

**Masses For The Week**

**Monday - November 30**

6:30 Michael Naughton  
9:00 Kenneth W. Meyer

**Tuesday - December 1**

6:30 Ann Zolnick  
9:00 Francis Donohue

**Wednesday - December 2**

6:30 Joan Gargiulo, 1st Anniversary  
9:00 Sarah Zura

**Thursday - December 3**

6:30 Anna Peritore  
9:00 Edward Rasmussen

**Friday - December 4**

**6:30** Sanley Lomot, Nicholas & Ustina Drobig  
9:00 Charles A. Harvey, Jr., Anniversary

**Saturday - December 5**

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS  
5:00 John J. Dooley, Jr.  
7:00 Madeline T. Stein

**Sunday - December 6**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
8:30 Herman Lordahl  
10:00 Mary Boglioli  
11:30 Tesoriero & Lazzati Families  
1:00 Salvatore & Maria Accardi  
5:30 Milton McCabe

**Readings For The Week**

Mon. Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22  
Tues. Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24  
Wed. Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37  
Thurs. Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
Fri. Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31  
Sat. Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Matt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
**Sun. Baruch 5:1-9** *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and be glad! The glory of God will shine upon you. The mountains and valleys will become a level plain. "God is leading Israel in joy."*

**Philippines 1:4-6, 8-11** *Paul prayed for the Philippians that the good work begun in them may be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ."*

**Luke 3:1-6** *The word of God was spoken to John the Baptizer. From that time on he went about proclaiming a baptism of repentance, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."*



**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**

**The collection for November 20 & 21 will be reported in next week's bulletin.**

**Reflection & Living Stewardship**



"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who use this liturgical season of Advent as a means for "believing with joy!"

Charismatic Prayer Group

Why come to a prayer group meeting? It's true - you can pray at home or anywhere! But when you make that special effort to come to where He is and praise Him with a group in front of the Blessed Sacrament, the results are amazing. So come...or come back! Try it for Advent - it will be the best present you ever gave yourself!

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

**Correction:** Last week's bulletin reported that Mary Lanzarone won \$50 when she actually won \$250.

**HOP Club Winners**

11/23/15	#635	Mary Lundy	\$25
11/24/15	#345	Richard & Evelyn Velting	\$25
11/25/15	#490	Maureen Fackner	\$25
11/26/15	#20	M/M Gerry Sammarco	\$25
11/27/15	#409	Jane Wojcik	\$50



*“Whatever you do for one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me.”*

This week the Pantry could use: tissues, bar soap, dish soap, toilet paper, laundry soap, diapers size 5 & 6, baby wipes, shampoo, coffee, chili, beef stew, all soups, cereals (regular & sweet), oil, juice boxes, sugar, boxed milk, Jell-O, pudding, hot chocolate, salad dressings, black beans, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans & Chef Boyardee canned pastas.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity to those in need especially during this Thanksgiving time.

**Parish Outreach Food Pantry:**

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

**1st Week of Advent**  
**FOCUS: Jesus says,**  
**Return to me.**  
**Watch. Wait.**  
**Be Alert. Prepare.**



*Week of Nov 29 - Dec 5, 2015*

*Altar Bread & Wine*  
*In Loving Memory of*  
*Michael, Alfonsa &*  
*Vincent Maggio*

*Week of Nov 29 - Dec 5, 2015*

*Sanctuary Candle*  
*In Loving Memory of*  
*Ann Csajko*



**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, 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,
- icholas 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, Fr. Edmund Faliskie, CSSR
- Sheila & George Neumann, John (Jack) Phelps
- Terrence Lynam, Joseph Abruzzo, Elinor Gabbola

***Rest in Peace***

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

**Mario Pintucci, Stanley J. Szymkowski**  
**Antonio Nastasi**

## *The Pastor's Letter*

*Thanksgiving Day Message* I would say that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year. The only problem that I have with Thanksgiving is that it lasts only one day before we hear about Black Friday and Internet Monday and how many shopping days until Christmas. You can stretch the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Memorial Day for several days of picnics and family gatherings. Halloween seems to take at least a week before October 31<sup>st</sup> of getting the proper costumes and another week to eat the candy you have leftover. Easter for people of faith has a fifty day liturgical season, and we Irish consider St. Patrick's Day so important that we celebrate halfway to St. Patrick's Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>. As the Grand Marshall of the Bethpage Parade, I would march on *that* day but I do not want to cause another snowstorm. But maybe that is the beauty for me of Thanksgiving Day that we have not cluttered it up with much commercialism or silliness.

I think almost all cultures and nations have some kind of Thanksgiving Day. We know that our tradition is deeply rooted in faith and God. Those pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock had an incredibly difficult journey across the Atlantic, a very harsh winter, internal disputes, and conflicts with some Native Americans. Still, as religious people believing in Jesus Christ they celebrated the first harvest they had in the New World with prayer and a meal that included those Native Americans who had welcomed them.

This day that we call Thanksgiving became law by these words of President Abraham Lincoln given on October 3, 1863: ***"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict."***

I am amazed that our nation's national day of Thanksgiving began in perhaps that most difficult time of our nation's history. This day brings out the best in us: it is day when almost every family will pray before their meal. Whatever their religion or God, almost every person, whether immigrant or descendant from the pilgrims will say a prayer of gratitude. I remember an Irish fellow went to the wake of an atheist and commented, ***Ah, all dressed up and nowhere to go!*** I think even agnostics and atheists say a prayer to someone on this day. They will sit down with family and friends and break bread and eat the traditional dishes of this day as well as their own special ethnic foods.

We work hard to make sure that no one is left alone on this day. It is a day when we come pretty close to meeting the dream of the hymn we often sing, *All are Welcome*. There is something about the Thanksgiving meal that can bring healing to a family unless they make the mistake of talking politics. It is hard to be angry at someone with whom you are sharing sweet potatoes with marshmallows on them. The reason we give out blessed bread at Mass is to remind us of the link between what we do here at the altar and what we will do at home later today. We know God is present in a most profound way at the table of the altar. We also know that Our Lord is very present as we come together as a family and share a meal.

In preparation for this day, our food pantry, the Knights of Columbus and Americans all over our nation have been packing bags of groceries and delivering turkeys to shut ins and the those in need. No doubt on the news, you perhaps will see images of President Obama, Cardinal Dolan, or other famous people serving the poor a Thanksgiving dinner at an outreach center. There is something about this day that makes us want to give to others because we are so very conscious of the blessings that God has given to us.

For me, what underlies all the goodness of this day - in spite of the terrorism so present in our world, in spite of our national racial and political tensions, in spite of questions on how can we welcome another generation of people who seek the American dream, in spite of our family's sorrows of pain and grief at recent losses of loved one and battles with insidious diseases - is that God is good and we are blessed to be alive. We are blessed to have family and friends whom we love and who love us, to be people of a nation that is a fundamentally good and caring of its citizens and those throughout the world. Most of all we are blessed to believe in a God who so loved us that he sent us his Son to walk the same earth as do we, who breathed the same air, who loved and was loved by his family and friends, who gave up his life for us, was raised by his Father through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As a kid, I liked *The Little Rascals*. I remember Spanky making a wish that Christmas could be every day of the year. I am not sure if I would wish that Thanksgiving could be every day of the year since I might gain a pound or two. Still the values that we celebrate on Thanksgiving can be lived every day of the year!

Gratitude to Almighty God for everything we have and are  
Praying in Thanksgiving for those Gifts  
Gathering for meals and appreciating our family and friends  
Seeking to help those in need and those who are alone  
Love our nation and seeking to make us faithful to its most treasured values  
Connecting our daily lives to the Eucharist!

*The Redemptorist Community extends wishes for a  
Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving Day to all!*



woodscsr@aol.com  
Website: smtbethpage.org

## Holy Year of Mercy Declared by Pope Francis

On Friday, April 10 while celebrating a penitential service in Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, saying he wants to make it evident that the Church's mission is to be a witness of compassion. ***"Let us not forget that God forgives and God forgives always,"*** Francis said. ***"Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness."*** The Pope continued, ***"I am convinced that the whole Church — which has much need to receive mercy, because we are sinners — will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."***

Traditionally every 25 years the Pope proclaims a holy year which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession. The jubilee will begin on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. It will end on November 20, 2016 on the feast of Christ the King. An important emphasis in the Year of Mercy will be the availability and the reception of the Sacrament of Penance in churches throughout the world. The Holy Year will be a time for the faithful to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The Pope writes: ***"Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead."*** As in previous jubilee years, the Church will grant special indulgences.

**Father Thomas Donaldson CSSR, a member of the Denver Province of the Redemptorists, will be preaching at all the Masses on the weekend of December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> as well as at all the Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.**

**Father Tom and I have been friends since our seminary days. He is a gifted preacher and will be leading us in his talks on the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has initiated. This great year of grace begins on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.**

**Father Tom is a parish priest at St. Michael's in Chicago. Before that he was twelve years preaching parish mission and retreats. Father Tom is originally from Kansas City and is a big Kansas City Royals fan, so you are welcome to boo him from time to time during his time with us.**



**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tuesday, December 8th**

**Vigil Mass  
Monday, December 7th at 7PM**

**Tuesday, December 8th  
6:30 & 9:00 AM  
12 Noon & 7:00 PM**

The Rectory Office is closed on December 8th.

*Life Teen's Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser*

We will be selling Christmas trees again this year at St. Martin's parking lot. Come and pick out a beautiful tree either on **Friday, December 11th from 4:00—7:00 PM** or on **Saturday, December 12th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. All trees are \$35.00.

The proceeds will benefit the Youth Ministry of St. Martin's.



**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  
 MAJ Thomas E. Mangiamele, US Army

*I am happy to announce this invitation to all our veterans. - Father Pat*

Dear Veteran,

We, the Butehorn Brothers Post 4987 of Bethpage, wish to extend an invitation to you in recognition of your continued service to our country. We would be very pleased if you would consider joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As a member, the V.F.W. card provides you the opportunity to visit any post in the world. You will not only be welcomed by Post 4987, but by any post you wish to visit. Post 4987 will pay your dues as long as you are on duty. In addition, you will receive a V.F.W. magazine once a month.

We are grateful to Father Pat for the opportunity to reach out to you. Please understand your privacy will not be compromised due to this letter. We would like to thank you for your continued service and hope you will consider this invitation. Please contact us directly via email at [VFW4987@gmail.com](mailto:VFW4987@gmail.com)

Yours in Christ,  
Commander George Hudak, VFW Post 4987



Boy Scout Troop 604 Bethpage will be holding their **Annual Christmas Wreath sale at all Masses (or until sold out) this weekend of November 28th and 29th at a cost of \$20.**

**As an aside**, this year if you would like to purchase grave blankets, please call Nancy at (516) 749-2430 and leave her a message for your order. Each blanket is \$20. Please note that they will not be sold at the Masses.

Thank you for supporting our Boy Scouts!





## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY - THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

### GIVING THANKS

There will be much to talk as we sit around our tables on this Thanksgiving Day. Sorrowfully, there will be great sadness when we think of those that lost their lives in Paris due to yet another terrorist attack. We will be fearful here in America, especially New York, as some of us might need to use mass transit, or have plans of flying to visit friends and family. We might worry about such an attack coming here to us.

As we watch media, we see charges of racism, attacks on religious liberty, and a country divided in many ways, even now striking our campus' on freedom of speech. We are awaiting an election next year, that will change or keep primarily the same, how we live and work in our country. Much of our conversation will probably be about candidates that will promise an answer to all of these problems. We worry about the economy, and now our main fear is terrorism, here and around the world.

But we must keep in mind that this is Thanksgiving Day, 2015. It is a day for giving thanks for all the good things we have in our lives. It is a day to celebrate with our loved ones, friends or if we are alone, watching a great movie, or sitting down with a good book. Whatever brings us peace. Remember that old song by Perry Como, "Counting Your Blessings?" It puts much of our worries in perspective. I remember my mother scolding me when I would complain about something I didn't have. She always ended the discussion with, "Count your blessings!" And so we should make that the main discussion around our holiday table. Keep in mind, where we live. Long Island is one of the most beautiful places to live in the United States. We are free! We can go where we want, do what we want, worship where we want, love whomever we want and marry whomever we want. And if this ever becomes threatened, we can vote for whomever we want to keep it in place.

We should thank God for our very lives and lift up in prayer those not as fortunate as we. Remember those that have lost a loved one this year, or those facing illness, especially that of a child. Think of the homeless, that will hopefully find their way to a Soup Kitchen. Remember the mentally ill who are lost and alone. Remember in prayer, our military, fighting for this freedom some take for granted. Lend that prayer to our police, our firemen, border patrol and all those that put their lives on the line for us. Remember our priests and clergy. Try and imagine those fleeing countries, facing death because of their faith. Pray for PEACE this Thanksgiving Day.

So, as you sit down at your table this Thanksgiving day, hold each others hands, bow your head and thank God for the miracle of your life. Celebrate the day, each other, and count your blessings. As Bill O'Reilly says on the Factor, "Here's the tip of the day!" Don't let politics take over your discussions. Turn off the TV and listen to each other. Another tip! If you want to watch a really great Thanksgiving Day movie, besides *Miracle on 34th Street*, try *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* with Steve Martin and John Candy. It will make you laugh, I promise! It will also make you realize what you have, and what others do not!

Happy Thanksgiving, St. Martin of Tours!  
Diana Hart Miranda

**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**



**Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity**  
**An Old Fashioned Christmas**

Our General Meeting and Christmas Party is **Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall.**



We ask that you bring cookies, cake, finger food, cheese & crackers, etc. for our sharing table. We will be celebrating Jesus' birthday with a birthday cake! All women are welcome to celebrate with us and bring a friend!

Please bring a NEW \$10 wrapped gift in one package only for the Grab Bag. When you sign in, you will receive a number. When your number is called, pick a gift to keep. Raffles are 4 for \$5 and the 50/50 is \$1.00 per ticket.

**DUES:**

Please see Janet if you haven't paid your dues (\$10 per year). If you prefer, you can mail a check payable to Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity, St. Martin of Tours, 40 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage NY 11714. Our goal is to have all dues paid by the first of the new year so that we can prepare a new list of members.

**A Blessed Christmas to All!**

★★  
★  
★ **Qualified Religious Education Volunteers for Children with Special Needs** ★  
★  
★

★ St. Martin of Tours Religious Education is looking for volunteers to teach our  
★ Catholic Faith to children with various special needs. Virtus certificate is a must.  
★  
★ If you think you qualify, please contact Pat Ryan or Laura Leigh Agnese at (516)  
★ 822-9768 extension 10 or 11. Thank you!  
★  
★



11/29 - No Life Night

**Upcoming Events:**

- 12/6 - Life Night after the 5:30PM Mass in OLPH Youth Center 6:45-8:30PM. All HS teens welcome!
- 12/11 & 12/12 - Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser! Friday 4-7PM & Saturday 10-4PM. All trees \$35!
- 12/13 - Life Night 6:45-8:30PM
- 12/20 - Christmas Party 6:45-8:30PM
- 12/24 - Youth Ministry Christmas Eve Mass 9AM in the Church
- 12/27 - NO Life Night
- 1/3 - Life Night 6:45-8:30PM

There is **NO Adoration on Tuesday, December 8th** as it is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please see the parish "Upcoming Events" on Page 22 for the Mass schedule.



**Upcoming Events:**

- 12/10 - Edge Christmas Party 7-8:30pm
- 1/14 - 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.**

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

### Children or Grandchildren in the Military

We are very proud of all the men and women in our parish who are serving our nation and each one of us in the United States Military. The parish would like to send a Christmas card with a St. Michael's medal and a small token gift such as a phone card or a small financial gift.

Like last year, we would ask that you give us the name of a son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter serving in the military. There is no cost to you.

**Please call Genny at 931-0818 by December 7<sup>th</sup> the latest or email me at [woodscsr@aol.com](mailto:woodscsr@aol.com).** God bless these young men and women! - Father Pat

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

There is no St. Padre Pio Holy Hour in December. The next devotion will be Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7PM in the Church.



Golden Harvest winners will be announced in the December 6th bulletin. Prizes will be mailed on Tuesday, December 1st.

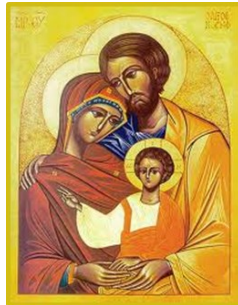
Congratulations to all winners and many thanks to everyone who supported the Golden Harvest Raffle by buying tickets.

### Young Families 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)

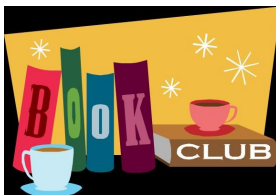
#### The schedule is as follows:

Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM in the OLPH Youth Center (School Building)  
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

# St. Martin of Tours Blood Drive



**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**  
**2:30pm - 8:30pm**  
**St. Alphonsus Hall**  
**38 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage**

**Your donation will help to save up to THREE lives. Our community hospitals need your help. Please share this lifesaving gift! Thank you for caring!**

**Eligibility Criteria:**

Bring ID with signature or photo.

Minimum weight 110 lbs.

Age 16 – 75 (16 year olds must have parental permission. Age 76 and over need doctor's note)

Eat well (low fat) & drink fluids

No tattoos for past 12 months

**For questions concerning medical eligibility call 1-800-688-0900.**

 **New York** *Blood Center*

***Father Pat's Homily on Sunday, November 20th - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe***

When I was teaching in our seminary high school many years ago, I was made the coach of the school basketball team. I enjoyed coaching the team and since we were a small school, we were generally an underdog in most games. Although we did have a few Hoosier moments, I would say my career record was probably about 40 wins and 100 losses. I was no threat to Duke's Mike Krzyzewski. I would say that we did pray more than most teams, with three Hail Mary's before each half and a loud cry of *Our Lady Queen of Victory, pray for us!*

The title Our Lady Queen of Victory goes back to one of the more forgotten moments of world history: the Battle of Lepanto. This great naval battle took place on October 7, 1571. Pope Pius V organized a navy of the Italian city states to stand in opposition to the Ottoman Empire who were seeking to gain control of the Mediterranean Sea. If the historians believed the Turks had won that battle, the whole history of Western Europe would have changed, and the world we live in would be a Moslem world. Pope Pius V, whose treasury bankrolled part of this military endeavor, ordered the churches of Rome to open for prayer day and night, encouraging the faithful to petition the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the recitation of the Rosary. Eventually, October 7<sup>th</sup> became the feast of the Holy Rosary.

Some of us may be a bit uncomfortable with associating our faith with victory in battle since Jesus told us to forgive our enemies and to turn the other cheek in the face of persecution. One of the titles of our Blessed Mother is Our Lady of Peace. Still we pray regularly at our Sunday Masses, and I am happy that we pray for our military, in particular for their safe return to their families. I think there is great wisdom to the words of President Abraham Lincoln who, when asked if God was on the side of the North, responded: *Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.*

Today we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church year, a feast called Christ the King, and next week we will begin the season of Advent. Christ the King became a feast almost 100 years ago since the Church felt the world was becoming too secular and that being a person of faith was growing increasingly threatened in various places throughout the world - either by force or the rise of secularism. Recently, when the European Union was writing its constitution, it deeply disturbed Pope Benedict XVI and many others that Christ and Christianity was not even mentioned in passing the document. Even in our own nation, we know there is a growing movement to diminish the role of faith and religion in our society and world.

I have been thinking, as I am sure you have, about the terrible attacks on Paris, the ongoing persecution of Christians in the Middle East and Africa by ISIS, and what should be a Christian's response to this evil. Should we turn the other cheek and pray that this movement of evil will change from its destructive path? Do we take strong aggressive steps to stop ISIS and kill them before they kill others? These are certainly the most challenging moral questions of our day. In addition to a military response to ISIS, we are faced with the question as to whether our nation should accept Syrian refugees. What is the right and moral path for us to follow?

In our Catholic tradition, we certainly seek to follow Jesus' call to peace and love of our neighbor. War is a terrible reality. At the same time, Christ never condemned the soldiers to whom he spoke and ministered to. We, as a believing community, have had a conviction that defending oneself from evil is permitted by the Gospel when there are no other alternatives. We call that the "just war" theology. I would say there are some Catholics who choose by their own conscience to become pacifists and believe that no war is ever justified. I would come down on our long-held tradition that there are times when war is justified if our own lives are being threatened.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ and our own American traditions symbolized in the Statue of Liberty call us to the best of our ability and resources, to welcome refugees. Still, God gave us our minds and intellects and we would only welcome people who are clearly proven not to be a threat.

These are the complicated and pressing moral questions facing our leaders, and we, in some way, who elect them. Each of us must form his or her own conscience about such difficult moral concerns. We cannot separate our faith in Jesus Christ in how we think and react to the major issues facing us. Our faith must instruct our beliefs about such key concerns.

Clearly we know that we should always seek to avoid general blanket condemnations of other peoples and cultures. ISIS and terrorism are evil and people who do such acts will face the judgment of Christ the King. I believe most Moslems are good people who want to live their lives in peace.

I would also caution that we not allow our hearts to grow bitter and to be consumed with anger and hatred over the evils in the world. Such evil should be condemned, but we cannot allow it to change our own souls. I say that because such feelings often affect our day-to-day relationships with the people in our families.

This feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe calls us to do all that we can to make God's love rule in the world around us. This great feast also reminds us that there will be a day of reckoning for all people who will someday have to stand before the Lord and give an account of their lives.

**God is King of the living and the dead. King of both heaven and earth!**





## Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa

On Sunday December 13th from 9:30AM to 12 Noon our Council will host its **Annual Breakfast with Santa**, aka "The Children's Christmas Party."

We will have a delicious **HOT BREAKFAST** followed by **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CRAFT ACTIVITIES** for the children. And of course there will be a special visit from **SANTA** himself!

**NOTE** - Please bring a wrapped gift for your child (\$15-\$20 range) with your child's name printed clearly on it so Santa will know which child gets which gift.

### ADVANCED RESERVATION REQUIRED

The cost is \$8.00 for each person 3 years and older.  
Payment can be cash or check payable to:  
Rev. Michael Hartigan K of C Council #5033

Call Deputy Grand Knight  
Joe Interrante at (516) 378-0733  
Let him know the number of guests at your table.



There is a story that I heard about an elderly priest in Ireland who decided to walk down the street of the little village where he lived. As he was walking down the street, he saw Jesus walking toward him. The sight of the Lord frightened the priest as he ran back to the rectory and immediately called his Bishop. He said, "Your excellency, Jesus is walking down the street of our village. The Bishop was a bit perplexed and decided to call the Archbishop who in turn called the Cardinal of Dublin. When the Cardinal of Dublin heard the story of Jesus walking down the street, he decided he had better bring this situation to the Holy Father in Rome. The Holy Father was put on the phone with the elderly priest in the little village. He told the Pope, "*Your Holiness, Jesus is walking down the street of the village and I think he is heading toward the rectory!*" He asked the Pope, "*What should I do?*" The Holy Father responded, "*Look busy!*"

Time is an important part of our lives. We use the term all the time. *What time is it? When will it be time to leave? How long does it take to get there? What time does the movie start? When is the baby due? I am so busy that I have no time for anything!* Yogi Berra said, *It gets late there early. What time does the sun rise today or when will it set? When will this sermon finally end?*

I think there are all kinds of categories of time. There is waiting time. We spend lots of time waiting. I have a wonderful doctor who provides me with excellent care. However, I have found that when I have an eleven o'clock appointment, it seems about twenty other people have the same time for their appointment. I arrive earlier and earlier, but the others have also caught on to this tactic. I read old magazines and get more and more restless. When will it *my* turn? Why is *she* going in now? I think I was *ahead* of her! Finally, my name is called and I am led into the little room and told to sit on the examining table. Finally, I have made it into the inner sanctum! It seems like forever before the doctor opens the door. When she takes my blood pressure she tells me it is a little bit high. No wonder! I have waited for more than an hour and half to see her!

Waiting. We wait on line especially during the days before Christmas to buy our gifts. Sometimes after a fifteen minute wait, we are told, *this cashier is now closed.* We wait for the dreaded price check and it seems forever before the price of some shirt or tie is finally found. We wait on hold as we call to find out information about some bill or advice on how to hook up our computer. We are given a list of possible issues to press a number on our phone and none of them seem to match our own. We wait at red lights, and we wait endlessly in traffic. Waiting is part of life and, it is very often most frustrating.

We use the expression "killing time." When we go into a store, we are surrounded by workers at the store. Can I help you? What are you looking for? We tell them we are just browsing - killing some time. Finally, if we *do* decide to buy something, the clerks are nowhere in sight. We talk about wasting time and sometimes we do. We may endlessly sit in front of our television going up and down 500 channels and find ourselves saying, there is nothing on TV! Yet sometimes wasting time is good. We may sit at dinner with our spouse and linger over a cup of coffee and just talk. A walk outside, for no other reason than to just enjoy the day, can be most wonderful.

I talk about the “leaving time” and I suspect the men in the congregation will know of what I speak. When I am with my family, visiting friends or relatives, I will say, “*it’s time to go home!*” I know I may have a long drive ahead of me and I want to get on the road. Everyone agrees! My sister and my nieces stand up to leave. Well, it seems like the leaving takes forever! There are all the goodbyes, trips to the bathroom, somebody forgets something, they have to show somebody something and on and on. That is what I call “the leaving time” and it drives me crazy! The leaving time is related to the going time. When we are leaving at 12:00, it seems that really means 12:20 or 12:30, again with last minute details to be finished. When we are all in the car, suddenly we wonder if the back door is locked or if the stove is off. That is leaving time.

There is a category of time I call “anxious time” or “worry time.” That is the time when you call your doctor for results of your biopsy. The nurse tells you that she will get the doctor. Your heart is racing as you fear the worst. Every second seems like an hour. Finally the doctor picks up the phone and says, *let me see now...where is that chart. I am sorry; I will be right back.* Your heart is beating rapidly. Finally, he comes back and hopefully says that all is well. If you have ever waited for someone you love who is in surgery, you know what anxious time is like. Every time the door opens, you wonder if it is the doctor coming to tell you the results. Waiting four or five hours is like an eternity. Anxious time is not easy to deal with.

I believe we all have experiences of what I call “frozen time.” The most obvious case of frozen time was, for those of us who are bit older, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. When we heard that terrible news, it was as if all of time stood still and we could remember every moment. It was like time went into slow motion. I think most of us had the same experience on that terrible day of September 11, 2001. We know where we were when we saw the twin towers come crashing to the ground as we prayed for all the people in the buildings. I think when we experience death in our own lives, there is that sense of heightened awareness. Sometimes I can still look at the phone where I heard the early morning call that my Sister Gerry had died suddenly. When we lose someone, especially if it was sudden, we have a very clear awareness of all the details that surrounded the death of our loved one.

There is a time when we are unaware of what is going on around us. When we sleep, we may dream, but we are not aware of what is happening. A boy or girl can be sitting in class and he or she can be halfway around the world in a daydream. There is hard time. That is a term that we associate with spending time in prison. “He is doing hard time.” Yet, there are all sorts of hard time. Times of unemployment, sickness, financial difficulties can be experienced as hard time.

I remember a good friend of mine hated his job. When I would visit him, we would have a great visit. But as the time drew near for him to go on the night shift, I could see him grow increasingly stressed and unhappy. I remember asking a friend of mine how long he had until retirement. He replied, “Three years, seven months, two days and six hours!” Now that was a man doing hard time. I can remember when I was in school, those last ten or fifteen minutes before the final bell never seemed to come.

There is what I call “stop the clock” time. Those are those moments in life that are so great, we wish we could stop all the clocks in the world and just enjoy the moment. We wish we could put this moment in a bottle and keep it forever. Perhaps it was the moment you were engaged to be married, when your husband-to-be knelt and held out a diamond ring to you. It could be when you held your son or daughter in your arms for the first time and you thanked God for this precious gift. It might have been when your whole family gathered at the dinner table for Thanksgiving or Christmas, and everyone was well and happy. You thought to yourself, “It doesn’t get any better than this! I wish it could be like this always.”



Sometimes this wonderful experience of time comes when we least expect it and we are surprised. We see a starlit night, a full moon shining, the sun setting over the ocean, hear the delightful laughter of children playing, enjoy the taste of a delicious apple, hear a wonderful piece of music, or just touch the hand of someone we love. These are moments that we wish we could hold onto forever.

Time. There are 365 days in a year. There are 24 hours in a day. There are 60 minutes in an hour. Sixty seconds in a minute. There are 1,440 minutes in a day. 86,400 seconds in a day. Time! During the season of Advent the Church invites us to reflect on time and how we use this precious gift from God. We think about all the many centuries that the world waited for the coming of Jesus Christ. From the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to the call of Abraham and liberation of the chosen people by Moses, to the prophets who told the world to prepare that God would send a Savior to lift the people up from their sins, there has been a longing for God.

We are not waiting for Christ to come at Christmas. He came to the world 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem. During this holy time of Advent, we look into our hearts to seek to once again find that deepest core of ourselves when we know our need for the presence of God in our lives. Our readings during Advent also remind us that Christ will come again. He will come at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. No one knows when that time will come. Additionally, Christ will come to each one of us when we die. At the time of our death, we will meet the living God face to face. Some of us are very frightened by death. Others have a sense of great hope since our faith teaches us that death is not an end to existence but a beginning of a new reality where we experience God forever. In heaven, there is no time. It is one moment of time, being in the presence of God and his indescribable love. Our readings can be somewhat somber: *you do not know the hour or the day*. All of us think we have countless days; all of us know that is not true.

A fundamental message of Advent is to watch and see, to be attentive, to get ready to see God. God is coming into your life and mine constantly. Because of the fast and stressful pace of life, it can be rather easy to miss the presence of God. God comes to us in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, in our faith, in our family and friends, in the world around us. God comes to us even in suffering and pain and sorrow. Advent is a time to sharpen our sight and hearing and to see how present the Lord is to each one of us.

I spoke about all kinds of time. The leaving time, the anxious times, the wasted time, hard times, and frozen moments, and those wonderful stop the clock times. God is in the midst of all that time. He is with us in the best and worst of times. - Father Pat, CSSR

**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 30 Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Dec 1: Christian Mothers General Meeting & Christmas Party 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 4: First Friday Devotions 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Dec 5: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Dec. 5, 6, 7 & 8: Year of Mercy with Father Thomas Donaldson, CSSR preaching at all masses
- 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 11 & 12: Youth Ministry Christmas Tree Sale
- Dec 13: Hartigan Council #5033 Breakfast with Santa 9:30-12 Noon
- Dec 16: Blood Drive 2:30 - 8:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 18: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 19: Anointing Mass 9AM Church



# THE GIVING TREE



## The Giving Tree is ready!

On the tree, you will find Gift Card requests. Please take one and return BOTH the Tag and the Gift Card with the dollar amount written on it.

Please place it in the mail slot of the Rectory Office door no later than Sunday, December 13th after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Thank you for helping our parishioners in need!  
God bless you all and have a happy, holy Christmas!



## Christmas Eve Children's Pageant at the 6PM Mass

### ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, KINGS

Sign up for the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant celebrated at the 6:00 PM Mass. Please fill out and return this form to the rectory to the attention of Genny Mitchell. Practice will be on Thursday, December 17th at 4:00 PM in the Church.

Name(s) & Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: