

Masses For The Week

Monday - December 7

6:30
 9:00 Mary Gibbons
 7PM **Vigil of the Immaculate Conception**
 Katherine & Michael Healy

Tuesday - December 8 - Immaculate Conception

6:30 George & Doris Held
 9:00 Ann Zolnik
 12Noon Bridget Ridge
 7PM Erma C. Eichenlaub

Wednesday - December 9

6:30 William Jackson
 9:00 Bill Hofmann

Thursday - December 10

6:30 Marty Laraia, LIVING
 9:00 Ann Csajko

Friday - December 11

6:30 Vivian McCabe
 9:00 Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

Saturday - December 12

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Thomas P. LaFalce, Sr.
 7:00 Julia & Fred Zoitke

Sunday - December 13

7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 William Spencer
 10:00 Charles A. Cisco, Anniversary
 11:30 Rose Provenzano
 1:00 Robert Hermann
 5:30 Rosemary Ogno

Readings For The Week

Mon. Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
 Tues. Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
 Luke 1:26-38
 Wed. Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
 Thurs. Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
 Fri. Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
 Sat. Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38

Sun. *Zephaniah 3:14-18a* *Be joyful, Jerusalem! The Lord will come and save you from your enemies. Do not be discouraged or lose heart, for "the Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior."*

Philippians 4:4-7 *"Rejoice in the Lord always," wrote Paul. "I say it again: rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God; then the peace of God that surpasses understanding will guard your hearts and minds."*

Luke 3:10-18 *John the Baptizer said to the crowds, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." In that way he preached good news to the people.*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00
Received for Nov. 21/22: \$16,514.29
Received for Nov. 28/29: \$17,616.96

Thanksgiving Collection Totaled \$1,047.00
of which \$523.50 to St. Vincent de Paul
\$523.50 to Social Ministry Food Pantry

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who strive to respond to God's grace through service to our parish and the wider community, especially our Parish Social Ministries and Senior Services.



2nd Week of Advent

FOCUS:
Are we prepared to carry out the will of God?

HOP Club Winners

11/30/15 #376	Dominick DeCaro	\$25
12/1/15 #220	Don & Maureen Tiederman	\$25
12/2/15 #627	Suzanne & Steve DiVito	\$25
12/3/15 #134	Steven Descovich	\$25
12/4/15 #169	Mary Ann Smith	\$50



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

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Wedding Banns

1st: Christopher Henry & Meghan Rodgers



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

Thank you all for your tremendous generosity this Thanksgiving. We were able to give 60 individual meals, thanks to B.K. Sweeney's, 10 fully stocked baskets, thanks to the Syosset Homemakers coordinated by Ann Meehan, and 28 fully stocked baskets, prepared and distributed by members of St. Vincent de Paul and Parish Outreach.

This week the Pantry could use: evaporated milk, cereals, mixed vegetables, tomato paste, chili, oil, dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo, paper towels, toilet paper and tissues.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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



Week of December 6-12, 2015

Altar Bread & Wine
In Loving Memory of
Connie & Michael Maggio & Family

Week of December 6-12, 2015

Sanctuary Candle
In Loving Memory of
Dorothy Froehlich



Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
Patrick J. Formato, Charles A. DeRosa
Patricia B. Craig, Mary Schmalenberger

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, Tom Doty
Linda Malone, Laura Cronin, Lynn Calo
Christine Chiarappa, Michael Kott, Jr., Connie Burgess
Dolores Miller, Susan Carroll-Goyan, Carol Episcopio
Donna 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, Fr. Edmund Faliskie, CSSR, Elinor Gabbola
Sheila & George Neumann, John (Jack) Phelps
Terrence Lynam, Joseph Abruzzo, Taylor
Michael Kott, Jr., Angelo Pennestri, Ann Lazzara

The Pastor's Letter

A kind of stress alarm clock goes off in my head after Thanksgiving Day. Perhaps it comes after I step on the scale the day after and scream. Actually, although there have been Christmas carols playing on the radio for about the last two weeks and announcements about Black Friday sales, it seems as though they have been coming since Halloween, with stores already decorated. My semi-official time to begin thinking about Christmas is the day *after* Thanksgiving.

As the pastor of a fairly large parish in Bethpage, Long Island, there are many Christmas preparations to be made, confessions to be heard, the Christmas pageant to prepare, and decorations to be found. All the societies and organizations in the parish have parties and, of course, I have become the official cookie taster. Like you, I also have my personal Christmas preparations. I like to decorate my office, write Christmas cards, and buy gifts for family and friends. Luckily, I do not have to do any baking. With all this to do, I still must watch all the New York Jet games and keep up with any possible upcoming Met trades. It is a busy time, but I am not complaining since I love this time of year.

Still, I find myself longing for some quiet time - a few minutes extra time each day to pray, to slow down a bit and to ponder about the wonder of our Lord Jesus Christ who born a baby in Bethlehem of a young virgin named Mary of Nazareth, and dying on a cross in Jerusalem out of love for me, and then rising on the third day. Maybe it is because the days are growing shorter and darkness coming upon us sooner, but I do feel a gentle nudge that reminds me this is the Holy Season of Advent. Although I am not always as successful as I would like to be, I want to arrive at Christmas Day, not frazzled and exhausted, but with a spirit of having experienced the daily presence of God in my life.

I think the best way to spiritually prepare for the birth of Christ during this time of Advent is to truly enter into the powerful readings that the Scriptures give us throughout Advent, especially on the Sundays of this season. Let me take a few minutes to do that with you now. In today's Gospel Jesus says, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

As much as I want to be joyful, I do have a vague sense of dread in my heart these days. ISIS and terrorism make me nervous. I love New York City, especially at Christmas, and I will go to the city (as we say in Brooklyn), and do my regular Christmas visits to the tree and St. Patrick's. But I do worry about the signs that we see all around us in the world. As our Lord speaks these words to us today, I do not think he is trying to scare us. Rather, he is reminding all of us that time has limits. None of us knows the hour or the day for the end of the world or our own deaths. I say that not to create a sense of needless worry, but rather as a reminder that each day and each moment are precious.

Now is the time of *grace*. We are *not* waiting for Jesus to come; he has already come to us. Our Lord is seeking to come into your heart and mind today. I think these words of Jesus are a caution to all of us to not miss what is most important in our lives: our faith, our family, and our friends. When we had the tragic time of 9/11, those on the planes, in the Twin Towers and in the Pentagon were calling on their phones to say I love you - "Tell everyone I love them!" Time is such a precious gift of God as are the people he has placed in our lives. Jesus goes on to say to us: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life. I do not think Jesus is attacking Christmas parties with spiked punch, but rather he is telling us to be awake.

Most of us know that feeling of Thanksgiving Day when we have had our turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes and pecan pie (I am listing my favorites). If we are lucky, we end up on the couch or a recliner where we doze off for a nice nap. We may blame our sleepiness on the tryptophan in the turkey, but it might have more do with that third glass of wine. Do we go through life with a sleepy, inattentive mind and heart? It may be a cliché to say that we need to "stop and smell the coffee (or roses)," but clichés do have their truths.

I remember when my mother was alive, she was bedridden toward the last years of her life. I was leaving the family house in Brooklyn to go back to Washington D.C. I went into her room, kissed her good-bye, and said, "I will be back in a few weeks." She then told me she dying because she had an earache. I smiled and said, "no one dies of an earache, Mom! I'll see you later." When I was about halfway to D.C., it struck me that that was not a statement about dying from an earache, but of being alone and afraid. I was not awake to what she was *really* saying.

How often someone tells us they are worried, and we respond, "don't worry. It is nothing!" Are we awake to those around us? God will come to you and me today in the Holy Eucharist. Am I awake to that wondrous reality or am I a sleepwalker? I am convinced that God comes to you and me in so many ways during day, perhaps in a fleeting thought, a memory, a text, a song we hear or a phone call. Are we awake to the presence of God that surrounds us? This is a great theme of Advent.

In our first reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we heard the following: *In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."* A major theme of the Advent season is hope. I began this homily with the things we worry about that can happen in the world. Still we Christians, however much darkness is present in the world, know that Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings and will ultimately prevail and all the evil doers will be brought to justice. We believers place our hope in Jesus Christ, that God so loved us that he gave us his only Son that whoever believes in him will never die, but shall have eternal life.

So as you journey through this Advent Season, try to enjoy all the efforts you put into Christmas. If you can, try to find five or ten minutes a day and slow down to just sit quietly with the Lord. Pray for the grace to truly treasure your time and those whom you love. Pray to be awake so that you can see the presence of God in your life and the world around you. Finally, walk with hope. You are a child of God who shall live forever in his kingdom.

Father Patrick Woods, CSSR
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 THIS weekend, December 5th and 6th 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. - Father Pat



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

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

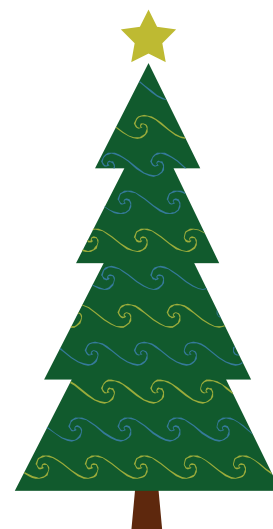
**Tuesday, December 8th
6:30 & 9:00 AM
12 Noon & 7:00 PM**

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



Our Parish Golden Harvest was celebrated on November 14th. It was a very festive night and I think even those who did not win (including me!) had a good time. It is wonderful when our parishioners come together for a night of fun and food. I want to offer the deepest appreciation of the parish to Ronny and Tony Ciarniello who serve as the coordinators of this event. It takes considerable time and planning to direct the Golden Harvest and we are most grateful for their sharing of their time and talent with the parish. The parish is also very grateful to those parishioners who helped sell the tickets: Ann and Bill Flannery, John and Joan Gozaloff, Marliese Coveney, Al and Fran Trotter, Ed and Sarah Indelicato, John Lynam, Kathy and Bob McCormick, John Joyce, Matt Wing, and Mike Croan.

A little over 400 tickets were sold. 500 tickers are available, but it has been difficult to reach that number in the last several years, perhaps because of the ongoing capital campaign or the challenging financial times. Still, after all the bills and winners were paid, the parish made around \$20,000.00. That money is very important for us to meet our operating budget.

The winners of the St. Martin of Tours Golden Harvest Raffle

November 14, 2015

Congratulations to all!

Elsie Barone	Albertson Family
Debbie Brusca	Chris Antonacci
The Hoenigs	Kathie Speelman
Michael Maloney	R. Beckman & F. Hoffman
Craig Duszak	Flora Huston
Frank DeBobes	Joann Kelly
Vincent and Frances Valenti	The Eastwoods
LaFalce Family	Joe and Nancy Esposito
Alfarone Family	Mary Drescher
Donald Gordon	V. A. Romano
Kate Mayerhofer	Marge Siegler
Gerald & Ann Meehan	Young at Heart
Robert J. Smith	Yvonne Lovieno
Angelica McQuade	Pat & Lori Ricci
Debra Sabatino	Ray & Lisa Haller
Frank and Ceil Dillon	Michael McGrath
Frank DeBobes	Laura Leigh Agnese
Gene and Dot Kelly	Mike Croan, Sr.
Karin and John McTigue	Ken Selvester
Margaret Ryan	Bob & Gail Muller
Scully Family	Joann Klein
Ed Holownia	Croan Family
Brenden Reilly	Patty Brown
Kathy Ludewig	Lorraine Birnbach
Margo Pigott	J. & M. Downey

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**THE RESPECT LIFE OFFICE DRVC:****URGENT NEED FOR ACTION ON THE ABORTION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (ANDA)****FROM THE PRO-LIFE SECRETARIAT**

For years we have asked Congress to reform current federal laws on conscience rights, especially to protect individual and institutional health care providers who object to abortion. Current laws like the Weldon Amendment are legally vulnerable and seldom enforced. They have been found to have loopholes limiting their effectiveness and they lack a RIGHT OF ACTION allowing VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS IN COURT. For many years our flagship proposal for solving these problems has been the ABORTION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (ANDA). Recently it has been combined with provisions on the HHS contraceptive mandate, to create the HEALTH CARE CONSCIENCE RIGHTS ACT (HCCRA) (HR 940, s. 1919). HCCRA is now part of the House of Representatives' Labor/HHS appropriations bill for the coming year.

As we approach the December 11th deadline for Congress to agree on a MUST PASS year-end spending bill, we have decided to focus at present on ANDA. Americans' RIGHT TO OBJECT TO INVOLVEMENT IN ABORTION HAS LONG ENJOYED BROAD SUPPORT, and President Obama has said several times he supports federal laws protecting this right. Recently, two dozen pro-life groups, religious and secular, wrote jointly to congressional leadership to say that they support a number of other PRO-LIFE BILLS but they all agree ANDA is a top priority, the one proposal with a decent chance of being enacted this year as part of that spending legislation. Catholic lay groups such as the Knights of Columbus and National Council of Catholic Women have offered their help. IN THE NEXT 2 TO 3 WEEKS WE NEED AS MANY CATHOLICS AS POSSIBLE AROUND THE COUNTRY TO SEND E-MAIL MESSAGES TO THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES URGING THEM TO MAKE (ANDA) PART OF THAT FINAL LEGISLATION.

Note: YOU TUBE VIDEO: STAND WITH CATHY FOR CONSCIENCE RIGHTS: Featuring nurse Cathy DeCarlo, who was forced by her employer to assist at a LATE-TERM ABORTION - then found she had NO RIGHT TO GO TO COURT to keep this from happening to others. Points people to our www.usccb.org/conscience page for more information and an alert.

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA) is supporting the bishops pro-life agenda and has an alert to help constituents write to their elected representatives. There is a pre-written text but each person can add personal messages before and after it. For example, pro-life health professionals can say how they have experienced or witnessed threats to conscience rights on abortion. Live links to this can be shared on web sites and social media; the PDF version can be inserted into Church bulletins and diocesan publications.

USCCB's web site: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/time-to-speak-up-for-conscience-rights.cfm>.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN LIFE AND RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE!
RESPECT LIFE OFFICE www.respectlife.drvc.org

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

Charismatic Prayer Group**Value**

How do you place a value on something? Why is something considered "valuable?" Is it how old it is, or the scarcity of it? There is something that's very valuable and is as old as time itself but is available in immeasurable amounts. Give up? It's God's grace! **Our next meeting is Monday, December 14th at 7:30 PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 5, 6, 7 & 8: Year of Mercy with Father Thomas Donaldson, CSSR preaching at all masses
- Dec 7: Holy Face of Jesus Holy Hour 1PM 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 11 & 12: Youth Ministry Christmas Tree Sale
- Dec 13: Hartigan Council #5033 Breakfast with Santa 9:30-12 Noon
- Dec 14: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- 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
- Christmas Schedule - last page of the bulletin

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!



12/6 - Life Night after the 5:30PM Mass in OLPH Youth Center 6:45-8:30PM.
® All high school teens welcome!

Upcoming Events:

- 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 11 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.

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 18th 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 7th the latest or email me at 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.



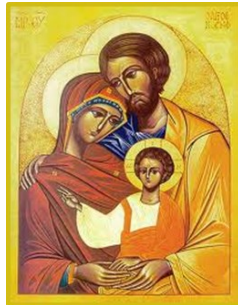
Grief/Gratitude
It is gratitude not grief for the time that is spent
Happiness for all the years
This is truly what is meant.
When two people are together for a very long time
That is what ours was - his and mine
It is not easy to control the day-to-day tears
Because we were one for so many years.
But I smile when I look up at the sky
Because there are two bright stars
One is my husband and one is mine.
- Anonymous

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

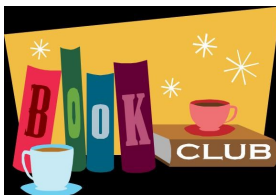
The schedule is as follows:

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 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*

Sharing Our Blessings

Pantry volunteers and members of the SMT Society of Saint Vincent de Paul worked together preparing Thanksgiving food baskets and distributing turkey dinners. Many folks enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Special thanks for food donations to:

- CCD Teacher, Christina Dircks, and the 8th graders for the bread they baked
- Syosset Homemakers and Coordinator, Ann Meehan
- Girl Scout Troop 3044
- St. Joseph's Hospital staff - Bethpage
- Augenstein Family Dentistry
- Martial Arts America – Hicksville
- B.K. Sweeney's for 65 Thanksgiving dinners – turkey and all the trimmings

As always, we are grateful for the exceptional generosity of our many parishioners who donate so much food in the little red wagon in the gathering area.



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!



Mother and Daughter Catechists

Louise Smith’s legacy of service - for which she was recognized with the Bishop John R. McGann Award by the Diocese of Rockville Centre last fall - has now inspired the youngest of her seven children, her daughter Meg Vastola, to follow her example. Vastola serves as catechist at St. Elizabeth Parish in Melville. And in October, Vastola herself was recognized with the Paul VI Award for five years of service.

“They’re the kind of people you want to have in your parish. You can depend on them. They’re faithful,” said Sister Mary Alice Piil, C.S.J., director of faith formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. “They don’t quit on us. They’re there for the long haul.”

I’m doing this for God

Over more than half a century of service, Smith, now 85, and her recently deceased husband (Harry) have been involved in nearly every aspect of religious education at the parish. When their pastor asked them to launch a program to prepare couples for the baptism of their children, it was the Smiths who stepped up. They’ve run retreats, founded religious education programs for high school and college age children and attended every conference for catechists they could.

“I was always a volunteer. I never took a penny from the Church. I wouldn’t. I mean even if they wanted to pay me, I’d say, “No, I’m doing this for God and I’m helping people become strong in the faith,” Smith said. For the Smiths, service to the Church was not just something they did - it was a way of life. Source: The Long Island Catholic December 2015 Issue

Holy Face of Jesus Holy Hour

Monday, December 7th at 1PM in the Church in reparation for the wounds to His Holy Face.

All will be blessed with miraculous medal holy oil.

**UNITED VETERANS BEACON HOUSE (UVBH)
1715 Union Blvd, Bay Shore NY 11706
<http://www.uvbh.com>**

This non-profit organization serves more than 265 Long Island veteran and non-veteran men, women and children daily. These families are in crisis and can use your help this Christmas Season by donating a Target or Walmart gift card, or if you want to help further, you can adopt a family or individual.

For more information on how to help, please call (631) 665-1571 or email Tina@UVBH.com.

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.



The "Already" and the "Not Yet"

My love affair with the Jets began in the 1960. I loved Joe Namath and his brashness as "Broadway Joe." He was a rebel in a time of rebelliousness. I began listening to the Jet games on the radio since the games were blacked out at the time. When January 12, 1969 came, and the Jets beat the mighty Baltimore Colts in the third Super Bowl, I was hooked on being a fan. As you know the word "fan" is well chosen since the root of the word comes from fanatic. It was fun to be a Jet fan and we already had a Super Bowl under our belts! Little did I know the pain and agony that would come for the next 40 years. We have not been in a Super Bowl since that good year of 1969.

I have a nice green Jets jacket. I remember once being in an airport and was on line to pay for a newspaper. Another customer unintentionally stepped ahead of me. His wife elbowed him in the ribs and pointed to me, noticing what he did. I heard him to her, "For God's sakes, don't worry, he's a *Jet* fan!" He said it with the greatest contempt. Another time I was wearing my jacket and a person came up to me and said, "I feel your pain!"

I live in hope that someday before I die, I may again see the Jets in the Super Bowl and as World Champions. My little Jet fan story is one of what I would call "the already and the not yet." It is an interesting phrase that one of my theology professors used when I was studying many years ago in the seminary and it has stayed with me. We have to live in a world and the reality of the "already" and the "not yet." I had already tasted the glory of the Super Bowl; now I have to live with the not yet of still waiting patiently to taste it again. I think throughout our lives, we live with the reality of the already and the not yet.

I recall, as I am sure you do, that terrible day of September 11, 2001 when our nation was attacked by terrorists. It was a terrible time of loss of life, fear of what was to come, and a sense that our world had changed forever. Yet at the same time, a tremendous sense of patriotism swept our nation. I recall that Democrats and Republicans stood on the steps of the United States Capitol and sang *God Bless America*. Thousands of people rushed to Ground Zero in New York, to the Pentagon in Washington, and to Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Millions of dollars were raised in support of the suffering families. Flags flew everywhere. The differences between us were forgotten for a moment and we were one nation, one people.

Today the debates between Democrats and Republicans on just about every topic have never been fiercer. We are terribly divided about how to do health care, what we think about immigration, our foreign policy, and our national economy. Whatever your political beliefs, we are a very divided nation. The unity of 9/11 is long gone and there are passionate arguments as to whether a mosque should or should not be built at Ground Zero in New York. We tasted the unity and now we face division. I am sure it will change again. As a nation we always live with the already and the not yet. Now we live daily with the threat of terror and ISIS.

A parent who leaves his or her child off for the first time at pre-school or kindergarten, or sends a son or daughter off to college for the first time, knows of the already and the not yet. They are amazed at the passage of time and how quickly life is passing. The day she was born or when he took his first steps fill our minds as we wave goodbye to them as they began another adventure.

I have celebrated the funerals for both my Mom and Dad and the weddings of my two nieces and my one nephew. In some ways, I found the weddings harder than even the funerals. I was so happy they had found a life partner, but I had spent so much time with them growing up, going to ballgames, watching movies and on trips to special places that there was a kind of letting go going on. I know that parents often find weddings very emotional. Your son, your daughter is now beginning a new life. They will always be your son or daughter, but now they also are in an entirely new life. It's a kind of already and not yet.

Certainly, all relationships - marriages, friendships, family - constantly go through many *already and not yet*s. We love our spouses, our friends, our family. We could not picture life without them. We have thousands of good and loving memories with them and look forward to many more. Yet, there are times when we enter into routine, disappointment, even resentment with one another. Every relationship has its joys and sorrows. When we are most worried about the future of a relationship, it is the hope that things will get better, that we can rediscover what has been weakened or lost that sustains and enables us to move forward with hope.

The already and the not yet is a central message of the Advent Season. We are not waiting for Jesus Christ to come to the world. He has come over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem. Jesus, the Son of God, preached his message of love of God and neighbor, cured the sick and comforted those without hope. He died on a terrible dark Friday, but death could not contain him. He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ *has* come, Christ *is* risen, and Christ *will come* again. The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice. We light a pink candle on the Advent Wreath as a symbol that our hearts cannot contain their joy. Purple is a penitential color in the Catholic Church while pink is a color of hope and joy that Christ has come among us. You and I live in an in-between-time, a time of the already and the not yet. Christ has come to save the world. The kingdom of God is in our midst. Jesus is Emmanuel, a name which means God with us.

In our readings from the prophet Isaiah we hear of the promise of the kingdom of God. The desert will bloom; the eyes of the blind will be opened; the ears of the deaf cleared, the tongue of the mute will sing. Jesus, when asked if he is the one to come, echoes the words of the Old Testament prophet: *"The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

What beautiful language of hope! Yet, the fullness of the kingdom of God has not come to fruition. We are in the time of the already and the not yet. We know there are parched deserts and lands of famine. We know there are hospitals filled with those wounded by war and acts of terrorism. The blind and the lame surround us. We all know heartbreaking stories of families who have lost loved ones to cancer and heart disease and tragic accidents. The hungry cry out for food, the oppressed seek justice, the lonely seek companionship, the unemployed long for work, and much of culture cries out for meaning in the face of emptiness. You and I live in a very real world where we may experience more powerfully the not yet than the hope of the already. Can we accept the call of St. James in our second reading for patience in the midst of so much suffering?

Here are some ways the kingdom of God is coming into our world through your efforts and responses to the grace of God:

- There are people donating to the Giving Tree so that some child will have a toy for Christmas.
- Our parish regularly supports the Parish Outreach Center and the St. Vincent de Paul Society that do so much to assist those in need.
- We are educating our young and seeking to teach them about Jesus Christ.
- We are generous to the second collections we have that help so many people in various needs.
- You love your spouse in spite of his or her faults and they love you.
- When a friend loses a loved one, you seek to reach out and be a comfort.
- People are going to 12 step programs every week and through the grace of God struggling to overcome addictions.
- There are people seeking to shelter the homeless.
- Parents continue daily to make great sacrifices for their children.
- We gather here for the breaking of bread and God's family, believing in him.
- Babies are baptized, couples are married, the deceased are buried, the troubled are counseled, the shut-ins are visited, the sick are anointed, the Eucharist is celebrated, and sins are forgiven.

I speak about these good works not to boast but to give special focus to the words of Jesus Christ in the Gospel: *"the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."* In these and all the other ministries and acts of Christian compassion conducted by the people, whether they explicitly believe in Christ or not, the kingdom of God is in our midst. Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. We are experiencing the already: God in our midst.

So, you and I live in that in-between time of the already and the not yet. Christ has redeemed the world but it has not yet come to the fullness of its redemption which it shall at the end of time. There are many sad and tragic events that surround us. There is true evil and hatred in the world around us. Yet, in spite of these realities, we live by hope, that hope that inspired the prophet Isaiah centuries ago. We are working to make the kingdom of God present in our world by our simple deeds of love and kindness to one another.

We know how the story will end. God will prevail and thus we walk in hope!

**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>



**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:



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY, December 19

2:00-3:00PM & after the 7:00PM Mass

MONDAY, December 21

9:30–10:00AM; 3:00–4:30PM & 7:00–8:00PM

TUESDAY, December 22

9:30–10:00AM; 3:00–4:30PM & 7:00–8:00PM

YEAR OF MERCY MASSES

Guest Speaker Fr. Thomas Donaldson, CSSR

SATURDAY – TUESDAY, December 5th – 8th

CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, December 24

4:00PM - Church & Auditorium

4:30PM - Knights of Columbus

Fr. Hartigan Council Hall (Central Ave)

6:00PM - Children’s Mass in Church

9:00PM - Life Teen Mass in Church

11:15PM - Pre-Midnight Mass Concert

12:00AM - Midnight Mass in Church

CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, December 25

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM & 1:00PM All in Church

No 5:30PM Mass on Christmas Day

NEW YEAR MASSES

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 31 - 7:00PM

Vigil of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2016

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00AM, 10:30AM & 12 Noon

No evening Mass on New Year’s Day