

Masses For The Week

Monday - December 30
 6:30 William & Dorothy Dmuchowski
 9:00 Rose Provenzano

Tuesday - December 31
 6:30 **NO 6:30AM**
 9:00 Joseph Cascini
 7PM Daniel Flynn, Anniversary

Wednesday - January 1, 2014
 6:30 **NO 6:30AM**
 9:00 Gerald Meehan
 12 Noon Patricia Donovan
 7PM James Mason

Thursday - January 2
 6:30 **NO 6:30AM**
 9:00 Helen & Henry Ruff

Friday - January 3
 6:30 Mary Godek
 9:00 Ryan Steubing, 2nd Anniversary

Saturday - January 4
 9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**
 5:00 Peter S. Rossello
 7:00 Madeline T. Stein

Sunday - January 5
 7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Ciro Barrelli
 10:00 Rita Kiernan
 11:30 John R. Kirk, Jr.
 1:00 Maria Accardi
 5:30 Angela Cairelli

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
 Tues. 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
 Wed. Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:16-21
 Thurs. 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
 Fri. 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34
 Sat. 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42

Sun. *Isaiah 60:1-6* Darkness covers the earth, and heavy clouds hang over the people. But the light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines bright.

***Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6* In Christ Jesus, Gentiles and Jews are co-heirs and co-sharers in the saving promise.**

***Matthew 2:1-12* The magi from the east followed the star until it stopped still over the house. They entered, found the child with Mary, prostrated themselves, and did him homage.**

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekend Collection for Dec. 21/22

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: \$18,095.13

Flowers: \$802

Thank you for your generosity & support!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who seek to be as open as Joseph to the leading of the Holy Spirit, understanding clearly and rejoicing in what God is calling them to be and to do!

Charismatic Prayer Group

Saying Thank You!

If there's a season for thank you's, this is it! Here's a few you might have missed.

- Thank you, God, for sending your Son to save us.
- Thank you, Mary, for having faith and saying yes!
- Thank you, Joseph, for listening to the angel and for loving and protecting Jesus.

Our next meeting is Monday, Dec. 30th 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!



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

All at the Pantry wish you a Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

This week, the Pantry is low on salad dressing, sweet cereals, pancake mix, Progresso meat soups, pasta sauce, juice & juice boxes, ketchup, mayonnaise, cake mix & icing, boxed milk, brownie mix, canned or boxed potatoes, chili, pineapple, pears, peaches, canned salmon, black beans, chicken soup, Chef Boyardee, macaroni & cheese, pork & beans, jams or jellies, toothpaste, conditioner, tissues, dish soap and laundry soap.

We are so thankful for your generosity!

Food Pantry:

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

Thought for the Week

*Many Merry Christmases,
 many happy New Years.
 Unbroken friendships,
 great accumulations of
 cheerful recollections
 and affections on earth,
 and heaven for us all.
 - Charles Dickens*

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 Shiepkko, 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
 Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil, Catherine Battiatia
 Brendan Rodriguez, Charles Drew, Rebecca Passaro
 Joanne Maguire, Dot Widyn
 Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna
 Linda Cicolello, Sal Mascolo, Patrick Crowe
 Gary Vlahov, Bridget Mullarkey
 Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Irene Janampa
 Father Henry Sattler, CSSR
 Deacon Jim Biggin, Christopher Wezel*



Week of Dec. 29 - Jan. 4, 2014

Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
 Kristine Benasutti*

Rest in Peace

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

**Grace DeDomenico
 Rita D. Kaleda
 Harold G. Hand
 Martha Archer**

Letter from the Pastor

O, Noisy Town of Bethlehem

Last year, during my Christmas homily, I spoke how I was planning on going to the Holy Land in the summer and that I dreamed of going to Bethlehem, the very town where Jesus was born. As you might know, we have a program here at St. Martin's where we ask our children in the religious education program to attend Mass, and to fill out a sheet on what the homily was about. We do this for two reasons: 1) to try to get the children to listen to the homily and 2) to see if they are coming to Mass as our program requires. I was reading what some of the children wrote, and one summarized my entire Christmas homily, in which I spoke about the wonder of God's Son becoming a man, about the choirs of angels that greeted him, about the shepherds and kings who came to visit him, about Joseph and Mary and how there was no room in the inn, and about how God wanted us all to work for peace on earth, good will to all people. Well, one second grader wrote; *Father Pat told us he wants to go on a trip to some place and have a good time.* So, I am never sure what any of us hear in homilies, especially in the festive season of Christmas where we may feel a combination of joyful and happy, while simultaneously worried about what food we are serving, and stressed out from shopping.

Well, I am happy to report to that second grader that I did get to the Holy Land and Bethlehem, and I did have a good time. I went to the Holy Land this past June and it was the trip of a lifetime. I sailed on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, the very water where Jesus walked and calmed the storms. I prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and touched the rock where our Lord sweated blood the night before he died. I stood in the dark pit that was like being at the bottom of a well, the place where Jesus was kept prisoner, alone, bleeding and in the dark, knowing he was to die on the cross the next day. I saw the house where the Blessed Mother was born, and where she heard the angel Gabriel tell her that she was to be the mother of God. I had the joy of saying Mass on the Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus told us "*Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.*" Perhaps, the most moving moment of all was to touch the very ground where Christ was crucified and to stand in the tomb where he lay for three days and then, in a burst of light and the overwhelming glory of God, rose on the first Easter. It was an amazing journey of faith. I walked on the same dusty roads that our Lord walked. My heart and spirit were so touched by God and I think so very often of those precious moments.

But, and you know there is always a but, I was somewhat disappointed with my visit to Bethlehem, the town where Jesus was born, the event that has given rise to this great season of joy and festivity. I was on a tour with twenty-five or so other people. When we arrived at the bus terminal in Bethlehem (they have a terminal because of the many pilgrims who come to this town). The first thing I saw was a sign for Kentucky Fried Chicken. Quite honestly, I expected to see snow covered streets, and singing angels, and Christmas trees. There was no snow, angels, or trees. It was about 95 degrees. A young man approached me with wooden flutes that he told me were made of olive wood, and they were the same kind of flutes that the shepherds played for Jesus. They were \$5.00 each and he assured me they had been made in Bethlehem. I bought three to give to my great nieces and nephews. Later on, when I looked at them, I saw they had been made in China!

I thought that even though it was in June, I might hear *Silent Night* or *O Holy Night* being sung. The only music I heard was some combination of Arabian rap music, playing too loudly on the streets. Also, there were young Israeli soldiers with submachine guns slung over their shoulders watching all the people to see if any were potential terrorists.

When our group got into the Church of the Nativity, it was explained to us that the Church was divided into various sections of Christian denominations; there was a Catholic section, a Byzantine Christian section, and a Russian Orthodox section. Even in this holy Church, Christians were divided. Finally, as we approached the sacred place where the Son of God was born, I found that there was mass confusion as a very large crowd of people were trying to get through a small entrance into the room where Christ was born. Our guide told us that the stable was most likely the bottom floor of a house. Animals were important to the livelihood of the people, so they kept the cows and sheep and so forth on the first floor and they lived on the second floor. There was a guide speaking to her group of pilgrims in either Russian or Polish. She was about 10 feet from the entrance and she was explaining to her group the meaning of the site (at least that is what I presume since I could not understand what she was saying). She kept talking and talking as we got closer to this holy place and I found it so annoying. I wanted peace and quiet to pray. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore and I gave her a big *shush* and folded my hands to tell her to pray. She got the message, at least for a few minutes. I couldn't help but think: here I am about to visit perhaps the holiest place on earth and I am angry. Finally, our group was able to get into the area of the nativity and kiss the ground, marked by a star, and do reverence to the Word Made Flesh.

As I tell you this story, you may be feeling that I am the ultimate Scrooge trying to spoil Christmas. I certainly do not sound like a travel agent for the town of Bethlehem. But, as the days and weeks have gone on, I have thought about that visit to Bethlehem, and have come to believe I would not have wanted it any other way. I say that because our Lord Jesus chose to come among us as a poor baby into a very messy world. He became a human being out of love for us, in spite of our sins, our failings, our materialism, our wars, our faults and mistakes. Jesus embraced the very chaos and confusion that I find difficult to accept in myself and others. He loved the world, and you and me as we are. He gently invites us to let him love us and then to respond in turn to love one another. The message of *peace on earth, good will to all* that the angels sang on the first Christmas, begins with Jesus. The fulfillment of this yearning has not yet come to fruition and will not until the end of time. Yet, we walk in hope and joy. We sing and celebrate because God loves us in all our struggles and pain. He did not turn away from us, give up on us, or leave us abandoned. He came among us as a man and embraced the entire world and each one of us in love.

Merry Christmas to you all and I will be selling, after Mass, leftover genuine olive wood flutes made in Bethlehem after Mass.

Merry Christmas and All God's Blessings in the 2014.

Father Patrick Woods CSSR

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The presents have been opened, the tree still shining in our living rooms, and hopefully the children are busy with the gifts they received from Santa. They are so excited about being home from school, and the parents.....well...they're excited also!

We have once again welcomed the Baby Jesus this past Christmas into our homes, our hearts, our very lives. And so we think about this past year and what it has brought to us. For some, the loss of a loved one. For others, the birth of a child. For still others, loss of a job, illness, and even poverty. And yet, as we look into the eyes of children, we see the eyes of hope....of the future...and a better world that will be in their hands.

As we make our New Year's resolutions which usually kick off with those 10 lbs. that just seem to hang around every year.....maybe we can add a few more good wishes to our list.

Perry Como sang, "It's not the things you do at Christmas time....but the Christmas things you do all year through!"

So....Let us each be a little kinder.....a little more understanding. Let's reach out to those in need, alone or homeless a little more this coming year. Let us stand up for our Military and give them the respect and security this country can give them. Let us write more to our congressmen when we disagree with how our country is being run.

Let us thank God more....for this magnificent country we call home. Let's never forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us to speak out both FOR...and AGAINST IT!

Let us pray for PEACE in this world. Let us Welcome Difference in both Race and Religion and RESPECT all people and their customs.

Let us WELCOME THE GIFT OF LIFE INTO THIS WORLD. Let us never forget that LIFE is the MOST TREASURED GIFT THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.

2013 is gone and we welcome 2014. Let us hope and pray that we will be better, kinder, and a world that reaches out to one another across all oceans and lands on this beautiful earth God has given us.

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE WISHES YOU ALL THE WARMEST, HEALTHIEST
AND HAPPIEST NEW YEAR!



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

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

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

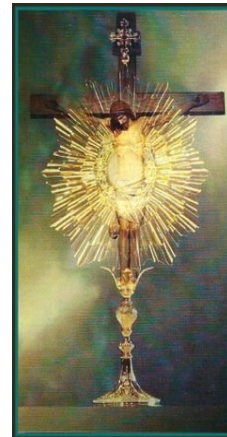


EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The next Adoration service is
 Tuesday, January 14th
 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.

Everyone is welcome!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 14: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM
- Jan. 21: Padre Pio 7PM
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Dec. 23 #443	Ann Pooler	\$25.00
Dec. 24 #156	Maria Lanzarone	\$25.00
Dec. 25 #26	Ruth O'Brien	\$25.00
Dec. 26 #59	M/M Frank Dillon	\$25.00
Dec. 27 #47	Edna Grudzinski	\$50.00

Message for our Newest Altar Servers

You should have received the schedule in an email this past Friday. However, if you did not receive it or cannot open it, please contact Genny at gamit1946@hotmail.com

Whenever there is a problem, please do not wait and wonder. Contact Genny so any issues can be resolved as soon as possible.

Looking Ahead:

Extra servers will be needed during the year. As you feel more confident, you can volunteer to serve for various church events such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation masses, Holy Week services and masses, Easter Vigil as well as regular weekend masses.

Thanks to all the boys and girls and their families who have volunteered to serve at the table of our Lord. God bless you all!

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.

ORIGINAL Book Club

Dear Book Club Friends,

All the participants at the last meeting were most insightful. It was another event of heartfelt 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.

Till then...happy reading!

Father Patrick Woods and Ann Mele

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscsr@aol.com or gam-it1946@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



God Bless all our service men and women serving to defend and protect our country. Bless, too, their families and friends as they await their safe return home.





Adult Choirs

**REGULAR 8:30 AND 11:30 CHOIRS
PRACTICES WILL RESUME
ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH.**

**LIFE TEEN BAND, PLEASE CHECK
WITH CHRIS FOR YOUR
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE.**

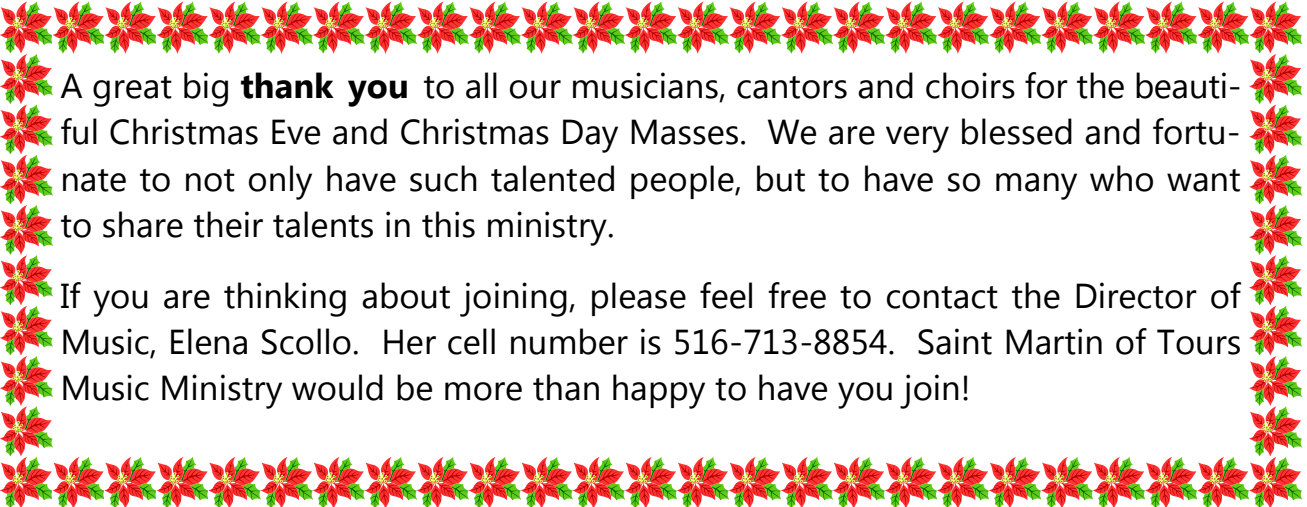


Children's Music Ministry

**Wednesday, January 1
NO PRACTICE!**

**Sunday, December 29 and January 5
Sing at 10:00 AM Mass as usual.**

(We will just sing Christmas Carols)



A great big **thank you** to all our musicians, cantors and choirs for the beautiful Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. We are very blessed and fortunate to not only have such talented people, but to have so many who want to share their talents in this ministry.

If you are thinking about joining, please feel free to contact the Director of Music, Elena Scollo. Her cell number is 516-713-8854. Saint Martin of Tours Music Ministry would be more than happy to have you join!



Octave of Christmas Mass

Schedule

December 31, 2013

No 6:30 AM Mass

9:00 AM

Vigil of the Octave Day of the
Nativity of the Lord

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy
Mother of God

7:00 PM

January 1, 2014

The Octave Day of the Nativity
of the Lord Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God

No 6:30 AM Mass

9:00 AM

12 Noon

7:00 PM

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>.

Middle School and High School Students Lectors Wanted at the Family Mass

Are you looking to improve your public speaking skills? Are you looking to be an active participant in Mass? Are you looking to gain a deeper understanding of the Gospel?



Are you a middle school or high school student looking for a way to serve your parish community? If you are... then we are looking for **you** to become a **Lector!**

St. Martin of Tours is looking for **middle school and high school students** who are interested in becoming Lectors for the Family Mass on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Please contact Rachel Maggio at rldoj@live.com or 516 622-3779.

Training is provided and encouragement and appreciation are guaranteed!