

***Masses For The Week***

**Monday - December 9 (Immaculate Conception is not a holy day of obligation this year.)**

6:30 Richard Wade  
9:00 Rose Provenzano

**Tuesday - December 10**

6:30 Rose Greco  
9:00 Stephen Pumilia

**Wednesday - December 11**

6:30 Anna Santacroce  
9:00 Rose Provenzano

**Thursday - December 12**

6:30 Catherine & Silvio Sita  
9:00 Edward & Shirley Miller

**Friday - December 13**

6:30 Joseph Furrey  
9:00 William Spencer

**Saturday - December 14**

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**  
5:00 Connie C. Trappasse  
7:00 Madeline T. Stein

**Sunday - December 15**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
8:30 Rose A. Joseph  
10:00 John J. Jauregui  
11:30 Anthony & Arnold Juliano & Frank Denig  
1:00 John & Delia Connaughton  
5:30 Father Thomas F. Schmidt, CSSR

***Readings For The Week***

Mon. Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12  
Luke 1:26-38

Tues. Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

Wed. Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

Thurs. Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38

Fri. Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

Sat. Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

**Sun. Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10** *The deserts exult and burst into flower. The hills ring with joyful song. The feeble grow strong; the frightened take courage. The Lord comes to save us.*

**James 5:7-10** *"Be patient until the coming of the Lord," said the author of the letter of James. "The Judge is standing before the gates." Take the prophets as your models in facing hardship. They spoke in the Lord's name.*

**Matthew 11:2-11** *John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus answered them affirmatively, pointing to the blind who see, the lame who walk, the lepers who are cured, and the poor who hear from him good news of hope.*

***Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift*****Weekend Collection for Nov. 30/ Dec. 1**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$17,842.22

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

***Reflection & Living Stewardship***

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who strive to consider how they are fulfilling God's purpose to be of service to our parish and to the wider community.

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

It's easy to get overwhelmed by the activity of the Season - Rushing from store to store searching for the perfect gift. Give yourself a gift this year and spend some time reflecting on what's really important. Remember, it's not about the presents. It is about the Presence of Jesus!



***Our next meeting is Monday, Dec. 9th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. All ages 18 and over are welcome. Call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.***

**Divine Mercy Novena**

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

**St. Martin of Tours HOP Club**

Dec. 2 #162	Patricia Nicotra	\$25.00
Dec. 3 #507	M & J Bissonnette	\$25.00
Dec. 4 #505	Joe & Lisa Calza	\$25.00
Dec. 5 #287	Jean Axmacher	\$25.00
Dec. 6 #185	Kara Zuaro	\$50.00

*Wedding Banns*

1st Anthony Arena and Courtney LaSpina  
1st Christopher Rossol & Kristen Lamb



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

Thanks to all for your generosity this Thanksgiving. Because of you, the Pantry was able to hand out 62 Thanksgiving baskets and numerous individual meals donated by B.K. Sweeney's, Crossroads Diner and Runyon's Restaurant.

This week the Pantry is low on: pasta sauce, tomato paste, chili, beef stew, canned chicken, tuna, mixed fruit, peaches, pears, pineapples, peanut butter, black beans, cream of chicken soup, juice & juice boxes, ketchup, mayonnaise, cookies, 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

*To my dear SMT family,*

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank God for my SMT family, especially during the recent passing of my Mother. Whether it was a visit to the funeral home, an e-mail or telephone message, you were the Body of Christ bringing me His peace and consolation. All the prayers lifted for my family and me surrounded us like a hug from God.

I am so blessed to call you my brothers and sisters in Christ. – *Kate Mayerhofer*

**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, 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 Battiat, Brendan Rodriguez, Charles Drew  
Rebecca Passaro Joanne Maguire, Dot Widyn  
Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna  
Linda Cicoello, Rita Kaleda, Grace DeDomenico  
Sal Mascolo, Patrick Crowe*

**Thought for the Week**

*The name Jesus,  
or Y'shua in Hebrew,  
means "the Lord is salvation."*

*Praise be the name of the Lord!*



*Week of December 8 - 14, 2013  
Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Loving Memory of  
Keith, Sean & Dennis Meehan*

***Rest in Peace***

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

**John Gilheany, Anna May Wright  
John Lundy, Vincent Paul Punturieri  
Josephine Zozzaro**

## *Letter from the Pastor*



As I studied the scriptures for reflection on the season of Advent, I did some serious research on the internet. Here is what I came up with when I Googled what are the most popular American holidays. From one source I found:



- Number one, to no surprise is Christmas
- I was surprised by number two: Halloween
- Thanksgiving was third
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July was 4<sup>th</sup> (people are either very patriotic or love barbecues)
- Sad to say, Easter only came in at number five.
- New Year's Eve in at six
- Mother's Day was seventh (this surprised me)
- Father's Day did not make the top 15
- I was shocked that St. Patrick's Day came in at a lowly number 12.
- Super Bowl Sunday, which is not a holiday, was tenth, but we Jet fans no longer recognize this as a holiday.

Almost everybody, with some exceptions, the *Grinch* and *Scrooge* to name two, loves Christmas. We love it for its joy, family gatherings and parties, decorations, trees, traditions and carols, and for the food. We love this day for its presents and its sense of hope that touches the mind, the heart and the soul at the beginning of Winter. Above all we rejoice and celebrate this day because it is the day we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, came among us as a man.

If I asked a group of Catholics what was their favorite liturgical season of the Church year, I believe that most would respond that it was Lent. Even though it is the season of ashes and fasting, meatless Fridays, and long Sunday Gospels, this season penitential time touches our hearts. Even the most casual of Catholics will proudly wear his or her ashes on Ash Wednesday. There is something in the human spirit that has a need to take stock, to ask ourselves some important questions about the meaning of life and death and faith. During Lent we feel a heightened need to pray and reflect on the mystery of life and my response to God and his gifts.

It seems to be that the lighting of the Advent wreath and the singing of *O come O Come Emmanuel* does not capture the Catholic imagination as does the call for conversion that Lent proclaims. It is kind of ironic since we most love Christmas, but the church season of Advent does not hold us as does Lent. Perhaps, the words and invitations of Advent are lost in the hectic pace that many of us keep during the four weeks before Christmas. We must shop, we must wrap, we must write cards (or email) we must buy a tree and decorate it, put lights on our homes, go to parties and plan our events. The time before Christmas is usually the busiest of the year for most of us. On top of all this, there are pageants to attend, school winter festivals in which to participate, and certainly, our need to keep watching the National Football League and *Dancing with the Stars* does not lessen.

We know that many of us arrive on Christmas Night with a spirit of exhaustion and wonder if we have overspent and overate, and have a kind of aching in our souls and hearts that maybe we missed something. Perhaps, that is why we like Lent—it enables us to recover from Christmas.

This is not a sermon complaining about the Christmas shopping being too commercial. I am a rare man who loves to Christmas shop. I may not be ready to fight the war with secular society who do not want to say *Merry Christmas* and gives us instead the bland *Seasons Greetings* or *Have a Good Holiday*. Ironically, the word holiday comes from holy day. I am not going to ask you to turn off your Christmas lights until December 24<sup>th</sup> or not allow Jesus in your Christmas crèche until Midnight on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I will accept generously your offer of Christmas cookies and eggnog before, during, and after Christmas Day!

But, and you know there is always going to be a *but*, I do invite you to enter fully into the richness of the Advent Season as much as you can. The readings and message of this season resound with themes of hope in the midst of struggles, reconciliation with our enemies, peace on earth, attentiveness to the wonder of creation and to the God who created it for us.

During Advent, we hear about swords being turned into plowshares. As we worry about North Korea and Iran using nuclear weapons, as we hear about people being knocked down in our city streets by young men who have such empty lives they find such an activity a way to relieve boredom. This reading and so many of Advent readings give us hope for a better time. What you see is not what you get. God is master of the Universe and there will come a time when all will be well and peace will reign. We need the hope of Advent.

I know we always need reconciliation in our hearts. Every Christmas, as I sit down to write my Christmas cards, I cannot help but think of those couple of people that have dropped out of my life for some very human reasons. Something draws us apart; where there was once a closeness is now a distance. Should I write a card and say hello or just leave it be? I know people will feel great pain this season because they are at odds with a brother or sister, a parent, or a close friend. As people sing *Peace on earth*, we wonder if we can make peace with those with whom we feel at odds. The message of Advent invites us to consider this great yearning for reconciliation.

There are some of us who have heavy hearts as the world is singing *Joy to the world*. This may be the year we lost our husband, our mother, our best friend. We carry an ache for them and so feel their loss, particularly during a time that is so filled with so many memories. Advent is a time of hope. Our beloved are home with the God who took flesh in Bethlehem and redeemed the world.

One of my favorite moments of Thanksgiving is after the meal is over, lying down, and watching football. Slowly the tryptophan from the turkey takes effect, along with the two glasses of wine and I am dozing as the kids switch the television to the Disney Channel.

*A key message of Advent is be awake. Don't miss the presence of God in your life. Sometimes we say we are waiting for Christ to come at Christmas. Christ came 2000 years ago to us; he keeps coming among us in the Eucharist, in the Word, in our Church, in the faces of one another, in the joys and sorrows of life, and in the thousand daily moments of every day. Be Awake! Don't Miss him. He is here. Have a great Advent!*

### **Our Parish Outreach Team in Generous Action**

When we are truly grateful to God, it moves us to reach out to others. Our parish is one of gratitude and generosity. Last Saturday our food pantry team under the direction of Rosemary Scarangella, donated 60 turkey baskets with all the trimmings with the help of Long Island Cares, Island Harvest, and Crossroad Restaurants.

On Tuesday, more than 50 dinners were donated by BK Sweeney's and Crossroads Restaurant. Thank you to all who donated so generously to the food pantry. Rosemary tells me the requests are growing with an average of 4-6 new families in need. These issues are a great challenge to us as a nation and a society, but we can so proud of all of you who are working in your own ways to help address hunger.

***God bless you. - Father Pat***

### **Book Club News!**

Dear Book Club Friends,

All the participants at the last meeting were most insightful. It was another event of heart-felt sharing which involved vivid and true connections to our lives and to our world today. However, it became a special time because there was a genuine feeling of community of Catholic believers in Jesus, amid the facts about violence and broken human beings.

Again, all are welcome -new members, old members, recent participants. Whenever you attend, your presence is most valued and appreciated. The next wonderful book is *The Sea* by John Banville. We will contact you about the exact date and location of our next meeting. It will be in January. Thoughts for the book discussion will be sent to all of you.

If there are any questions, please call Ann Mele at (516) 330-3039 or [ann111647@netscape.net](mailto:ann111647@netscape.net).

Till then...happy reading!

Father Patrick Woods and Ann Mele



### **Celebrating Confirmation**

On Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in two different ceremonies, Bishop Robert Brennan, auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, confirmed 194 young men and women from the parish. I congratulate these young people who have been very faithful to their religious education training. They were called to do twenty hours of service to others. I find this a wonderful feature since it teaches them that following Christ leads to serving others. They seemed very excited about doing this service. I congratulate their parents and families, and Confirmation sponsors for efforts in preparing the students.



I am also very grateful to Deacon Jim Biggin, Pat Ryan, and Laura Leigh Agnese and all our religious education teachers, who generously guide our students in the religious formation programs. Another part of the preparation for the Confirmation is that they make a day's retreat here at St. Martin's. During the retreat they are asked to write a letter to the pastor explaining why they wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Here are some excerpts from their letters:

### **Why I want to be confirmed**

I finally understand that Jesus loves me no matter what I do, and am ready to fully accept Him into my life. I now know Jesus died on the cross because He loves us more than Himself.

Also, going to the retreat helped me realize more about myself on the inside. I now know everyone is different and unique in their own way.

I speak to God when I am worried and frustrated and He listens and clears my mind.

I feel that I am ready to be confirmed because after reading about my saint name, I realized that being a true Catholic means being brave, honest, and courageous.

I feel ready to have a closer relationship with God. Jesus has helped me through my rough times and hopefully now I can be closer to Him so he can help me even more.

I like to pray because it makes me feel good to confess to God and get things off my chest that I have been thinking about for so long.

My teachers were also very nice too. They explained a lot about Heaven and the importance of life. Now I know about what goes on in Heaven.

I am excited to go to Church and be confirmed. Since this will be the biggest sacrament until marriage so I want to make it a special and meaningful event. Thank you for giving me this experience.

I have grown up in the Catholic Church and plan on continuing practicing my faith my whole life. That is why I feel ready to become confirmed.

I feel much closer to God and feel stronger and passionate about life and how to treat people. I learned a lot. I have also given God the key to my heart when we were meditating.

Getting ready to make confirmation taught me that helping others is very important and that community service is good.

I have also learned that Jesus forgives us no matter what we do. He also never gets mad at us.



I have come a long way, and God has guided me. Although I am working on attending church more, I know God is always there not just for me but for everyone when they need it most.

If I strengthen my relationship with God, I will make better decisions which will make me a better person.

This community service taught me an important lesson. It taught me that helping others is just as important as helping myself. I also feel this way because I have become closer with God over the past years.

God nurtured me and he has guided me to this day. Me and Jesus have an (un)earthly bond.

I feel Jesus is a part of my life more than ever because I feel I have finally let him into my heart/life. I think I am going to go to Mass more than ever, pray every night. After retreat I feel I have a special bond.

The two most important things God has taught me are faith and forgiveness. I feel that I am ready to be confirmed because I have made a strong connection with God and will never lose that connection.

I feel I'm ready to be confirmed because I did 24 hours of community service, followed all the requirements by the church, and I became closer to God.

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



Life Teen gathers every Sunday for the 5:30pm Youth Mass and every Sunday night from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Center (room 107 of the school) for our Life Nights. Each week we gather to grow in faith and friendship with Christ & each other. Check out our parish website for a calendar of events at [www.smtbethpage.org](http://www.smtbethpage.org) or contact Erin at [EKHoran@yahoo.com](mailto:EKHoran@yahoo.com).



**The Edge program** is for all middle school aged 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.

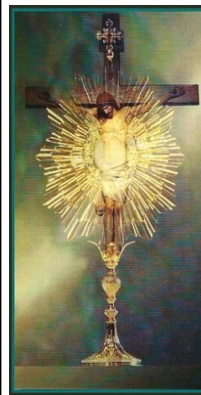


**Parent Life** is designed to give parents an opportunity to support their parish ministry programs while strengthening their own relationship with Christ and His Church. Parent Life meets once a month on Sundays following the 5:30pm Mass in the school building. **All parents and adults are welcome!**

## 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!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Dec 7/8: Music Ministry DVD Sale
- Dec. 10: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM
- Dec. 11 & 18: Advent Services 7:30PM
- Dec. 13/14: Youth Ministry Tree Sale
- Dec. 15: Crèche Blessings at 10AM Mass
- Dec. 15: Deadline for Giving Tree Gift Cards
- Dec. 18: Blood Drive 2:30 - 8:30PM
- Dec. 21: "It's A Wonderful Life" 2PM
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM, 208 Broadway

**Golden Harvest**

Congratulations to all the winners of the Golden Harvest that the parish celebrated on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We sold 407 tickets, which considering that we were in the middle of a major capital campaign, was very good. When all the bills were paid, the parish netted \$20,246.77. This money is very helpful in helping us meet our budget and we count on it very much. So a great thank you to all who purchased tickets.

As much as the Golden Harvest is a fund raiser, I see it even more as a fun night for the parish where we gather socially and enjoy the company of one another. It is one of my favorite events of the year. It is an important community builder.

John McCarthy and his wife Gerri have run the Golden Harvest for many years. They are both involved in many activities of the parish and I am most grateful for their great love and commitment to St. Martin's. Both have been extraordinarily generous with their time and talents and made this social fund raiser an important part of the life of the parish. They have asked to step down from the leadership of the Golden Harvest. We shall miss their dedicated ministry to this event, but I do know we can count on them for many other parish ministries. I say to both of them: Well done! God bless you for serving so well in this ministry.

Tony and Ronny Ciarniello will be the leaders of the Golden Harvest next year. I am very grateful for their willingness to accept this ministry and I know they will do it very well.

- *Father Pat*

**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.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Some of you have noticed that the smile I used to have while I was saying mass has been missing lately. For the last three years off and on I have been depressed. I tried to work through it but now feel that I need to address it directly.

With the agreement of our Redemptorist provincial Father Kevin Moley, and the pastor Father Pat, I am leaving for the months of December and January.

I will be living at Notre Dame Retreat house P.O. Box 342 Canandaigua, NY 14424-0342.

My email address is [fsattlercssr@gmail.com](mailto:fsattlercssr@gmail.com). I will be working to bring the spiritual, emotional, and physical parts of my life back into harmony. I will be back at the end of January.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will do for you. May God bless you. -- Father Henry

**A Note of Thanks**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cagna would like to thank all our priests and parishioners for your prayers and good wishes for our grandson Matt's foot surgery which was a great success!

### PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email [woodscssr@aol.com](mailto:woodscssr@aol.com) or [gamit1946@hotmail.com](mailto: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



### Celebrate Advent

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 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 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 remaining two Wednesdays:**

**December 11**

**December 18 (corrected date)**

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](mailto:woodscssr@aol.com) 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.



**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.**

**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>.

*Lessons and Carols DVDs*

**This weekend, the St. Martin of Tours Music Ministry will be selling DVDs from last year's Advent Lessons and Carols for \$10. All proceeds would go to support our Music Ministry.**

**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!

**Many Thanks!**

I want to say a word of thanks to ***Ann Hughes*** for her ongoing work in decorating the Church. Sometimes we grow so used to it being there, that it can be taken for granted.

Over the past week, we had fall colors, and then red for the Holy Spirit as the parish celebrated Confirmation, on to a Thanksgiving cornucopia, and then to the purple of Advent. Wow! All within a week.

Thank you so much, Ann, for your always tasteful and reflective decorating of our worship space. You create an atmosphere that helps lift our hearts in prayer. - Father Pat

### Altar Servers Needed for Christmas Masses

Please contact Father Jim McCabe, CSSR at [jmccabe79@yahoo.com](mailto:jmccabe79@yahoo.com) or Genny at [gamit1946@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

 **New York** Blood Center

## Merry Christmas Buttons

Although it annoys me when people say *Seasons Greetings* to me or *Have a Happy Holiday*, I try not to become a soldier in the defense against the war on Christmas. It strikes me that Jesus was born in a stable as a vulnerable baby, surrounded by Roman soldiers who were seeking to kill him at the instruction of Herod. God chose to become weak so I try to resist a muscular Christianity although I would be tempted to sock Bill Maher in the nose if I had the chance.



This weekend we are giving out buttons that say, *Merry Christmas, St. Martin of Tours*. The background on them is the parish nativity set. I like to do this because I think it is a chance to gently evangelize about our faith. If someone asks you about the button, you can tell them about your parish and invite them to come and be part of it some Sunday. It is always good to let others know they are always welcome.

### FAMILY BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE



When the tree has been prepared, the household gathers around it. All make the sign of the cross.

*The Leader begins:*

Blessed be the name of the Lord. He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. *All respond: Now and forever.*

*Leader:* This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who gather around this tree.

*After a short silence, the leader prays:*

God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home. May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights. We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and peace. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever.  
Response: Amen.

*The lights of the tree are then illuminated.*

*The leader says: Let us bless the Lord. All respond, making the sign of the cross.*

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_



### RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Now that Thanksgiving Day has passed and the last of the turkey sandwiches, turkey salad, turkey soup, and best of all....turkey surprise are over, we can hopefully look back on a day that gave us rest and peace. Hopefully, you took time to watch the parade and still thrilled waiting for Santa to arrive in his sleigh and watch those incredible balloons that Macy's displays for us each year. After counting your blessings, you may have taken a deep breath to look up at the sky thinking of our Lord who has given us all this. Hopefully, you bypassed Black Friday, or if not, survived it! And hopefully, you can now drift slowly into the season of our Lord with peace and calm.

During Advent, may we welcome the beginning of the blessing we received 2,000 years ago when a little Baby came into this world and changed it forever. As you begin your shopping, may that peace stay with you and may you remember that the true gift you put beneath the Christmas tree is in the manger in which that little Baby slept beneath the star. May that star shine within your heart as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. May we all come together and wish each other a "Merry Christmas" as we greet each other. May we extend a hand to the homeless, write a letter to a soldier, volunteer at a soup kitchen, donate to the poor or visit a neighbor who might be alone for the Christmas. If we keep these things on our Christmas list, we'll be experiencing the true meaning of this beautiful Christmas season.

### ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never traveled more than 200 miles from the place He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only 33 when public opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had.....on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together...have not affected the life of man on earth as much as the ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

### 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.

### 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](http://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

Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30PM  
Faculty Lounge at the School

### *Life Teen's Christmas Tree Sale*

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.

### *Calling Attention to the Giving Tree in the Gathering Area*

Please take a card from the tree and return it with the requested gift card. Please drop it in the mail slot at the Rectory office by December 15th.



Thank you and God bless you for your assistance in bringing Christmas cheer to those in need!

### SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS REHEARSALS AND MASSES

**Children's Choir Practices for Christmas Mass and the Pageant: Monday, December 9, 16 & 23 from 5:30 to 6:30.**

**Regular Children's Choir Practice: Wednesday, December 11 from 5 to 6PM**

**Children's Choir Practices for Mass and Pageant: Thursday, December 19 from 4 to 6PM**

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Mass and Pageant at 6:00 PM. Please be in the Church by 5:30PM.**

**Sundays to follow: Sing at 10:00 AM Mass as usual. NO PRACTICE WED, JANUARY 1, 2014!**

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### **ADULT CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTS**

**Monday, December 9, 16 and 23 from 7:30 to 9:30PM: Practices for Christmas Masses**

**Thursday, December 12 and 19 from 7:30 to 9:30PM: Regular Choir Practice**

**Tuesday, December 24 at 11PM: Christmas Pre Mass Concert and Midnight Mass to follow (Please be in Church by 10:30PM)**

**Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Morning Masses at 8:30 and 11:30AM**

**Sundays to follow 8:30 and 11:30AM Masses as usual. NO PRACTICE THURS, 12/26 OR 1/2/14!**

**LIFE TEEN BAND MEMBERS: Please check with Chris for your mass rehearsal schedule. Band members are welcome and encouraged to sing or play for Midnight Mass and Pre Mass Concert.**

**Thank you all for your time and talent. Looking forward to a wonderful Christmas Season at SMT! NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ANY TIME!!!**



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.

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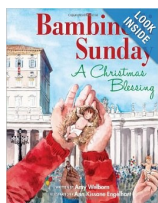
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 Edward and Grace Whelan  
 Arthur F. White Funeral Home  
 Richard and Catherine Wieber  
 Jane Wojcik  
 Janet Wolfe  
 Walter and Janet Woodburn  
 William and Catherine Wulff  
 A. Yack  
 Catherine Zabrowski  
 Judith Zaldivar  
 Nancy Zappala  
 William and Susanna Zappolo  
 Elio and Antoinette Zerbini  
 Enza and Joe Zingone  
 John Zinno  
 Gasper and Vivian Zizzo

### **Most Important Note:**

Once you receive a reminder in January, please make checks payable to St. Martin of Tours and *indicate in the lower left of the check that it is for the Building Fund.*

### Upcoming Advent - Christmas Event



In Italy, there is a holiday tradition to bring the baby Jesus from the crèche to be blessed by the Pope on the third Sunday of Advent. **On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:00 Children's Mass, all are invited, especially children to bring their Infant Jesus from their crèche for a blessing.** A Christmas party with a good friend of Jesus attending, Santa Claus, will follow the Mass. Christmas cookies and cakes are Santa's favorites...and you can skip the carrots for the reindeers!



### It's a Wonderful Life

**On Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall we will show the movie It's a Wonderful Life.** Anyone wearing a Christmas sweater or hat will win a prize. There will be some light snacks. After the movie, you can go to the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

### St. Martin of Tours Social Ministry – St. Vincent de Paul

November 21, 2013

St. Martin of Tours Religious Education  
220 Central Avenue  
Bethpage, NY 11714

Dear Religious Education Faculty and Students:

Thank you for your work in organizing a Food Drive for our pantry for Thanksgiving. We are so grateful for your efforts in collecting food as the pantry supplies empty quickly. Your donations are much appreciated.

There are many families and children in need in Bethpage. Our food pantry is open on Mondays from 9:30AM -2:30PM and on Thursdays from 2-7:00PM year round. This pantry is open to all who reside within the parish boundaries **regardless of religion** and is staffed by volunteers. Food is provided via donations from members of the parish, community organizations, local businesses and hunger relief organizations such as Island Harvest and Long Island Cares. Each family may come once a week and select one bag of food for each person in the family. Many food pantry recipients find themselves without jobs or often with serious health or family issues and depend on this assistance to feed their families.

Thank you for thinking of those in need and for helping to make a difference!

Sincerely,

*Rosemary Scarangella*  
Rosemary Scarangella

Parish Social Ministry Coordinator

208 Broadway Bethpage, NY 11714

516-931-7332