the northeast, I have invited him to do his one person play on Saint Damien of Molokai, the great apostle to the lepers of this Hawaiian island. (see the biography below). There is no charge to attend, but you are invited to make a free will donation at the end of the performance if you wish.

- Father Pat CSSR

### IN TIMES OF TROUBLE...

The terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon left us shaken again as a nation. The deaths, the terrible injuries, the devastation on the faces of the people, the bravery and skill of the rescue workers brought me back to the terrible, sunny Tuesday of September 11, 2001. I am not sure what we can say about such evil as we witnessed on April 15th in Boston. Without diminishing in any way the horror of this reality, I wonder what we learn from this tragedy. It is an obvious conclusion that wicked people exist in our world and have not the slightest hesitation in inflicting suffering to others. We also know that there are people of grace - ordinary citizens, doctors, nurses, EMTs, police and firefighters and so many others who sought in some way to assist the wounded. We can also be sure that family and friends rallied around those in pain and sought to bring comfort. As much as there is evil in the world, there is far more goodness.

The four people who died in Boston were young, ages 8, 23, 26 and 28. On that April morning, none of them thought it would be their last day on earth. I think of Matthew 24:42: "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming." None of us know what will be our last day or hour on earth, and should seek to live being prepared to go home to God.

Perhaps even more importantly than thinking about death, I think the lesson of Boston, of September 11th or any sudden death, is how fragile life is. Do we have any unfinished business in life? Is there someone with whom we need reconciliation? Did I leave the house today angry at someone, or perhaps fail to give a kiss goodbye? Were my last words to someone I love harsh and cold? If I knew that a certain day was to be my last, what would I do on that day? With whom would I want to speak?

I remember after September 11th trying to live by those words by trying to leave no one with bad feelings in my heart. Life was too precious to waste squabbling and being resentful. I succeeded for a few days, but quickly found myself going back to my old ways and failing to live in the present with an attitude always seeking peace. It is very difficult to live a life of grace, gratitude and generosity and very easy to slip into selfishness. It is sad that only a terrible tragedy or a sudden loss of someone close awakens this in me again.

There are no easy or comforting thoughts about the Boston bombings. But if you can live a day, a week, a month with greater appreciation of your own life and the lives of those that God places around you, a blessing of light will come forth from a day of darkness. - Father Pat