#### Masses For The Week

#### **Monday - December 2**

6:30 Sarah Zura

9:00 Manuel J. Henriques, Anniversary

#### **Tuesday - December 3**

6:30 Edward Rasmussen

9:00 Marilyn Evangelista

#### Wednesday - December 4

Antonio, Felicia & Rich Saulino 6:30 Charles A. Harvey, Jr. "Chip" 9:00

#### Thursday - December 5

6:30 Stanley Lomot, Nicholas & Ustina Drobig

9:00 John J. Dooley, Jr.

#### Friday - December 6

6:30 The Lueck Family

9:00 Marilyn Fabricatore

#### Saturday - December 7

**Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass** 9:00

Thomas LaFalce, Sr. 5:00

Rosario Mannino 7:00

#### **Sunday - December 8**

7:00 The People of the Parish 8:30 Katherine & Michael Healy

George & Doris Held 10:00

11:30 Tesoriero & Lazzati Families

1:00 Lilli Abbruscato

5:30 Bridget Ridge

#### Readings For The Week

Isaiah 4:2-6: Matthew 8:5-11 Mon. Tues. Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wed. Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 Thurs. Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 Fri. Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

Is. 30:19-21, 23-26; Matt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 Sat.

Isaiah 11:1-10 The stump of Jesse will Sun. blossom and the spirit of the Lord will rest upon the anointed one-the promised Savior will come.

Romans 15:4-9 We endure, are encouraged and live in harmony when we are in Christ.

Matthew 3:1-12 John preaches about preparing the way of the Lord. His voice bears witness to Christ through his preaching, baptizing and martyrdom.



#### 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 23/24

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00 Amount Received: \$16,222.24

Thank you for your generosity & support!

#### Reflection & Living Stewardship



**Stewardship** "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says

A Way of Life today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use the season of Advent to prepare for Christ's coming, be it at the end of the world or the close of their earthly lives.

#### Charismatic Prayer Group PREPPING FOR BABY

As most expectant parents can tell you especially first-timers - there's a lot to do to get ready for the baby's arrival. Since Jesus lives in your heart, how will you prepare for His arrival? Our meetings are a good place to start. We are gathering every Monday from December 2-23 at 7:30PM. Each week's bulletin will tell you where the meeting will be held.

Our next meeting is Monday, Dec. 2nd at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. All ages 18 and over are welcome. Call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

#### St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Nov. 25 #503	Christian & Suzanne Schuh	\$25.00
Nov. 26 #459	Linda Ross	\$25.00
Nov. 27 #566	Kathleen Speelman	\$25.00
Nov. 28 #277	Ann Weingarten	\$25.00
Nov. 29 #96	Dolores Hanly	\$50.00

# Wedding Banns None this week



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

Thank you for your tremendous generosity during this Thanksgiving season.

This week, the Pantry is low on: peanut butter, tuna, can chicken, chili, pasta sauce, tomato paste, black beans, canned fruit, baked beans, pancake mix, coffee, juice & juice boxes, oatmeal, mayonnaise, dish soap, laundry soap, diapers (sizes 4 & 6) and baby wipes.

#### **Food Pantry:**

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

#### **Holy Face of Jesus Devotions**

Please join us on *Monday, December* 2nd at 1:00PM in the Church in reparation for the wounds to His Holy Face. All will be blessed with Holy Infant of Prague oil.

# First Friday Devotions



December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Eucharistic Chapel in reparation for the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## First Saturday Devotions

December 7th at 8:30 a.m. consisting of Rosary of Reparation, reading about Fatima and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

#### 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 Shiepko, Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell Salvatore Accardi, Peggy Namiotka, Pat Cannata Barbara Thompson, Donald Castor Dorothy Quinn, Edith Lagan, Henry Niemczyk Bud Pehrsson, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov Christine Chiarappa, Herman Lordahl Patricia Marrone, Godeliva Pagan, Michelle Cirillo Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil, Catherine Battiata Brendan Rodriguez, Charles Drew, Rebecca Passaro Joanne Maguire, John Lundy, Dot Widyn Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna Linda Cicolello, Rita Kaleda, Grace DeDomenico

### Thought for the Week

"Waiting in silence; waiting in hope. We are your people, we long for you, Lord. God ever with us, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, Maranatha!"

From "Waiting in Silence" ©2002, Carey Landry



Week of December 1 - 7, 2013 Altar Bread & Wine

> In Loving Memory of Edward Rasmussen

#### Rest in Peace

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

Salvatore A. Ciofalo

# Letter from the Pastor

#### THE WORDS OF ADVENT



I have never been a fan of David Letterman. When I stay up late, I prefer reruns of the *Honeymooners* or *Seinfeld*. Still I do know he is famous for his top ten lists. Here is a list of my top ten themes of Advent. I think we Catholics are much better with Lent than we are with Advent. The ashes seem to have more power in our lives than do the lighting of Advent Candles. Additionally, Advent has some incredible competition: the Christmas shopping, decorating, parties, food preparation, as well as the National Football League. So, I decided to give my top ten themes for Advent. Perhaps you might pray for a few minutes on one each day. You can repeat this until December 24th. If you have time to mediate on December 24th, I will give you a Christmas Snickers Bar!

Our parish is also offering the time to reflect on the Gospels, on the Saturdays of Advent (December 7th, 14th, and 21st). We are also having three evening prayer services with the focus on the themes of Advent: they are December 4th, 11th and 18th at 7:30 p.m. There is more information about this in this bulletin. So have a great Advent, and if any one of you wishes to write a reflection on one of the themes, I would be happy to consider putting it in the bulletin (woodscssr@aol.com). Two Snicker bars for doing so!

- 1. **Yearning:** The season of Advent is about longing. For ages, human beings have longed for the presence of God in their lives. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that longing. Sometimes in our lives, we feel a deep ache or loneliness. We sense that something is missing in our lives. There are other times when we do not notice this ache for something more. Yet, we are made for God. As St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee." We think of the question that Jesus puts to the disciples in the Gospel of John, "What are you looking for?" What are the desires and yearning of my heart? Advent is a good time to pay attention to this yearning.
- **2. Awake:** To pray, to sense God's presence, to hear his voice, we must be awake and attentive. The readings of Advent suggest that we can be asleep and inattentive as God seeks to come into our lives. We all know the feeling of sleep walking through a day. We drink coffee and splash water on our faces to try to move from sleepiness to attentiveness. To be awake and focused is a key task of the spiritual life. In the Liturgy we hear: Wake, Awake, the dawn is coming. Advent is a time to focus and be attentive to the presence of God in our lives.
- **3. Remember**: Advent is a time of remembering. We recall the long centuries that human beings have awaited the coming of the Messiah. We recall God's saving and loving actions in the Old Testament. We remember the story of creation, the call of Abraham, the leadership of Moses, the formation of the nation of Israel, the periods of exile and the words of the prophets. It is a time of anamnesis; God has saved us in the past and he will continue to save us in the present.
- **4. Hope**: The Advent readings are filled with imagery of hope. We read about the lion playing with the child and swords being turned into plowshares. Advent is a time of pondering the kingdom of God. Jesus came into the world two thousand years ago. He continues to come into the world through the power of the Holy Spirit and our Church. Sometimes, the news and world events, as well as personal experiences, can overwhelm us and lead us to the point of despair. Advent is the season of hope. The kingdom of God will reign. There will come a time when every tear shall be wiped away and we shall see you our God as you are, face to face.
- **5. Preparation:** The Advent readings call us to prepare the way of the Lord. We are to make straight the way of the Lord to prepare for his coming. On one level, we are being invited to prepare for the upcoming season of Christmas. In the face of so much commercialism and materialism, the Church invites us to see the days of Advent as something far more than just a time of shopping, wrapping and decorating. Christ has come into our world centuries ago; we seek to grace to open our hearts to that coming.

- **6. Reconciliation:** Advent is a time of reconciliation. One of the key ways we prepare, make ready the way of the Lord, is to remove any obstacles that prevent us from loving God and our neighbor. It is a time of conversion. Many people like to go to confession before Christmas because their hearts are touched by the love of God so evident in this season. We may experience the grace during this season to reach out to someone from whom we have become alienated. Advent is a graced time to pray for the grace to forgive someone who has hurt us in the past and to let go of the bitterness and anger that may fill our soul.
- **7. Justice**: The reading of Advent speak often about justice, about the poor, the foreigner, the exile, the widow and orphans. There are many charities making appeals during this season. We think of the Salvation Army Santas, Toys for Tots, Letters to Santa, and so many other charities that seek help for those who are less fortunate during the days leading up to Christmas. We find ourselves naturally more generous during this season. It is also a time to seek justice for those who have no one to speak for them. Jesus is calling us to make present the kingdom of God.
- **8. The Second Coming:** During the season of Advent we hear that Christ is coming. We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem many centuries ago. Our faith calls us to know that Christ will come again at the end of time. There will be a time when the world, as we know it, will cease to be and all people will be called to final judgment. We also realize that each of us will have our own personal encounter with the Living God on the day of our death. Each of us will meet God in eternity at the moment of death. Advent is a serious time to think about the coming of Christ at the time of our own death and at the time of the second coming.
- **9. Patience:** We hear the word be patient during the season of Advent. Many of us are not happy with waiting. We want things now and we want them done to meet our expectations. Whether it is waiting in a doctor's office or on a line at Macy's, this experience of waiting can be frustrating. We want our children and spouses to be the way we think they should be. We want the world to operate as we think it should and we grow angry when it does not. We want to be in control and we are not. The first sin, the original sin, is a refusal to accept the limitations of being human. If you eat this fruit, you shall be like God. Advent reminds us we are creatures dependent on the grace of God. Patience allows us to face our limitations and those of others.
- **10. Joy** Our hearts cannot help but rejoice at Christmas. The birth of Christ, and its annual celebration, touch our spirits to their cores with a deep peace and contentment. However confused our world can be, and however difficult our own personal lives can be, we cannot help but rejoice because our Savior Jesus Christ has been born. As the Redemptorist poet, Father John Duffy says of the birth of Christ, "Nothing will ever be the same." This season is a time to rejoice.

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

#### St. Matthew's, Dix Hills

Father John McGowan CSSR and I will be giving our annual first week of Advent retreat at St. Matthew's in Dix Hills from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>.

I will be traveling back and forth from here so I am available if you need to talk to me or see me. I ask for your prayers on our parish mission. God bless!

Father Pat, CSSR

#### Celebrate Advent

Last Lent, we entered into a period of reflection on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. We will continue this program this Advent. You will find in this week's bulletin, the Gospels of the Sundays of Advent, along with reflection questions. As a way of entering more deeply into the season of Advent, you are invited to consider doing the following:

- Read the upcoming Gospel before you come to Mass. Reflect on it. What is this Word of God saying to you? If the reflection questions help you, use them to get you thinking about the Gospel and its meaning for you. Perhaps, you could share the Gospel reflection with your spouse, your children, or family and friends. What a beautiful way to enter into Advent.
- Lastly, it would be great if you could come to all or some of our faith sharing discussions on the upcoming Sunday Gospels. These sessions are about 45 minutes and you say or listen at whatever level of participation you choose. You do not have to be an expert on the Bible; you simply have to be open to reading the Gospel and letting it be part of you.

The dates and places for these gatherings are:

Saturday November 30: St. Alphonsus Hall

(1st Sunday of Advent readings found in last week's bulletin.)

Remaining Sunday readings and reflections found as a separate insert in this bulletin:

Saturday December 7: St Alphonsus Hall

Saturday December 14: Faculty Lounge – School

Saturday December 21: St. Alphonsus Hall

#### **Advent Program at St. Martin of Tours**

Last year we had three Wednesday nights during Advent when we paused as a parish commu-

nity 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  $26^{th}$  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 <a href="woodscssr@aol.com">woodscssr@aol.com</a> or phone 931-0818. The more the merrier!

This simple program is a wonderful way to enter into the Advent Season. You can attend one or all sessions. All are welcome.

# **Bethpage High School Used Eyeglasses Collection**



16 year old students at Bethpage High School have partnered with EYEsee for a service project. All donations of prescription and reading glasses

that you do not want will be given to the underprivileged people in some of the poorest countries in the world.

We will have a box in the gathering area of the church ready for collection next weekend December 7/8. Please feel free to go to www.eyeseemission.org and check out what has been done for many who are less fortunate. Thank you!

# St. Martin's Life Teen program is for all high school aged teens (9th-12th grade). Life Teen gath-

ers 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 calendar of events www.smtbethpage.org or contact Erin at EKHoran@yahoo.com.

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

PARENT 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!

#### **EUCHARISTIC 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!

Christian Mothers Resary Confraternity

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Our General Meeting is Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall. This is our Christmas Party to celebrate the birth of Christ.

We are having a GRAB BAG, so please bring a NEW \$10 wrapped gift (in only 1 package). You will receive a number when you enter and as your number is called you will pick a gift.

Please bring in munchies like cookies, finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, etc. to share. A Birthday Cake for Jesus will be served. Raffles 4/\$5.00 and 50/50 for \$1each will be sold.

A Blessed Christmas to All!!
All women welcome to celebrate with us.
(If you haven't paid your dues (\$10),
you may do so at the meeting.)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 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
- Dec. 13/14: Youth Ministry Tree Sale
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM, 208 Broadway

#### **Christmas Wreath Sale**

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



#### **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 sacris-



tan *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.



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

#### Christmas and Holiday Craft Fairs

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

#### 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:



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
PFC Matthew Castellano, US Army



#### **Altar Servers Meeting**

There will be an Altar Servers meeting on Friday, December 6th from 4 - 5PM in the Church. Training will be conducted for those new servers who signed up through religious education. If there are boys and girls interested in being an Altar Server please attend this meeting.

Any current server may also attend to review or ask questions. Hot chocolate will be served!

Father Jim McCabe, CSSR jmccabe79@yahoo.com Genny at gamit1946@hotmail.com

#### The Long Island Catholic Magazine

Envelopes are available this weekend November 30/December 1. This would be a good opportunity to order your subscription.

All winners of the Golden Harvest should expect their checks to be mailed the week of December 2nd.

Once again, congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who supported this yearly fundraiser. God bless you all!



#### 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 <u>outside the gates</u> during these days and times since this area becomes a SAFE ZONE FOR PEDESTRIANS ON-LY.

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

#### Please Be Mindful

Please be sure to not block anyone's driveway when you park on the side streets across from the church especially during weekend masses.

Some of our neighbors have called to say that they were not able to get in or out of their driveways.

This is not only an annoyance, but can be a major hazard should an emergency occur. Thank you!

# 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 <a href="http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com">http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com</a>.

## Lessons and Carols DVDs

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.

# **Bethpage High School Used Eyeglasses Collection**

16 year old students at Bethpage High School have partnered with EYEsee for a service project. All donations of prescription and reading glasses that you do not want will be given to the underprivileged people in some of the poorest countries in the world.

We will have a box in the gathering area of the church ready for collection next weekend December 7/8. Please feel free to go to www.eyeseemission.org and check out what has been done for many who are less fortunate. Thank you!



#### Altar Servers Needed for Christmas Masses

Please contact Father Jim McCabe, CSSR at jmccabe79@yahoo.com or Genny at gamit1946@hotmail.com or call the rectory at 931-0818 if you are able to serve during the Christmas Season. The Mass schedule is as follows:



Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24th
4:00 PM Church and Auditorium
4:30 PM Knights of Columbus Hall (Central Avenue)
6:00 PM Children's Mass (Church)
9:00 PM Life Teen Mass (Church)
Midnight Mass (Church)

Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25th 7AM; 8:30AM; 10AM; 11:30AM and 1PM No evening Mass on Christmas Day

December 31st (Vigil) 7PM

January 1st
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(A holy day of obligation)
9AM and 7PM

# St. Martin of Tours Blood Drive



Wednesday, December 18, 2013 2:30pm - 8:30pm St. Alphonsus Hall 38 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage

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.



#### RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

#### **BULLYING**

Every Christmas I make sure to watch the movie Christmas classic, "A Christmas Story." You must have seen it through the years. It's a story that takes place in 1940 about an average family from Indiana that goes through a very real Christmas holiday....not the perfect one...but a warm, funny one that many of us experience. Ralphie is a 9 year old who wants only one thing for Christmas...an official RED RYDER CARBINE-ACTION 200 SHOT RANGE MODEL BB RIFLE with a COMPASS IN THE STOCK. He tries to convince his parents, his teacher and even Santa that this is the perfect gift for him...although he keeps hearing, "You'll shoot your eye out!"

I bring up this movie not for all of the experiences Ralphie goes through, but mainly one. The Bully! Ralphie has a little brother, an overprotective mother and a long way to walk to school. Ralphie is just a nice kid. But on that long walk to school he encounters Scott Farkus and his sidekick Grover Dill. I'm sure you have all known a Scott Farkus in your childhood. The one that is sometimes a little bigger, a whole lot meaner, and out to pick on any kid that is a little different, shy or won't stand up to him or her....or even those that do. Ralphie wears glasses and his little brother is so overdressed, that he can hardly walk. A perfect target!

When I was a little girl, I was one of those targets. I was terribly shy, unsure of myself, You know....the kid that tried to get the seat in class at the very back. I was what my mother called, "husky" but in a good way." I had that long walk to school by myself and hid when I could, to avoid....well let's just call him, "Jeremire." If he didn't torture me on the way to school, he made sure he got me on the way home. I walked to school in terror and came home in tears.

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT: Until recently, mistreatment in middle school was considered a rite of passage. You were merely lucky or unlucky...liked or disliked. Growing awareness about BULLYING and its associated trauma has many communities deeply engaged in efforts to combat and prevent such behavior.

Anti-bullying campaigns kicked into high gear in recent years amid high-profile cases such as Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover of Mass. and Ty Field-Smalley of Utah, 11 year olds who committed suicide after enduring relentless bullying by their peers. President Obama and first lady Michelle hosted the first White House Conference on Bullying Protection in 2011. Bullying statistics in the National Crime Victimization Survey indicate a steady trend in bullying from 2005 - 2011. The most recent year for data collected 28 % of youth ages 12 - 18 reported being bullied, 9% reported being a victim of cyberbullying. Bullying incidences peak in middle school. Those are awkward and vulnerable years when kids start to physically develop and become more aware of their differences. In grade school teachers tend to resolve spats between kids, while middle school students are more likely to resolve issues among themselves.

Often, as with any cycle of abuse, the ONE DOING THE BULLYING may be getting BULLIED BY SOME-ONE ELSE. The BULLY AT SCHOOl can be getting BULLIED AT HOME. THE VICTIM OF TODAY CAN BE THE BULLY OF TOMORROW. Remembering the movie, *Ralphie* takes on the bully and chases him away. Remembering me, my mother waited for Jeremire on the way home one day...and that was that! Diana Hart Mirando

#### CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, KINGS

Sign up for the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant celebrated at the 6:00 PM Mass. Please fill out and return this form to the rectory to the attention of Genny Mitchell. Practice will be on Thursday, December 19th at 4:00 PM in the Church.

Name(s) & Age(s)		
hone No :		



# Life Teen's Christmas Tree Sale Coming Soon!

We will be selling Christmas trees again this year at St. Martin's parking lot.

Come and pick out a beautiful tree either on Friday, December 13th from 4:00—7:00 PM or on Saturday, December 14th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All trees are \$35.00.

The proceeds will benefit the Youth Ministry of St. Martin's.



# ST. MARTIN OF TOURS "PAVING THE WAY FOR CHRIST"

# WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE MADE A SACRIFICE TO THIS CAMPAIGN.

Anonymous (15) Angela & Joseph Achtziger Mr. and Mrs. Frank Adam Anne M. Adams Dominick and Laura Leigh Agnese Frank Albergo Robert and Ann Albertson Josephine Alesandro Paula and Edward Alfarone Joan Algios Carmine and Louise Allocca Anthony and Barbara Amoroso Barbara and Christine Anderson Anne Andriolo John and Sabina Anselmo Edmund Antaki Jerome and Elizabeth Antonucci Salvatore and Janice Aquilina Jose and Susan Aguino Robert Armento The Asch Family Patrick and Patricia Astegher Robert and Patricia Astarita Marion Astorino Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Atoria Stephen and Roseann Atkins Jean Axmacher Dorothy Bachmann Eileen Badalato Mr. & Mrs. R. Baker Danny and Margie Banes Josephine Barbieri Rosemarie Barbuzano Carmine and Carol Ann Bassano The Battaglia Family John and Ellen Battaglia Julie Beatrice and Jerry Kaminsky Leonard and Bridget Beaumont Walter and Rosann Beckmann Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bella, Jr. James & Dana M. Belmonte James and Patricia Belmonte In Memory of Kristine Benasutti Nanette Beno Ernest and Sophie Berlucchi Paul and Carol Berner Carolyn Bernhard Michele Betz Deacon Jim and Carmela Biggin Lorraine Birnbach

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