

Masses For The Week

- Monday - January 12**
 6:30 Donald Bealey
 9:00 Elizabeth Doherty, 50th Birthday, Living
- Tuesday - January 13**
 6:30 Anna Marshall
 9:00 Richard Godek
- Wednesday - January 14**
 6:30 Donald Bealey
 9:00 Reno Pelus
- Thursday - January 15**
 6:30 Matthew Snadecky
 9:00 Martin Barry
- Friday - January 16**
 6:30
 9:00 Anthony & Margaret Simone, Sr.
- Saturday - January 17**
 9:00 INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Michael & Josephine Caprio
 7:00 James Miller
- Sunday - January 18**
 7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Charles A. Cisco
 10:00 Robert Start
 11:30 Michael DeZervos, 3rd Anniversary
 1:00 Kevin Rusch
 5:30 Michael A. Jr. & Sr. & Michael V. Maggio

Readings For The Week

- Mon. Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20
 Tues. Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28
 Wed. Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39
 Thurs. Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45
 Fri. Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12
 Sat. Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17
Sun. *1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 Samuel thought Eli was calling him but then recognized the Lord. He said, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." He heard the Lord and followed.*
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Paul told his friends that their bodies are "members of Christ...a temple of the Holy Spirit within you." He said, "You are not your own...Glorify God in your body."
John 1:35-42 Andrew sought out his brother Simon to tell him, "We found the Messiah" (the Christ). Jesus met Simon and renamed him Cephas (Peter).

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Christmas Collection: \$54,063.00
 Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00
 12/28/14 \$16,077.94
 1/4/15 \$21,907.00

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The US Bishops' Pastoral on Stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives us a share in His priestly work and calls us "to offer up the world and all that is in it - especially ourselves - to the Lord of all."



We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who answer their baptismal call by placing their gifts and resources, their very selves, at God's service not only in the Church but in the world.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Christmas and memories go together. We tell stories, sing songs, share childhood memories of Christmas, bring out old ornaments and decorations and see some relatives and friends - sometimes only once a year at Christmas! It's too bad that the Christmas-y feeling gets packed away with the ornaments and decorations. This year, keep one special ornament out so whenever you look at it, you can spark that feeling of Christmas. Memories are limitless - like God's love!

Our next meeting is Monday, January 12th at 7:30 PM in the Church. Everyone is welcome! Call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

Rectory will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

HOP Winners on page 11.



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.”

This week, the Pantry could use cereals, pancake mix, white rice, sugar, stew, chili, tomato paste, pancake syrup, mayonnaise, oil, brownies, cake mix, evaporated milk, boxed milk, pudding, toilet paper, shampoo, diapers (size 5) and baby wipes.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity. Due to your help during the month of December, we were able to serve 640 people from 105 individual families.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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

**No matter how you feel...
Get up...dress up...show up.
Never give up!**

**Regina Brett
Author & Inspirational Speaker**

Rest in Peace

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

*Joseph Vecchio, John G. Mason
Fanny LoGiudice*

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Reminder: please call the rectory at 931-0818 to remove a name from the list. Thank you.

Vincent Valenti, Ledwin Mason, Leevalli Annearosa
Pattie Meegan, Fran Pignataro, Leigh Murphy
Richard Piernini, John Tortorice, Joseph Simon
Douglas Torres, James Robertson, Amy Hayes
Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina
Sharon Shiepkco, Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell
Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson, Donald Castor
Dorothy Quinn, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov
Patricia Marrone, Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil
Catherine Battiata, Brendan Rodriguez, Rebecca Passaro
Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino
Nicole Cagna, Gary Vlahov, Christopher Wezel
Eileen Catalano, Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh
Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Louise Sandberg
Jennie Ruggiero, Nicholas Tiseo, Florencio Carmenate
Anthony Luisi, Deacon Gene Capobianco, Mary McCarthy
Christina Macchio, Karen Kilgard, Angela Calendrille
Tess Steubing, Ann Marie Frayler, Nicholas Balducci
Robert Kennan, Corey Voboril, Charles Walsh
Baby Scarlett May Duffey, Vincent Mescia, Tommy Johnson
Margaret Amarosa, Joey Boncic, Harry Smith
Joseph Vareed, Joseph Antonakos, James Cardillo
Grace Pastorello, Anna M. Bosco, Baby Daniel
Janet Medina, Kevin Henson, Marie Newman, Jane Moore
Lee Berkowitz, The Mascia Family, Caleb Haniquet
Edward Brown, Ceil Hollander, Ann Mirto, Vicki Perri
Daniel Costa, Nikki Eleanor Behrik, Hector Valentine
Theresa DuRoss, Bob Baciуска, Lorraine Dennan
Deacon Jim Biggin, Baby Aubrey, Carol Ann Scudder
John Scudder, Thomas Napoli, Joan Spira
Gerald Campbell, Nicki

Week of January 11 - 17, 2015

Sanctuary Candle

*In Loving Memory of
Mascia & Miller Families*



Week of January 11-17, 2015

*Altar Bread & Wine
In Loving Memory of
Robert Hock*

Pastor's Letter

*"But Mary treasured up all these things
and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19*

I had a FM station programmed on my car radio for Christmas music. I am not sure when it began playing the music, but I suspect it was a week or so before Thanksgiving Day. As I was making a trip to visit a friend a few days after Christmas, I put on the radio and found that it was playing their regular music selections. My trip to CVS on December 26th stressed half price wrapping papers as the Valentine Cards were being placed front and center. Although some may like to sing the Twelve Days of Christmas with the twelve drummers drumming, we do most of our Christmas celebrating before December 25th.

Exhausted, tired, and overstuffed, we have little energy for further celebrating after Santa has come. Perhaps, we can muster enough strength to raise a glass in a toast on New Year's Eve and shed a tear to the Auld Lang Syne and take down the tree and lights. Another Christmas has come and gone, too quickly for sure, but it is gone.



It is a common complaint that our culture starts celebrating the Christmas season far too early. It seems the day after Halloween is a kind of unofficial kick off to the holidays. On the other hand, we allow the celebrating and joy that marks the birth of Christ to just one night (Christmas Eve).

In our Catholic Liturgy, we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season until Sunday, January 11, 2015, which is the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. By the time this feast has rolled around, most of us are either in a kind of post Christmas blues feeling, or wondering if we should leave the lights up all year long. Although I love Christmas carols, I find them hard to sing when Christmas Day has passed.

I love the words in the Gospel of Luke, *"Mary pondered and treasured all these thing in her heart."* The Blessed Mother has had some very remarkably profound experiences since the Angel Gabriel appeared to her nine months before Christmas - the fear of what others, in particular Joseph, would think about her pregnancy, the wonder of being addressed by an angel of God with a mission to be the Mother of God, the birth of Jesus in a stable, the visit of the shepherds, the song of the Angels, the visit by the Magi, the flight into Egypt as the Holy Innocence are slaughtered by a vicious King Herod, the prophecy of Simeon and Anna. *Pondering and Treasuring.*

I decided to do a little pondering and treasuring of this past Christmas season as I seek to understand it in the mystery of God and his amazing grace and love. Here are ten memories I am pondering and treasuring:

1. The quiet of our two Advent prayer services that allowed me to be still and know that God is present.
2. The mystery of losing three family members within a week and the gift of the priesthood to offer support to those who were in deep mourning.
3. Four exhausting performances of *Scrooge* with various sections of the religious education program.
4. Celebrating Midnight Mass. I think this was the first Midnight Mass I have ever celebrated in all my years of being a priest.
5. Karaoke with the family at a Christmas gathering. After hearing seventeen versions of *Let It Go* from *Frozen*, I decided to belt out *Tomorrow* from *Annie*. I stopped singing when I saw that my three year old great niece, Mairead, had her ears covered!
6. A wonderful Christmas visit with a dear friend.
7. The pain and sadness as two police officers were murdered.
8. A great Christmas dinner with my family.
9. A quiet drink with our CSsR community on Christmas Eve as the rush of the first wave of Masses had been celebrated.
10. Sharing *Watch for the Light* with the Spiritual Book Club.

Pondering and Treasuring. I invite you to do the same. See if you can write down ten thoughts, feelings, memories, and experiences you want to reflect upon as we leave the Christmas season. Some of them may be happy moments; others may have been sad and there may have been lots of ordinary ones in the midst of the days since Thanksgiving.

As you do this, you are joining with the Blessed Mother in prayer. You are meditating on the presence of God in your life. You are welcome to share them with another or just keep them private. Happy Twelve Days of Christmas!

Father Patrick Woods, CSsR
woodscsr@aol.com; www.smtbethpage.org



Many thanks to Father Pat for welcoming Lighthouse Catholic Media to our parish. The results were overwhelmingly wonderful, as many people purchased numerous CDs, books, and New Testament Bibles. Many commented very positively on the great speakers and writers that LCM has on board. One person told me he came back into the church after listening to a talk on confession from a CD he purchased from LCM.

I also want to thank all those who volunteered during the two weekends of the sale: Kate Mayerhofer, Ken Sylvester, Laura Letourneau, Bill Rochford, and Toni Kavanagh. I am so grateful for all your help and assistance. You all did a great job! Father Pat has asked me to consider doing a similar program of having materials available as Lent begins. Have a happy and healthy New Year!

-- In Mary Immaculate, Rita Verow

I want to thank Rita Verow and all the volunteers for working on this project. I explained that the sale of spiritual readings and listening materials had no goal other than to give parishioners a chance to deepen their understanding of their Catholic faith. The parish sought to make no profit from these materials as they were sold at cost.

I hope to continue to make such fine materials available to you. Father Pat

Holy Family School

"We make a difference one child at a time"

17 Fordham Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801

www.hfsli.org

OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015 FROM 11:30 - 2:20pm

Holy Family School, located on Fordham Avenue in Hicksville, is a Diocesan Elementary School that prides itself on meeting the individual needs of every student entrusted to our care. We offer Nursery through Grade 8. Presently, the 388 students that make up our student body come from 28 Parishes and 29 School Districts. We are Middle States accredited, a National School of Excellence, and hold the Bethpage Federal Credit Union and Long Island Press "Best of Long Island" title in the categories of: Best Catholic Elementary School, and Best Principal.

If you are considering a Catholic Elementary School education for your child, we invite you to come visit our school and learn more about what we have to offer. Come meet our teachers, students, staff, families, and administration and hear more about all the great things we have to offer! Private tours are available at any time. Just call 516-938-3846 x329 for an appointment.

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 the diocese website at www.drvc.org. **Virtus registration can be found at the lower right of the home page.** If you have any problems with the process, please call the rectory and someone will get back to you with assistance.

Next Virtus at St. Martin of Tours
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
@ 7:00PM
St. Alphonsus Parish Hall

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.**

In Grateful Thanks!

First and foremost we would like to thank Father Patrick Woods, CSSR for his great kindness and concern for our family at the loss of our dear mother, Mary Rabbitte. We were so grateful to him throughout her illness and passing. He couldn't do enough for us!

We would also like to thank the Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity, The Young at Heart, the Divine Mercy Devotional Prayer Group and all the prayer groups that she loved. We also want to acknowledge the St. Clement Bakers for the delicious baked goods that they provided. This is such a wonderful ministry to have in our parish.

And especially to all the parishioners of St. Martin of Tours who have known our mother throughout the years...thank you and God bless you all!

Sincerely,

The Family of Mary Rabbitte

**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 these days and hours. Thank you.



1/11/15: Life Night 7-8:30PM OLPH Youth Room following the 5:30PM Mass. All High School teens are welcome to join us. Dinner will be served.

Upcoming Event:

1/18: NO Life Night due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend



Edge meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month in the OLPH Youth Center from 7-8:30pm.

Upcoming Events: 1/22/15: Edge Night 7-8:30PM OLPH Youth Room

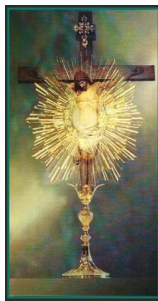
Edge Retreat!!!

On January 24th Edge will be holding its Second Annual Edge Day of Retreat right here at St. Martin of Tours. It is open to all young parishioners in grades 6 to 8. Please contact Erin for more information!

To see our full schedule, please visit SMTBethpage.org!

For questions about Youth Ministry at SMT or to inquire about joining our team, please contact Erin Horan-Baudille at SMT_Lifeteen@Yahoo.com.

The Youth Ministry has an office phone now! It is (516) 870-5669.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Youth Ministry Adoration is Tuesday, January 13th
at 7:00 PM in the Church.

Everyone is welcome!

Bethpage Community Foundation

The Bethpage Community Foundation partners with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - especially after the Bretton's Bowl charity football game. Here's how it works: St. Martin's Conference submits the names of our current, most needy families to the Bethpage Community Foundation. The Community Foundation's board of directors review the submissions from the Society, other churches and non-profit agencies in Bethpage as well as the school district. They decide how best to allocate the money.

Once again, the people of Bethpage responded generously to the needy families who live in our hamlet. Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference submitted twenty-three names. They will be receiving checks within a few days. Thank you to all those who contributed to the Bretton's Bowl and the Bethpage Community Foundation.

St. Martin of Tours, St. Vincent de Paul Conference

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscsrs@aol.com or gamit1946@hotmail.com to add your loved one to this prayer list.



Lord of Hosts, we commend to Your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that beset them; and grant them Your abiding presence wherever they may be. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



MAJ Brian McGrath, US Army
 CPT Gregory Holownia, US Army
 PO3 Matthew Sadecki, USCG
 SGT Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
 PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army, Afghanistan
 L CPL Dennis Diesel, USMC
 L CPL 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
 SGT Michael John Kelly, USMC
 1LT Brian McGrath, US Army
 SPC Matthew Castellano, US Army
 PFC Michael Patrick Murphy, US Army, Korea
 PFC William Corrigan, USMC
 PFC Salvatore Battiata, USAF
 LT Daniel Cloonan, USCG
 PVT Daniel Kuhlmann, US Army
 LCPL Jonathan M. Gordon, USMC
 2LT Sean O'Donnell, USAF
 SGT Matthew C. Windisch, USMC
 E3 CORPSMAN Robert Fidnarick, US Navy
 1LT Brian Thorpe, USN Pilot, Persian Gulf
 PO3 Joshua Zimmerman, US Navy
 MAJ Brendan McEvoy, US Army, Afghanistan
 PVT Matthew F. Mayerhofer, US Army
 BUCN Sean Bourke, US Navy
 PO3 James Fischer, US Navy
 LTCOL John Evans, US Army
 STS2(SS) James McDevitt, US Navy

Dear Saint Martin of Tours Book Club Friends,

Our next meeting will be Friday, January 30, 2015 at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. We will be reading *"The Boys in the Boat"* by Daniel James Brown.

Once again all are welcome including new faces and familiar ones. Your participation is a true joy to each and every one of us. The book does not need to be completed when you attend the meeting. We look forward to seeing you! Happy and Healthy New Year to All!

Father Patrick Woods and Ann Mele

FUNDRAISER FOR JOEY

Join us for a fundraiser for the Boncic Family at **Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown on Wednesday evening, February 4th at 8PM.** Joey is putting up a good fight, and we need to continue to rally behind him!

FOR TICKET SALES:

Courtney Fenyo: courtneyfenyo@hotmail.com

Jennifer McAuliffe: nyjenn1974@yahoo.com

FOR RAFFLE DONATIONS:

Mary Ann Botoska: marybotoska@gmail.com

Maria Regina School

4045 Jerusalem Avenue in Seaford

www.mariareginaschool.org

**You are cordially invited to any of our
Open Houses!**



FAITH FORWARD

MARIA REGINA SCHOOL

Thursday, January 22, 2015

6pm – 8pm – Early Childhood only
– Nursery, Pre-K or Kindergarten

Sunday, January 25, 2015

10:00am – 12 noon – All grades
Nursery thru Grade 8.

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

10:00am – 11:00am

**Come to a place where values are learned,
where your child can reach their full potential
in a safe and nurturing environment.**

Call for a tour: 516-541-1229

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

HICKSVILLE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS IS HOSTING

MILITARY BRIDGE

When: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Where: Msgr. Tarrant Hall

Msgr. Tarrant Hall is in the St. Ignatius Old School on East Nicolai Street (behind the church). The Hall is handicapped accessible.

Time: Doors open at 1:30 pm

Game Start: Promptly at 2:00

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Reservations: Please call Alice at 516-433-7857

Cake, coffee, and tea is included. Everyone will go home with a beautiful prize!

Walk-ins are welcome!

Join us for lots and lots of fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 11: Blessing of children baptized in 2014 at 10AM Mass
- Jan 13: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM
- Jan 19: Rectory Closed Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jan 20: Padre Pio Prayer Group 7PM Church
- Jan 21: VIRTUS 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Jan 24: Edge Retreat - Grades 6 to 8
- Jan 30: SMT Book Club 7:30PM St Alphonsus
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM at St. James Parish, Seaford
- Holy Face Devotions: 1st Monday of the Month 1:00PM Church

Congratulations to all our winners!

HOP Club Winners

12/29/14	#390	Philip A. Ciminelli	\$25
12/30/14	#500	Kathy & Ed Silk	\$25
12/31/14	#76	M/M Brendan Reilly	\$25
1/1/15	#184	Ken & Marie Evans	\$25
1/2/15	#521	Judy McKeon	\$50
1/5/15	#620	Robert Albertson	\$25
1/6/15	#508	Ray Reynolds	\$25
1/7/15	#143	Jim & Carmela Biggin	\$25
1/8/15	#39	F & D Mekalainas	\$25
1/9/15	#341	Elaine Toomey	\$50

To donate furniture: St. Vincent de Paul at 516-746-8250

**POPE FRANCIS HOSPITALITY CENTER LOCATED AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SCHOOL BASEMENT, 1510 DE PAUL STREET, ELMONT NY 11003
Every Saturday 9AM to 1PM**

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

129 Broadway (Route 107)
Hicksville NY 11801 presents dinner and

“A Night at the Races”

Date: January 24, 2015

Place: Msgr. Tarrant Hall

St. Ignatius Church is at 129 Broadway (rt.107), Hicksville. Msgr. Tarrant Hall is in the Old School on East Nicolai Street (behind the church). The Hall is handicapped accessible.

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm

Dinner served at 7 pm

Races start at 7:45 pm

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Dinner will be served buffet style and we ask that you bring your own drinks. Water will be available for purchase. For reservations please call Karen at 516-937-5527. **We hope you will join us for a fun filled night!!**



*A Marianist Elementary School
Grades Pre-K through 8*

St. Martin de Porres Marianist School

*Growing in Wisdom, Faith, and Knowledge
Elementary Education in the Marianist Tradition*

Open House

*Saturday, January 24, 2015
1:00pm to 3:00pm*

*530 Hempstead Boulevard
Uniondale, New York
516 481-3303*

www.stmartinmarianist.org

**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>

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.



How blessed we are to serve such a loving and generous parish community! On behalf of Fathers Ciya, Henry and Jim, I offer all our parishioners our deepest gratitude for your overwhelming love expressed at Christmas.

So many of you sent us cards with words of appreciation and the promise of prayers. Many of you gave us special gifts that touched us very much. We were surrounded by a wealth of the best cookies and cakes that one could ever imagine! I am well fueled with that special Irish "holy water!"

Thank you for your kind greetings and warm wishes. We feel so very appreciated by all of you. Thank you so very much for all you do for the Redemptorist community here.

Fathers Pat, Henry, Jim and Ciya

RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVES: PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Human life should be protected. All medical decisions ought to reflect this core belief. Yet black and white answers to our questions about end-of-life issues are not always possible, and it can be very difficult to know how to make medical decisions. Each and every human person is distinct and unrepeatable, and each medical situation may be unique. In each set of circumstances we need to judge whether a given treatment will provide real benefit to the patient, without causing harm or other burdens that are out of proportion to the good being done.



We can first safeguard our Catholic values by APPOINTING a trustworthy person now to make decisions for us in the event that we are incapable of doing so, either physically or mentally. It is important to be aware of the different legal or medical documents that are available or are often used to define a patient's care. Some documents can be counter to Catholic morality and more harmful than we might realize.

The safest option is to designate a health care agent who not only understands our Catholic values but also shares them and can apply them to current situations and respond to questions as they arise. In choosing an agent or proxy, a person can declare in writing that all treatment and care decisions made on their behalf must be consistent with and not contradict the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

Some states and healthcare systems have been implementing a troubling document known as a PHYSICIAN ORDER FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT, POLST. The POLST document is filled out by a doctor or other medical professional to define treatments to be withheld or administered in a future situation. It has been CRITICIZED for placing more POWER IN THE HANDS OF PHYSICIANS THAN IN PATIENTS HANDS. Once signed by the physician, it becomes a doctor's order to other medical staff, and may OVERRIDE THE PATIENT'S OWN PAST ADVANCE DIRECTIVES and even the PATIENT'S APPOINTMENT OF A HEALTH CARE AGENT. It may be applied to patients who are not in a terminal situation and who might only need antibiotics, nutrition and hydration, or other proportionate care.

We live in a culture that places value on productivity and prefers to get rid of what is deemed useless! Advocates for legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia promote the illusion that we can HELP THOSE IN NEED BY KILLING THEM OR ASSISTING THEM IN KILLING THEMSELVES. This response ignores the person's true needs and DOES NOT RESPECT THEIR DIGNITY. Each person deserves real solutions and support when facing physical, emotional and spiritual challenges. Cutting lives short before their time deprives them of unknown opportunities for God's grace to work in their lives.

God's infinite love for each one of us helps us to grasp our identity and our worth. Let us place our trust in the Lord and ask for his continuous guidance for these decisions and for all those we face in our lives.

Excerpts: *Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities*. www.usccb.org/respectlife
Find them at [facebook.com/peopleoflife](https://www.facebook.com/peopleoflife)

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR SCHOOL
EARLYCHILDHOOD*ELEMENTARY*MIDDLESCHOOL
Pray, Study, Serve: Walking Humbly With God

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 FROM 11AM-1PM

OPEN HOUSE WEDNESDAYS...EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
A FULL TOUR OF THE SCHOOL WITH THE PRINCIPAL

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

2 TEIBROOK AVENUE, SYOSSET, NEW YORK 11791-3830
TELEPHONE: 516 921-7767 • FAX: 516 496-0001

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Presents
A 6 Day, 5 night trip to the Biltmore Estate and Ashville, NC
Sunday, April 26 to Friday, May 1, 2015

At the incredible price of only \$499 per person, double occupancy
(add \$150 for single occupancy).

Price includes:

- Motor coach transportation leaving from St. Ignatius Church, 129 Broadway, Hicksville, at 8 am
- 5 night lodging including 3 consecutive nights in the Ashville area
- 8 meals: 5 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- Guided tour of **Ashville, NC**
- Full day visit to the **Biltmore Estate**
- Guided drive along the **Blue Ridge Parkway**
- Visit to the **Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center** to view a film in high definition surround sound
- Visit to the famous **Folk Art Center**
- Visit to the magnificent **St. Lawrence Basilica**
- Tips for driver and step-on guides
- And much more!
- Reservations: \$75 due upon sign-up and in by February 14, 2015
- Final payment due by February 28, 2015
- Diamond Tours Exclusive "Travel Confident Protection Plan" is available for \$35
- For information and reservations contact Barbara from St. Ignatius @ (516) 935-5576



A Meditation on our Christmas Flowers

First of all, I would like to thank all those who so generously gave to the flower collection. Also Jean, Janice, Debbie, Betty, Michael and Frank who let me do my thing by unwrapping, watering, and gelling each and every pot of poinsettia. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes good knees, strong shoulders, and a good back to enhance our Place of Worship at Christmas. Some of us just keep telling ourselves that we are in better shape than we really are. Flowers, like us, have their comfort zones and when taken away from them, they droop. The gel is dri-water that is placed in the pot after the plant has been watered generously. The water liquefies the gel for a period of time. Our Church is not an easy place for real flowers as it is dark and warm. The warmer weather this season seems to evaporate the water faster than the gel can work. Some years are successful and others are a challenge. Without the gel, we would have a greater loss.

The team takes it upon itself to re-water but this year we already have six with root rot from overwatering by others and broken flowers. I am reminded of Father Pat's sermon on Sunday where he spoke of journeys and mentioned that life happens on a journey so a few good people who see a drooping plant and get a cup of water *is* life happening. A few broken plants make me sad but, certainly not intended, so there is life happening again. I know a few people mentioned to us that a few of the plants are slowly declining and that, too, is life happening.

One of our own priests plus many who visit us during these special seasons have remarked that no other church around us or elsewhere, in many cases, enhance the holy place as we do. We waited and waited during the Advent Season for the birth of Jesus Christ and we give Him a beautiful welcoming. I am sure that He loves the flowers and, why not? He *made* them! Enhancing of this size is a challenge but the parishioners of St. Martin, whether individually or collectively, have *always* accepted challenges.

The flowers will die on their Christmas journey from whatever element is just not to their liking. God gave us all kinds of bodily systems to make us work and he gave plants *photosynthesis*. That light/water system is not always respected by every environment but on the day that we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the plants, like us, stand proudly and lovingly for the Incarnation that will allow us to share in the divinity of Jesus.

A child that I once taught told me that the flowers begin to droop because they are saddened by what is eventually going to happen to the Baby. All I know is that our sanctuary, like our whole church shines and sings with the beauty of the true meaning of Christmas. Drooping plants...leaves that are shed...life happening! But...look instead to the Life that is happening on Christmas Day ...*that* is our ticket to eternal life with Jesus!

Ann Hughes