

Masses For The Week

- Monday - February 9**
6:30 Joseph S. O'Brien, 1st Anniversary
9:00 Esther Omage
- Tuesday - February 10**
6:30 Joseph Reali
9:00 Sadi Della Croce
- Wednesday - February 11**
6:30 Patrick James Murphy, Birthday Remembrance
9:00 Gene Sattler
- Thursday - February 12**
6:30 Eileen Reilly
9:00 Patrick James Murphy
- Friday - February 13**
6:30 Christopher Profita
9:00 Theresa Tavarelli
- Saturday - February 14**
9:00 INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
5:00 Joseph Cuda & Peter Casey
7:00 Madeline T. Stein
- Sunday - February 15**
7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Deceased Members of the Barry Family
10:00 Margaret & Mark Ridge, Anniversary
11:30 Camille Barnello, Anniversary
1:00 Peter Sousa
5:30 Tom Mitchell, 25th Anniversary
Joseph Hughes, Jr., 30th Anniversary
Joseph Hughes, Sr., 1st Anniversary

Readings For The Week

- Mon. Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56
- Tues. Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13
- Wed. Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23
- Thurs. Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30
- Fri. Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37
- Sat. Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10
- Sun. *Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46* According to the law of Moses, people with leprosy had to live alone, outside the camp. Aaron or another priest declared them unclean as long as they had a disease.**

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God...Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Mark 1:40-45 A leper said to Jesus, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus touched him: "I will do it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him, and he was healed.

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00
Amount Received:
1/31 & 2/1, 2015 \$15,182.84

Reflection & Living Stewardship



Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessings."

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use their gifts of healing and forgiveness to help repair relationships in families beset with divorce.

Charismatic Prayer Group TIME

Each day is a gift. What will you do with yours? Will you make someone smile or cry? Will you forgive or keep that anger? Will you start a fight or end one? Every action starts with a choice.

Weather permitting, our next meeting is Monday, February 9th at 7:30 PM in the Church. Everyone is welcome! Call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.



Saint Maria Faustina

Divine Mercy Novena

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

HOP Club

2/2/15	#402	M/M George J. Matulewich	\$25
2/3/15	#298	W. & P. McMahon	\$25
2/4/15	#555	Rachel Melito	\$25
2/5/15	#235	M/M Andrew Draghi	\$25
2/6/15	#553	M. & D. Bishop	\$50



“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, white rice, oatmeal, pancake mix, pasta sauce, salmon, black beans, mayonnaise, oil, evaporated milk, hot chocolate, pudding, Jell-O, mixed vegetables, tissues, shampoo, paper towels, toothpaste and baby wipes.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity. It means so much to our clients.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**The feeling remains that
God is on the journey too.**

- Saint Teresa of Avila



Week of February 8-14, 2015

Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
Monica Szmytkowski*

*Week of February 8 - 14, 2015
Sanctuary Candle*

*In Loving Memory of
Barbara Evans*



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.

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 Shiepkko, 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, 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, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall
Maria Osicki, Joe Bauer, Catherine A. McCarthy
John Terence Ruane, Paul Granberg, James Fanning
Antoinette Diana, Ann Gorman, Little Sonny D'Ambrosio



Rest in Peace

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

Florentina Pastolero

The Pastor's Letter

Sometimes when I come home from a trip, I am dreaming of slipping into bed for a long night's sleep. However, I realize I'd better check the board to see if I might have the 6:30 a.m. daily Mass. I think to myself, "I hope not. I have no sermon prepared and I want to go to bed!" Although these assignments are posted several weeks before, in the haste to get going to wherever I am traveling, I forget to look. Inevitably, in such cases, it does seem God has a great sense of humor since I find myself with the 6:30 a.m. looming before me. So, I get out my iPad and study the readings for the next day, praying the Holy Spirit will give me a thought or two before I fall asleep at my desk.

I love saying all the parish Masses we have, both on weekdays and Sundays. Although every Mass is a sacred celebration of the dying and rising of Jesus, each of our Masses has their own personalities. This is certainly true for the 6:30 a.m. Sue Mafri or Joe Colavolpe faithfully open the doors and some people are already in the parking lot waiting to get in to say their morning prayers. Deacon Tom Hennessy is almost always at the 6:30! He prepares the Mass books and makes sure the sleepy celebrant says the correct Mass of the day. Mary Vitti is our lector and she has the courage to sing the *Alleluia* at such an early hour! The congregation of about 20 is spread throughout the church. We know it is a solemn teaching of the Catholic Church that "one must sit in the same seat at all times and it should never be too near the front!" Everybody knows everybody by sight but we do not know all the names of the other congregants. People are referred to as "the fellow who wears the Yankee jacket and sits over by the window," or "the woman with the large prayer book." If a person is not there for awhile, the others get worried and wonder where they are. There is a bond - a sense of community - that is shared by all those who attend. Together, before they face their day, they want to begin by receiving Holy Communion.

Recently, the 6:30 a.m. Mass members became aware of the death of a young man who attended the daily Mass with his father. His name was Joseph Reali. He was a tall good-looking young fellow who received Holy Communion with great reverence. He stood out in our church because he was the youngest person at Mass. He and his dad, Mike, were not from our parish. They came to our Church because it was their meeting place as they headed to work nearby, and it fit their schedule. Joe and Mike rarely missed the 6:30 Mass. Sadly, Joe died suddenly of a blood clot leaving his parents and family and all who knew him brokenhearted. A few of our parishioners went to the very crowded wake. From all that was heard, this young man was an outstanding Catholic who loved God and his family very much. As I would give him Holy Communion, I often wondered if I should ask him if he ever thought about being a priest. Later, I heard he had been seriously considering this vocation.

Our 6:30 a.m. mass attendees quickly arranged to have a 6:30 a.m. Mass said for Joseph. So on Thursday, January 29th, we celebrated the Mass as we pondered the mystery of life and death and the promise of resurrection. Joe's dad attended. People left their regular seats and sat with him through the Mass. They wept with him. After Mass, every person in the congregation went to Mike and offered him prayers and condolences as he handed each of us a holy card of his smiling son. It was a very sad moment, but also an experience that makes me so proud to be a member of the parish community of St. Martin of Tours!

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

**2015 SAT Exam Prep Course
For May 2nd SAT Exam**

The course is held on
the following Saturdays:

February 28
March 7, 21 & 28
April 18 & 25

9:00 - 11:30AM in Marian Hall
Course Fee: \$250.00
Includes textbooks

Contact:
Mrs. Stutzmann
(516) 922-4888 x 5241
ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL

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.

Widows and Widowers
Divorced and Single Catholics of L.I.
Our 39th Year
Nassau County Chapter No. 1
PO Box 2031

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

NON-DENOMINATION - ALL ARE WELCOME

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015
8PM**

**THE MEETING IS HELD EVERY 4TH TUESDAY AT
ST. FRANCES DE CHANTAL SCHOOL
1309 WANTAGH AVENUE, WANTAGH**

**PLEASE BRING PROOF OF
SINGLE STATUS TO JOIN.
REFRESHMENTS AFTER MEETING.**

**FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL:
CAROL AT 516-794-4933 or
EILEEN AT 516-661-4353**

**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.



2/8/15:

Life Night 7-8:30PM OLPH Youth Room

2/15/15:

There is no Life Night due to President's Day Weekend.



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

Upcoming Event: February 19: Edge Night 7-8:30PM OLPH Youth Room

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, February 10th at 7:00 PM
in the Church.

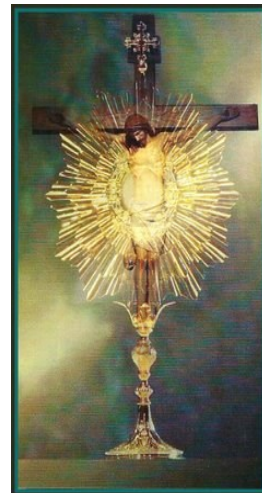
Everyone is welcome!

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>



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Married Couples!

Are you looking for the perfect Valentine's Gift?
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
just might be what you are looking for.
The original and still the best communication weekend for married couples.

The next weekend on Long Island is scheduled for

February 13-15, 2015 at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore, NY.

Space is limited. For more information about the weekends or to apply,
call 1-877-697-9963 or visit our web site at <http://www.wwme.org>.

The Rectory Office is closed on Monday, February 16th
in observance of President's Day.

Please note that there is no 6:30AM Mass on this day,
only the 9:00AM.

*Ash Wednesday is February 18th.
Ashes will be distributed at
the following Masses:
6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*

*And at the following services:
12 NOON & 4:00 p.m.*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 9: Charismatic Prayer Group 7PM Church
- Feb 10: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM Church
- Feb 12: Respect Life Meeting 11AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 17: Padre Pio 7PM Church
- Feb 21: Parish International Night 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 1: St. Patrick's Day Mass 1:00PM/Parade & Reception to follow
- Mar 4: Annual Soup Supper 6:00PM School Cafeteria (Emmaus Hall)
- Mar 20: Life Line Screening begins at 9AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM
at St. James Parish, Seaford
- Holy Face Devotions:
1st Monday of the Month 1:00PM Church

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

LIFE LINE SCREENING

**ST MARTIN OF TOURS AT ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH HALL
38 SEAMAN AVENUE, BETHPAGE NY 11714**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015 - FIRST APPOINTMENT BEGINS AT 9AM
MUST REGISTER WITH LIFE LINE SCREENING**

Life Line Screening is a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings. Five screening will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, and a bone density screening for men and women. **REGISTER** for a wellness package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$140 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscsr@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
 LTC John Evans, US Army
 STS2(SS) James McDevitt, US Navy
 ABHAA Michael Creagh, US Navy
 PVT Steven DiPaolo, USMC
 SSGT Sean V. Oliva, US Army

We received a thank you note from a couple who serve in our military. It reads as follows:

"Dear Parishioners of St. Martin's,

Thank you for the kind Christmas wishes and your continued prayers throughout the year. We are truly blessed by your thoughtfulness, and so thankful for our ties to such a special community.

We are especially appreciative of the St. Michael medallions and rosaries.

Wishing you a blessed 2015!

*Sincerely,
Captains Greg & Erika Holownia, U.S. Army"*

**L.I. Catholic Widows
& Widowers Club**

This Club is for those Catholics who have lost a spouse. They meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8:00PM and are located at the V.F.W. Post 7277 Hall, 191 Veterans Boulevard, Massapequa.

Proof of widowhood is required to join. The annual dues is \$24.00. Please call Maureen at (516)781-4763 for more information.

As stated in last weekend's bulletin, the 2016 Mass Book will be open for mass intentions after Easter. No specific date has been set as this time.



Long Island Coalition for Life
P.O. Box 243, Ronkonkoma NY 11779
P.O. Box 247, Old Bethpage NY 11804
www.ProlifeLI.org

LOVE THEM BOTH - Pro-life vigil:

Saturday, February 14th; 9:30AM to 10:30AM. Huntington Station office of Stony Brook Women's Health (33 Walt Whitman Rd.; Whitman Atrium just north of Jericho Tpke.) In honor of St. Valentine's Day, pro-lifers are invited to stand in peaceful vigil on the sidewalk outside the abortionist's office to show that unborn babies need love too. Rain or shine. Signs provided. Sponsored by LI Coalition for Life: 631-243-1435 / info@prolifeLI.org

2015 Catholic Ministries Appeal

To view the video of this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal, you can download the link. While the stories are unique and special, they join with countless other people whose stories help to tell who we are as Church and how we strive to follow Pope Francis' call to *"...be men and women who bring hope to others."*

www.drvc.org/catholic-ministries-appeal/cma-video-presentation.html

INFORMATION FOR LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Session "A" is required of **all** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are also required to attend Session "B" **in addition** to Session "A". Please write a letter to the pastor, Father Pat Woods, CSSR expressing your desire to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for the Church and/or Hospital Homebound.

TO REGISTER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING: the pastor of the parish must send a letter to Bishop Murphy **at least 10 days in advance** requesting the training for each person attending. **This letter must mention the date and location of the session the person will attend.**

TIMES AND PLACES FOR MINISTRY TRAINING:

In Nassau:

"A" Session Training for Extraordinary Ministers

ENGLISH AND SPANISH

April 18, 2015; 9 AM—1 PM

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

In Suffolk:

"A" Session Training for Extraordinary Ministers

ENGLISH AND SPANISH

April 25, 2015; 9 AM—1 PM

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

In Nassau:

"B" session for Extraordinary Ministers

May 16, 2015; 9 AM—1 PM

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

In Suffolk:

"B" Session for Extraordinary Ministers

May 9, 2015; 9 AM—1 PM

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

EVENING SESSIONS for Extraordinary Ministers at St. Elizabeth, Melville.

Session "A" - Wednesday, May 6, 2015; 7:30—10 PM

Session "B" - Wednesday, May 20, 2015; 7:30—10PM

WORKSHOP FEES: Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: \$30 per person (fee paid by St. Martin's).

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

POVERTY AND ABORTION

During October 2014, RESPECT LIFE MONTH, we faced a lot of the facts that contribute to abortion in America. This past January 22, approximately 500,000 pro-lifers traveled from all across our country to protest the 42nd year of Roe V Wade. And the good news is that the majority of Americans are now Pro-Life!



In a 2005 study, 73% of women undergoing an abortion said not being able to afford a baby now was a reason for the abortion. That number rose to 81% for women below the federal poverty line. And while the abortion rate for American women declined by 8% between 2000 and 2008, among poor American women, it increased by 18%.

Economic pressure and government abortion policy can combine to make things worse. One study found that poor women on Medicaid had twice the abortion rate of other women in their state. If the state's Medicaid program paid for elective abortions, their abortion rate was more than 4 times that of other women. By offering FREE abortions, the government effectively places its thumb on the scale to favor DEATH FOR THE UNBORN CHILD. By contrast, if these programs continue FUNDING CARE for mothers and babies, but STOP funding abortion, abortions among women in the program decrease by as much as 35%.

For many years policymakers have debated whether we should reduce abortions by FIGHTING POVERTY or by PASSING PRO-LIFE LAWS. The question is misplaced. It is not a matter of either/or, but of both/and. We need to address both poverty and bad abortion policies.

Feminization of Poverty: Women are more likely than men to be poor and to be in DEEP POVERTY, (with an income less than half the federal poverty line). U. S. Census Bureau figures show that 5 million more women than men were poor in 2012. Almost 31% of households headed by a single woman are below the poverty line, compared to 6% of households headed by a married couple. Women head over 80% of single parent households, and almost half of children living with only their mother are poor. So poverty in America is often a story of poor women and children, with no man in the house.

Pope Francis had seen a deeper link between the poor and the unborn. They are both among the first victims of "THROW AWAY SOCIETY," an attitude that sees people as disposable when they do not serve the selfish interests of those with more power.

For more information on this important fact: Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

www.usccb.org/:respectlife

Find them at [facebook.com/peopleoflife!](https://www.facebook.com/peopleoflife/)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL HEC #31 WEEKEND

Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC) is in need of volunteers for its annual retreat which will be held Thursday, April 23rd through Sunday, April 26th at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY.

HEC is a retreat weekend for persons 18 years and older with special needs. Each candidate has a team member with them throughout the weekend. It is a prayerful experience of song, talks, sharing, Eucharist and many other joyful moments. Please contact us if you know of someone (whether at home or in a group home) who would like to attend the retreat. An application will be sent upon request.

There are many roles to be filled. We are in need of team members, kitchen help, setting up and taking down the camp, as well as drivers for our candidates.

Our first planning meeting will take place on Monday February 9, 2015 at 7 pm at St. Francis of Assisi in Greenlawn. Two follow-up meetings are planned for Wednesday, March 18th at 7 pm and Tuesday, April 14th at 7 pm. We request that those interested in assisting a candidate make every effort to attend at least two of the meetings.

Please call Deacon Frank & Michele Barone at 516-420-1207 or e-mail at micheleritabarone@gmail.com to volunteer or participate as a candidate.

Please remember to pray for Miriam, Heidi, James, Cemil, Karl and Phil. They are journeying this year in our RCIA process. Those who have not been baptized will be going to the Rite of Election on February 22, 2015, and those who have been and are seeking full Communion with the Church will be going to the Rite of Continuing Conversion on March 1, 2015. These will be at St. Agnes Cathedral.

The team of Father Henry, Karen Sullivan and Ann Hughes are so proud of the group and their commitment to becoming one - with us - in our faith.



ANNUAL LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015
SCHOOL CAFETERIA (EMMAUS HALL)
6PM - 8PM**



All Parishioners and their families and friends are invited to share, not only the warmth and goodness of homemade soup, but also in the warmth and goodness of our parish family!

This simple Lenten meal of soup and rolls is offered to all who come. In addition our Parish Outreach shares any left over soup with parishioners who are unable to attend. They also feed our Lenten soup to anyone who is homeless.

This means that those in need can feel the warmth of soup, sharing with their fellow men and women and, above all, the love of Jesus Christ. This is the gift of our faith reaching out to others during this sacrificial season.

**It's time to think about making soup
for this annual Lenten event!**

**To make soup or to volunteer,
please call Pat Ricci at (516) 796-1320.**

**Soup warms our bodies.
Sharing warms our hearts.
The Season stirs our souls.**

Be part of St. Martin of Tours reaching out!



St. Martin of Tours Annual International Night
Saturday February 21st
St. Alphonsus Hall @ 7:30 p.m.

This has become a fun tradition as parishioners share culinary delights from all over the world in honor of their ethnic heritage and in the name of good food. We have had Italian lasagna delights, Polish wonders, German sausages, French fries, America hot dogs, Spanish paella, Mexican tacos, Filipino adobo, and Irish soda bread.

Father Pat brings *Beers of the World* to the Party! Just bring a food, any food, but especially an ethnic food. (Dunkin Chocolate Donuts are considered an ethnic food!)

Please call the rectory office at 931 0818 and let us know what type of dish you will bring. As always this promises to be a fun night!



Do You Want to Respond to the Synod of Family Life?

The Vatican has released a working document that will frame the discussion for the October, 2015 meeting of the Synod of Bishops, which will continue the discussion of marriage and family life.

The new document, the *lineamenta*, makes it clear that the meeting next year will build on the discussion that has already taken place. The most controversial topics at this year's meeting—including homosexuality, cohabitation, and the status of Catholics who are divorced and remarried—will remain high on the agenda.

The Office of the Synod circulated the new document to all of the world's episcopal conferences. The *lineamenta* incorporates a summary of the final report from the 2014 session, adding 46 questions upon which bishops are asked to reflect.

This document and the questions can be found at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20141209_lineamenta-xiv-assembly_en.html

The document has a series of questions that the Holy Father, the Synod and Bishop Murphy would welcome the reflections of the people of God since the Holy Spirit is present in all the members of the Church. If you wish to respond, you can send your thoughts to:

1. Only E-mail responses sent to synodofbishops@drvc.org will be accepted.
2. Only E-mail responses that include the respondent's name and parish will be accepted.

All responses must be received by March 13, 2015.



Ash Wednesday is February 18th. Last year several parishioners volunteered to serve as greeters to those who attended the various services that were offered during the day.

HELP WANTED

As you know a great crowd of people come to receive ashes as the penitential season begins. Some of them are from other parishes and some may not be active members of the parish. We are delighted these good men, women and children come and we want to welcome them as we do at Christmas and Easter. It is my hope that a kind and warm welcome may be the grace that God uses to invite someone to enter more deeply into the practice of his or her faith.

The task is simple. A holy card would be given to each person as they come into church along with a spoken greeting of "Welcome to St. Martin's!" Masses and services are at 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Your help would be welcome at one or more of these Masses or services. Last year, the parishioners who worked on this found this to be very good experience.

Graphic Designer

I am considering making a new sign for the parish church and would like someone who can assist with creating a design that I would then have professionally made.

Please contact Father Pat at woodscsr@aol.com or 931-0818 x17 for either one of the requests for help.

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.

In their synagogue
was a man with an
unclean spirit;
he cried out,
“What have you to
do with us,
Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to
destroy us?
I know who you
are—the Holy One of
God!”

Jesus rebuked him
and said,
“Quiet!
Come out of him!”

The unclean spirit
convulsed him and
with a loud cry
came out of him.

A couple of weeks before Christmas, I celebrated the funeral of my cousin Bridie at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brooklyn. Bridie was a wonderful woman, who, along with her husband John, raised eight children. The children are now all adults with families of their own. Naturally, they wanted a beautiful and well prepared funeral liturgy for their Mom who attended daily mass almost all of her life. They planned excellent music, readings, and various ways in which the eight of them and their spouses and children would be part of the funeral Mass.

Right after the prayer of the faithful was concluded, a disturbed man walked down the main aisle of the crowded church, right past the casket, and began to say in a very loud voice that he wanted help and food. I say he was disturbed - it may have been alcohol, mental illness, or just the grinding assault of daily struggles that led him to the state he was in. I had never seen him before. The entire congregation sat in uncomfortable silence. I felt great anxiety as I worried how the family would feel about this disturbance, and I wondered what I should do about this poor man in the midst of the funeral. Ironically, much of the homily I had given about Bridie spoke about her being a devout Catholic of deep faith who loved God, her family and all who came into her life. In spite of my worried feelings, I also thought the man was an unwelcome prophet, reminding us of the poverty of the world and the call by Jesus to help such people.

After about ten seconds of silence, Father John McKenna (who some of you know, who was concelebrating the Mass and is stationed at the parish,) walked down to the man, spoke to him softly and let him out of the church into the sacristy and sought to help him. All her life Bridie had lived the Gospel of Jesus Christ and now Father John gave us another glimpse of God’s love in action.

I thought of this moment as I was reflecting on the Gospel for last week. In last Sunday’s gospel we hear of Jesus going into the synagogue at Capernaum. We might call this town the home base of Jesus of his ministry. I remember seeing a sign as I entered this town when I visited the Holy Land, “Welcome to Capernaum - the Home Town of Jesus.” We in Bethpage like to brag, and well we should, that we are the town that produced the lunar module that brought Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon. But imagine being known as the home town of Jesus!

Jesus is teaching in the synagogue. We assume that everyone is listening with rapt attention when suddenly a man begins to shout out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God and you come to destroy us?” The message of Jesus had been brought to a halt by the shouts of the man. I wonder how the synagogue reacted! Perhaps this man was the town problem child and everyone knew him. His cry may well have elicited anger, “why are you disturbing Jesus? We were listening to him!” Perhaps some men began to stand up, ready to toss this wild man out of the holy place. It was a serious disturbance!

What was wrong with the man? It is clear St. Mark, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, sees this man as possessed by the devil, and more than one devil. Notice that voice uses the word “us” rather than “me.” He addresses Jesus as if there are many voices in him. Our Church believes in Satan and the power of evil. Although it is not a common event, there are exorcists in the Church. Several years ago when I was in the administration of the Redemptorist, a bishop called me and said he was looking for the name of a priest who might be trained as an exorcist for a possible need in the future. The only name I was sure I would not give was my own since I wanted no part of facing evil in such a direct way. I gave him the name of a man known for his outstanding holiness. I never knew what became of it.

Still, the Church cautions great care when it comes to thinking about the devil. Scripture scholars believe that sometimes when the Bible is speaking about a person being possessed by the devil, it is more likely the person had some form of mental illness which the world at that time did not understand. Flip Wilson used to joke, “*The Devil made me do it!*” The overwhelming vast amount of evil and sin in the world comes from the failures of men and women who choose to reject God and sin and cause great harm to others. The Holocaust, Slavery, Child Abuse and other great evils are done by people. However, I am not sure if Satan is not silently cheering on those who do evil acts and occasionally even nudging someone to do what is against God.

Jesus goes one-on-one with these devils. On this Super Bowl Sunday for you sports fans, it is Tom Brady against Derell Revis, and the footballs are not deflated! He cast them out in the name of his Father. We know Jesus is the Son of God by his preaching, by his miracles, by revelation from the Old Testament, by his loving deeds, and by his confrontation with evil. With Christ beginning his public ministry, Satan is being warned that his time is passing and God’s grace will always overcome whatever power the evil figure has.

We are not possessed by evil or the devil, but we do struggle with sin, for we can be unforgiving toward others, even bearing hatred toward some. We can become addicted to pornography, or can fall pray to prejudice toward people of other nationalities and religions, and we can fall into blaming the poor for their struggles. Every one of us has his or her internal battles with sin. Yet, we walk in hope and confidence that the power of the victory of Christ assures us that we are not doomed to failure. By the grace of God, as the old hymn says, “*We Shall Overcome!*”

Our liturgy is never perfect. Some will sing off key, some will come late and others will choose to leave early. There may be too many second collections. The sermon may be too long or have no point. The smoke alarm may go off or someone may forget to shut off their cell phone. It may be too hot or too cold in the church. We are an imperfect Church in a very real world. Yet, here God comes into this reality. Here we say, “*Body of Christ.*” Here we say, “*The Word of God.*” Here we say, “*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world!*”

In our imperfection, God is loving and walking with us. He is in the midst of **all** our struggles and joys.

Father Pat’s Homily of 2/1/15