

Masses For The Week**Monday - May 13**

6:30 John Mitchell

9:00 Mothers Day Novena

Tuesday - May 14

6:30 William Feminella

9:00 Mothers Day Novena

Wednesday - May 15

6:30 Dennis Q. Hogarty

9:00 Mothers Day Novena

Thursday - May 16

6:30 Salvatore Cuomo

9:00 Mothers Day Novena

Friday - May 17

6:30 Lillian Karpiak

9:00 Mothers Day Novena

Saturday - May 189:00 **Mothers Day Novena**

5:00 William & Margaret McCabe, Anniv.

7:00 Madeline T. Stein

Sunday - May 19

7:00 The People of the Parish

8:30 Rocco Vivolo

10:00 Angelina Cilmi

11:30 Mary O'Neil

1:00 Stramandinoli & Esposito Families

5:30 Barbara McDonough

Readings For The Week

Mon. Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

Tues. Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

Wed. Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19

Thurs. Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

Fri. Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

Sat. Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25

Sun. Acts 2:1-11 *On Pentecost the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples in the form of fiery tongues. They began to speak in different tongues "as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."*

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 The apostle Paul wrote that there are many gifts but the same Spirit, different ministries but the same Lord.

John 20:19-23 Jesus appeared and told the disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you...Receive the Holy Spirit."



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 May 4/5**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$17,310.13

Thank you for your generosity & support!**Reflection & Living Stewardship**

Today's reading contains the somber warning that Jesus is coming soon and will bring to each person the reward that his or her conduct deserves. Has my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me been such that I could respond joyfully, "Amen?"

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish whose giving - whether of alms or of service - will be an expression of gratitude for what the Father has given them.



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.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Are you wondering what we are all about? We are a group who wants to be closer to God. Who wouldn't want that?! We gather for prayer, song, meditation, scripture readings, healing prayers and support! If you've come before, we'd be happy to see you again. If God is whispering in your ear to come back or come for the first time - Listen to Him!

Our next meeting is Monday May 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Church. Don't leave your chair empty! Call (516) 993-9672 for any prayer requests or more information.

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

May 6 #603	Diane Sheehan	\$25.00
May 7 #523	Barbara Pirone	\$25.00
May 8 #507	M&J Bissonnette	\$25.00
May 9 #498	John & Maureen Castles	\$25.00
May 10 #85	Kathleen Wilson	\$50.00

St. Martin of Tours Wedding Banns

3rd Ryan Maestri and Hallie Samuels
 2nd Brian Severin and Diana Gianuzzi



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

The Pantry is low on: cereal, creamed corn, canned potatoes, beets, peas, mixed vegetables, black beans, chick peas, chili, beef stew, peanut butter, jelly, salad dressing, salt canned fruit, coffee, oil, sugar, mayonnaise, cake mix and icing, hearty soups, tooth paste and tooth brushes, shampoo and conditioner. As always, we are so grateful for your continued support of the Pantry. During the month of April, 741 people were served!

Food Pantry:

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

**AN UPDATE FROM
 ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

In the April 14th bulletin many of you responded to the article called *“Reaching Out in Faith and Charity”* in which St. Paul’s Church asked if volunteers from our faith community were willing to help out a local family struggling with illness.

Our office received an email from St. Paul’s which said that the family was most grateful to their friend for wanting to help them, but, at least for now, they opted to handle the situation themselves. However, when they heard about the outreach from both St. Paul’s & St. Martin’s, they were overwhelmed with gratitude and only ask for our prayers.

So thank you, St. Paul’s and St. Martin’s faith communities - for being people willing to come together to fulfill the commandment Jesus asks all Christians to live by: ***“Love one another as I have loved you.”***

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 Shiepkko, Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell
 Salvatore Accardi, Mary Donahoe, Christine Ketchem
 Peggy Namiotka, Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson
 Nicole Cagna, Donald Castor, Barbara Mangiamale
 Nick Markakis, Patsy Carni, Henry & Marie Niemczyk
 Dorothy Quinn*

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
 ALTAR BREAD & WINE
 REMEMBRANCES**

In gratitude for those who donate the altar bread and wine for the masses during the week, we will list the name of the remembered person in the Prayer of the Faithful at all weekend masses. Lest anyone be confused, this is not the name of the person/persons for whom the mass is being offered.

Father Pat



*Week of May 12 - May 18, 2013
 Altar Bread & Wine
 In Loving Memory of
 Margaret Lally*

Rest in Peace

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

***Christine D. Punckowski, Robert Cakoyanis
 Vivian Durr, Constance A. Walsh, Diane Lisa
 Patrick J. Murphy, Peter J. Portuese***

Message from the Pastor

I am sure we all have a favorite story about our Mothers. It might be a story that makes us smile, or perhaps cringe in embarrassment, or just feel a surge of being loved in our hearts. Sometimes it is all three emotions at the same time. One of my favorite stories about my Mom goes back to when I was thirteen years old and in my first year of high school. I had gone to the Redemptorist Minor Seminary in North East, PA to consider being a priest. Over time, I loved the school and it was great fun having more than a hundred fellows your age with whom to share the high school years. But in the first month of my time there, I was incredibly lonely. I was five hundred miles from home and missing Mom and all my family. I was also incredibly hungry. We had three meals a day, none of them would make the food channel, and that was it. No snacks, no candy or soda machines, and we were not allowed to go to town to buy candy. I was a lonely and hungry boy.

We were allowed to write home for something if we needed it, such as sneakers, pens, toothpaste and so forth. So I remember writing home for sneakers since the ones I brought with me were wearing out. The package arrived with the sneakers. As I took out the shoes, I noticed the box had a false bottom. When I removed the cover of it, I found several packs of Twinkies that my Mom had carefully packed in the bottom of the box. There was also a letter with the package. As welcome as the Twinkies were, I remember the letter moving me to tears since my mother spoke about how much she missed me and how lonely she was for me. She told me that I should never feel that I had to stay in the seminary. I would be welcomed home if I left and that I should do only that which would make me happy. I felt so very loved at that moment.

If I want to get some attention in church, all I have to do is refer to God with a feminine pronoun. So if I say that the Holy Spirit comes to us at baptism and that *she* is one of the three persons of the Blessed Trinity, people will quickly notice that. *"Why is Father calling God a she? I hope he is not becoming some kind of radical! Everyone knows that God is a man!"*

Certainly Jesus Christ is a man. He was fully human with the body of a man. Although we speak of God the Father, we believe that both God the Father and the Holy Spirit are spirits; they have no bodies nor do they have a specific gender. The Bible generally refers to God as *he* or *him*, and since we do not want to call God *it*, which is a gender neutral word, we most often refer to God with a masculine pronoun. We know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, but it also was written by human beings, and most likely it was men who did the writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. By and large, in the Semitic cultures, women were considered inferior to men, and thus the use of the masculine pronoun. On the first Easter morning, (although there is traditional belief that Jesus appeared to the Blessed Mother first), the first recorded appearance of Jesus is to Mary Magdalene. Yet, in the Jewish culture at that time, a woman could not be a legal witness. We still see such practices in some areas of the world. Even in America, we are yet to have a woman president in the United States. There are some who struggle with the role of women in the Catholic Church.

We can never grasp the wonder of the mystery of God with human language, but we must try. There are many names for God in the Bible. Here are a few: the Almighty, the Rock, The Alpha and the Omega, the Mighty One, The Good Shepherd, the King of kings, the Lord, and the Light of the World. Yet, there are also feminine images: the very popular hymn On Eagle Wings is taken from an image of the prophet Isaiah. A mother eagle takes her offspring high up into the sky and then lets it go in order to teach the baby eagle to fly. Yet the mother eagle swoops in at the last moment, lest her offspring fall upon the rocks. It is a beautiful image of God protecting us. In another passage in Isaiah, God tells us that divine love is even greater than that of a mother for her child: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"

Jesus, as he looks over the city of Jerusalem, says, *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."* Jesus is comparing himself to a mother hen who wants to bring us under the protection of his wings. There are many other feminine references to the working of God in the Sacred Scriptures.

God's love is revealed to us in so many ways. Certainly, Jesus is for us the most profound image of the revealed God. *The one who sees him, sees God.* The Church is called the Bride of God. The Church, in spite of its sins and failures, is to show us God on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit. God comes to us in the form of bread and wine through the Holy Eucharist. We look at the wonder and glory of the heavens, the earth, and the seas and we see the handiwork of God.

The Scriptures tell us that where there is love, there is God. One of the primary ways we come to image God is through other people. Our fathers are a primary source of images of God. Some men reveal a gentle loving God and others a harsh critical one that hopefully we can outgrow. Our spouses are a powerful source of revealing God to us that is at the heart of our theology of the sacrament of marriage. Our husband or wife can be an instrument of revealing God's love to us. Sad to say, we know that not all marriages show us a faithful loving God. Friends are a special graced place of revealing God to us. Jesus tells us, *I no longer call you servant but friend.* A friend is one who chooses to love us. A loving family member can show us the face of God. I never tire of quoting *Les Miserable*, *To love another person is to see the face of God.* Of all the wonderful human loves that we know, a mother's love for her child may be the most powerful of all loves, and may well give us the clearest image of the unconditional love of God. Granted, mothers like the rest of us, are not perfect and have their flaws. Still I think most of us are blessed to be able to say that our mothers loved us in a very unique way. So on this Mother's Day, we pray for all our Moms, be they living or deceased, in gratitude for all they have done for us, and for revealing to us the face of God.

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

**LA SALLE REGIONAL SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Annual NY Mets Game

June 28, 2013 at 7:10 PM

NY METS

VS

Washington Nationals

\$22.00 (normally \$32.00)

**All tickets must be ordered on line at:
Mets.com/lasalle**

**Any questions, please contact
Kathleen Verbil
(516) 249-8396**

**The University of Notre Dame
Folk Choir**

May 22, 2013 at 7:30 PM

St. Agnes Cathedral

Rockville Centre

**A Concert of Sacred Music
to benefit**

The Tomorrow's Hope Foundation

**A free-will offering to provide
scholarships is greatly appreciated.
Please contact Sr. Joanne Callahan
for tickets at 516-678-5800 x548**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 11/12 Youth Ministry Flower Sale
- 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 26: Relay for Life Fundraiser at the Church
- May 29: Full of Grace Presentation 7:00 PM
- June 4: Book Club Meeting 7:15 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!*

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 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!**

Free Religious Education of the Children
In the Diocese of
San Fernando, La Union, Philippines

**The Philippine Madrigal Singers
In Concert**

Mark Anthony Carpio, Choirmaster

May 31, 2013 @ 7:30 PM

**St. Frances de Chantal Parish Church
Wantagh**

Tickets are \$50

Available at Pastoral Center Front Desk

For inquiries, call Fr. Gius

516 785-2333 x228 or

frgius@me.com

Check out:

www.philippinemadrigalsingers.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

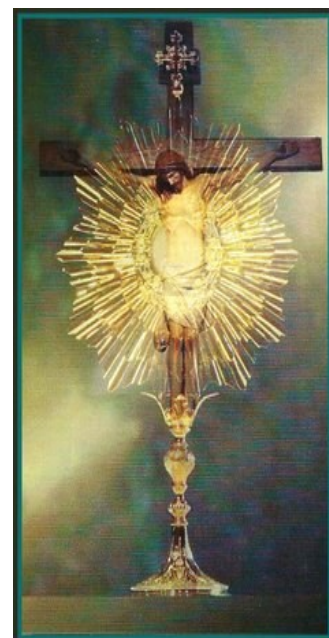
The Life Teen Youth Ministry has Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction every 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Church.

Our next service is Tuesday, May 14th.

We fervently hope that you come and join us in prayer and adoration of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The music and praise that are lifted up to Heaven will bring you to a place of peace and hope, and leave you with a deeper yearning of He who was, He who is and He who is to come!

Everyone is welcome!



**SPEC: One Run, One Cure Presents:
Our Annual Jewelry Sale!**

**Join us on Sunday May 26th
at St. Martin of Tours Church**

**Items include:
Friendship Bracelets
Handmade Necklaces
Crosses...and Much More**

**All Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.
Help support our fight against cancer!**



RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

BLESSINGS TO ALL OF OUR MOTHERS

Mother's Day brings a special time to look to heaven to celebrate Mary, the mother of our Lord. As we reflect on the beauty of Mary's tender heart, so do we honor and respect those that sacrificed to raise us.



So many special mothers can reach out to us during our lives to guide and nurture us through the darkest of times, or to the best of times. If we are fortunate enough to still have our mothers in our lives, we are lucky enough. To those of us who have lost our mothers, we must search our memories for that moment of comfort and love and look for them to pray for us.

Whether she be our birth mother, adoptive mother, step-mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, or someone that took over that role in our childhood, we honor them. As Mary showed us, it is deep devotion, sacrifice and pain. It is endless, unselfish, enduring, patient and forgiving. Most of all when all others have forsaken us that love will not falter. So, to all mothers', in all ways, warm wishes and thanksgiving to you all.

BLESSING OF MOTHERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so You watch over Your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A special prayer for those mothers that are experiencing a crisis pregnancy, have lost a child, or who has a child with special needs. And for those that have become care givers for their elderly parents.

PENTECOST SUNDAY READERS

If you are interested in speaking in a foreign language at one of the masses celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, please contact Ronny Ciarniello at (516) 433-9092 and she will give you more information. *Thank you!*



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.

Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing all types of marital difficulties.

For confidential information about Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday June 7 - 9 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Please call or go on the web to make a reservation. Weekends get filled up very quickly.

1-800-470-2230
www.retrouvaille.org

LUKE'S YOUNG ARTIST ACADEMY

Give students grades 1 to 11 the opportunity to discover their talents through different levels of media (pottery, hand building, drawing, painting, water color, acrylic, scratch board and print making). Individual attention can be given to those students who have specific artistic interests.



Morning classes are taught by the very talented George Lucas, a graduate with honors from Hofstra University and runs from **June 24 to July 19 at St. Martin's. The fee is \$225 for eight one and one half hour sessions.** All materials and instruction included. For further information and registration, please call (516) 448-4059 or email lukesartacademy@aol.com.

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>.

"Young at Heart"

We sponsored our yearly BABY SHOWER FOR BIRTHRIGHT and want to express our deepest appreciation to all the ladies who so generously contributed to this worthy endeavor. Thank you one and all!

Table #5 Young at Heart

**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*



The Life Teen Youth Ministry is having a Mothers day flower sale after all Masses on Mothers Day Weekend May 11th and 12th.

*Flowers are 1 for \$2 and 3 for \$5.
Don't forget to remember Mom on her day!*



This is the homily I gave last week about the feasibility study that we are beginning in our parish over the next several weeks to discuss the practical needs of our parish. I wanted to give everyone the opportunity to see it in writing so that it is available to you to read again as to what and why we are doing this study.

Father Pat

There is an old joke about a man who goes to a church in Rome and sees a phone in the back of St. Peter's Basilica that says: "Phone call to heaven - \$5,000.00 a minute." The man wants so much to call heaven and speak to God. He has so many questions for Him, but he knows he cannot afford \$5,000.00, so he leaves disappointed. He eventually goes to Jerusalem to the Wailing Wall. There he sees a phone that says: "Direct line to God - \$5,000.00 a minute." Again, he is so excited because he wants to ask God what he should do about his life, but he knows he cannot afford this call. He leaves the Wailing Wall disappointed.

Finally, he decides to visit Ireland. He finds himself in a small little chapel in County Clare, Ireland. In the back of the church, he sees a phone that has written above it, "Speak to God - 50 cents a minute." He gets so excited. At last he can call God, but then he wonders if this is some kind of trick. He sees the pastor in the church and asks him why it is so inexpensive to call Heaven when it was so costly in the other places. The pastor smiles and tells him, "Ah my lad, from here it is a local call."

How do we hear God speak to us? I remember once being at a meeting with the Redemptorist leadership council and I presented an idea that I had been thinking of. As soon as I said the idea, the very moment I pronounced the last word, a very large picture of the Blessed Mother crashed to the ground. I took that as a sign from God to give up that particular idea.

In our first reading today, we see the early leaders of the church seeking to decide what to do with the men and women who wanted to follow Jesus who were not Jews. Initially, the apostles thought that you had to be a practicing Jew to follow Jesus. But there were many Gentiles seeking to follow Jesus and the leaders sought to know what should be done in accepting people who were not Jews. Should they be allowed to be Christians. They wanted to know what God wanted. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the apostles that he will be returning to the Father but he promises to send the Holy Spirit to the Church and to the believers so they can continue to know what God is asking of them.

Several years ago, many people, especially the young, wore a bracelet that said WWJD - "What would Jesus do." I thought that was terrific. Wearing such a bracelet was a powerful witness that these young people wanted to follow what Jesus was asking of them.

Knowing God's will as we make decisions is not that easy. We cannot call heaven on a hot line. Most of us do not have visions or mystical experiences. But we trust in the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit of God is with us, and that we can hear the will of God in the Scriptures, in the Eucharist, in the Church, in listening to one another, and in gathering information about what we have to decide. We believe that God still speaks to us.

Our parish is in its ninetieth year and has been a graced community of believers who have sought to know what God wants us to do and to follow that. Some of you have grandparents and parents who helped buy this property and build this church. Many of you helped create St. Martin of Tours School in 1957, a school that educated generations of men and women. More recently, you did a great major renovation of this church that has given us a holy ground where we gather as a family with God in our midst.

Our parish has a proud history. Today I am informing you that we are beginning a study about how best to move into the future. The focus of this study is to seek to ask what is Jesus asking of us at this time, the year 2013, as members of the parish of St. Martin of Tours. The study has a particular focus on how to address some of the practical areas of the parish: how do we wish to care for our property, our church, our school, our hall, our outreach center. Our faith is not about buildings, but we do need buildings and property to form a community that has the Eucharist at its center, and one that seeks to pass the treasure and gift of our faith to our children and grandchildren.

We have hired Lynch Development Associates to lead this process. After careful reflection and study, and after interviewing several companies, our councils thought this company would best meet our needs. I assure you we carefully pondered whether to conduct this study ourselves or use outside assistance. After several months of review and consultation, both our Pastoral and Financial Councils voted unanimously to hire a company to ensure that we were getting the best possible guidance to move forward and in knowing where the Lord is leading us.

Like the other moments in the history of our parish, this is an important moment. No decisions, other than to **do** a study, have been made. Its purpose is to seek, to hear, and discern the will of God for us. What does God want? Every person in the parish will be presented the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about the parish, and how you see its future. You will be receiving in the mail a case statement that has been prepared by Pastoral and Financial Councils and myself which shows you what we think are some of the parish's needs. You will receive a questionnaire that gives you the opportunity to respond to the case study. Some of you might be called on the phone to ask if you would be willing to be interviewed about this case statement.

I believe the Holy Spirit will speak through you. All your responses and questionnaires are confidential. Only the Lynch Firm will see and hear what you have to say. After the study is completed, they will present their overall findings to the leadership of the parish so that we can decide with you on that most basic question: what is God asking us to do at this time?

I thank all of you in advance for your active participation in this study and for all the love and support you have for this wonderful faith community of St. Martin's.

Divorced, Separated and Single Catholics of LI Widows and Widowers

Nassau County Chapter No. 1—PO Box 2031

Publicity Committee Newsletter, Chairperson: Rich Wilson

New Member Orientation

Non-Denominational—All Are Welcome

Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 8PM

The meeting is held every 4th Tuesday at St. Frances de Chantal Church

1309 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh

Please bring proof of single status to join

Refreshments after meeting.

For more info call Carol 516-794-4933 or Eileen 516-661-4353

A Prayer for Our Mothers

God of holy Elizabeth, mother of John,
of Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus,
bend down Your ear to this request
and bless the mother of our family.

Bless her with the strength of Your spirit,
she who has taught her children how to stand and walk.
Bless her with the melody of Your love,
she who has shared how to speak, how to sing
and how to pray to You.

Bless her with a place at Your eternal dinner table,
she who has fed and nurtured
the life that was formed within her
while still helpless but embraced in her love.

Bless her today, now, in this lifetime,
with good things, with health.
Bless her with joy, love, laughter,
and pride in her child/children
and surround her with many good friends.

May she who carried life in her womb
be carried one day to Your divine embrace:
there, for all eternity, to rejoice with her family and friends.

This blessing and all grace, we pray,
descend upon the mother of our family:
in the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Prayer for a Deceased Mother

``I remember you always, my dear mother. I remember the days when you were alive and with me, and how you watched over me like a guardian angel with such tender love. You are gone from me, but the bond which unites our souls can never be severed; your face lives within my heart. May our merciful Father reward you for the faithfulness and kindness you have shown me; may he lift up the light of his countenance upon you and grant you eternal peace! Amen.``

Some Thoughts on Mothers for Mother's Day

"Confidential to anyone for whom it is not yet too late: The gestation period of a mother's advice is anywhere from one week to 50 years. Losing one's mother before having thanked her for the many precious things she taught you is one of life's greatest sadness. If your Mom is alive, tell her you love her and what she means to you. — Dear Abby

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."
— Erma Bombeck

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." — Abraham Lincoln

"*Sweater*, n. Garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly."
— Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers."
— David C. Gross, *Dictionary of 1000 Jewish Proverbs*

"I always wondered why God was supposed to be a father," she whispers. "Fathers always want you to measure up to something. Mothers are the ones who love you unconditionally, don't you think?" — Jodi Picoult

"Mothers and their children are in a category all their own. There's no bond so strong in the entire world. No love so instantaneous and forgiving."
— Gail Tsukiyama, *Dreaming Water*

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it." — Buddy Hackett

"Mothers can forgive anything! Tell me all, and be sure that I will never let you go, though the whole world should turn from you." — Louisa May Alcott, *Jo's Boys*