

Masses For The Week

- Monday - February 23**
6:30 Delia Azzollini
9:00 Kathy Ronan
- Tuesday - February 24**
6:30 Dominick A. Piccininni
9:00 Gertrude Parine
- Wednesday - February 25**
6:30 Daniel Olive
9:00 Rev. John Radley, CSsR
- Thursday - February 26**
6:30 Peter Farmer
9:00 Joseph Patrick McCabe & Family
- Friday - February 27**
6:30 Nancy Steiniger
9:00 Christopher Rochford, Birthday Remembrance
- Saturday - February 28**
9:00 INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
5:00 Raymond Godek
7:00 Thomas Corrigan
- Sunday - March 1**
7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Paul Fidnarick
10:00 Lena Gianuzzi, Anniversary
11:30 Marie Bosco
1:00 Patrick, Sarah & Pdraig McCann
5:30 Patrick Quaranto, Sr.

Readings For The Week

- Mon. Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matt 25:31-46
- Tues. Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
- Wed. Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
- Thurs. Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matt 7:7-12
- Fri. Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
- Sat. Deut. 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
- Sun. Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18** *God tested Abraham, asking him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Seeing Abraham's obedience, God relented. Because of Abraham's faith, God blessed him greatly.*

Romans 8:31b-34 *We have received the ultimate proof of God's love: Christ Jesus, given up to death for the sake of us all. "If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Mark 9:2-10 *Jesus went up a mountain with his disciples and was transfigured before their eyes. A voice from a cloud proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00
Amount Received: February 14/15, 2015
\$11,536.41

Reflection & Living Stewardship

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. The Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves - at God's service in and through the Church.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish whose giving - whether of alms, time or service - will be an expression of gratitude for what the Father has given them.



Charismatic Prayer Group

"You gotta be in it to win it!" No, I am not promoting Lotto, but just like Lotto, if you are not in God's game, how are you going to win the "prize?" It's worth more than millions! You know what it is - salvation! So get in the game; it's never too late!

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.

HOP Club

- 2/16/15 #314 Steve & Ginny Volino \$25
- 2/17/15 #352 Terry & Chris McCormick \$25
- 2/18/15 #414 Phyllis Morici \$25
- 2/19/15 #345 R. & E. Velting \$25
- 2/20/15 #448 Frances Segretario \$250



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



Wedding Banns

Second Banns

Michael Pietzack & Michelle Mahlstadt



*“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, oatmeal, sugar, mixed vegetables, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, chicken soups, mayonnaise, coffee, boxed milk, hot chocolate, icing, juice boxes, beef stew, chili, tissues, bar soap, dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo and baby wipes. Thank you for all that you do to help those in need.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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

The Psalms of Lent

Psalm 25

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Week of February 22 - 28, 2015



Altar Bread & Wine

*In Loving Memory of
Sebastian & Edna
Pusateri*

Week of February 22 - 28, 2015

Sanctuary Candle

*In Loving Memory of
John J. Wolfe*



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, 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, Cathy's Mom

Rest in Peace

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

***Louis Francis Rocco, Louise A. Puttre
Leonard J. Salemi, Paul S. Monteleone
Julia Monaco***

The Pastor's Letter

This past Wednesday, we began the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. I find that many Catholics begin this season with great enthusiasm and commitment. We are like the people who begin diets on January 2nd. The challenge is to somehow, over the course of forty days which can be a long time, to seek to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to let his love grow even greater in our hearts.

There are three tried and true methods of spirituality that are recommended for our Lenten practice. They form a tripod of spirituality. We are invited during Lent to deepen our prayer life, to enter into fasting, and to work on our spirit of almsgiving. Simply put, Lent is a time to pray a bit more, to try to make some sacrifices, and be charitable to others.

I always encourage people to pray more. If you are not in the habit of daily prayer, do not begin by committing to pray an hour a day, or to read the entire Bible. You probably won't and then you may feel discouraged and give up. I invite you to pray a decade of the rosary, to read the upcoming Sunday Gospel, or to spend five minutes in quiet prayer. These are all very doable. Perhaps if we can, we might attend a daily Mass one extra day a week.

Fasting is associated with food and drink. Perhaps, you can make the heroic sacrifice to refrain from chocolate, alcohol, soda, or dessert. We can also do other kinds of fasting. We can fast from an hour of television, the internet, gossip, and anger. Imagine asking a young person to fast from texting for an entire day. We do not fast for the sake of fasting, but to remind us of our desire for God. We fast to try to focus our attention on the Lord and to be free of some habits that may control us.

The third pillar of Lent is almsgiving, which is the traditional word for charity to others especially those in need. It can also mean seeking to treat the people of our lives, our spouses, our children, our parents or coworkers with kindness. I believe the best kind of almsgiving is when it is connected with fasting. So if I give up donuts for Lent, I give the money I would have spent at *Dunkin Donuts* to a charity or the parish poor box. As you leave church today, you will get a copy of the Redemptorist Lenten book which has a reading for each day of Lent. These booklets are donated by the Redemptorists. You will get a program that details many of the spiritual events of the parish during Lent, and you will get a wristband to witness to your Catholic faith during the days of Lent.

Now, I am going to do something which I find very difficult to do. I would rather get a root canal or wear a Yankee shirt! I want to speak to you about our collections and some recent challenges to the parish. I am so reluctant to do this because you are a very generous people, and I have no doubt you have your own personal concerns about your own finances. You do not want to hear appeals for money. However, I feel I must confess that this is the first time in my four years as your pastor that I have been worried about the parish financial situation.

First some good news: The parish capital campaign continues to go very well. You have been incredibly faithful to fulfilling the pledges that you made to the parish a little more than a year ago. Thank you so much for your generosity. That money is reserved for only those needs that we brought to your attention when the campaign began.

Now the challenges: Our collections have been consistently lower for the past several months. To operate the parish, we budget that we need \$17,500 in the weekly collection. As you know we have little other income in our parish. We do get some rent money from Verizon for their cell phone tower on the school roof, and we get some funds from the HOP Club and the Golden Harvest. However, our parish does little fund raising and I am happy about that. I like parish gatherings that bring people together. However, I do not want them associated with money. I think the people who would support fundraisers are the same people who support the collection. Our collections have been in the \$15,000's quite often. Last week, it was in the area of \$11,000.

Why is the happening? Certainly the bad weather has been a key factor. Last week was bitterly cold. I do not want any parishioner to come to Mass if they feel that it is a risk to them or their safety. Also, some of our parishioners go away for the winter. Some of our most generous benefactors have gone home to God. Whenever there is bad weather, the collection drops dramatically. Whenever there is a second collection, the funds drop off. Perhaps, the capital campaign donations have impacted us.

As our fiscal year ended last year, we were about \$28,000 in the red. This year, although the price of oil is down, we have had high heating bills and the need to repair breakdowns in our heating system. For the first time since I have been here, we had to go into our savings last month to help pay bills from our operating budget. Although we have some solid money on reserve, that fund will quickly be lost if we cannot maintain our operating budget with the collections.

Additionally, we were hit with another major expense that was a key factor that led me to speak to you this weekend. As you may know, our maintenance manager, T.J. Hance was in a serious accident while driving the parish truck. Thanks be to God, he survived the accident without major injury. God is good since he is a young family man with three little children. He was totally faultless in this accident. We will recover the money from the truck but T.J. was the man who plowed our parking lot with such dedication. T.J. is out of work for the next six weeks so I have had to hire a plowing company. Five inches of snow cost \$1,000, and sanding is another \$500. Also, T.J. did the cleaning of our buildings, and we now have to pay another person to clean the school and church. I hate snow!

I am going to make a simple request now. For each of the next five Sundays of Lent, I am asking you to put \$2.00 more in the collection that you usually do. If the majority of you do that, it would probably raise our collection by \$1,500 which I hope would pay for the snow removal. \$2.00 is a small latte at *Starbucks*, the cost of a movie rental, about the cost of four cigarettes, the cost of two chocolate donuts, a bottle of soda, less than the cost of the weekday edition of *The New York Times*. If anyone wants to give more than \$2.00, I won't be offended in any way. I also know some of you may find a \$2.00 increase more than you can do since you may be on a fixed income. I understand that, and I do not want anyone to give up something they need.

Since the general should lead from the front of his troops, I will give up chocolate and donuts of every kind. That should be good for about \$5.00 a week. The parishioners of St. Martin's are the best. God is good. We will get through this difficult time.

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

HOLY HOUR
Thursday, February 26th
3:00 - 4:00PM
Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Saturday, March 21st

8PM - 11PM
Church

St. Martin of Tours
PARISH LENTEN MISSION
Conducted by
Father Richard Bennett, CSSR

Monday - Wednesday
March 9, 10 & 11
7:30PM



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.

Please Note:
There may be times during the day when we will have to lock the church for cleaning. A note will be posted on the doors when this is necessary.

The Church In Need Second Collection
February 21/22, 2015

Please give as much as your means will allow.

Thank you!



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.

Wednesday Lenten Prayer Reflections 7:30PM in the Church

February 25:

**Prayer: Watching with Jesus
(Benediction included)**

March 18:

Listening to Jesus: His Seven Last Words

Lenten Movies

Mary of Nazareth

**Saturday, February 28th at 2PM
St. Alphonsus Hall**

The Passion of the Christ

**Friday, March 27th at 7:30PM
St. Alphonsus Hall**

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 23: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Stations of the Cross - Every Friday at 7:30PM Church
- Feb 23, Mar 2, Mar 16 & Mar 23: Fr. Jim's Gospel Study 7:15PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 26: Holy Hour 3PM Church
- Feb 28: Movie: Mary of Nazareth 2PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- 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
- Mar 21: Eucharistic Adoration 8PM - 11PM Church
- Mar 27: Movie: The Passion of the Christ 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 28: Spiritual Book Club: The Prodigal God 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 29: Living Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church

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.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REMINDERS TO 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS**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 - 8:30PM.

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

ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS MUST ATTEND FEBRUARY 23RD AT 6:30pm

The Confirmation packet is due at this meeting as is the Confirmation workbook with Chapters 1 - 8.

Our Confirmation date is Wednesday, March 25th.

A - L is at the 1:30 ceremony/practice Monday, March 23rd at 7:30PM

M - Z is at the 4:30 ceremony/practice Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30PM

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
 2LT Samantha Lopez, U.S. Navy

Welcome Back Lighthouse Catholic Media



This past Advent for two weeks, we made available listening and reading materials from *Lighthouse Catholic Media*. These materials were well received by our parishioners. **During the first two weekends of Lent, February 21-22 and February 27-28**, we will once again make such materials available. *Lighthouse Catholic Media* has gathered some of the best of Church writings and speakers and made them very accessible to those who are seeking to come to know Jesus or to deepen their faith in the Lord. They are offered at a very inexpensive price in the form of books, booklets, compact discs, and copies of the *New Testament*. The parish is not making any profit on these materials and are being sold for exactly what the parish paid. I find their writings and lectures to be very solid in Catholic teaching, and I hope you might consider buying a disc or book. Many of us spend a fair amount of time watching television (I know I do). Here is a chance to feed our spirits with some excellent reflections. Spiritual reading and listening is a great practice for the season of Lent.

We are proud to present a **new evangelization opportunity** here at St. Martin's. *Lighthouse Catholic Media* offers a practical and effective program to help Catholics know their Faith, keep their Faith, and share their Faith! We all have friends or family members who have fallen away from the Church, or loved ones who are searching for answers about their Faith and want to increase their knowledge and understanding but don't know where to begin. Now you can reach out to them by offering a wonderful learning tool - a Lighthouse CD. Whether in the car or at home, people can deepen their understanding of the Catholic Faith when they listen to inspiring talks given by some of the best Catholic speakers in the world. I am very grateful to our parishioner, Rita Verow, for once again coordinating this wonderful effort. - Father Pat

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 call the rectory at 931-0818 and someone will return your call.

Next Virtus at St. Martin of Tours

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

Dear SMT Book Club Friends,

We hope you are warm and safe in this “frosty” weather! Our new book is **“Orphan Train”** by Kristina Baker Kline. The meeting will be **Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM in Saint Alphonsus Hall**. Warm conversation and insightful comments hopefully will be enjoyed by all. New and seasoned members are most welcome. The book doesn’t need to be completed by the meeting date.

A memo about the meeting and some thoughts for discussion will be emailed to you about 10 days before. If you have any concerns, please contact Ann Mele ann111647@netscape.net or call (516) 330-3039.

Till then happy reading! - Father Patrick Woods & Ann Mele

**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

THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE: Vatican City, Feb. 17, 2015 CNA/EWTN



Pope Francis offered his Tuesday morning Mass for the repose of the souls of the 21 Egyptian Christians killed by ISIS Militants, praying that man learn to reject his evil temptations, and choose what is good. The Pope prayed for OUR BROTHER COPTICS whose throats were slit for the sole reason of being Christian, that the Lord welcome them as martyrs, for their families (and) for my brother Tavadras, who is suffering greatly. His comments came after the Islamic State released a video last Sunday purporting to show the grisly beheadings of 21 Coptic Christians from Egypt.

Pope Francis initiated his reflections by turning to the Bible passage in Genesis that speaks of God's wrath in the face of human wickedness before the great flood. He lamented that man often seems more powerful than God due to his capacity to destroy what God has created. In the wake of the shocking videotaped beheadings of these 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan has warned that civilization is THREATENED by the violent Terror group Islamic State. The Archbishop said in a commentary for the *New York Post* that, like Pope Francis and many others, he was DEEPLY SADDENED by the latest violence of Islamic State ISIS extremists, WHO SEE ANYBODY WHO DISAGREES WITH THEM AS THEIR ENEMY.

"They were beheaded for nothing less than their religious convictions. It moves me to prayers; it moves me to tears, yes, as a Christian, but also as an American, who recognizes RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS OUR FIRST MOST CHERISHED LIBERTY."

The Cardinal said, "there is no denying that there is an orchestrated phobia of Christianity throughout the world, and a coordinated effort by fanatics to see that 'True Religion' which stands for FRIENDSHIP, PEACE, DIGNITY AND THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE, is stamped out."

Source: ABC News Drew MacKenzie

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**

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.

**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!

(Reuters)



Pope Francis expressed deep sadness for the beheading of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians in Libya, departing from the script of an address on Monday to emphasize the unity of all Christians regardless of the denomination they follow.

Addressing members of the Church of Scotland, the Argentine pope mentioned the killings which took place on a beach in Libya and were filmed and broadcast on Sunday by a website that supports Islamic State. "Their only words were: 'Jesus, help me!' They were killed simply for the fact that they were Christians," Francis said in his native Spanish, departing from the Italian he uses at most formal events.

The leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, who has said it is "lawful" to stop an unjust aggressor, went on: "The blood of our Christian brothers and sisters is a testimony which cries out be heard. It makes no difference whether they be Catholics, Orthodox, Copts or Protestants. They are Christians!" Francis added: "The martyrs belong to **all** Christians."

Egypt, where Christians make up around a tenth of a predominantly Muslim population, is stepping up its battle against Islamist militants in neighboring Libya. The Coptic Church is founded on the teachings of St. Mark who took Christianity to Egypt during the reign of the Roman emperor Nero.

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!

Redemptorist Archbishop Bashar Warda, CSSR Serves Iraqi Christians Persecuted by ISIS



Archbishop Bashar Warda, CSSR has been serving the people of Iraq in the spirit and charism of the Redemptorists since 1995. His academic dedication pushed him to obtain a doctorate at the Catholic University of Louvain in 1999, where upon completion he returned to the land and people that he holds so dear. His commitment to serving his community and the Church was recognized in 2009 by the Synod of Bishops of the Chaldean Catholic Church who elected him as Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Erbil.

With the consent of Pope Benedict XVI, Fr. Bashar Warda was consecrated Archbishop of Erbil, Iraq in 2010. All of these accomplishments have been spurred by his passion to serve societies most abandoned and vulnerable. Unfortunately in today’s Erbil it is a whole society which is vulnerable to the threat of the Islamic State (Daesh). Archbishop Warda’s diocese began to see a massive influx of refugees by the beginning of June 2014. To date over 125,000 Christians and Yazidis residents have fled cities and towns such as Mosul, Qaraqosh and Karamles once Daesh gained control of their territory.

Each year our annual soup supper takes up a free will offering for a special need. This year it will be held on March 4th. When I suggested to the Liturgy Committee that the offering be sent to Archbishop Warda for the persecuted Christians, they were enthusiastic in their support of the idea. Whatever is donated, through Redemptorist channels, will get to him. We are so proud of this Redemptorist who is standing with the suffering Catholics of Iraq. - Father Pat

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Youth Ministry Adoration

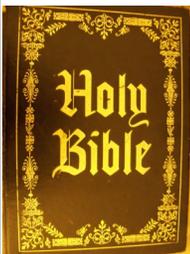
Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 PM
in the Church.

Everyone is welcome!

**The Living Stations of the Cross
performed by
St. Martin of Tours Parishioners**

**PALM SUNDAY EVENING
MARCH 29th
7:30PM in the Church**

Fr. Jim McCabe, CSSR will conduct four sessions held each Monday on the dates listed below. 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.



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



Bethpage 24nd Annual St. Patrick's Parade



**Honoring 2015 Grand Marshal
Rev. Patrick Woods, C.Ss.R.
Sunday, March 1, 2015 - 2:00 PM
(through downtown Bethpage)**

Schedule of Events: 1:00 PM Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church
2:00 PM Parade immediately following Mass
3:30 PM Program – Showmobile on Broadway
4:00 PM Reception at St. Martin's Auditorium and Cafeteria

Music & Entertainment and Food, Drinks & Good Cheer
All are invited

Admission: \$5.00 per person – children under 12 are free

With sincere gratitude to our donors

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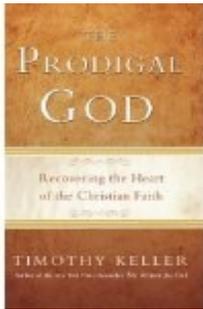
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Thank you, also, to the residents of Bethpage who have contributed to this event.

Parish Spiritual Book Club
The Prodigal God
 Written by Timothy Keller, Riverhead Books

Selection for Lent, 2015

"This short book is meant to lay out the essentials of the Christian message, the gospel." So begins Timothy Keller's new book, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*. Keller targets both seekers who are unfamiliar with the gospel and longtime church members who may not feel the need for a primer on the gospel. Keller's book, as the provocative title suggests, is built on one of Jesus' most famous stories, the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15).



Keller contends that "on the surface of it, the narrative is not all that gripping." But, he contends that "if the teaching of Jesus is likened to a lake, this famous Parable of the Prodigal Son would be one of the clearest spots where we can see all the way to the bottom." Keller has taught from this passage many times over the years, and says, "I have seen more people encouraged, enlightened, and helped by this passage, when I explained the true meaning of it, than by any other text."

The book is laid out in seven brief chapters which aim to uncover the extravagant (prodigal) grace of God, as revealed in this parable. Keller shows how the parable describes **two** kinds of "lost" people, not just one. Most people can identify the lost-ness of the "Prodigal Son," the younger brother in Jesus' story, who takes his inheritance early and squanders it on riotous living.

But Keller shows that the "elder brother" in the parable is no less lost. Together, the two brothers are illustrations of two kinds of people in the world. "Jesus uses the younger and elder brothers to portray the two basic ways people try to find happiness and fulfillment: the way of moral conformity and the way of self-discovery." Both brothers are in the wrong, and when we see this, we discover a radical redefinition of what is wrong with us.

We will have our meeting at St. Alphonsus Hall on March 28th, at 7PM. You do not have to be a member of the book club to attend. This is one of my favorite books. Even if you have not read the book, you might enjoy the discussion. All are welcome. - Father Pat

Stations of the Cross
Friday evenings in the Church at 7:30PM

Began February 20
February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20 & March 27



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning the him sternly, he dismissed him at once. *Mark 1*

Do you feel sorry for Brian Williams, the NBC newscaster, whose life has been turned upside down as it was revealed he misled his viewers about an incident that occurred to him while he was covering the war in Iraq? At first, I did not. It is hard to feel sorry for someone who is making ten million dollars a year. Although I had never had any personal dislike toward Williams, I have not been a big fan of NBC and how it covers news stories. I almost took delight in his downfall. But as the days have gone and his public humiliation has grown, I have begun to feel sorry for him. Granted, he may have lied to us, but I suppose I could use the famous sayings, "There but for the grace of God go I," or "Let the one without sin be for the first to throw the first stone." There may have been a time or two when I exaggerated some of my athletic exploits from my high school days!

There are many people we can feel sorry for in the world around us. Certainly, when we see a person suffering from a serious illness such as cancer, we feel bad for that person and wish we could take the disease away. When we see a grieving widow or widower who has lost their spouse, we easily slip into their pain for a time. Recently, a man from another parish, Mike Reali, who regularly attends our daily 6:30 a.m., lost his 26 year old son, Joseph, when he died suddenly from a blood clot. Several people from the Mass came together and had a Mass said for Joseph. They mentioned to me, "Father I cannot imagine losing a child like that." These parishioners entered into Mike's world for a brief time and felt a taste of what he was feeling. The list of those we can feel for could go on for many hours: the victims of terrorists, the homeless, the unemployed, the depressed, the lonely, those persecuted for their religion, to name but a few.

Doctors, nurses, social workers and so on are cautioned and taught to keep boundaries with those whom they are treating. If they truly enter into the pain and suffering of all their patients and clients, they themselves may become emotionally exhausted and worn out and no longer able to help others. Still, as a priest, it is both a blessing and a sorrow to be present to people who are in the midst of great suffering and pain. I often feel a deep sorrow as I minister to them. The day I do not feel that sorrow, would not be good for me since I would lose something important in being with others.

Recently, we have been having arguments about children being inoculated against measles and whether every parent should be forced to have their child inoculated so the disease does not spread. We also recall the great fear many felt about the Ebola virus and the danger of its possible spread. I can recall the many misunderstandings people had about AIDS when it first became known as a disease. There was a great desire to isolate the AIDS patient from all human contact and tremendous fear that just being near such a person could cause one to catch the disease.

This sense of isolation for a sick person today is mild in comparison to the treatment of those suffering from leprosy at the time of Jesus. The Book of Leviticus says this is how people with leprosy are to be dealt with: "The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'

As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp. The disease was terrible to have, but perhaps even worse was the isolation the victim had to bear. He or she was taken from family and told to live on the outskirts of town. They were told they must warn anyone who comes near them by shouting out, "Unclean! Unclean!" They were people cast into isolation. They were people without hope. They were people to be shunned and feared. This first reading from the old law is about separation and isolation.

Here is what we heard in the Gospel: A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." Jesus touches the leper. That is a shocking moment to all who witness this. Jesus is actually breaking the Jewish law. No one is to touch a leper. Jesus goes far beyond feeling sorry for the leper. He is moved with pity. I read that the Greek verb used for *moved with pity* was to have your guts torn into knots. Now that is being moved. That is a central aspect of believing in Jesus; he is both fully human and fully divine. He enters into the pain of the world. He knows what it is to feel like a leper and be alone and isolated. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he knows what is to be afraid to die. As he is scourged and crowned with thorns, he knows what it is to feel incredible physical pain. He knows what it is to be rejected and abandoned by his friends and followers. I remember reading once that we cannot say to God, you do not know what it is like to lose you son. He does.

As you and I turn to him today with our sorrows and struggles, with our pains and burdens, he is with us as he was with the leper. God weeps with us when we weep. He does not always take away our pain and suffering, our isolation and sadness, but he is with us. We are not alone even if we do not feel his touch as did the leper. Notice, after Jesus heals the leper who has lived in loneliness, Jesus immediately reconnects him to the community: go and see the priest and be declared cured so you can be with your family and friends. Our Lord asks the leper to be quiet about the cure but how can he resist not shouting from the housetops that he has been set free from this horrible disease. Now, Jesus is being pursued and following by crowds seeking cures, seeking wonders, seeking miracles. He is overwhelmed with people and he is not able to preach the Good new of his father. He has to go off by himself. Look what has happened: the one who brought the leper back to the community now has to go into isolation lest he be swept away by the crowd. He has taken on the burden of the leper to set him free.

It does not cost us much to feel sorry for someone. But does that feeling of the pain of another lead us to some compassionate action? If I feel sorry for a grieving widow, do I go out of my way to speak to her or do I avoid her because I do not want to hear her pain. Do I avoid people who are sick because they may make feel uncomfortable because I do not know what to say to them? True compassion for another, as Jesus shows us, leads to reaching out to them and seeking to help them. Today, we are lepers in our sins, our sorrows, our struggles, but we will be touched by Jesus in Holy Communion.

Father Pat's Homily - February 15, 2015

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

**POPE FRANCIS HOSPITALITY CENTER LOCATED AT
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