

Masses For The Week**Monday - August 26**

6:30 Anna Zito
9:00 Toby Repperger

Tuesday - August 27

6:30 Gerri & Marty Laraia, 53rd Wedding Anniv.
9:00 Lucinda Castellano, Patrick & Glenn Hughes

Wednesday - August 28

6:30 Cornelius & Dorothy Gore
9:00 Don Cavanagh

Thursday - August 29

6:30 Walter Steigle
9:00 Jam Rhea

Friday - August 30

6:30 Paul F. Wilson
9:00 Frank M. Astralla

Saturday - August 31

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**
5:00 William Joseph & William James Ryan
7:00 Dianne Manning

Sunday - September 1

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Richard Furrey
10:00 Angelina & Thomas Cilmi
11:30 Jerry Saloy
1:00 Anna Savino
5:30 Caroline Horan

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matt 23:13-22
Tues. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26
Wed. 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32
Thurs. 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Mark 6:17-29
Fri. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13
Sat. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Sun. **Sirach 3:17-18; 20, 28-29** *Conduct your affairs more humbly, the greater you are, and God will favor you. A wise person always takes joy in listening to others.*

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a *"You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God." The judge of all comes close into our assembly. Jesus our mediator reaches to touch us and invites us to touch him. We join the festal gathering of our living God.*

Luke 14:1, 7-14 *The exalted shall be humbled and the humble exalted. When you have a dinner, invite poor people or persons with disabilities. Have a reception for persons who cannot repay you, "For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*



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

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**Weekend Collection for August 17/18**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$14,972.44

Assumption Aug. 15: \$4,528.00

Thank you for your generosity & support!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gifts of myself - my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God - is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who are aware of the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives - a new baby, a wedding, a spiritual healing or a moment of deep insight or conversion - all leading to greater growth or action on behalf of God's Kingdom!

Charismatic Prayer Group***Would You Recognize Jesus?***

He's the elderly lady who needs a shopping cart. He's the guy trying to merge on to the LIE when you're in a rush. He's the "different" kid at school. In other words, He's everyone you see. How will you treat Him? Will you ignore Him? Judge Him? Bully Him?

Our next meeting is Monday, August 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the Church. All ages 18 and over are welcome. Call (516) 993-9672 for any prayer requests or more information.

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Aug 19	#633 Marilyn Burleson	\$25.00
Aug 20	#589 Helen Magee	\$25.00
Aug 21	#504 Edmund Antaki	\$25.00
Aug 22	#488 Concetta Montepaone	\$25.00
Aug 23	#607 Joseph & Santa Cambria	\$50.00

St. Martin of Tours Wedding Banns

3rd Christopher Basso & Danielle Tancredi
 3rd Edward Ponchione & Elizabeth Seiter



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

Thank you for your continued generosity to the less fortunate.

We are low on juice & juice boxes, tea, canned fruit, pancake mix & syrup, mayonnaise, oil, Chef Boyardee canned pasta, canned chicken, chili, beef stew, hearty soups, jelly or jam, sugar, cereal, salt, dish soap, laundry soap, bar soap, toothpaste & tooth brushes, paper towels, diapers sizes 5 & 6, and baby wipes.

If your garden blessed you with more vegetables than you can use up, please feel free to bring them to the Pantry.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Any donation of school supplies would be most appreciated. Thank you!!

Food Pantry:

208 Broadway, Bethpage

Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Thursday: 2:00PM – 7:00PM

Phone: (516) 931-7332

RECTORY OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

From Monday, July 1 to Friday, September 6

DAYTIME HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am — 3:00 pm

EVENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

3:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

SATURDAY: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

CLOSED ON SUNDAY

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

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

*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, Robert Tyd
 Helena Mulligan, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina
 Sharon Shiepmo, Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell
 Salvatore Accardi, Christine Ketchem, Peggy Namiotka
 Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson, Donald Castor
 Dorothy Quinn, Edith Lagan, Jim Fanning
 Henry & Marie Niemczyk, Bud Pehrsson,
 Joseph Hughes, Sr., Zachery Duff, Gerry O'Brien
 Sam Zubov, Christine Chiarappa, Baby Tiberius
 James Mason, Herman Lordahl, Heather Catheral
 Godeliva Pagan*

*Holy Hour Devotion
 & Adoration*

The holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament is Wednesday August 28th at 3:00 PM in the Church. All are welcome to attend for all of the holy hour or for a short visit. Come apart and rest while in the arms of our Lord Jesus.



Week of Aug. 25- Aug. 31, 2013

Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
 Vincent Lopipero*

Rest in Peace

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

**Fannie Bastaio, Norman E. Sebbesse
 Ann Volavka, Francis B. Looney**

Letter from the Pastor

Welcome St. Monica

Through most of my 38 years as a priest, in particular over the past 25 or so, one of the very difficult pastoral issues that many face is that their adult children do not actively participate in the Catholic faith in which they were raised. In the many retreats, missions and conversations I have had with parents, this is a concern that surfaces regularly. As I listen to the parents express their feelings, I hear a variety of emotions: anger, confusion, guilt, sadness and worry. Some of their family members go to Mass for Christmas and Easter and others do not go at all; some choose to marry in the Catholic Church and others do not; and some have their children baptized and other do not.

The parents often say something like, *"I don't understand what happened. We took our kids to Mass every Sunday. We sent them to Catholic school or to religious education every week. Should we have done something differently?"* The first counsel I give parents is to not take on the burden of guilt. You did the best you could raising your children and seeking to pass on the Catholic faith to them. They are now adults and responsible for their lives. Certainly, it is very appropriate to feel sadness and disappointment that some of our adult children may not practice their faith since we love our faith, it brings us joy and comfort, and we want our own children to have this same gift. Yet, please do not blame yourself: that is not fair to you.

I also encourage parents not to go to war over the practice of the faith. It is important not to let the non-practice of religion become a wedge between you and your adult children. They are your sons and daughters and you love them very much. I certainly encourage you to invite them to Mass and other events at the Church, but I found strong pressuring is often counter-productive.

Why they don't go to church is a very complex question. I would first point to the fact that our culture has grown increasingly secular. I often say we have been hit with a wave of secularization. What we take in from the movies, the internet, the music, and society in general is that religion is not very important. We rarely see people with religious values shown in television shows. In some ways, I think our modern society is almost seeking to make the practice of faith irrelevant. I think young parents today are very busy. Since both parents almost always have to work out of necessity (to pay property taxes and so forth), they come home, help with the homework, go to soccer practice or dance class, eat a bit, watch a little television and go to bed. I am not excusing them since I know many of you raised six and seven children and still made your faith a central part of your lives. But, this sense of busyness seems to be part of today's world. Also, the Church must look at itself; it has not always been a witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. The terrible sex abuse scandal has caused some to turn away from the Church. Others find some of our teachings very difficult to accept. And, I would say, that some people do not go to church because they are simply lazy and do not want to give up any part of their Sunday to God.

I know parents worry that their son or daughter may face the danger of losing their souls. Certainly, our eternal salvation is a great concern for each one of us since we will all one day stand before God. I do believe God calls us to worship him regularly. Still, I also know that Jesus was so often forgiving sinners and speaking of the mercy of God that I have great hope in the mercy and love of God for sinners. Only God can read hearts and judge a human being and I believe he is both a just and gentle judge.

When parents speak to me about their adult children not going to Mass, I often ask them if their son or daughter is a good person. They will almost always say *Yes. Oh, Father, he is a wonderful son or she is a great daughter; He or she is a great parent and they are so very good to me. They are really good people.* What that says to me is that you raised them well and gave them very good values. They often re-discover

their faith at certain times: an illness or death in the family, a tragedy such as September 11, 2001, the birth of a child, or seek God at Christmas, Easter or Ash Wednesday. They may not practice their religion every Sunday, but they have seeds of faith within them. Perhaps, they pray more often than we know. We entrust them to the loving arms of God.

I have purchased a painting of St. Monica, and I am going to place this image in the prayer area of our church as a visible symbol of our prayers for our children who have drifted from the practice of their faith. She is the patron of parents who pray for the return of their children to the faith. Truthfully, I believe many of our children have faith, but our prayer is that they will be part of a faith community and worship God. Monica prayed for many years that her son, Augustine, would become a believer in Jesus. Her prayers were eventually heard and he went on to become one of the greatest saints of the Catholic Church. We pray to St. Monica, not demanding a visible result, but in faith, knowing that all prayers are answered in God's own time and ways. *St. Monica, we turn to you and pray that you bring our prayers to Jesus for our children or grandchildren who are struggling to believe and to be part of a community that follows Jesus.*

Here is some information about St. Monica: (taken from the Franciscan website: Americancatholic.org)

The circumstances of St. Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine (August 28), is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17 and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy (all flesh is evil), and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact, she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead, he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan. In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, St. Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her (see Quote, below). Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter, 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death. Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of St. Augustine, especially his *Confessions*.

Father Pat, CSSR

woodscsr@aol.com; www.smtbethpage.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 28: Holy Hour 3PM
- Sept 2: Labor Day - Rectory Closed
- Sept 6: First Friday Devotions 7PM
- Sept 7: First Saturday Devotions 8:30 AM
- Sept 8-10: Triduum Honoring the Blessed Mother 7PM each evening
- Sept 10: Youth Ministry Adoration 7:00PM
- Sept 14: Book Club 1:00PM
- Sept 17: Padre Pio Devotions 7PM
- Sept 19: Young Family Ministry Kickoff 7PM

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

Engaged Encounter is an effective weekend program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Couples are given the opportunity to explore many aspects of their relationship through a series of presentations, writings and dialog. There are group discussions.

The next weekend will be at **the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington from October 18-20**. For information and registration, please call (631) 423-0483.

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>.

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.

BOOK CLUB MEMBERS, The next Book Club meeting is **Saturday, September 14 at 1:00 PM** in Saint Alphonsus Hall. ***"The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry"*** by Rachel Thompson will be our book for discussion. If there are any questions please contact Ann Mele at ann111647@netscape.net or phone (516) 330-3039.


Till then, happy reading. Enjoy the summer!
Father Patrick Woods and Ann Mele



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR ALL OUR YOUNG ADULTS AS THEY ENTER OR RETURN TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.



MAY THEY STAY FOCUSED ON THEIR STUDIES AND MAKE GOOD CHOICES TO PREPARE FOR THEIR CHOSEN PROFESSIONS. AND MAY THEY KEEP CHRIST IN THE CENTER OF ALL THEY THINK AND SAY AND DO.

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.smtbethepage.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!**

Thought for the Week

*Wise sayings often fall on barren ground;
But a kind word is never thrown away.*

- Sir Arthur Helps

Out of Respect for Our Lord

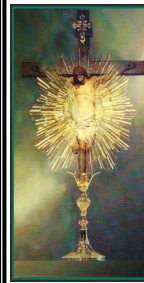


We ask men and women, boys and girls to appear in Church modestly and respectfully dressed. Your cooperation is evidence of your love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and His Holy Mother.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

There is no Life Teen sponsored Adoration during the month of August.

The next Adoration service is Tuesday, September 10th in the Church at 7PM



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

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.

Everyone is welcome!

REGIS HIGH SCHOOL

Regis High School of Manhattan is an all-scholarship Jesuit school for talented and gifted Catholic boys. Students and their parents are invited to its **Long Island Admissions Information Night on Wednesday, September 18th at 7PM** at Saint Anthony's Church, 110 Anchor Avenue, Oceanside.

For more information, please contact Eric Di Michele, Director of Admissions, Regis H.S., 55 E. 84th Street, New York NY 10028 (212) 288-1100; edimichele@regis.org

THE HELP OUR PARISH CLUB

New Members can become one by filling out the form below. The cost of membership is \$60.00 for one year per person, beginning September 1st and ending August 31st. A number is assigned to each member which entitles them participation in weekly drawings. Winners receive a check in the mail as well as a notice in the bulletin.

Prizes are:

Monday - Thursday: \$25

Friday: \$50

3rd Friday of the month: \$250

Feast of St. Martin, Nov 11th: two \$500 prizes

One week before Christmas: one \$500 prize

Last week of August: two \$1,000 & one \$500 prize

Here's the form for NEW MEMBERS. You can drop it off or mail to the rectory office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check or cash enclosed: _____

The Diocese of Rockville Centre GOLDEN WEDDING LITURGY

Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years or More

This fall, couples that have been married 50 or more years will be honored at liturgies on **Sunday, October 6th at the Church of Saint Rose of Lima in Massapequa** and on **Sunday, November 3rd at the Church of Christ the King in Commack**. Both liturgies will begin at 2:30 p.m. *Couples may register for ONE liturgy.* Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the rectory.

Registration forms **must be received** by the Office of Worship by September 19th for the October 6th liturgy and by October 17th for the November 3rd liturgy. There will be additional celebrations in the spring for those who may find that more convenient. If you have any questions, please call the Diocese at 516-678-5800 x 207.

St. Martin of Tours Religious Education

Teachers & Hall Monitors Wanted!

If you would like to volunteer, you can either email pryan@smtbethage.org or llagnese@smtbethpage.org or fill out the information below, put it in an envelope marked **Religious Education Volunteer** and drop it off in the mailbox located at the front of the school building on Central Avenue or bring it to the rectory office. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Your email (if applicable): _____

Please check desired position:

Teacher _____ Assistant teacher _____

Hall monitor _____

Concert Under the Stars

Join Father Charles and Laurie Mangano for "A Concert Under the Stars" at the Jones Beach Bandshell on **Monday, August 26th beginning at 7PM**. Also featuring Peter Stanganelli and Frank Rendo.

There will be a free will offering to benefit the Life Center of Long Island. (a non-profit crisis pregnancy center helping the poor and those in crisis).

For more information call Mitch at 516-424-5528 or visit www.lifecenterli.org.



Jesus said, "Come Apart and Rest Awhile."
Redemptorist Retreat

**Father John McGowan, C.S.S.R.
 & Father Patrick Woods, C.S.S.R.**

**Friday, September 6th to Sunday, September 8th
 San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, New Jersey**

Bring your Bible and your bathing suit! Come to the Jersey Shore and spend time with God as the summer draws to an end! The Redemptorists are having their annual summer retreat for our family, friends, coworkers in mission, our associates and parishioners.

On Friday evening at 6:00, a light supper will be served followed by the beginning of the retreat at 8:00 PM. It concludes with dinner at 12 noon on Sunday, September 8th.

R.S.V.P.

By Saturday, August 30th

Cost: \$170.00

Please add \$30.00 if a bus is chartered.

Call 931-0818:

**Leave your name and phone number with the rectory staff.
 Please state whether you are looking for a ride or can give a ride.**



St. Martin of Tours
**Young Family
 Ministry**
Leading families closer to Christ.

**Ever feel like you're the only family in the pew picking Sophie the Giraffe
 and Cheerios up off the floor?**

Well, guess what?... You're not alone!

*SMT is kicking off a new Young Family Ministry this September.
 What could be better than a night off from cooking & some good conversation?*

Thursday, September 19th @ 7pm

OLPH Youth Center (located in the school building)

Please RSVP by Wednesday 9/18

RSVP & More Info: EKHoran@Yahoo.com

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscssr@aol.com or gamit1946@hotmail.com to add your loved one to this prayer list. Our whole parish is united in prayer for safe return home of:



Dr. Brian McGrath - MAJ USA, Afghanistan
 Captain Gregory Holownia, US Army
 Seaman Matthew Sadecki, US Coast Guard
 Cpl. Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
 PFC Travis Ruggiero, US Army, Afghanistan
 PVT Dennis Diesel, USMC
 PVT James Kruper, USMC
 PFC Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army
 Cpl. Conor B. Murphy, USMC, Okinawa, Japan



We are planning a Wall of Honor for those in military service for our country. If you have a wallet sized photo to donate for this project, please bring it to the rectory office. Thank you!

HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS

St. Dominic High School

110 Anstice Street
 Oyster Bay NY 11771-3599

2013 Catholic High School
 Entrance Exam Prep Course
 September 14, 21, 28 and

October 5 and 12
 9:00 am - 11:30 am
 Course Fee \$250.00

Please Contact Mrs. Stutzmann
 (516) 922-4888 x 5241

Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

98 Cherry Lane
 Hicksville NY 11801-6232

2013 Catholic High School
 Entrance Exam Prep Course
 Five 2 1/2 hour Saturday morning sessions
 Includes review in English and Math
 as well as practice tests

Course begins September 14, 2013
 Course Fee \$250.00

For addition information please visit
 holytrinityhs/echalk.com or call
 (516) 433-2900

Long Island's Scottish Games

Saturday, August 24, 2013

8 AM to 5 PM

Sponsored by: The Old Westbury Gardens
 71 Old Westbury Rd
 Old Westbury NY 11568
 Phone: 516-333-0048

Admission: \$15 adult; \$12 over 62; \$7 children
 7-17 and members; children 6 and under free.

Featuring: LI Scottish bagpipers, caber tossing
 and highland dancing.

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.

Divorced, Separated & Single Catholics of L.I.**Widows and Widowers**

Nassau County Chapter No. 1

P.O. Box 2031

Publicity Committee Newsletter

Chairperson—Rick Wilson

New Member Orientation**Non-Denominational—All Are Welcome!****Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 8PM**

The meeting is held every fourth Tuesday at

St. Frances de Chantal Church

1309 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh

Please bring proof of single status to join.

Refreshments after meeting.

For further information, call Carol (516) 794-4933

or Eileen (516) 661-4353

NEWS FROM RCIA**A GUIDED PATH TO FAITH**

Are you or someone you know in need of full communion with the Church? Are you thinking about becoming Catholic but need to know more? Have you wondered about Catholicism and what it means? Have you been baptized and are interested in receiving the other Sacraments?

RCIA begins with "Inquiry" as the first part of our faith journey in September. Come and find out if this is for you. There is no obligation but just a desire on our part to help you find answers.

If you have any immediate questions, please call Father Henry at the Rectory (516-931-0818 x 214), Ann Hughes (516-433-6972) or Karen Sullivan (516-454-6454). We look forward to hearing from you!

St. Augustine of Hippo, whose feast day is August 28th along with St. Thomas Aquinas, is considered one of the greatest minds the Catholic faith has ever produced. Here are some of his prayers.

St. Augustine on Prayer: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee, O God!"

According to St. Augustine, we need not pray for what we need because God already knows before we even ask. Instead we ought to pray, he suggests, to increase our desire for God, and so that we might be able to receive what He is preparing to give us. "The deeper our faith, the stronger our hope, the greater our desire, the larger will be our capacity to receive the gift, which is very great indeed. The more fervent the desire, the more worthy will be its fruits. When the Apostle tells us: Pray without ceasing (1 *Thes* 5:16), he means this: Desire unceasingly that life of happiness which is nothing if not eternal, and ask it of him alone who is able to give it." (*Letter 130*)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

Act of Petition

Give me yourself, O my God, give yourself to me. Behold I love you, and if my love is too weak a thing, grant me to love you more strongly. I cannot measure my love to know how much it falls short of being sufficient, but let my soul hasten to your embrace and never be turned away until it is hidden in the secret shelter of your presence. This only do I know, that it is not good for me when you are not with me, when you are only outside me. I want you in my very self. All the plenty in the world which is not my God is utter want. Amen.

Prayer on Finding God after a Long Search

Too late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient, O Beauty so new. Too late have I loved you! You were within me but I was outside myself, and there I sought you! In my weakness I ran after the beauty of the things you have made. You were with me, and I was not with you. The things you have made kept me from you - the things which would have no being unless they existed in you! You have called, you have cried, and you have pierced my deafness. You have radiated forth, you have shined out brightly, and you have dispelled my blindness. You have sent forth your fragrance, and I have breathed it in, and I long for you. I have tasted you, and I hunger and thirst for you. You have touched me, and I ardently desire your peace. *Confessions*, X, 27, 38

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

“In the name of God,Respect....Protect...Love and Serve Life.....Every Human Life.”

Pope John Paul II

THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Human life is very special. It is more valuable than any diamond and more important than any position. It has more worth than any fortune and greater significance than any work of art. It is the best gift that any person has ever received and the greatest opportunity any member of humanity can be given. Put simply, human life is very special. Human life has value, worth, and dignity because of where we came from. We originated from a loving God, who instilled value in us by creating us in his image.

This value based on God makes human life different than anything else on earth. Other things may lose value as they get older; the value of human life does not change. Other items may seem worthless when they don't work, human life has worth even in bodies that are full of physical challenges. Possessions may be given by anyone; human life is given only by One.

In our recent history, there has been a trend toward devaluing the elderly. Historically it was the role of the children to take care of aging parents. This was normally done in the home where the relationship with the previous generations remained intact. Recently, this has been changing. Nursing homes are often needed to care for our parents and grandparents, but we must think of them as a blessing and not a burden. There is great wisdom to be gained from older generations and we should care for and respect them until the end of their days.

To some, having a handicapped child seems like a terrible thing. The reality is that it does add work and time, but it normally increases the reward and the joy of parenting. Those with handicaps and disabilities have exactly the same value to God as any other human being. They are to be loved, cherished, and valued alongside all others.

The value of an unborn baby is oftentimes hard to see. In fact, when a woman finds herself pregnant, she may see the unborn baby as a burden rather than a gift. No matter what our attitude is toward the baby, he or she is an awesome gift full of worth and value from God. He cared so much, he was there with you before you were even born.

Each person in our society has value and worth. They are loved by God and should be protected and cherished. Whether it is the ELDERLY, the UNBORN, or the HANDICAPPED, we should STAND UP IN ONE VOICE TO DECLARE THE DIGNITY AND SANCTITY OF THEIR LIVES.

Excerpts from Heritage House

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

The New York Blood Center would like to thank those who were able to donate blood on August 9th at St. Alphonsus Hall. They were able to collect a total of 29 pints.

St. Martin of Tours will be hosting the next blood drive on Wednesday, December 18th.

However, if you wish to donate sooner, please contact the NY Blood Center at 1-800-933-2566 or visit them at www.nybloodcenter.org

September 16, 2013 The Life Center of Long Island Golf Outing

A not-for-profit organization helping young women in crisis.

Place: The Hamlet Golf & Country Club
Commack NY

Includes:

Golf-Cart-Driving Range
Breakfast * Lunch on the course (2 holes)
* Dinner

11:30 Tee Off with Dinner from 4:00 - 6:00
Your day is completed by 6:30 PM

Prizes and raffles

\$215 per golfer/\$75 Dinner only

Please call Larry DiBlasi at 516-647-8720
if you wish to play.

SMT MEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE



Our new season begins **Thursday, September 5, 2013**. There are openings for teams and individuals. The 3 man team league bowls 36 weeks at AMF Syosset Lanes at 8:30 PM.

Call Jim Moran at 516-931-8903 for more information.

VENDORS WANTED OUR LADY OF MERCY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FAIR

Our Lady of Mercy School
520 South Oyster Bay Road, Hicksville
11801

Monday, November 25, 2013

1:00 PM to 9 PM
School Auditorium

Interested vendors please call:

Pamela McCaffery at 516-681-2504

WorldWide Marriage Encounter



Married Couples!

Would you attend a seminar to enhance your job or to increase your salary? Why not give your marriage the same attention? Enhance your good marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!



Weekends are scheduled throughout the Metro New York area. The next weekend on Long Island is scheduled for November 1-3 at The Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore, NY. Space is limited.

For more information about the weekends or to apply, call 1-877-697-9963 or visit our web site at <http://www.wwme.org>.



Message from Bishop Robert Brennan

I would like to call your attention to the *Theology of the Body* Conference that will be held at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington at the end of this month on August 27, 28, and 29. It is an excellent opportunity for personal growth and professional training.

The first day's program, August 27, is An Introduction to *Theology of the Body*. It would be of value to parish staff, parents, educators, those involved in service to pre-teens and teenagers, and anyone interested in a better understanding of the Church's teaching on this important issue. The next two days are training programs for those working with young people: *Theology of the Body* for Teens – High School on August 28, *Theology of the Body* for Teens – Middle School on August 29.

General information and registration forms may be found on our diocesan website. Additional information and details are available by contacting our Respect Life Office at dtellis@drvc.org or 516-678-5800 ext 626.

CELEBRATE LIFE WITH JESUS

All are welcome to be a part of a special day of praise and worship.

**Saturday, September 7th
9AM to 9PM**

Kellenberg High School
1400 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard
Uniondale NY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

\$40 fee includes Mass, Adoration, praise & worship, inspirational speakers, lunch and dinner. For more information and registration, please visit shalomworld.org

(a flyer was also left in the Gathering Space)



XLT

ALL AGES ARE INVITED

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

AUGUST 31ST 2013

START TIME - 7PM

WHERE: ST PETER THE APOSTLE CHURCH
ISLIP TERRACE NY

**FREEWILL COLLECTION
FOR THE MISSIONARIES AT THE DOOR**

**WITNESS BY
AMANDA CASSAR**

MUSIC BY NATE SHAFF

XLT (exalt) EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Life Teen is sending two missionaries up to lead a Life Teen XLT. It is an evening of prayer, worship, Eucharistic Adoration and fellowship. **The host church is St. Peter the Apostle Church, 94 Valley Stream Street, Islip Terrace 11752 and will begin at 7 PM on Saturday, August 31st.** There will be a *freewill collection* for the missionaries at the door.

This is a great opportunity to meet Jesus at the foot of the Cross in adoration and worship before life "gets in the way" and business as usual begins. Everyone is welcome. Come and bring a friend with you.

**PLEASE TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
TO JOIN US IN HONORING
OUR BLESSED MOTHER
ON SEPTEMBER 8TH,
THE FEAST OF HER BIRTH**

To bring the Message of Fatima to the world, a copy of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue has traveled the world many times, visiting more than 100 countries including Russia and Red China, bringing the message of hope, "the peace plan from heaven," to millions of people.

The Statue will be present in St. Martin of Tours Parish on the following Triduum dates: September 8, 9 & 10 from 7pm to 8pm.

Spend some private time with the Blessed Mother and bring to her your troubles.

