

***Masses For The Week*****Monday - January 20**6:30 **NO 6:30 MASS**

9:00 Ceclia Churilla

**Tuesday - January 21**

6:30 Pamela Karpiak

9:00 Special Intentions

**Wednesday - January 22**

6:30 Charles A. Cisco

9:00 Catherine Byrnes

**Thursday - January 23**

6:30 Christina Martuge

9:00 Christina Maria Logazzo

**Friday - January 24**

6:30 Mary &amp; Patrick Foley

9:00 Caroline Campbell

**Saturday - January 25**9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**

5:00 Sarah &amp; Thomas Hennessy, Sr.

7:00 Harry J. Cummings

**Sunday - January 26**

7:00 The People of the Parish

8:30 Theresa &amp; Marciano DelVicario

10:00 Lucille Considine

11:30 Lazzati &amp; Tesoriero Families

1:00 Alfred &amp; Doris Urbanski

5:30 Maria DiLeo, 3rd Anniversary

***Readings For The Week***

Mon. 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22

Tues. 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28

Wed. 1 Samuel 17:32-33; 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6

Thurs. 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12

Fri. 1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19

Sat. Acts 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18

**Sun. *Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3*** *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in the land of gloom now have joy, for the yoke that burdened them God has smashed.*

***1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*** Paul wrote to the people of Corinth: let "there be no divisions among you...be united in mind and in the same purpose." I have heard "that there are rivalries among you...Is Christ divided?"

***Matthew 4:12-23*** Jesus said to Simon Peter and Andrew, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they followed him. Jesus began to proclaim this: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He cured many people.

***Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift*****Weekend of January 11/12**

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received \$17,619.05

*Many thanks for your generosity!****Reflection & Living Stewardship***

Today's responsorial Psalm is the theme song of the good steward: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who take time each day to pray and discover how the Holy Spirit is working within them.

**Charismatic Prayer Group****"WE HAVE TO TALK!"**

Do these four words cause you to cringe with fear? It's never followed by "you're getting a raise!" But God loves to hear that from us! He's always ready to listen. Bring your problems and give them to God.

**Our next meeting is Monday, January 27th at 7:30 PM in the Church. 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**

Jan. 13	#114 John & Helena Carroll	\$25.00
Jan. 14	#221 Ledwin & Jack Mason	\$25.00
Jan. 15	#218 Joan McDonnell	\$25.00
Jan. 16	#290 Dolores Stewart	\$25.00
Jan. 17	#516 Billy & Mary Grieve	\$250.00

**St. Martin of Tours Wedding Banns**

3rd Andrew Tine &amp; Lauren Maniace



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

This week, the Pantry is low on boxed milk, pancake mix & syrup, ketchup, oil, cans of mixed fruit, pears, peaches & pineapple, chili, salmon, oatmeal, paper towels, tissues, conditioner, diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and baby wipes.

As always, we so appreciate your generous support.

**Food Pantry:**

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

**FYI...The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. We will open on Tuesday at 9AM.**

**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, Mary Henson  
Mary Lynn Brassil, Catherine Battiatia, Brendan Rodriguez  
Charles Drew, Rebecca Passaro, Joanne Maguire  
Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino  
Nicole Cagna, Linda Cicoello, Sal Mascolo, Patrick Crowe  
Gary Vlahov, Bridget Mullarkey, Irene Janampa  
Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Father Henry Sattler, CSSR  
Christopher Wezel, Eileen Catalano, Teresa Tavaralli  
James Miller

**Thought for the Week**

*To surrender yourself - to just be -  
frees you up to be completely in tune to the  
powerful presence of God in your life.*



*Week of Jan. 19-25, 2014  
Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Loving Memory of  
Michael F. Walsh*

***Rest in Peace***

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

**Estella Felice**

### *Letter from the Pastor*

*A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2*

You might have noticed two new pictures that have been added to the Church gathering space: one is a picture of four men carrying their friend to Jesus, and the other is an image of Jesus healing this man of his paralysis. I love this Gospel. For me, it is a great story of friendship and family. The four men who carried the paralytic to Jesus (we do not know if they were family or friends) must have loved this man very much to make this arduous journey. And, when they arrive at the house where Jesus is, they can't even get into the building because the crowds around Jesus are so great. So they go up to the roof and open a hole so they can lower their friend down to encounter Jesus and find healing and forgiveness.

When we had our recent capital campaign, I began almost every session and meeting with this Gospel because I think it is a perfect image of what a parish is. To me a parish is a community of members who have the goal of being with Jesus themselves, and helping others to get to the Lord. We need each other to meet the Lord and have a faith community. We carry each other to meet Christ in good times and in bad. I like the prayer that we say right before the Sign of Peace at Mass: *Look not on our sins, but on the faith of the Church*. Even if my faith is weak, I draw strength from the rest of the community. I know I am inspired by the confessions I hear, by the presence of people in the church at Mass and before the Blessed Sacrament, by the dedicated care of the poor at the Parish Outreach, by the dedication of those who minister to those grieving at funerals, to the homebound, and the countless other ways you make Christ visible here at our parish.

One of the most amazing parts of the capital campaign for me was when more than 150 people showed up at a meeting of volunteers. I was stunned by that and the love that they and so many others have for the parish and parishioners of St. Martin's. I know you, like me, are delighted by the results of the capital campaign and the generosity of so many through their donations, their prayers, and their volunteering. I am confident we will begin working on the projects in the coming months. Now, I want to continue our direction of moving forward to the future as a parish community. Many parishes have what are called stewardship committees and programs. Stewardship is based on some very simple but profound beliefs. The overall pillar of stewardship is that everything I have in my life, including my life itself, is a gift from God. My faith, my family, my friends, my work, the world around me, and most importantly the promise of eternal life are all gifts that God the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, has lavished on each one of us. Since God has been so good to me, how can I respond to this overwhelming goodness and generosity on the part of our God? As the Psalmist says, *what return can I make to the Lord for all the good he has done for me*. The best way we can respond to God is by being his disciple, as we follow Jesus, the Word made flesh. We seek to live our faith day to day, in all moments of our lives. One of the key ways of living our faith and responding to God's generosity is reflecting on my use of my time, my talents, and my treasure.

I confess that as soon as a priest uses the word *stewardship*, people say, "Ah, Father is going to talk about money." To me it is almost impossible to hear the word *stewardship* and not think about finances. Because of this reality, and because we think the word *stewardship*, however good it is, does not capture the fullness of being a follower of Jesus, a committee who has been meeting for almost a year, has decided to use the word *discipleship* rather than *stewardship*. Here is a definition of a disciple of Jesus:

*The first word for Christians was not "Christians" but "disciples." Newcomers to the faith saw themselves in relationship to the risen Lord Jesus in some way similar to the relationship of the first disciples to the earthly rabbi Jesus. A disciple learns by hearing his Master and doing like his Master. This is explicitly commanded by Jesus in John 13: "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you." The disciples are chosen by Jesus. He says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit."*

So it our my plan to incorporate an ongoing program of reflection and practical steps to incorporate a vision of being disciples of Jesus as we seek to be in relationship with Jesus, to learn from him, follow him, and to seek others to follow him by using our time, our talents, and our treasure as faithfully as we can. I know we have been doing this already in our Catholic lives; this is nothing new. What I hope to do is continue to reflect on these realities in a systematic way to help enhance our discipleship.

What does this mean in practicality? I assure you I do not plan on spending much time on talking about treasure in the coming two years; we have done more than enough of that with the capital campaign and you responded beautifully. Now I want us to reflect on all the gifts God has given us and how well we respond to that. So in the coming months you will be hearing about time and talent, and various ways we can use these two precious gifts to follow Christ.

***Save the date:* On Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning with the 9:00 a.m. Mass, followed by some talks and discussions and ending with lunch, we will have a parish faith assembly to reflect on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Everyone in the parish (except children under the age of 13) is invited. In particular, I do hope those who are presently in ministry will attend. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks. Thanks for being people who carry me to Jesus, and I know that is not easy due to the chocolate donuts.**

Father Pat, CSSR [woodscssr@aol.com](mailto:woodscssr@aol.com)  
[www.smtbethpage.org](http://www.smtbethpage.org)

January 22, 1973 marks the very sad date of the decision of the United States to legalize abortion in the United States. It was on that date in 1973 that the Supreme Court of the United States handed down two infamous decisions: Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton. As a result, "no significant barriers of any kind whatsoever exist today in the United States for a woman to obtain an abortion for any reason during any stage of pregnancy" (1983 Senate Judiciary Committee Report).



Certainly, we think of the million of lives that have been lost through abortions. I also think of the women and men who have made the decision to have abortions. Many of them carry great pain and sorrow and long for healing. In truth, the entire fabric of the United States continues to be impacted by these decisions of the court.

It does seem that some limited progress is being made in terms of respect for life since polls show more and more people moving to life positions. Yet, there have been ongoing challenges in terms of religious liberty and abortion with the Affordable Health Care Act.

Since 1973, there has been a march in Washington D.C. often in the bitter cold, as people of every age and faith have protested the pro-abortion decisions of the Court. It is amazing how many young people choose to march.

**Many of us for a variety of reasons, cannot get to Washington on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. So the parish will have a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament on January 22<sup>nd</sup> between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. as we pray for our nation and for all who have been impacted by the decisions of January 22, 1973. Nothing has greater power with God than does prayer. Please join us. Father Pat**

**Annual March for Life 2014  
Washington D.C.  
Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is asking for all to come to Washington for the 41st. Anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Join us to be a witness to life! The birth of every child changes the world; let every child be born for a better world! Register today. Signs will be available. Buses will leave from many points in Nassau and Suffolk along with the Diocese of Rockville Centre to bring participants to Washington D.C.

To find a local bus or for more information call:

Respect Life Office, DRVC: 516 678 5800 ext. 626 or 381. [www.drvc.org/respectlifeoffice](http://www.drvc.org/respectlifeoffice)  
or Long Island Coalition for Life: 631-243-1435 between the hours of 9am and 7pm.

**Pray with the USCCB  
Pray with the Bishops to End Abortion**

**NINE DAYS OF PRAYER, PENANCE AND PILGRIMAGE...JANUARY 18 - 26, 2014**

Catholics across the country are invited by the USCCB to participate in a 9-day period of prayer, penance and pilgrimage for the healing and conversion of our nation and people impacted by the culture of death. Pray with the Bishops to end abortion!

On January 22, 2014 our nation will remember the 41st anniversary of roe v. Wade. Since that tragic decision in 1973, **more than 55 million babies were lost to abortion** and lives of their parents have been shattered!

**HOW TO JOIN: Join by text message:** Receive a link to the new novena content on your cell phone each day. Text: 9 days to 99000

**Join by email:** email DRVC Respect Life Office at [www.drvc.org/respectlife](http://www.drvc.org/respectlife)

Enter your name and email to receive your daily intercessions, reflections and suggested acts of reparation.

**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, January 21 at 7:30PM in the Faculty Lounge at the School**



There will be NO Life Night on Sunday, January 19th due to the holiday weekend.

**Upcoming Events:** 1/26 - Life Night following the 5:30pm Mass - 8:30pm  
3/28-30 - Life Teen Long Island Retreat - More information coming soon!!

**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. You can contact Erin at [EKHoran@yahoo.com](mailto:EKHoran@yahoo.com) for more information.

Our next Edge night will be held on Thursday, January 23 from 7-8:30PM in the OLPH Youth Center. **Upcoming Event:** February 6: Edge Night 7-8:30PM in the OLPH Youth Center

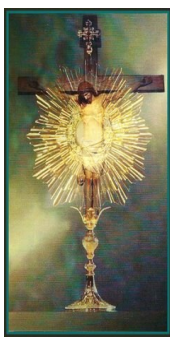


**The Edge program** is for all middle school aged students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). Edge meets every other Thursday evening from 7-8:30pm. This program is a wonderful way for young adolescents to grow in their faith as well as build lasting friendships.

**ALL ABOUT CAMP VERITAS:** Registration is open for **Camp Veritas 2014** which is from **August 17 - 23!** SMT already has a wonderful group of young people signed up and ready to go! If you are interested in getting more information about Camp Veritas, please contact Erin. There will be a **brief informational meeting** held on **Thursday, January 30 at 7PM in the OLPH Youth Center**. Please visit [www.CampVeritas.com](http://www.CampVeritas.com) to check it out! Make sure you watch the video on the homepage...you might see some familiar faces!

For questions about Youth Ministry at SMT or to inquire about joining our team, please contact Erin Horan-Baudille at [SMT\\_Lifeteen@yahoo.com](mailto:SMT_Lifeteen@yahoo.com).

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



The next Adoration service is  
Tuesday, February 11th at 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. 20: Rectory Closed for MLK, Jr. Day
- Jan. 21: Padre Pio 7PM
- Jan. 21: VIRTUS Training 7:30PM
- Jan. 22: Respect Life Holy Hour 3PM
- Feb. 1: First Saturday 8:30AM
- Feb. 7: First Friday 7PM
- Feb. 8/9: Propagation of the Faith Appeal
- Feb. 11: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM
- Mar. 2: St. Patrick's Mass 1PM
- Mar. 15: Parish Assembly: *"What it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ."* Begins with the 9:00AM Mass.
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM
- Holy Face Devotions:  
1st Monday of the Month at 1PM Church

### ***Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat***

We know that many women and men struggle with the emotional and spiritual pain associated with abortion. According to recent statistics, one in three people who come to church have been touched by an abortion.

The retreat will be held **February 21-23, 2014 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington NY**. You can register by mailing a check for \$150.00 with your name, address, phone and email address. Make checks payable to Life Center of Long Island and mail to:

Life Center of Long Island  
35 E. Willow Street  
Massapequa NY 11758

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Joe McNicholas at (516)445-3927 or online at: [rwr@lifecenterli.org](mailto:rwr@lifecenterli.org). For additional information, you may also call Rachel's Vineyard toll free at 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the website at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

### **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 Book Club Friends,



Our book is "The Sea" by John Danville. The meeting will be Saturday, January 18th at 10AM at 208 Broadway (the Parish Outreach Center).

We look forward to lively conversation filled with insight, opinions, knowledge, personal experiences and laughter as a community of Catholics at St Martin of Tours. 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

### FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Mirando  
(C)830-5077 (H) 605-1979  
**ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24  
HOURS, RACHEL'S VINEYARD RE-  
TREAT (631) 243-2373.**

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

### 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  
 L CPL 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  
 PFC Michael Patrick Murphy



### 2014 Membership Appeals for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

St. Martin of Tours will be welcoming Sister Rosemary Hayes, SHCJ who will be speaking at all Masses on behalf of the Propagation of the Faith during the weekend of February 8th and 9th. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

### **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>.

### **Padre Pio Holy Hour**

***Please join us on Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00PM in the Church for the Padre Pio Holy Hour. His first and second class relics will be venerated.***







# Life Center of Long Island

*serving Long Island since 1986*

1767 Deer Park Avenue, Deer Park, NY 11729 | 631.243.2373  
 35 East Willow Street, Massapequa, NY 11758 | 516.798.9100  
 507 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550 | 516.408.6300

January 13, 2014

Fr. Patrick Woods  
 St. Martin of Tours Church  
 40 Seaman Ave.  
 Bethpage, NY 11714

Dear Fr. Woods,

Thank you! There is no letter that can adequately thank you for the success of the 2013 Baby Bottle Fundraiser. The parish's recent participation contributed \$12,227! St. Martin of Tours has really become a pillar of strength to The Life Center. Your labors to protect Life are an inspiration and we are grateful to God for giving you to us.

Our staff prays that God will take care of the financial needs of The Life Center as it attracts more clients every year. Our new interactive website is bringing in more clients to all of our three centers. Your commitment to this project is most certainly an answered prayer for all of us.

We certainly would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by Fr. Henry, Diana and Jerry Mirando and the Respect Life Committee. This dedication is truly appreciated.

God bless you & your parish for your faithfulness to the Gospel of Life!

For all God's children,

Gloria Schreiber  
 Executive Director

Cc: Fr. Henry Sattler  
 Diana & Jerry Mirando

#### Officers

Gloria Schreiber  
*Executive Director*  
 Deacon Thomas Lucie  
*Vice President*  
 Paul Hodermarsky  
*Treasurer*  
 Carleen Russell  
*Secretary*

#### Board of Directors

Matthew J. De Marco, Esq. KM  
*Chairman of the Board*  
 Lawrence DiBlasi  
 Lorraine Gariboldi  
 Paul Hodermarsky  
 Dr. Lisa A. Honkanen  
 Deacon Thomas Lucie  
 Linda Alba Masin, Esq.  
 Carleen Russell

#### Chaplain

Rev. Francis B. Nuss

#### Advisors

Msgr. James P. Lisante  
*Spiritual Advisor*  
 Chris Modelewski, Esq.  
*Legal Advisor*  
 Dr. Robert Scanlon  
*Medical Advisor*

## *Liturgically Speaking...*

### **WHY DO WE DO THIS AT THE MASS?**

At the beginning of the Mass, after the sign of the cross, when the priest welcomes the people with "The Lord be with you" and the people respond with "and with your Spirit," why is this so?

This goes back to St. Paul in Galatians 6:18 -*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters – Amen*; Philippians 4:23 *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit*; and 2 Timothy 4:22 -*The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be to all of you.*

The people acknowledge that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Risen Jesus, is with the priest as well as with them (the people) because every person actively and fully participates in the Mass - regardless of one's role.

### **"UNCLE" FATHER PAT WANTS YOUR HELP!**

The parish is looking for some people to do ministry on Ash Wednesday. As you know, Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, is one of the busiest days of the year in the parish. Many people come to church to receive ashes as Lent begins. Some are regular members of the parish, while others may have drifted from the regular practice of their faith. Others may like information about the parish, or a word on how to reconnect to the Church.

You would be asked to attend a service or two and be available to anyone who might seek out such assistance. You would have a badge that would identify you as a member of our welcome team. We would have some handouts available for those who would like one, and perhaps a small gift such as a cross that you might offer to those who speak to you. You do not have to be an expert on the Church or the parish. Your main goal would be to put a warm face on our parish; if people want more assistance you can tell them how to get in touch with the parish staff. We would have one training session a week or so before Ash Wednesday. This is a one time commitment and your help would be a great blessing and perhaps you can be an instrument of grace that our Lord uses to invite someone into a deeper relationship with him. Email ([woodscsr@aol.com](mailto:woodscsr@aol.com)) or phone me (931-0818).



*Father Pat*

## Responding To Your Questions

I am delighted that some parishioners choose to email, write, phone, or speak to me about topics of concern about the parish. It is a desire of mine to be approachable and to listen to what you have to say. I must confess, I do occasionally misplace a note or email and fail to respond and I apologize for that. Sometimes I put a suggestion aside because I want to think about it or consult with others such as the clergy, the staff, the pastoral council or other groups (and then forget or lose sight of it). Occasionally the wheels of the parish grind slowly and it takes a while to get an answer. However, here are three topics that have been brought to my attention:

1) Some people have asked that the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday evening be earlier, perhaps at 4:00 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. This is certainly a reasonable request. I think this suggestion is made because there are some people who do not like to drive in the dark. I appreciate this concern and I have consulted with both the staff and the pastoral council about this issue. We have decided to stay with our present schedule because it would make scheduling Saturday weddings more difficult if we changed the 5:00 p.m. to an earlier time. Even though there are not that many weddings, I believe our parish must do its best to work with couples getting married.

We *have* improved the lightening in the parking areas. There was the opinion that there would be as many people upset with changing the time of the 5:00 p.m. as there would be those who would be happy. No schedule will work for everyone. For those who do not want to drive at night, there are at least four masses, the 8:30 a.m., the 10:00 a.m., the 11:30 a.m. and the 1:00 p.m. that are in the daytime with plenty of light.

2) I was also asked why we do not have communion distribution begin in the front of the church rather than at the back as we presently do. I consulted with several people and was told when the church was renovated, this method proved to be the most practical. There is no theological or spiritual reason for this decision. We give out Holy Communion this way on the weekend because we think it is the most orderly and practical way. I do thank those who asked me to consider this question.

3) Finally, there was some complaint that there are certain weekdays when parking becomes difficult with the 9:00 a.m. Mass participants still attending the liturgy and those coming in for a 9:45 a.m. funeral who are looking for a place to park. Naturally, we want to be as supportive as we can to those who are coming to a funeral while at the same time respecting those who attend daily Mass.

After consultation with the staff, it was decided to have weekday funerals at 10:00 a.m., rather than at 9:45 a.m., and this then leads to the 10:45 a.m. funerals to begin at 11:00 a.m. and the 11:45 a.m. funerals to begin at 12:00 p.m. However, on Saturdays we will continue with the 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. times because of the cost of overtime for burials after a certain time at the cemeteries. This new policy seems to have worked out and I appreciate those who brought it to my attention.

You may not always agree with the decisions that are made, but I do promise you that your recommendations are listened to and taken seriously. If you want to blame someone, see Father Ciya.

*Father Pat, CSSR*

## **St. Edward the Confessor School**

Early Childhood \* Elementary \* Middle School

*“Teaching from Generation to Generation”*

### **OPEN HOUSE**

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2014 10-11:30AM**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2014 11-1PM**

*If you would like more information about our school or want to schedule a tour, please call the main office at (516) 921-7767 or visit our website at*

**[www.stedwardconfessor.org](http://www.stedwardconfessor.org)**

**2 Teibrook Avenue, Syosset NY 11791-3830**

**Phone: 516 921-7767 \* Fax: 516 496-0001**

## *Holy Family School...*

*“making a difference, one child at a time”*

17 Fordham Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801 516-938-3846 x 329

**We invite you to visit our school during our Open House**

**Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:30AM~2:00PM**

**See our classrooms and meet our teachers, students, administration, and staff.**

**We offer:**

**“Side by Side” a program for 2 year olds with an adult**

**Full and half day Nursery and Pre-K**

**Kindergarten through Grade 8**

**Morning and After Care for all grades including Nursery and Pre-K.**

**Call the school office for information and enrollment options!**

## RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

As buses from all over our country head for Washington D.C. on Wednesday, January 22 to stand together for the RIGHT OF HUMAN LIFE, let us keep them in our prayers. Let us keep in mind that these people have come together to march in peaceful protest to the killing of over 55 million babies since Roe V. Wade in 1973. Over all these years, they have walked in snow, rain and freezing temperatures to show their unity and devotion to the future of our country, our children. May God bless them and may they return home with more hope for this new year. Hope that this law will somehow be overturned by their constant devotion to life.

Following are some quotes from Church Documents about Issues on Human Life, Justice and Peace. USCCB

"Responsibility falls on the LEGISLATORS who have promoted and approved abortion laws, and, to the extent that they have a say in the matter, on the ADMINISTRATORS of the HEALTHCARE CENTERS where ABORTIONS ARE PERFORMED. In this sense abortion goes beyond the responsibility of individuals and beyond the harm done to them, and takes on a distinctly social dimension. It is a most serious wound inflicted on society and its culture by the people who ought to be SOCIETY'S PROMOTERS AND DEFENDERS." Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law."

If you can possibly make the trip to Washington, this being the 41st Anniversary of Roe V. Wade, there is still time to find a local bus. For more information call:

THE RESPECT LIFE OFFICE, DRVC. 516-678-5800 x 626 or 381

[www.drvc.org/respectlifeoffice](http://www.drvc.org/respectlifeoffice). or

LONG ISLAND COALITION FOR LIFE 631-243-1435 9am - 7pm.

ANY ONE WHO MAY NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO MAKE THE TRIP, SUCH AS BUS FARE, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY FOR ASSISTANCE.

We urge those CATHOLIC OFFICIALS who choose to DEPART FROM CHURCH TEACHING on the INVIOABILITY OF HUMAN LIFE in their public life to consider the consequences for their own spiritual well-being, as well as the scandal they may risk by leading others into serious sin. We call on them to reflect on the grave contradiction of assuming public roles and presenting themselves as CREDIBLE CATHOLICS when their actions on FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF HUMAN LIFE are not in agreement with Church teaching.

No PUBLIC OFFICIAL, ESPECIALLY ONE CLAIMING TO BE A FAITHFUL AND SERIOUS CATHOLIC, can responsibly advocate for or actively support direct ATTACKS ON INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE. No appeal to policy, procedure, majority will or pluralism ever excuses a PUBLIC OFFICIAL from DEFENDING LIFE to the greatest extent possible. As is true of LEADERS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE, no POLITICAL LEADER CAN EVADE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HIS OR HER EXERCISE OF POWER. Evangelium Vitae 73-4

## The Tabernacle Has Been Repaired

I am happy to announce that our tabernacle has been repaired. As you might remember from previous notes in the bulletin, there had been an ongoing serious problem with the doors of the tabernacle. The tabernacle is at least 90 years old and is a great treasure of the parish. I am grateful to several parishioners who gave money without even being asked. The cost of the repair is about \$1,200.00 and a new door was placed on the tabernacle since the old door was beyond repair.

I think Mr. John O'Reilly did wonderful work in matching the new door to the tabernacle. The key and door is much more user-friendly than was the former door that kept getting broken. There was a fear, as did happen about six years or so ago, the Blessed Sacrament could get locked in the tabernacle with no easy way to open the door.

Can we even begin to imagine the amount of people who have received Holy Communion that was kept in the tabernacle between Masses? I like to think about the generations after generations of people who prayed in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament where the Eucharist was reserved in the tabernacle. Prayers were said for children who were ill, young people getting married, husbands at war, for work during the Depression, for faith, for a loved one suffering from cancer, for a good mark in a school test, to pass one's driver's test, to meet a nice fellow, the prayers of December 7, 1941, November 22, 1963, and September 11, 2001.

This weekend as a way of expressing gratitude to God for all the people who have prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and as a way of showing the parish the repair, and most importantly as a way of honoring the great gift Jesus gave by his presence in the Eucharist, the new tabernacle will be placed in the prayer area of the Church for the weekend Masses. After this weekend, it will be returned to its designed place in the Eucharistic Chapel.

*Father Pat*

