

Masses For The Week**Monday - November 18**

6:30 Madeline T. Stein
9:00 Al Kump

Tuesday - November 19

6:30 Thomas P. Keegan
9:00 Elizabeth L. Lewandowski, 6th Anniversary

Wednesday - November 20

6:30 Raymond & Mary Godek
9:00 Ryan Steubing

Thursday - November 21

6:30 Millie Savady
9:00 Dennis F. Meehan, Anniversary

Friday - November 22

6:30 Kathy Ann Watson
9:00 William & Mary Dorsch

Saturday - November 23

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**
5:00 Ann Pepe
7:00 Frances & Teofil Szmythowski

Sunday - November 24

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Deceased Members of the Drew Family
10:00 Thomas Cilmi
11:30 Dominick Agnese
1:00 Jerry Hansen
5:30 Geraldine Hoffmann

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63
Luke 18:35-43
Tues. 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10
Wed. 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28
Thurs. 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44
Fri. 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48
Sat. 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40
Sun. 2 Samuel 5:1-3 *Because David was so loved as a leader, the elders of all the tribes anointed him king of Israel at Hebron. King David shepherded the people from then on.*

Colossians 1:12-20 *God's Son brought the people into the reign of forgiveness and love. He heads the body, the church, and has primacy in all things, making peace through the blood of his cross.*

Luke 23:35-43 *The soldiers made fun of Jesus on the cross, offered him bitter wine, told him to save himself if he was the Christ. An inscription over his head read, "This is the King of the Jews."*



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 November 9/10**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$16,430.13

Thank you for your generosity & support!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who live each day preparing for the coming of the Son of Man!

Charismatic Prayer Group

We are lucky to live where we can enjoy all 4 seasons. Everyone has their favorite, but the colors of autumn have to be one of God's greatest works of art. How wonderful that He gives us this blast of color before the bareness of winter sets in! Come and thank Him for the beauty in our world.

Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 18th 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**2 WINNERS FOR THE FEAST DAY
OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS:**

Nov. 11 #282	Rosann & Walter Beckmann	\$500
Nov. 11 #457	Josephine Bruno	\$500
Nov. 12 #466	M. & S. Bistany	\$25.00
Nov. 13 #389	The Wetherell Family	\$25.00
Nov. 14 #543	M/M James Devine	\$25.00
Nov. 15 #448	Frances Segretario	\$250.00

Wedding Banns

2nd Scott Martino & Jeanna Novelli



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

If you plan to donate a turkey or pies for Thanksgiving, please drop them off at the Food Pantry, 208 Broadway (corner of Central Avenue) between 9AM and 12 Noon on Saturday, November 23rd. Thank you!

This week, the pantry is low on peanut butter, tuna fish, canned chicken, pasta sauce, tomato paste, sugar, pancake mix, baked beans, Stove Top Stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, gravy, canned pears and peaches, mayonnaise, ketchup, coffee, juice and juice boxes, cookies, hot chocolate, mustard, napkins, conditioner, dish soap, laundry soap, tissues.

Food Pantry:

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

Phone: (516) 931-7332

Padre Pio Holy Hour

Please join us as we honor one of the most powerful saints of the Church - Padre Pio on Tuesday, November 19th at 7PM in the Eucharistic Chapel. His relics will be venerated.

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, Leigh Murphy, Helena Mulligan
Richard Piernini, John Tortorice, Joseph Simon
Douglas Torres, Gina Cava, James Robertson
Amy Hayes, Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina
Sharon Shiepk, Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell
Salvatore Accardi, Christine Ketchem, Peggy Namiotka
Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson, Donald Castor
Dorothy Quinn, Edith Lagan, Henry Niemczyk
Bud Pehrsson, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov
Christine Chiarappa, Herman Lordahl
Heather Catheral, Patricia Marrone, Godeliva Pagan
Michelle Cirillo, Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil
Catherine Battiat, Brendan Rodriguez, Charles Drew
Rebecca Passaro Joanne Maguire, John Lundy
Dot Widyn, Edgar Schmidt, Annette Giuliano
Madeline Ciaravino, Frances Sutton, Nicole Cagna*

Thought for the Week

*To be broken is no reason to see
all things as broken. Light shines through
a broken glass as well as a diamond.*

- Mark Nepo

Week of November 17–23, 2013

Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
Thomas P. Keegan*

***Rest in Peace***

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

**Josephine M. Valentine, Elizabeth Spengenberg
Kathleen D. Becker, Nancy Waters**

Letter from the Pastor

In the summer of 1994, I had one of the greatest meals of my life at a restaurant named *Margherita's* in a little town outside of Naples named Scala. I was with twelve Redemptorists from all over the United States and Canada. The view from our large table overlooking the Amalfi Coast was spectacular.

The food, ah the food! It had a very thick paste, which I had never had before or since, that I loved. The pasta was followed by meats, fish and vegetables, olives and salad. Good red Italian wine flowed. The meal was topped off with delicious pastries, fruit and cheese, and lemoncello. This was the first time I tasted this after-dinner drink made from fresh lemons from the area. I have since grown fond of it. What a meal of good food and lively conversation among Redemptorists.!

What brought us to this charming restaurant was, in fact, the building. At that very spot on November 9, 1732, St. Alphonsus Liguori, a thirty-six year old priest from the city of Naples along with seven companions, founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer - the Redemptorists. I am not sure what it says about our order that our very founding site is now a restaurant, but there is a lovely plaque on the wall of the building noting this important moment.

Today in a different area of the town, there continues to be an active Redemptorist community, as well as a community of contemplative nuns called the Redemptoristines. After we ate our meal, we did a bit of visiting in the area. One of the highlights for me was to see in another building, now broken down, the Redemptorist coat of arms that had been drawn on the wall by one of the companions of Alphonsus. Our coat of arms proclaims: ***With Him is Plentiful Redemption.*** It is protected by glass, but it was very moving to see these areas that I had heard about since I was a young man.

Today there are more than 5,500 hundred Redemptorists in 77 countries all over the world. We work among the poorest of the poor in Africa and South America with immigrants from many lands. We run retreat houses and shrines including St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec and Our Lady of Aparacida in Brazil, one of the largest shrines in the world and recently visited by Pope Francis. We give parish retreats and missions, serve in parishes, and write. We have a University School of Moral Theology in Rome. We are famous for our devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The word Redemptorist is really a nickname for our formal title: The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

The stories of the first days of the Redemptorists were not without the struggles. Of the first seven men who came with Alphonsus to Scala, only one person remained, Brother Vitius Curtius. The others found the life too hard and grew homesick for Naples. Eventually other men did come and join Liguori. Still Alphonsus had trouble raising money and establishing residences for his men so they could live a religious life and go forth and proclaim the Word of God. Over time though, the Congregation started to take root in Naples.

At one point, the Church called Alphonsus to become a Bishop of the Diocese of St. Agatha of the Goths and this new assignment affected his ability to devote himself to his Congregation. At the same time, there was a great deal of political turmoil between the kingdom of Naples and the Vatican. Each felt it had the right to approve religious orders and their rules. St. Alphonsus wanted the Redemptorist rule approved by both Church and the state so his community could live in peace.

In his old age and severely infirm some confreres, perhaps thinking they were doing good, had Alphonsus sign a blank paper that eventually led to the Congregation being split into two divisions. It broke his heart since he did not agree with what had been done. In truth, since the agreement led to certain houses not being part of the official Redemptorists Congregation, St. Alphonsus died in a community that was not officially approved by the Vatican agreement that the confreres had made. It was only in the next century that all this was corrected and the Congregation was unified.

I tell this story not to bog you down in facts, but because as I ponder the beginning of my order, I see lots of struggle, failure and disappointment. I sometimes give a talk that I call a theology of failure since so many great enterprises in the world, and in the Catholic Church, only took root after many years of ups and downs. Moses never saw the promised land. Our Lord Jesus was rejected by many of those to whom he preached the Good News. We are a church of sinners and saints.

God never promises nor does he demand success, but rather he calls us to have trusting hearts and a committed spirit. Failure can overwhelm us but we pray for the grace to pick ourselves up and start again. In the DNA of the Christian is hope. Jesus died on the cross *but* he rose triumphant on the third day.

Father Pat, CSSR
woodscsr@aol.com; www.smtbethpage.org

Spiritual Reading Book Club

I have really enjoyed being part of the parish book club. As much as I have enjoyed reading the books that have been chosen, I have loved the depth of the discussions that we have had as we discussed the books. We choose books that open to the door to excellent personal reflections.

In addition to this book club, I would like to start a spiritual reading book club. My thinking is that we would read four books a year: a) one for Advent b) one for Lent c) one during the Easter Season d) one for the summer. I have many books in mind, such as: religious classics, lives of the saints, contemporary theology and spirituality, and issues of faith.

The challenge I see to the book club is that there are times when the members may have to buy the books. I say that because some of the books are not that easily found in the library. I do hope that the books we choose will be available on Amazon. Very often used books can be bought for rather low prices. I will try to choose books that are no more than \$10.00 on Amazon. I do not have stock in the company but I do find their second hand books are a terrific way of reading in an inexpensive way.

We will have four meetings a year at the most convenient times for those who are interested. If this is something you'd like to participate in, I would ask you to contact me (woodscsr@aol.com) by November 14th. That way we can get the books and begin our club. - *Father Pat*

Advent Program at St. Martin of Tours



Last year we had three Wednesday nights during Advent when we paused as a parish community as we sought to enter more deeply into the Advent Season. It is so easy for any one of us to get caught up in the rush of the Christmas Season and wake up on December 26th and wonder where the time went. I believe those who attended the Advent program last year were very pleased with it.

This year we will conduct these hour-long programs beginning at 7:30PM on the following Wednesdays:

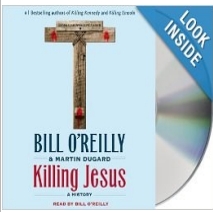
- **December 4**
- ♦ **December 11**
- ♦ **December 17**

It would be great if we could have some volunteers to read, carry a symbol, hand out materials and so forth. If you can volunteer for one specific night or all three, please let me know. You can email me at woodscssr@aol.com or phone 931-0818. The more the merrier!

Also during Advent just as we did last Lent, we will be meeting at St. Alphonsus Hall on Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m. to reflect on the upcoming Advent Gospels. These meetings will be about 45 minutes. The dates are November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st.

Both of these simple programs are wonderful ways to enter into the Advent Season. You can attend one or all sessions of either program. All are welcome.

Dear Book Club Friends,



Last month's meeting was filled with spirited conversations that related the events in the book to personal experiences, and to issues as war, government, women's rights and culture. The hour was filled with heartfelt sharing.

Our next book is ***Killing Jesus*** by Bill O'Reilly. We will meet on **Saturday, November 23, at 10:00 AM in the second floor meeting room of 208 Broadway.**

Your presence and discussions are a pleasure and truly appreciated. As always, new members are most welcomed. We will discuss the Christmas date at our next meeting. There is never an obligation to attend sessions; you come to the ones for the books that you would like to read and discuss.

If there are any questions please contact Ann Mele at ann111647@netscape.net or (516) 330-3039.

Till then, happy reading. - Fr. Patrick Woods & Ann Mele

LIFE TEEN 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.

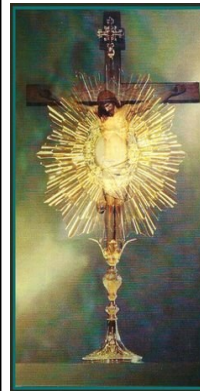
EDGE The Edge program is for all middle school aged students (6th-8th grade). Edge meets every other Thursday evening from 7-8:30pm. This program is a wonderful way for young adolescents to grow in their faith as well as build lasting friendships.

PARENT LIFE 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 next Adoration service is
Tuesday, December 10th
7:00PM in the Church

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!

Saint Joseph Hospital Bereavement Group

General Bereavement Group
St. Joseph Hospital
Staff Room (Lower Level)
4295 Hempstead Turnpike, Bethpage.

Please call (516) 520-2648 to register.

Six-Week Group meets
Weekly on MONDAYS from 2:00 - 3:30 PM.

Six-Week Session:
November 18 through December 23.

New six-week sessions to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 18: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM
- Nov 23: Book Club 10AM
- Nov 23: Defensive Drive Course 8:30AM
- Nov 30/Dec 1: Troop 604 Wreath Sale
- Dec 2: Holy Face Devotion 1:00PM
- Dec. 4, 11 & 17: Advent Services 7:30PM
- Dec 7/8: Music Ministry DVD Sale
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM, 208 Broadway

Christmas Wreath Sale

Before you know it...

Troop 604 will be selling wreaths the weekend of November 30th & December 1st. All wreaths are \$20.00.



Holy Trinity Diocesan
High School
TITAN PARENTS CLUB
Proudly Presents Our Annual

Christmas and Holiday Craft Fairs

TWO DAYS

Saturday, Nov 23 and Saturday, Dec. 7

10:00 - 4:30PM
Newbridge Road (Route 106) &
Stewart Avenue

All profits support the Holy Trinity's Student Activities

For more information, please email
TitanClub@HolyTrinityHS.echalk.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.



FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

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

ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS,
RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT (631)
243-2373.

Baby Safe Haven, Safe Babies, Safe Place
at 1 (877) 796-HOPE. Adoption, Foster
Care, Maternity Services, Catholic Home
Bureau 1(800) 592-4357.

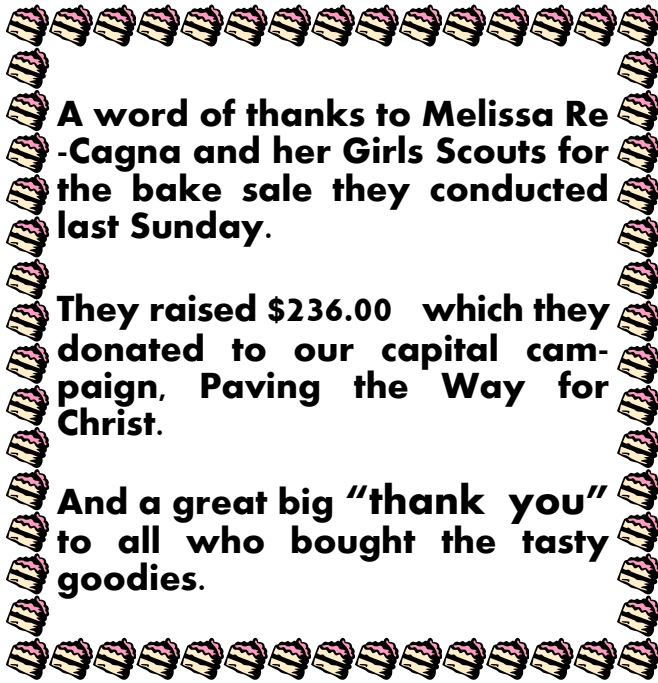


WE CARE cordially invites you to
Thanksgiving Day Luncheon for Seniors
Thursday, November 28, 2013
11:00AM-1:00PM

At the Nassau County Bar Association
15th & West Streets, Mineola
MUST RSVP by Monday, November 18th
Call Elaine Leventhal (516) 747-4070

Happy Thanksgiving!

WE CARE Fund of the
Nassau County Bar Association



Many Thanks to All

Saint Martin of Tours is truly a blessed parish! *Thank you* to all who have donated to the homeless veterans with new sheets, blankets, toiletries, etc. And to everyone who contributed coats, hats, scarves and gloves to help those less fortunate.

May God bless you all abundantly!



Lessons and Carols DVD

The weekend of December 7th and 8th, the St. Martin of Tours Music Ministry will be selling DVDs from last year's Advent Lessons and Carols.

Music Ministry members will be at the doors of the church asking for a \$10 donation. Each individual choir, including our Children's Choir, shined as they sang a chosen piece of music reflecting the Advent Season.

All proceeds would go to support our Music Ministry.

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

**Thanksgiving Day is
November 28th this year.**

There is no 6:30 AM Mass.

**Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated
At 9:00 AM. Please come and
give thanks to God for all the blessings
he has given us.**

**The Rectory Office will be closed the day
after and will open at 9AM on
Saturday, November 30th.**



POLICY & PROCEDURE REGARDING THE SAFETY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

FOR THE PROTECTION & SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN



Please note that while school is in session, the Religious Education Department **will lock both gates leading to the school parking lot** on the following days and times:

Monday and Tuesday

3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Please park outside the gates during these days and times since this area becomes a **SAFE ZONE FOR PEDESTRIANS ONLY.**

PLEASE - park ONLY in the church parking lot or municipal lot during the days and hours stated above. Thank you.

DRIVER EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

St. Martin of Tours will host a 6-hour Class 1 Defensive Driving Course on **Saturday, November 23rd from 8:30 - 3:00 in St. Alphonsus Hall.**

To Register: please call (631) 360-9720, Monday-Friday from 9AM to 4PM. The cost is \$45.00 per person.

Requirements:

Minimum enrollment is 15 people
Maximum enrollment is 40 people

Martin Z. Hirschfield, Instructor
mzhirschfield@aol.com

A promise to our country by supporting our military this holiday season. **Troop 3476 Bronze Award. Monday, December 2, 2013 at John H. West Elementary School, 499 Boundary Avenue, Bethpage from 7PM to 9PM.**



No charge. Please bring an unwrapped toy (suggest \$10) as a donation for Marine's Toys for Tots-Tagalongs Welcomed. All donations of toys will be accepted and a Marine will be on hand to deliver toys to our community. Children of deployed families will be our honorary guests. **For more information email Cris at cruzin86@aol.com or Joanne at mcdonoughappraisal@hotmail.com.**

VIRTUS TRAINING

Protecting All God's Children

If you wish to volunteer in any capacity in a parish, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires that you first register for Virtus by logging on to www.virtus.com, look for "registration" at the left column and follow the instructions. If you do not have access to the internet, please pick up a packet at the rectory office. Complete it and bring it with you to the Virtus training session.

Next Virtus at St. Martin of Tours

Monday, November 18 at 7PM

St. Alphonsus Hall

Our Lady of Mercy Holiday Fair

Our Lady of Mercy School
520 So. Oyster Bay Road
Hicksville, New York 11801

Monday, November 25, 2013

1:00PM - 9:00PM

Over 80 vendors

Refreshments
throughout the day.



St. Cecilia's Feast Day is November 22nd Patron of Church Musicians

Liturgical action is given a more noble form when sacred rites are solemnized in song, with the assistance of sacred ministers and the active participation of the people.... Choirs must be diligently promoted, but bishops and other pastors must ensure that, whenever the sacred action is to be celebrated with song, the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightfully theirs.... Gregorian chant, other things being equal, should be given pride of place in liturgical services. But other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony, are by no means excluded.... Religious singing by the people is to be skillfully fostered, so that in devotions and sacred exercises, as also during liturgical services, the voices of the faithful may ring out." (Vatican II, Constitution on the Liturgy, 112-118)

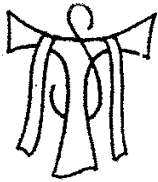
There are many legends and traditions around St. Cecilia and how she became patron of musicians. I want to take the opportunity to thank all the musicians of the parish who contribute so much to life and spirituality of the parish. I am so very grateful to Chris McCarthy and the Lifeteen Worship Band for the use of their talents at the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass.

We are also blessed by the musical talent of Dawn Smith who sings and plays the organ at our Sunday Masses. We have many men and women, as well as children, who serve the parish as members of the choir and as cantors. We are blessed by the talents of Larry Kupferman who plays the guitar at the children's Mass. As Saint Augustine said, *"the one who sings prays twice."*

And I particularly want to thank Elena Scollo as the Director of Music for the parish. She is an excellent leader of our musicians, and her gifts for playing the organ and piano, as well as singing, are outstanding and such an enhancement to our Sunday liturgies. I am always touched by the consolation she brings to so many by her comforting music at our many funerals as well as the happiness she brings to brides and grooms on their wedding day.

Our parish is blessed by generous men and women who give of their time and talent to praise God by their musical gifts. We are always looking for more men, women and children willing to serve in this music ministry. Happy Feast Day!





Saint Martin of Tours Religious Education

School Building • 220 Central Avenue • Bethpage, N.Y. 11714
516-822-9768 516-932-8454 (Fax)

November, 2013

Dear Families:

To foster the belief that Thanksgiving is a time for giving, we will be collecting food for the needy of our parish during the month of November.

We are *suggesting* certain grades bring in certain foods. This is just a suggestion, so feel free to send in anything you would like. **PLACE THE FOOD IN THE DESIGNATED CONTAINERS, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR CLOSEST TO THE ENTRANCE. PLEASE DO NOT BRING THE ITEMS INTO CLASS.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and generosity.

Grade 1.....Baby wipes, Lysol cleaners (wipes), Peanut butter, Toothbrushes, Jelly

Grade 2....Diapers Size 3, Napkins, Coffee, Green Beans, Ketchup, Mustard,
Chicken Noodle Soup, Paper Towels

Grade 3....Diapers Size 4, Kleenex, Cereal, Dish Soap, Flour, Pie Fillings (canned), Yams

Grade 4....Canned Meat (hash, beef stew), Toilet Paper, Mayonnaise, Laundry Soap, Juice
Boxes, Toothpaste, Stuffing

Grade 5....Diapers Size 5, Sugar, Tea, Baked Beans, Snacks, Pancake Syrup, Pancake Mix

Grade 6....Cooking Oil, Oatmeal, Spaghetti Sauce, Hot Chocolate, Stuffing, Salad Dressing

Grade 7....Diapers Size 6, Sugar, Canned Fruit, Bar Soap, Canned Gravy, Cookies

In God's Love,

Religious Education Staff

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**OUR OBLIGATION TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Our Nation was founded on the principle that all people are ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS. As the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE explains, these rights are NOT GIFTS FROM A CIVIL GOVERNMENT, BUT INHERENT AND GOD-GIVEN COMPONENTS OF OUR HUMANITY. The Constitution proclaims that THE VERY PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO SECURE THE BLESSINGS of these liberties for OURSELVES AND POSTERITY.

To the Founders, foremost among these rights was the FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE - the FREEDOM to HOLD, and LIVE according to, ONE'S RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES. James Madison deemed this right THE MOST SACRED OF ALL PROPERTY, and wrote PROTECTION FOR RELIGIOUS EXERCISE into our FIRST AMENDMENT. George Washington so respected the rights of religious believers that he REFUSED TO FORCE PACIFIST QUAKERS to FIGHT IN HIS ARMY, though he desperately needed men in the fight for independence.

Our Catholic Church defends the same conception of FREEDOM, including in religious matters. Like our nation's founding documents, the Church teaches that GOD gives people their natural rights. And, like our Nation's Founders, the Church views RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ALL PEOPLE...CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS, JEWS, MUSLIMS, HINDUS, ATHIESTS, AGNOSTICS and EVERYONE ELSE...as an inherent human right! The Church teaches that faith is an act of free will, and therefore all people should be FREE TO LIVE BY THEIR OWN RELIGIOUS VIEWS - even wrong religious views, as long as the just requirements of public order are observed.

THE HHS MANDATE UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REQUIRING CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS TO VIOLATE THEIR CONSCIENCE OR PAY DEVASTATING FINES IS TO TAKE EFFECT, JANUARY 1, 2014.

Please continue to WRITE, CALL or EMAIL PRESIDENT OBAMA. Comment line 201-456-1111. Switchboard 202-456-1414. Email the President at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contract>.

Senator Schumer D.C. phone # 202-224-6542

Senator Gillibrand D.C. phone # 202-224-4451 or email them at: <http://www.senate.gov>

Having all benefited from these BLESSINGS of religious liberty, we have a common duty as Catholics and Americans to consider what we can do to ensure that we SECURE those blessings, not just TO OURSELVES, but also TO OUR POSTERITY. Possibilities abound, such as EDUCATING OURSELVES, and our families, CONTACTING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, PRAYING, VOTING and TALKING TO OUR NEIGHBORS about WHY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS WORTH PROTECTING.

For short, we must remember that our religious diversity is a STRENGTH and that RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES should be ACCEPTED and ACCOMMODATED..NOT STAMPED OUT BY GOVERNMENT.

USCCB Life Matters

Capital Campaign News Update

Congratulations to all! Our campaign is now over \$1,634,000.00. Our new building committee has had its first meeting to begin planning the steps we now need to address the building concerns that were presented during the campaign. An excellent group of experienced men and women have stepped forward to work on this very important committee. Now that we have the money committed, we want to move forward with the projects. I hope we can begin this coming spring.

I want to assure you that I am committed to transparency in keeping you well-informed about the campaign and building projects. I hope to do this mostly in the bulletin since I think there was some weariness in hearing about it as Masses. The money raised will only be used for the projects that we spoke about: the repair of the school bricks, the school roof, the paving of the parking lot, some updating of 208 Broadway, the food pantry, possible boilers for the school, the bathrooms in St. Alphonsus Hall and the cafeteria, and the renovation of the school auditorium into a gym-like space for the young of the parish. The capital campaign funds are reserved for *only* these needs.

If you see any other projects going on, or any other purchases that we make, they are not being done with funds for the capital campaign, but are from our regular parish operating budget or from specific donations for particular items.

I will write an overall evaluation of the campaign after Christmas. (I think you might need a rest from a long letter about the campaign from me at the present time.) Donations and pledges are still welcome.

Thank you for you all have done! - Father Pat



Paving
the Way
for
Christ

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscsr@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:



MAJ Brian McGrath, US Army
 CPT Gregory Holownia, US Army
 PO3 Matthew Sadecki, US Coast Guard
 CPL Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
 PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army, Afghanistan
 PVT Dennis Diesel, USMC
 PVT James Kruper, USMC
 PFC Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army
 CPT Conor B. Murphy, USMC, Okinawa, Japan
 2LT Victoria Meyer, US Army Nurse Corp
 PO1 John Paul Pedalino II, US Navy
 CPT Thomas P. Shea, USAF, Afghanistan
 CPL Michael John Kelly, USMC
 1LT Brian McGrath, US Army



Benedictine Day of Recollection

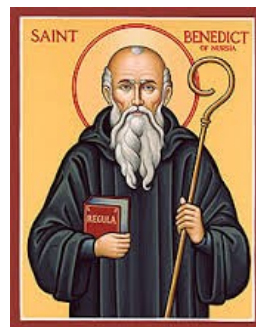
First Sunday of Advent
 December 1, 2013

Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington NY

Retreat Master:
 Father Timothy Sweeney, OSB

Topic: AN ADULT ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

- Schedule 9AM sign in
- Continental breakfast
- Opportunity for confession
 - Divine Office
 - First Conference
 - Holy Mass
 - Hot Lunch
 - Free Time
- Second Conference
 - 3PM Benediction and vespers



The Benedictine Oblates invite you to begin the Advent Season with us on this very special day of prayer. All Are Welcome!

Please call Paul and Irene Muhs for information and reservations at (516) 249-6567