

**Masses For The Week**

**Monday - November 16**

6:30 Millie Savady  
9:00 Robert Preziosi, Anniversary

**Tuesday - November 17**

6:30 Thomas P. Keegan  
9:00 Marjorie Start

**Wednesday - November 18**

6:30 Joan O'Mara Peterson  
9:00 Patrick Curtin

**Thursday - November 19**

6:30 Deceased Members of the Garone Family  
9:00 Elizabeth L. Lewandowski

**Friday - November 20**

6:30 Mary Rabbitte  
9:00 Scott Nigro & Alfred Joseph Nigro

**Saturday - November 21**

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS  
5:00 Robert Coiro  
7:00 Monica, Frances & Teofil Szymkowski

**Sunday - November 22**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
8:30 Josephine T. D'Ambrise  
10:00 Thomas Cilmi  
11:30 Dominick Agnese, Anniversary  
1:00 Cornelius Lewis  
5:30 Charles Blansfield

**Readings For The Week**

Mon. 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63  
Luke 18:35-43  
Tues. 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10  
Wed. 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28  
Thurs. 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44  
Fri. 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48  
Sat. 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40  
Sun. **Daniel 7:13-14** *Daniel had a vision and saw "one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven...His dominion is an everlasting dominion."*

**Revelation 1:5-8** *The firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth has made us a kingdom, priests for his God and Father.*

**John 18:33b-37** *When Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You say I am a king."*



**Divine Mercy Novena**  
**Every Friday at 2:00 p.m.**  
**in the Eucharistic Chapel**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**

**Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00**  
**Amount Received: Nov 7/8, 2015**  
**Regular Collection: \$16,520.22**

***Thank you for your great generosity!***

**Reflection & Living Stewardship**



The readings today speak of the end of the world and the coming of the Kingdom. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship says clearly "that 'life to come' is in continuity with the present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now." May our good stewardship cause us to be numbered among the chosen on the last day!

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who live each day preparing for the coming of the Son of Man.

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

What if you were being held for ransom but the demand was so much more than could be raised?! What would happen to you? Because of original sin our souls were held for ransom, but luckily for us, God said - **no amount was too much!**

**Our next meeting is Monday, November 16th at 7:30 PM in the Church. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.**

**HOP Club Winners**

11/9/15 #207 M/M Salvatore F. Aquilina \$25  
11/10/15 #590 Rosa & Giovanni Giandalivigni \$25

**FEAST OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS BONUS WINNERS**

11/11/15 #517 Susan Renee Kilkenny \$500  
11/11/15 #184 Ken & Marie Evans \$500  
11/12/15 #309 Paul Ciaramella \$25  
11/13/15 #98 Sue & Bill Brady \$50

*Wedding Banns*

3rd Michael Rodrigues & Kim Masi  
 2nd John Munnelly & Teresa Volino



***“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: rice (white & brown), Rice-A-Roni, cereals, peas, corn, carrots, chili, pasta sauce, tuna fish, peanut butter, soups, Chef Boyardee canned pasta, ketchup, mayonnaise, oil, juice, juice boxes, brownie mix, icing, boxed milk, black beans, baked beans, tomato paste, toilet paper, shampoo, laundry soap, tissues, dish soap and diapers (sizes 5 & 6).

We would gratefully accept frozen turkeys for Thanksgiving, preferably before 11/21/15. Thank you so much for your tremendous generosity!

**Parish Outreach Food Pantry:**

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

*Week of November 15 - 21, 2015*



*Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Loving Memory of  
 Ann & William J. Csajko*

*Week of November 15- 21, 2015*

*Sanctuary Candle*

*In Loving Memory of  
 Joseph V. Luparello*



***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  
 Leigh Murphy, Richard Piernini, Joseph Simon  
 Douglas Torres, James Robertson, Amy Hayes  
 Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina, Pat Cannata  
 Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell, 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, Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh  
 Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Louise Sandberg  
 Florencio Carmenate, Anthony Luisi, Mary McCarthy  
 Christina Macchio, Karen Kilgard, Angela Calendrille  
 Ann Marie Frayler, Nicholas Balducci, Robert Kennan  
 Corey Voboril, Charles Walsh, Baby Scarlett, May Duffey  
 Tommy Johnson, Louise Smith, Joseph Vareed  
 Anna M. Bosco, Baby Daniel, Janet Medina, Kevin Henson  
 Marie Newman, The Mascia Family, Edward Brown  
 Ceil Hollander, Ann Mirto, Vicki Perri, Daniel Costa  
 Nikki Eleanor Behrik, Hector Valentine, Theresa DuRoss  
 Bob Baciуска, Carol Ann Scudder, John Scudder  
 Thomas Napoli, Justine & Nicole Scudder Joan Spira  
 Gerald Campbell, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall, Joe Bauer  
 Catherine A. McCarthy, Paul Granberg, Charles Boyce  
 Antoinette Diana, Elsa Ryan, Sarah Messin, William Boyce  
 Little Sonny D'Ambrosio, Joann Sescila, Albert La Rocca  
 Michael Arato, Deacon Jose Roa, Elizabeth Ryan  
 Ken Mannion, Linda Malone, Laura Cronin  
 Lynn Calo, Tom Doty, Christine Chiarappa, Michael Kott, Jr.  
 Connie Burgess, Dolores Miller, Susan Carroll-Goyan  
 Carol Episcopio, Cathy Rusch, Samantha McNeil  
 Patty & Tom Turano, Antonia Binetti, Layla Barr  
 Louie Gandolfo, Fran Brideau, Kevin Connors, Sal Mascolo  
 Jerome Antonucci, Nicholas Amato, Poppy Singh  
 Liz Caraccia, Jesusa Aquino, Joseph McCroary  
 Guido Penafiel, Barry Monteleone, Dolores Lordahl  
 Madeline Molnar, Charlie Hoffmann, Nadine Lewin Wall  
 Richard Graziano Jean Mulligan, Carol Posnjak  
 Geraldine Zeterberg, Susan Peters, Stephen Hogan  
 Edward Boyce, Fran & Al Gandolfo, Pat Steiger  
 Sheila & George Neumann

***Rest in Peace***

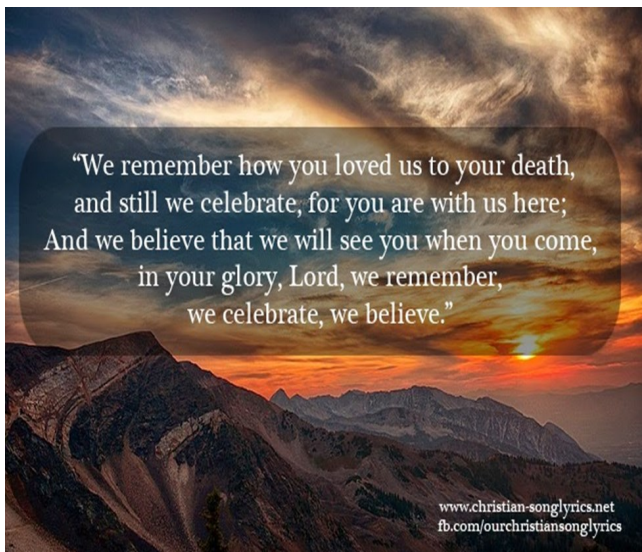
***Acts 7:49: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”  
 Geraldine E. O’Brien***

## *The Pastor's Letter*

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states quite clearly: **The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit.**

This past Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, our parish celebrated its annual Mass of Remembrance for all those who died and were buried from St. Martin of Tours Parish over the past year. I find this Mass to be perhaps the most moving liturgy of the year as so many grieving families and friends come together in remembrance and prayer as they mourn their beloved deceased. Many of the people who attend come to me afterwards and thank the parish for holding such a comforting Mass. Jesus told us, *"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."* I am so very grateful to all the members of our parish, through their different ministries who bring comfort to the those who mourn, not only the Mass of Remembrance, but throughout the year as we celebrate funerals and memorial Masses.

Our musicians and singers, under the leadership of Elena Scollo, use their great gifts to provide both comforting and inspiring music. The simple grace of a baked cake brought to a wake by the St. Clement's Bakers means so very much to those who have lost someone. I truly appreciate the dedicated work of the Arimathians who assist the clergy at all the funeral Masses. We are also blessed by Mary Vitti and her ministry in the bereavement groups that are held. Mary has also helped at wakes from time to time. The liturgy committee, guided by Ann Hughes, creates the powerful liturgy that we celebrate annually in memory of our deceased. Ed and Sarah Indelicato serve refreshments after the Mass. Finally, I am grateful for the pastoral care that Deacon Tom, Father Jim and Father Ciya provide for those who have suffered losses.



"We remember how you loved us to your death,  
and still we celebrate, for you are with us here;  
And we believe that we will see you when you come,  
in your glory, Lord, we remember,  
we celebrate, we believe."

I am happy that I live in a section of the United States where we have the changing of the four seasons. I would find it very hard to see Santa in a bathing suit, or having to turn on the air conditioner for Mass on Christmas Eve. If I had to adjust to drinking hot chocolate on the Fourth of July because it was cold, I would think there was something wrong with that. I love that flowers and gardens are just beginning to bloom and come to life as we celebrate the central feast of the Christian Faith: Easter Sunday, the day on which we proclaim *He is Risen!*

For me the setting of this annual Mass of Remembrance in the Fall around the time of the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls is perfect because we are beginning to see nature prepare for winter as the leaves fall to the ground, the birds migrate South, and we begin to feel the first real cold that remind us winter is coming. I say this is the correct setting because I am sure those of you who have lost loved ones, especially over this past year, know that sense of loss and pain that the death brings to our hearts. Our inner spirits match the world around us that is slowly adapting to loss and new beginnings to come.

I think of the song that we often sing here at St. Martin's: *We remember, We Celebrate, We Believe*. These words capture the essence of what we are doing here today at this Memorial Mass. I have found that the death of a loved one brings us slowly over a journey through these three experiences. And moving through as we remember, celebrate, and believe are never completely finished as we will be moving in and out of these three stages for the rest of our lives.

Remembering is the most difficult of the passages that I have mentioned. The word *remember* means *to hold onto, to stay connected to, to not let go of*. It is to keep the person very much alive in our minds and hearts as we tell stories, look at photos, and as we walk through holidays and parties where we feel so much the loss of our beloved. We cannot help but remember, but in the very act of remembering, we feel both a moment of joy, a smile, but then this feeling quickly fades as we ponder that he or she is no longer with us. We can only hold a memory so long before we cry out to want to touch and speak to the person of flesh and blood with whom we have spent so many years of our lives.

At the time of death, it is a common question to ask: *How is the widow, the widower, the son or daughter, or, God forbid, the mother or father, doing*. It is a fair question, one that we ask out of concern and compassion. But I often think *how are they doing* can only lead to a response of *not so well*. How else could they be feeling? Death is the hardest and most painful loss in life, and it is the most sorrowful burden to bear. I recall the movie *Jesus of Nazareth*, made about 25 years ago. It was an excellent movie and Olivia Hussey played Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The scene that has stayed with me is when the broken body of Christ is placed in her arms. She is wailing uncontrollably, falling to the ground in great grief as she holds her Son.

We all grieve differently. There is no particular time frame when grief comes to an end, if it ever does completely, and we are made whole again. We never apologize for the remembering that leads to sadness. The Scriptures remind us that when Jesus came to the tomb of his dear friend Lazarus, the one with whom he shared joy and meals of fellowship, He wept. If the Son of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, can weep tears over the death of a loved one, so must you. But in that weeping for your loved one, know that Jesus stands with you, his arms around you, holding you and sharing in your sorrow.

After the death of his brother John, Robert Kennedy read the writings of the Greek philosopher Aeschylus who said this thousands of years ago *"In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God."*

So in spite of heaviness of grief, we must also celebrate. We celebrate the life of the person who has died. Whether the person lived thirty years or nine decades, we turn to God and say you gave this person life. God in Heaven breathed His Spirit into the person. He or she walked among us. They married. They worked. Some of them bore children. They loved us. They laughed and smiled and told funny stories. We prayed with them in this very Church. We shared a thousand meals together. We knew their inner thoughts. Through our tears, we say thank you to God for letting us have this person in our life. Yes, we all wanted more time and years, but oh that time we had was precious a gift. The great American playwright, Thornton Wilder once said: *The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude."*

I remember reading a book called *Big Russ* by Tim Russert. As you know Russert was a well-respected news reporter, and a dedicated Catholic, who himself died suddenly several years ago. In the book he tells a story about a co-worker friend who had lost a child at a young age. Naturally, Russert's friend is devastated and Tim has no idea what to say. After a period of time had passed, Tim Russert said to his friend, *If you had to do it all over again, and only have your son for a few years, and then lose him and have the terrible pain you have now, would you do it?* The co-worker worker instantly said, *Absolutely. I would not trade that time for anything.*

Now for the last of the three messages of the song: *We Believe*. Faith and belief are the greatest gifts that God gives us, but they can be elusive and difficult at times. Perhaps, since the recent death of your loved one, your faith has grown stronger and firmer, or you may find that you are angry at God, or wonder where he was when you lost your loved one. I think of two of the greatest women of the Catholic Church: St. Therese of Lisieux and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. These two marvelous saints both experienced dark periods of depression and doubt in their spiritual journeys. Jesus himself cried out from his cross: *My God, My God, why have you abandoned me*. Jesus was the Son of God, but in his humanity he felt incredible desolation. Faith is not an antidote to sorrow and grief. Yet, the Resurrection of Jesus on the third day is the core of our faith. We have two great images of that Resurrection here at St. Martin's: the beautiful stained glass of the Resurrection of Christ over to my left, and the Risen Jesus above our altar.

Both images speak the words that were spoken almost 2,000 years ago at a tomb in Jerusalem. *Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen just as he promised.* Today, here at St. Martin's, we do what Jesus told us to do the night before he died. He took the bread, broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, *This is my body*. He took the cup, blessed it and said, *This is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me*. In spite of your pain and sorrow, you come here in faith that your deceased are home with God.

Father Patrick Woods, CSSR  
woodscsr@aol.com  
Website: smtbethpage.org

### **VIRTUS TRAINING**

#### **Protecting All God's Children**

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

Look for "registration" at the left column and follow the instructions. If you do not have access to the internet, please pick up a packet at the rectory office. Complete it and bring it with you to the Virtus training session.

**Next Virtus at St. Martin of Tours**  
**Monday, November 23rd @ 7:30PM**  
**in the School Faculty Lounge**

**EXPLORING THE BOOK OF GENESIS****Father Jim McCabe, CSsR****7:15 - 8:15PM St. Alphonsus Hall**

Father Jim McCabe, CSsR will conduct sessions for two - three years on the Book of Genesis which contains fifty chapters. Each session will explore two chapters. Some of topics for discussion will be questions like: Why are there two creation accounts? Why are people so old in the Book of Genesis? Why are there two flood accounts? Other topics will be explored as well. Questions will be taken at the end of each session. All sessions are on Monday with the exception of Tuesday, November 24. Father Jim has prepared the following schedule:

November 16	Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen
November 24	Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen (Tuesday Evening)



There is **NO** Life Night this Sunday, November 15th.

**Upcoming Events:**

11/20: DRVC Holy Hour for Vocations at St. Ignatius Church 7PM

11/22: Life Teen's Pot-Luck Thanksgiving Dinner



**Upcoming Events:**  
12/10- Edge Night 7-8:30pm

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

**My Life with the Saints Paperback – by Father James Martin S.J.**

I had originally suggested our next book for our spiritual book club would be **Mercy by Cardinal Kaspar**. Although this is a highly recommended book, I have found it rather heavy to read, and I wonder if other members would have a similar experience. **So, I am suggesting we read *My Life with the Saints* by Father James Martin. November is a good time to reflect on the saints and we will discuss this book during Advent. Our group had previously read Martin's book named *Jesus* and liked it very much.**

**The Spiritual Book Club will meet at 7:30 p.m., Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
in St. Alphonsus Hall.**

“Good God, how could human beings do this to other human beings?” Cardinal John O’Connor asked as he touched the red bricks of the crematorium at Dachau. He thought of the many Jews and Christians whose ashes are intermingled among the remnants of this awful place.



Before leaving the crematorium, Cardinal O’Connor determined to further his pro-life efforts, “to protect and enhance the sacredness of life, every human life.”

The Cardinal later wrote in his column in the *New York Catholic*: “Help Wanted: Sisters of Life.” The article continued...the Sisters of Life was being formed for women interested in answering a call to pray, assist those harmed by abortion and promote the Church’s pro-life agenda.

Out of the more than one hundred responses to the Cardinal’s column, eight women signed on to become Sisters of Life. Mary Agnes Donovan, a professor in the Teachers College at Columbia University, was one of the eight. Although Dr. Donovan was happy in her teaching career, something was missing. She felt called to the religious life, but not to any particular order. Cardinal O’Connor’s article referring to “a call” to the Sisters of Life’s mission struck a responsive chord. Dr. Donovan “answered the call” and never looked back. Today, she is the Superior Mother General of the order.

The Sisters of Life is a contemplative/active religious community. The sisters take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and a fourth vow - *to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life*. Currently, there are 10 postulants, 18 novices and 66 sisters. Sisters of Life now have convents throughout the United States and Canada. The sisters spend four hours a day in prayer and meditation. Prayer is essential to the Sisters’ mission. It is the source of the grace that sustains them despite the often challenging circumstances they confront.

**Visitation Mission** is the Sisters of Life’s primary mission. Last year, over 700 pregnant women in crisis received some form of assistance through the Sisters. The women may be homeless, alone, or unable to cope with an emotionally difficult pregnancy. The sisters offer practical assistance (supplies for the baby), emotional support and spiritual guidance.

In general, half of the women counseled by the Sisters are able to remain at home and receive counseling in person or by telephone. The women in need of a place to live may stay with the Sisters at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan for six months prior to the baby’s birth and up to a year after the baby has been born. Private homes and maternity facilities run by other religious orders take referrals from the Sisters.

Some additional Sisters of Life programs:

**Handmaids** – laypeople who assist in the Sisters’ apostolic mission

**Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreat House** – Stamford, CT – retreats with a pro-life focus

**New Canaan Retreats** – for women suffering the effects of having an abortion

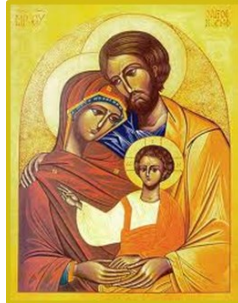
*The Sisters of Life depend on the community for financial support. Donations of food, strollers and baby supplies are also welcome.* To learn more about the Sisters of Life, click on their web-site at <http://sistersoflife.org>

### Young Family Ministry - Leading Families Closer to Christ

Parents meet once a month to chat while the kids play. A meal is provided; it's that simple. We'd love to have you and your family join us. You do not have to be a parishioner of SMT to attend. To RSVP or for more info, contact Erin at: [SMT\\_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com](mailto:SMT_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com)

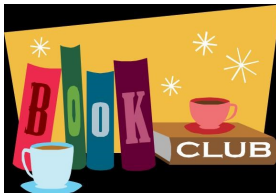
#### The schedule is as follows:

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM in the OLPH Youth Center (School Building)  
November 19, December 17, January 21  
February 4, March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16



Dear SMT Book Club Friends,

Our next book by popular demand is *The Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriana Trigani. We will meet **on Friday, December 11th at 7:30PM in Saint Alphonsus Hall.**



We look forward to seeing you and any new faces. Our sharing at the last meeting discussed some controversial issues in our novel with realism, insight and heartfelt empathy. Our new book hopefully will also embrace our hearts and our minds. The book does not need to be completed at the time of the meeting.

If there are any concerns or questions please contact Ann Mele  
[ann111647@netscape.net](mailto:ann111647@netscape.net) or call 516-330-3039.

Till then, happy reading!  
Father Patrick Woods and Ann Mele



**PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY**



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.



CPT Gregory Holownia, US Army  
 MAJ Erika Holownia, US Army  
 PO3 Matthew Sadecki, USCG  
 SGT Zachary John Sheehy, USMC  
 PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army  
 CPL Dennis Diesel, USMC  
 L CPL James Kruper, USMC  
 SPC Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army  
 CPT Conor B. Murphy, USMC  
 1LT Victoria Meyer, US Army Nurse Corp  
 PO1 John Paul Pedalino II, US Navy  
 CPT Thomas P. Shea, USAF  
 SGT Michael John Kelly, USMC  
 1LT Brian McGrath, US Army  
 SPC Matthew Castellano, US Army  
 PFC Michael Patrick Murphy, US Army  
 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, US Navy  
 PO3 Joshua Zimmerman, US Navy  
 MAJ Brendan McEvoy, US Army  
 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, US Navy  
 SSG George Howard, US Army  
 LT Mario Lopes, USMC  
 PVT Brian Barcavage, US Army  
 CS1 Andrew L. DeMarsico, USN

## **RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**

### **THE LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND -AAA PREGNANCY OPTIONS**

Baby bottles will be collected at all masses this weekend. As always, your welcoming response to women in a crisis pregnancy situation, has been overwhelming. After 10 years of handing you a baby bottle, we are still met with smiles and kindness as you make that difference in the life of a young woman alone and afraid. Standing before you through all 8 masses, and seeing the caring in your eyes, gives us the message to bring to those we serve. This is an update on what we, at the Life Center, have done, are doing and are planning for the future.

The Life Center's Annual Dinner Dance held in October, honored St. Anthony's High School for their tremendous support by raising over \$42,000 through Baby Bottle Campaigns and additional funds raised through various activities. Kristan Hawkins, Executive Director of Students/Med/Law Students For Life, gave a presentation about their organization's current presence and impact on HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE CAMPUSES. Kristan shared survey statistics that reflected OUR CURRENT GENERATION HAS A GREATER COMMITMENT TO THE PROLIFE CAUSE than our previous generations. This is obvious in the dramatic increase of youth in attendance at the MARCH FOR LIFE in WASHINGTON, D.C. compared to previous years. IF OUR YOUTH REMAIN COMMITTED AND STEADFAST, THEY MAY VERY WELL BE THE GENERATION THAT CAN END ABORTION.

- The Life Center's most precious accomplishment are the lives that were saved: 145 BABIES WERE SAVED FROM ABORTION LAST YEAR (includes 3 sets of twins) + 51 saved over the previous year.
- We serviced 3,689 clients; +7% increase over prior year. We distributed 451 pregnancy test kits; +8% increase over prior year. We educated 4,486 people about life issues and the services provided by the Life Center. We provided 2,759 mothers and fathers with distribution of \$693,950 of donated baby items.
- Through our affiliation agreement with Catholic Health Services, we referred 207 pregnant women to Catholic Hospitals or free sonograms and 70% of the abortion minded women referred, had a change of heart and decided to have their baby when they saw the heartbeat of their child on the sonogram! We receive over 2,000 phone calls per month. As many as 50% of our clients are high school and college age students.
- Our goals this year include: Increased Life Center marketing and enhancing our Riverhead center by contacting local school representatives in efforts to educate students on pregnancy care centers; services we provide; invite them to our centers; volunteer opportunities; how we can assist them; how they can assist us and impact prolife movement.
- Men play a critical role in saving the life of their child. We have found a dynamic men's client intake program that we will incorporate into the Life Center.

THE LIFE CENTER IS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK WE DO BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY. WE THANK GOD FOR OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS AND SUPPORT. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HELPING PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR LIVES, AND ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE LIVES SAVED.

Blessings, Gloria Shreiber, Director Life Center of Long Island

The Respect Life Committee of St. Martin of Tours and Diana & Jerry Mirando, Volunteers

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds,  
"Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes  
and accept greetings in the marketplaces,  
seats of honor in synagogues,  
and places of honor at banquets.  
They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext  
recite lengthy prayers.  
They will receive a very severe condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury  
and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.  
Many rich people put in large sums.  
A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.  
Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,  
"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more  
than all the other contributors to the treasury.  
For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth,  
but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had,  
for her whole livelihood Mark 12: 41-44

---

I have heard many complaints about the Catholic Church and pastors through the years. One of the most common critiques goes something like this: *All he ever talks about in his sermons is money.* Without sounding self-serving or defensive, I can say that I find talking about money with parishioners the most difficult task I have as a pastor. Ironically, the relatively few times that I have spoken about money at a Mass, I have received applause from the congregation. I suspect the applause is given - not because the talk was in any way eloquent - but more because the congregation could see and appreciate my discomfort. I remember meeting an elderly nun who was going to preach at all the masses of the parish where I was in order to raise funds to the aging and ill nuns. She told me she always began by saying I have good news and bad news. *The good news is we do have the money we need; the bad news is the money is in your wallet.* Before you begin to get nervous, I want to assure you this sermon is not about money. However, our Gospel reading of the *Widow's Mite* has led me to ponder what our offerings are to God. Is it from our surplus or is it from generosity. At the core of faith is the truth that God freely gave his life for each one of us. The cost was not on us, but on God. Our Lord Jesus paid the highest price with this brutal death on the cross for our redemption. Grace is a free gift from God. So any association of money and faith is at best awkward, although the Bible speaks quite directly about tithing one's goods to God as a key way to respond to God's love.

One of my favorite personal stories about faith and money is one I may have told before. Many years ago, a couple who had been dating a very long time, came to see me. They were probably both in their mid-forties and wanted counsel as to whether they should get married or split up. We talked for more than an hour, and the fellow kind of shuffled his girlfriend out of my office and turned to me and opened his wallet and said, *You were very helpful to us. Father, I insist on paying you for your time.* I saw a big wad of bills. I responded that I did this counseling as part of my priestly duties and I was already being supported. He insisted he wanted to pay. My generosity began to turn to greed. Wow!

Maybe I will get \$100 an hour. This is great! He handed me a ten dollar bill and asked for five dollars back in change! My generosity that had fallen to greed now turned to anger. I told him to give the money to the poor and said goodbye. Another time, I had a baptism for a friend of mine. I went all out to make the baptism special. Afterwards, the man came to me with an envelope. He was a rather well off man and I suspected he had a generous offering in the envelope. So, I said there is no need to give me the envelope. I asked him to please put it away. I do not want it. He was confused and said *Father, this is the name of the godparents.*

One last story. When I was the provincial of our Redemptorist Province, we experienced a very difficult financial challenge. I was very worried that we might not be able to afford to house our elderly and frail confreres and provide for the education of our seminarians. It was one of the most difficult times of my life. Fortunately, I was blessed with great advisors, and we were able to get through the crisis without terrible consequences. What I will never forget is getting a hand written note from an elderly nun in a nursing home. She wrote that she was offering her prayers and support because she loved the Redemptorists. Along with the note was a \$5.00 bill which was probably half of her monthly spending money. I was so humbled and so grateful. That \$5.00 was one of greatest gifts that I have ever received. *The widows' mite: a gift from what you need to live on rather than from your surplus.* There is also a strong hint in the Gospel that the widow is being compared to those who think they are God's favorites because they gave from the surplus. Also there, is a suggestion that there is some corruption with how the temple funds are begin used. You may have been following the stories in the media that Pope Francis has been seeking to find out how accountable the Vatican financial offices have been in use of its money.

Since I already promised you that I will not speak to you about money, then where is this sermon going? That is always a good question to ask about any of my sermons. When I spoke a few weeks ago at all the Masses, I spoke about inviting us all to look at how generous we are with our time, our talents, and our treasure (which is a classy word for money). I am firmly convinced that the hardest aspect of our life to share is time. Time is very limited. There is a defined amount of time we have each day and each week. And, none of us know how much time we have been given for our lives. We have to spend much of our time working, providing for our homes, shopping, caring for our children, doctoring, eating, sleeping and so on. These are really non-negotiable. We have to do them to live. Even if we are retired, we feel pressed for our time.

What do you do with your surplus time? You might laugh and say *Father, I have no surplus time. Every moment of my day is filled.* If that is true then I would say, there may be a significant problem in your life: do you have time for your spouse? Do you have time to pray? Do you have time to take a walk and enjoy God's creation? Do you have time to call or visit a family member or a friend? Do you have time to think? Is there enough time to enjoy a good meal or a night out? Do you have time to help a family member or friend in need or to visit someone in the hospital, attend a wake or a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party? Do you have time to help coach your son's team or play *Uno* with your grandchildren? Can you find the time to attend a prayer service or help in the parish for an hour or two a week? If your general response is that I am too busy then you might think of the words my novice master told me almost 50 years ago, *If you are too busy to pray, you are too busy.* If you are so busy that you rarely have any time to be and enjoy the people of your life then you are too busy. My nephew likes to say that when you are on your death bed, your last words will never be, *I wish I had spent more time at work.*

The other day I was away at a meeting of the Redemptorist and the topic of being very busy came up. The confreres were talking about how busy and demanding their lives were. I raised my hand and said, I find myself far busier as a pastor than when I was provincial. Still, I had enough time to watch all five games of the World Series and to read a novel. As busy as we are, many people can spend four or five hours on the internet or watching television. There is often enough time for texting, Facebook and Twitter. I am rarely so busy that I never miss lunch or supper. *We do what we consider important.*

The widow in today's Gospel gave God the best that she had to offer. She was generous. Today, this Eucharist, God gives us the best he has to offer, Himself in the Holy Eucharist. I invite you to look prayerfully at how you use that most precious gift: your time. How much does God get of our time? How much do the most special people of our lives get of our time? Do I have enough time to care for my own spirit and soul?

I will end with a few words from Jim Croce's song, *Time in a Bottle*:

*But there never seems to be enough time  
To do the things you want to do, once you find them  
I've looked around enough to know  
That you're the one I want to go through time with.*

**FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY**

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

**ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS**

**PROJECT RACHEL**

**WWW.HOPEAFTERABORTION.COM**

**Baby Safe Haven, Safe Babies Safe Place at 1 (877) 796-HOPE**

**Adoption, Foster Care, Maternity Services**

**Catholic Home Bureau 1 (800) 592-4357**

**NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE**

**1-800-4-Child or 1 800-422-4453**



**St. Vincent de Paul Store Locations:**  
**2160 Jericho Turnpike, Garden City Park NY**  
**(516) 746-8250**

**(enter New Hyde Park if you use GPS)**  
**OPEN MON-SAT 10-6**

**1705 Jericho Turnpike, Huntington NY**  
**(631) 858-0380 OPEN MON-SAT 10-6**

**1425A New York Avenue, Huntington Station**  
**(631) 385-1226 OPEN MON-SAT 9-5**

**To arrange furniture, clothing, cars and other  
 donated materials for pick-up, please call (516)  
 746-8250 (Nassau) or 1 800 884-7837 (Suffolk).**

**You can also visit on line at <http://www.svdprvc.org/thrift-stores.html>. Follow the links. St. Vincent de Paul will review your donation request.**

**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>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Nov 14/15: Baby Bottles Collection after all Masses
- Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day Mass 9AM Church (no 6:30AM Mass)
- Dec 4: First Friday Devotions 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Dec 5: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- 
- Dec 7: Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception 7PM Church
- Dec 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
6:30; 9AM, 12 Noon & 7PM Church
- Dec 11: SMT Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 18: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 19: Anointing Mass 9AM Church

