

Masses For The Week

Monday - February 16 PRESIDENT'S DAY

6:30 NO 6:30 MASS

9:00 Sam Malerba

Tuesday - February 17

6:30 Rose & Jack DiCarlo

9:00 Margaret A. Steinbach

Wednesday - February 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY

6:30 Joanne Rienzie

9:00 Nicholas & Joseph Sergio

SERVICES: NOON & 4:00PM

7PM Frank Miller

Thursday - February 19

6:30 John J. Jauregui, 6th Anniversary

9:00 Loretta Kennedy, Anniversary

Friday - February 20

6:30 John Kiffer

9:00 Herman & Dolores Lordahl
61st Wedding Anniversary Remembrance

Saturday - February 21

9:00 INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS

5:00 Louis Ruggiero, Gertrude & John O'Rourke

7:00 Matilda Nappi

Sunday - February 22

7:00 The People of the Parish

8:30 Julianna Heilig & Alfred Fernandez

10:00 David Francis Biggin

11:30 Vito J. Amarosa, Anniversary

1:00 Jane Abbatiello & Matilda Russo

5:30 John & Louise Pellicano

Readings For The Week

Mon. Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13

Tues. Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21

Wed. Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thurs. Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

Fri. Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

Sat. Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

Sun. Genesis 9:8-15 *After the great flood, God told Noah of the covenant between heaven and earth. Never again would a flood destroy the earth. To mark this covenant, the Lord set up a rainbow in the sky.*

1 Peter 3:18-22 *As the ark saved a chosen few in Noah's day, so does baptism by faith save God's chosen today. Baptism is "an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Mark 1:12-15 *The Spirit sent Jesus to the desert to fast and pray for forty days. Afterwards, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming "the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00

Amount Received: February 7/8, 2015

\$16,140.31

Reflection & Living Stewardship



In today's second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to "do all for the glory of God." If we follow that

advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards!

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use their gifts to welcome and offer hospitality to those who are frequently shunned...the stranger, the immigrant, the AIDS sufferer, the mentally ill and the poor.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Sometimes life is like getting lost in Manhattan as I recently did. It's busy, noisy and confusing. But God puts people in your path as He did with the police officer and the cab driver who helped me find my way to the Midtown Tunnel. When you feel lost, confused & scared, we'll be your "cab driver or police officer."

Weather permitting, our next meeting is Monday, February 23rd at 7:30 PM in the Church. Everyone is 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!

HOP Club

2/9/15	#473	Maureen Gallagher	\$25
2/10/15	#136	William & Marie Dorsch	\$25
2/11/15	#627	Suzanne & Steve DiVito	\$25
2/12/15	#102	M/M Thomas Fazio	\$25
2/13/15	#351	Maureen & Bill Scharen	\$50



Wedding Banns

First Banns

Michael Pietzak & Michelle Mahlsadt



“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: oatmeal, cereals (regular & sweet), Rice-a-Roni, white rice, mixed vegetables, pancake mix, tuna, beef stew, chili, canned chicken & salmon, sugar, chicken soup, mayonnaise, hot chocolate, coffee, evaporated milk, boxed milk, apple sauce, white flour, tissues, pasta sauce, red and black beans, paper towels, dish soap, shampoo, laundry soap, bar soap, napkins, toothpaste and baby wipes.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity. Due to your help, we were able to serve 497 people from 102 individual families!

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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

Week of February 15 - 21, 2015



Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
Anthony & Margaret Simone*

Week of February 15 - 21, 2015

Sanctuary Candle

*In Loving Memory of
Bob Coveney*



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 Shiepkov, 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 Carmentate
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
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 Baciuska
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
Joann Sescila, Elsa Ryan, Sarah Messina
Michael Arato

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Throughout these forty days of Lent ahead,
let us continue to look forward to the joy that
Easter's Resurrection will bring!**

The Pastor's Homily

"On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him." Mark 1:29-39

Every New Year's Day, I often find myself watching the Honeymooners marathon on Channel 11. It starts at 11:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve and runs all through the night well into the next day. That tells you something about my life! Even though I have seen every episode about 20 times, I still find the humor timeless, and I can't get enough of Ralph, Norton, Alice and Trixie. One of the stories tells of Ralph getting a message that his mother-in-law is coming for a visit. Ralph shouts and yells about this to Alice since he does not like the mother-in-law. Actually, it is Ralph's *mother* who is coming for the visit and Alice treats her great. Once again, Ralph is reduced to eating his words and saying, "*Baby, you're the greatest!*"

In today's Gospel, we hear the account of Jesus healing St. Peter's mother-in-law of a fever. What always surprises me in the Gospel is that after she was cured, she immediately got up and waited on Jesus and the apostles. We know Jesus cured her out of compassion and love, but there is a certain irony that as soon as she is cured, she goes to work cooking and serving the Lord and his apostles. Score one for all mothers-in-law. There is an old joke that says: *Why did Peter betray Jesus three times? The answer is because Jesus cured his mother-in-law!* Actually, as I meet with families in planning funerals for their Moms, I have consistently found what a deep and abiding love that does exist in families with their in-laws, especially the mother-in-law. How often it is said, *he is just like a son or daughter to me, or she is like a mother to me.* How blessed a person is to have two mothers and the Blessed Mother to reflect the love of God. Some people are surprised that Peter was married since he was the first Pope. Most Scripture scholars believe that most of the apostles were married. Celibacy for priests did not come into as part of the church until the early Middle Ages.

In addition to healing Peter's mother-in-law, today's Gospel tells us this: *When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.* It is easy to imagine this scene. If we heard there was a doctor in town who could cure diseases such as cancer and diabetes instantly, there would be lines around the blocks all the way to Montauk. The police would be there for crowd control, and the media would be telling the story somewhat skeptically since it might be a bit too religious for their taste. Capernaum is a small village, but the word is spreading about Jesus, and the crowds are growing.

The healing miracles of Jesus can be complicated to ponder. We know that Jesus did not cure every person in Galilee or Jerusalem. The primary mission of Jesus is not to cure disease or even to cast out devils. Jesus' mission is to tell the people about his Father's love and to slowly prepare the people to understand that he is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Jesus' heart is full of compassion and when he encounters a person in great need of healing, he is moved to confront the disease and overcome it. All of us are moved when we see terrible suffering in the news, but it really impacts us most directly when we see it face to face in a person we know or see. The encounters with those suffering from pain and illness so moved Jesus that he suspends the laws of nature and cures people.

What about us today? Do we get the opportunity to have such miracles in our lives? I believe in miracles, but it is not that common that God directly enters into human nature and heals someone through prayer or a sacrament. But I know there are times when there are unexplainable cures and healings. There are many reports of such miracles. The Church is very vigorous in checking out such miracles before they declare them genuine as they are submitted to teams of doctors and other experts. Lourdes, one of the places of miracles, has approved 69 miracles to date. No doubt, many more occurred but only these 69 were officially approved. Today to be declared a saint, there must be clear evidence of two miracles. The first is to become beatified and the second be canonized.

Here is a brief account of one of the miracles the Catholic Church approved for the canonization of Pope John Paul II: *The Vatican found it with Floribeth Mora Diaz of Costa Rica. At a news conference, Diaz described how she said Pope John Paul II cured her of a brain aneurysm when doctors warned she only had a month left to live. "My greatest concern was not dying but concern about what would happen to my children," Diaz said, according to Religion News Service. After doctors said she had only days to live, Diaz said she began praying to the late pontiff as she clutched a magazine cover bearing his portrait. "When I woke up in the morning, I looked at the magazine cover which showed Pope Wojtyla [John Paul II's birth surname] with his arms outstretched," she said. "I felt a deep sense of healing. I heard his voice say to me, 'Get up and don't be afraid,'" she added. "I went to my husband in the kitchen and told him I was cured. I realized little by little the illness had been taken away. "A slew of medical tests confirmed her recovery -- despite there being no medical explanation.*

Miracles by the grace of God do happen. However, they are rare. I am sure everyone of us in Church today has prayed for a miraculous cure of someone we loved who was very sick, perhaps with cancer. It may well be that they died and we are left wondering about our prayer. *Was God listening? Did I have enough faith? Why did we not get the miracle we asked for from God?* These are difficult questions and not easily answered. It is a belief of faith that all prayers are answered, but not in ways that we can see or understand. Perhaps our prayers for a loved one enabled them to face death or it gave the family the strength to go on. I would also say the very fact that a person is alive and lived among us is a miracle. All of life is a precious gift and beyond understanding. Very often, the illness of a loved one brings out great care and compassion in the family and friends of the person who is ill. People are stretched to give more than they thought they humanly could. Sometimes, family members who have been at odds with one another for years reconcile and forgive as they share caring for a sick family member. Wherever there is love, there is God.

The other night someone crashed into the door of the truck our dedicated maintenance manager, T.J. Hance, was driving. If you saw the door as I did, you would not think any person could have survived it. Thank God there was an airbag in the door which probably saved his life. A day later, T.J. was in St. Martin's for the baptism of his son. He feels God saved him that night. A skeptic would say it was the airbag. I will take T.J.'s word for it.

I think everyone of us can tell how we feel that there were certain moments that God was with us in a very profound way that seemed beyond explanation and mere coincidence. Can we call it a miracle? I will leave that to you to decide.

I want to say a few words about the medical profession. There are doctors who are people of great faith and there are other doctors who do not believe in God. Still, as I consider the medical profession, doctors, nurses, technicians and who help to bring about healing, whether they believe it or not, they are doing God's work. All wisdom and knowledge come from God and he is the source of all healing. Many of us depend on a few pills to control our blood pressure or diabetes. I take a little pill everyday for blood pressure that is probably saving my life. Is not that amazing what these medications do to preserve lives? I think of neonatal units that keep premature babies alive, and transplants that give a person a new lease on life. This is great science but it is also great healing and God is in the midst of it.

Never be afraid to storm heaven for a miracle. Yet, I urge you not to grow lose faith if what you seek is not given to you exactly as you ask. God is listening. God is loving you and the person for whom you are praying. Wherever there is love, there is God.

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



2/15: There is no Life Night. Happy President's Day

2/20: Holy Hour and Dodgeball at St. Ignatius 7pm

2/22: Life Night 7-8:30PM OLPH Youth Room

3/1: NO Life Night - LI Life Teen Retreat

Long Island Life Teen Retreat

February 27 - March 1st @ Kellenberg HS

Open to all High School teens. Spots still available! Contact Erin for more info!



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

Upcoming Events:

2/26: Edge Night 7-8:30pm

3/12: Edge Night 7-8:30pm

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 Office Phone: (516) 870-5669.

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.



SMT BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Have you recently lost a loved one? Are you grieving the loss? Bereavement groups help many people in the process. St. Martin of Tours will have the sessions on Thursday evenings beginning at 7PM in St. Alphonsus Parish Hall as follows:

March 5, 12, 26

April 16, 23, 30

May 7, 14, & 21

Please call the rectory office at 931-0818 to register and leave your name, phone number and the best time to reach you. Someone from the Bereavement Ministry will return your call.

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.



**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>

**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ROSARY
CONFRATERNITY**

CMRC's general meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Rosary and CMRC prayers, followed by a brief business meeting. A presentation by our pastor, Father Pat Woods, CSSR, will be on Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Refreshments will be served and all women are most welcome to attend.

SPRING FLING: Save the Date!!

This year our Spring Fling is **Tuesday, April 7th** at 7PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Watch for April Bingo!

If you would like to become a member, please speak to Mary Colavolpe at 495-4408. Dues are still \$10 per year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 16: No 6:30 Mass, just 9AM; Rectory Closed
- Feb 17: Padre Pio 7PM Church
- Feb 18: Ash Wednesday
- Feb 21: Parish International Night 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 23: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Mar 1: St. Patrick's Day Mass 1:00PM/Parade & Reception to follow
- Mar 2: Holy Face Devotion 1PM Church
- Mar 4: Annual Soup Supper 6:00PM School Cafeteria (Emmaus Hall)
- Mar 6: First Friday 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Mar 7: First Saturday 8:30AM Church
- Mar 9, 10, 11: PARISH MISSION with Father Richard Bennett, CSSR
- 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

St. Martin of Tours Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 3/20/2015. Five screenings 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 which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$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

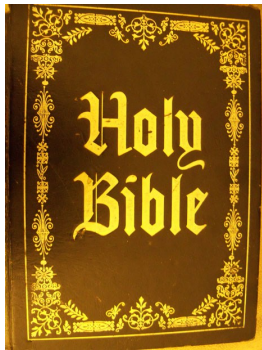
Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscsr@aol.com or gamit1946@hotmail.com to add your loved one to this prayer list.



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
 CPT Erika 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



Fr. Jim McCabe will conduct four sessions on Monday from Feb 23-March 16. Each session will cover the Passion, Death and Resurrection in the four Gospels. Similarities and difference will be discussed. Sessions will be in St. Alphonsus Hall from 7:15-8:15pm on the following Mondays:

- Monday, Feb 23 - Mark
- Monday, March 2 - Matthew
- Monday, March 16- Luke
- Monday, March 23 - John

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Mirando
C)830-5077 (H) 605-1979

*ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS,
RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT (631)
243-2373.*

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

VIRTUS TRAINING

Protecting All God's Children

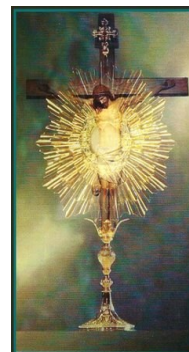
If you wish to volunteer in any capacity in a parish, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires that you **first register** for Virtus by **logging on to www.virtus.com**.

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, February 24th @ 7:00PM
in St. Alphonsus Hall

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Youth Ministry Adoration
Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 PM
in the Church.
Everyone is welcome!



2015 Catholic Ministries Appeal

To view the video of this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal, you can download the link or go to our home page at smtbethpage.org. 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

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE "We tell our couples you don't know what's going to happen during your marriage, " "There are going to be hard times, and you need to think about how you're going to react when the hard times come."



The Long Island Catholic ran a story in the Jan/Feb. issue about a young wife who donated her kidney to save the life of her husband. Cathy MacKay of Seaford described the experience of donating one of her kidneys to her husband Bryan. "The profound joy of bringing new lives into the world that she felt when giving birth to each of their three daughters, all young adults now, she experienced again in giving the gift of life to her husband last August.

Bryan's life was threatened by the same debilitating genetic disorder, polycystic kidney disease, that he and Cathy had seen take his father's life years before. Brian said, "We tell couples, we've been married 31 years, and you hope that you would be willing to do what my wife did, GIVE UP A BODY PART" out of love for your spouse. Bryan began experiencing symptoms in his 30s, and gradually his health was deteriorating, his kidney function was failing. By 2012, his doctors were looking for a donor. His family proved to not be a match, and they had no idea that his wife, not being a blood relative, could be a match. I didn't want him to have to go through dialysis, " Cathy explained, so we were hoping to find the next best thing. So when it was possible I might be a match for a transplant, "I just had to go for it."

She had to get in shape for the surgery. "It is extensive and not just physical. They make you see a psychiatrist to make sure you are mentally and emotionally prepared, and in addition, I knew I would be at high risk," so she had to take off 25 - 30 lbs.

On August 7 they underwent the transplant procedures at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in NYC. The surgery was fully successful. Bryan was able to go back to work in Manhattan, where he is a computer programmer. All the support they received leading up to their surgery has continued afterward, with family, friends and neighbors and parishioners at St. William the Abbot all providing practical help - giving them rides until Cathy was able to drive again, preparing meals for them during their weeks of recovery - and spiritual support.

Cathy recalled, that it was about 16 years ago that a neighbor asked them to serve as a host couple for the pre-Cana home program of the parish. A year later they were asked to run the program, which they have done ever since - a commitment to helping build strong Catholic marriages that has now taken on new meaning for them both in their ministry and in their own marriage. Bryan and Cathy try to help the young couples realize the support that a strong faith and involvement with their church community can be at such times. "A lot of the couples that we've worked with have become more active in the parish," Bryan said. "It's nice to see that." "it always begins and ends with prayer," said Cathy. "Bryan always says, "The family that prays together, stays together!" Experts from Cover Story, LIC.

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.

**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.

*****PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to the ice and snow, there are times when Religious Education cannot close the gates. This does not mean that cars are allowed to enter the school parking lot. It still remains a Safe Zone for **PEDESTRIANS ONLY**.

Your cooperation is most appreciated!

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!



**24th Annual
Bethpage St. Patrick's Parade
Honoring Rev. Patrick Woods, C.Ss.R.
2015 Grand Marshal**



**Sunday, March 1, 2015
1:00 PM Mass
2:00 PM Parade**

**Through downtown Bethpage
Reception immediately following
St. Martin of Tours Auditorium and Cafeteria**

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.

I wrote this letter and it appeared in last week's Bethpage Tribune. I do not think the Board is anti-Catholic but rather unbending in their application of their rules.

January 30, 2015

Dear Bethpage Tribune Readers,

Recently, some parishioners asked me if a monthly Catholic Mass could be celebrated in the Clubhouse at the Apollo of Bethpage Redevelopment Company. Since our parish is concerned about outreach to those who find it difficult to get to Sunday worship for reasons of health, I was happy to say that our parish clergy would be willing to meet this need. We have said Mass at our other senior housing complexes and assumed we would receive the same welcome at Apollo.

I was informed of the following: *that the Board reviewed this request for a monthly Mass to be held at the Clubhouse and had determined that this is not a feasible request. As discussed with our attorney, the Board has the final determination as to the use of the Co-op facilities, including the Clubhouse.*

Naturally, I was upset by this response. Catholic chaplains say Mass on battleships and battlefields. I have said Mass in state prisons and in numerous non-denominational nursing homes. If we had a Mass, people of all faiths would be welcome. If we had a Mass, it would take less than forty-five minutes use of the time in the Clubhouse and we would provide all that was needed for the worship. I am not sure what is not feasible about such a request.

I would hope a Co-op Board would be more interested in how to provide for the spiritual needs of their community rather than issuing a blunt no. I find it very sad that such a decision could be made in the community of Bethpage that is so supportive of all faith traditions.

Sincerely,
Father Patrick Woods CSSR, Pastor
St. Martin of Tours Parish



Saint Martin of Tours Religious Education

School Building • 220 Central Avenue • Bathpage, N.Y. 11714
516-822-9768 516-932-8454 (Fax)

February 11, 2015

To the Parents of Eighth Grade Confirmation Students:

Because of the snowy and icy weather it was necessary to cancel two Confirmation classes. The following is the updated schedule:

The January 26th class for last names beginning with M – Z is rescheduled to watch the movie, “God Is Not Dead” on March 2nd at 6:30 – 8:30.

The February 9th class for last names beginning with A – L is rescheduled to come to the February 23rd at 6:30 – 8:30 (along with the last names of M – Z).

ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS MUST ATTEND FEBRUARY 23RD at 6:30.

Please note the time change from 7:30 to 6:30.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – THE CONFIRMATION PACKET IS DUE AT THIS MEETING, AS IS THE CONFIRMATION WORKBOOK WITH CHAPTERS 1 – 8.

Our Confirmation date is March 25th

A – L is at the 1:30 ceremony with practice on Monday, March 23rd at 7:30

M – Z is at the 4:30 ceremony with practice on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30



Why is the date for Ash Wednesday and Easter different from year to year?

Easter follows a lunar, rather than a solar calendar and is celebrated on the first full moon after March 21st (the spring equinox). Easter cannot fall earlier than March 22nd or later than April 25th. Ash Wednesday's date is 40 days before Easter.

Why do we put ashes on our foreheads?

Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula, which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," emphasizes our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolizes our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Where do the ashes come from?

The ashes for Ash Wednesday normally are made from blessed palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. The ashes are sprinkled with Holy Water and incensed before distribution.

When do I wash the Ashes off my face?

There is no specific instruction on how long ashes are to be worn. You can, in fact, wash them off immediately after the service if you want. Many people choose to wear their ashes for the remainder of the day both as a reminder of their own mortality and as a witness before those around that they are a follower of Christ and are entering into a season of examination and abstinence.

What are the significances of the 40 weekdays before Easter?

The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan. Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in abstinence, times of fasting, confession and acts of mercy to strengthen our faith and devotional disciplines. The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered.

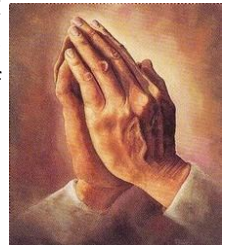
Giving something up

For older Catholics, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. In my childhood, the standard was to give up candy, a discipline that found suitable reward in the baskets of sugary treats we received on Easter. Some of us even added to the Easter surplus by saving candy all through Lent, stockpiling what we would have eaten had we not promised to give it up. Some years ago a friend of mine told me that he had urged his children to move beyond giving up candy to giving up some habit of sin that marked their lives. About halfway through Lent he asked the children how they were doing with their Lenten promise. One of his young sons had promised to give up fighting with his brothers and sisters during Lent. When his father asked him how it was going, the boy replied, "I'm doing pretty good, Dad—but boy, I can't wait until Easter!" That response indicates that this boy had only partly understood the purpose of Lenten "giving up".

PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayer: More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.



Fasting: Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The first reading on the Friday after Ash Wednesday points out another important dimension of fasting. The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God.

"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Is 58:6-7). By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

Almsgiving: (charity to others) It should be obvious at this point that almsgiving, the third traditional pillar, is linked to our baptismal commitment in the same way. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and compassion to those in need are signs that truly do want to love Jesus since what we do for others we do for our Lord Jesus.