

Masses For The Week

Monday - December 14

6:30 Joseph Hoolahan
9:00 Rev. Thomas Schmidt, CSsR

Tuesday - December 15

6:30 Joseph Ledee
9:00 John J. Jauregui

Wednesday - December 16

6:30 Catherine & Silvio Sita
9:00 Rev. Vincent Crotty, CSsR

Thursday - December 17

6:30 Mary Rabbitte
9:00 Walter & Robert Kranz

Friday - December 18

6:30 Vinny Murphy
9:00 Kathy Ann Watson

Saturday - December 19

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
5:00 John & Delia Connaughton
7:00 Edward Naughton

Sunday - December 20

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Helen & Henry Ruff
10:00 Bill Holt
11:30 Stanley W. Lewandowski
1:00 John R. Kirk
5:30 Rosemary Ogno

Readings For The Week

Mon. Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27
Tues. Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
Wed. Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23
Thurs. Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
Fri. Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
Sat. Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
Sun. **Micah 5:1-4a** *Out of tiny Bethlehem will come one who is to be ruler over all Israel. "He shall stand firm and shepherd the flock...he shall be peace."*

Hebrews 10:5-10 *God took no delight in holocausts and sin offerings, even those that fulfilled the law. Rather, God desired Christ. By death, Jesus took away the first covenant to set up the second.*

Luke 1:39-45 *When Mary visited Zechariah's house, Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, "the infant leaped in her womb."*



Saint Maria Faustina

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
Received December 5/6: \$16,300.16

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who prepare for the coming of Christ by sharing what they have with those who have less...or none!



Charismatic Prayer Group

I'm sure you've heard of core exercises, core values and core beliefs. Strong cores are so important! The Holy Trinity is our Spiritual Core! I think the Apostles Creed could be our core belief. We all know the words so well but are you really hearing them?

Our next meeting is Monday, December 14th at 7:30 PM in St. Alphonsus Hall - large room. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

HOP Club Winners

12/7/15	#211	Mary K. Looney	\$25
12/8/15	#187	Benito Picinic	\$25
12/9/15	#310	Joan Skrypek	\$25
12/10/15	#264	M/M Michael Mondillo	\$25
12/11/15	#326	Eamon & Mari Fitzgerald	\$50



Wedding Banns
2nd: Christopher Henry & Meaghan Rogers



**"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: 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

3rd Week of Advent

FOCUS:

**God's love for us is self-giving
 and unconditional,
 surpassing human love.**



Week of December 13-19, 2015

Altar Bread & Wine
In Loving Memory of
Peter Loretta

Week of December 13-19, 2015

Sanctuary Candle
In Loving Memory of
John J. Jauregui



Rest in Peace

**Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
 Catherine Augusto
 George F. Neumann**

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, 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 Neumann, John (Jack) Phelps
 Terrence Lynam, Joseph Abruzzo, Taylor
 Michael Kott, Jr., Angelo Pennestri, Ann Lazzara

The Pastor's Letter



This was a wonderful week for me. It began with the great Jets win over the Giants, a game which I attended. Several parishioners have suggested I should keep going to the games since I might bring them good luck. The other delightful moment has been our visit with Father Tom Donaldson, CSSR. I have received wonderful positive feedback on the homilies that Father Tom gave as we began the Jubilee Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis. I know he touched many hearts while he was here. Tom, as you now know, is an extraordinarily gifted preacher. Additionally, for those who met him in his brief time with us, you can see he is a very warm and loving man.

This picture was taken in 1990 at a mission Father Tom and I gave in St. Louis (a few pounds ago). Do not be alarmed by the St. Louis Cardinal's hat I'm wearing! After hearing all my Mets stories in my homilies, they insisted I wear it for the picture. Tom and I became fast friends when we first met in the Redemptorist seminary in 1975. At that time, all the Redemptorist seminarians studied at the seminary near Kingston, New York. I was two years ahead of Tom, and I teased him that I tutored him so he could pass his courses. Since he is from a different Redemptorist Province than I am, this was the only time we ever gave a mission together. Fifteen years after I was ordained, Father Tom invited me to work with him on this mission. He had been a full time missionary for many years, and I was working in formation ministry in Washington, DC. I had never heard Tom preach, so I had no idea what to expect. Well, he got up the first night and spoke for more than an hour, never looking at his notes. Among other things, he told jokes, he cried, he stood on the pew, he did sign language, he had the people shouting back to him in response. As I sat listening to him I was both mesmerized and terrified. I could not help thinking, *Oh my Lord, I have to follow him tomorrow night!* After the first night of the mission was over, there was a brief reception in the parish hall. A parishioner came up to me and said, *I can't wait to hear you since they brought you all the way from New York to speak to us!* That comment only added to my already profound level of anxiety. The week proved to be one of the highlights of my priesthood.

Tom and I do not get to see each other too often. He is in Chicago and I am here. I tease him that when I call him on the phone, he tells me how happy he is to hear from me and then says he is on another line and will get right back to me. It can be two years before I hear from him again! Still, when we do meet, it is like we never have missed a beat in our friendship. Since he arrived here, we have been catching up on what has been going on in our lives, and naturally have shared countless memories and stories of the past. I have spent a lot of time laughing over the past few days.

I often think we take friendships for granted in our lives. If people ask you if you are related to someone you are very close to, we almost instinctually say, *No, she is only a friend.* I think the word *only* fails to capture the bond shared with certain friends. There are times when we are often closer to a friend than a family member. There are many friendships that have great depth.

Jesus was a man of friendship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus and had close bonds with Peter, James and John (called *the beloved* because he was so close to Jesus). Friendship is one of the great joys in life often taken for granted. I remember hearing about two friends who celebrated their 25th anniversary of friendship. They knew God had given them a great gift of the other, and they wanted to thank Him for it.

There are so many kinds of friendships: those from our youth, roommates from college, co-workers with whom we become close, friends we make with the parents of our children's friends, neighbors, people we meet in a parish organization or committee. There are generational friends who may be younger or older than we are. Friendships come in so many ways. When I first met Father Tom in 1975 could I have ever imagined that I would be inviting him to preach at the parish where I am pastor? Life is full of both mystery and surprise.

I know that Father Tom really appreciated how welcoming you were to him. I also know that once he saw the Bethpage Black Golf Course, that we have not seen the last of him! He will be back, and that makes me - and I am sure you - very happy!

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



The children will decorate the Jesse Tree at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 20th. They are welcome to bring a photo, a decoration, or some symbol to put on the Jesse Tree.

You are also welcome to bring the infant from your Christmas crèche for a blessing.

Extended until December 16th
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 16th the latest or email me at woodscsr@aol.com. God bless these young men and women! - Father Pat

Message from Father Emmanuel from St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

Fr. Emmanuel would like to help AIDS victims in Africa. Reusable mattresses would be shipped to help so many. If you or someone you know are able to help, please contact Father Emmanuel at 516-859-8226.

**St. Anthony High School
Honor Roll 2015-2016 First Quarter
Congratulations to:**

- Benjamin Bock**
- Victoria Bock**
- Vincent Giuliano**
- Jack Hawley**
- Kristen Moratti**
- Matthew Musetich**
- Andrea Romano**
- Christopher Vaglica**



Ryan Fitzpatrick rallied the Jets from a late 10-point deficit after Coughlin's decision to go on fourth down went awry. Randy Bullock kicked a 31-yard field goal on the first possession of overtime, giving the Jets a stunning 23-20 win Sunday that sent the reeling Giants to their third straight loss.

Your pastor, ever concerned about his parishioners, rushed to Jet Stadium last Sunday, after celebrating several Masses to offer crisis counseling to one of his parishioners who was distraught about the Giants losing to the mighty Jets.

ManUp

"Be strong and be courageous like a man, and keep your obligation to the Lord your God to walk in His ways..." 1 Kings 2:2-3

The first meeting of our newly formed Men's Club was very positive. We had ten participants. We prayed together and then did some reflecting on a section of Pope Francis' words about the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The meeting was about an hour. The only goal our group has is what we did: to pray a bit and reflect on our faith. There are no dues, nor is one required to come to every meeting. So if you would like to try a meeting, come on **Monday, December 14th to St. Alphonsus Hall in the small meeting room at the Seaman Avenue entrance at 7:30 p.m.** If you like the meeting that is great. If it is not your cup of tea, that is fine also. We are a mellow group.

There will be a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament on December 17th at 3:00p.m. In the midst of the hectic pace of Christmas, you are invited to take some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. You are welcome to come for the hour or to stop by for a short visit.

There will be exposition of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday Evening, December 19th, from after the 7:00 p.m. Mass to 11:00 p.m. You are most welcome to stop to spend some time with the Lord.



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

When you look at this old tree trunk in the sanctuary of our church, you might think that we are placing a Charley Brown Christmas Tree there. Actually, the strange looking symbol reflects a verse taken from the Old Testament: *"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."* (Isaiah 11:1)

Jesse was the Father of the Great King David. The symbol suggests that even though the Jewish nation has been conquered and devastated by various powerful nations in its history, great life will eventually come forth from what appears to be a dead nation. The prophet Isaiah is speaking about Jesus Christ who will come to save **all** people. He will be from the line of David.



The Jesse Tree tradition originated in the medieval church in the form of carvings, stained glass windows, or illuminated manuscripts illustrating (literally). Typically, the objects centered on a tree culminated with the figure of Christ and/or Mary, with branches showing the ancestors of

Christ as listed in the gospel of Matthew. Our religious education students will soon decorate this tree with symbols of our faith.

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

These men & women struggle every day to meet their needs and the needs of their families and often do not have the means to enjoy the little things that make life memorable such as going to the movies or gathering with family and friends for a holiday meal and gift exchange. I am hopeful you will join the UVBH team this holiday season by fulfilling the holiday wish lists of those we so proudly serve. Help us remind these men, women and children they are a valued part of the Long Island community and they have not been forgotten.

Please see the flyer for more information on page 13.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

One Catholic Church in Queens built its NATIVITY SCENE JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS - and JUST IN TIME FOR A SMALL MIRACLE! Last month, a newborn baby was left in the Baby Jesus' manger. A custodian returning from his lunch break didn't think much at first of the cries coming from the nativity scene, which was just constructed that morning at the Holy Child Jesus Church in the Richmond Hill neighborhood of Queens, N.Y. According to Parish Secretary Cerni, the custodian found the baby boy wrapped in a towel, with the umbilical cord still attached. "The baby seemed fine," Cerni told ABC News. He was a fortunate child. **THE MOTHER MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!** The newborn baby was taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens. The baby, who was believed to be just four or five hours old, was listed in stable condition.



New York's SAFE HAVEN LAW states that AN ADULT WITH LEGAL CUSTODY OF AN INFANT CAN DROP THE BABY OFF AT A HOSPITAL, CHURCH, POLICE OR FIRE STATION WITHOUT FACING LEGAL REPERCUSSIONS, according to the NATIONAL SAFE HAVEN ALLIANCE. The law also stipulates that the child is supposed to be handed off to a RESPONSIBLE PERSON AND NOT LEFT UNATTENDED. ***"God has a way of working mysteriously because I believe when this woman who came in with this child, saw this crèche, this CRECHE, THIS EMPTY HOME, THIS HOME IN WHICH WE'LL WELCOME JESUS in just a few weeks, I believe she found in it a home for her child,"*** Fr. Christopher Heanue told ABC News in N.Y.

Parishioner Katherine Mooney, who has been attending the church for more than 30 years, told ABC that the CHURCH'S OPEN DOOR POLICY is what allowed the mother to bring the child to the church free of judgment. "It's a tragedy in the woman's life," she said. "BUT FOR THE BABY, WE FEEL THAT ONLY GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN NOW!"

BABY SAFE HAVEN: A CHILD NEED NEVER BE ABANDONED AGAIN! If you're pregnant and do not feel you can care for your baby, or if you have a baby you cannot care for, you have a place to come. It's Safe! It's anonymous! It's an option you and your baby can live with!

BABY SAFE HAVEN PROJECT: A project of the NATIONAL SAFE HAVEN ALLIANCE. In 1999, an overwhelming number of infant abandonments took place. Never before in a single year had so many mothers decided that they couldn't care for their children, and then disposed of their newborn infants in an unsafe and tragic way. In response, a group of dedicated people worked together to create a law that would guarantee no mother would ever have to SECRETLY DISPOSE OF HER NEWBORN INFANT. This law would protect the mother and assure her that she would not be prosecuted for relinquishing her baby. So long as the baby was safe and given to a responsible adult at a designated location, the mother WOULD BE FREE TO GO ANONYMOUSLY. SINCE IT'S INCEPTION, OVER 2,000 babies are known to have been positively impacted by the Baby Safe Haven Program.

In New York State there are many prospective ADOPTIVE FAMILIES searching for a child to become part of their family. If you are considering the option not to parent your child, adoption will provide your child with a safe and loving home. **Visit: NationalSafeHaven.org CONFIDENTIAL TOLL FREE HOT-LINE: 1-888-510-BABY**

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


UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 13: Hartigan Council #5033 Breakfast with Santa 9:30-12 Noon
- Dec 14: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall - Large Room
- Dec 14: Men's Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall - Small Room
- Dec 16: Blood Drive 2:30 - 8:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 17: Holy Hour 3PM Church
- Dec. 17: Children's Pageant Rehearsal 4PM Church
- Dec 18: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 19: Anointing Mass 9AM Church
- Dec 19: Exposition of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament from 7PM to 11PM Church
- Dec 20: Decoration of the Jesse Tree 10AM Family Mass Church
- Christmas Schedule - last page of the bulletin
- January 19: Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Church



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!

LIFE  **TEEN** 12/13 - Life Night 6:45-8:30PM

Upcoming Events:

- 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



Upcoming Events:

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.

UNITED VETERANS BEACON HOUSE

Serving our Nation's Heroes for over 20 years



LONG ISLAND VETERANS NEED YOUR HELP!

GIVE TO SUPPORT
LI VETERANS *and* THEIR FAMILIES



DONATION WISH LIST:

- Twin Sheet Sets
- Standard Pillows
- Twin Comforters
- Bath Towels
- Food Store Gift Cards



For more information about UVBH visit
www.uvbh.com

UVBH is a 501 C 3 not for profit organization that provides clean, safe housing & supportive services to homeless & at-risk U.S. Veterans. We provide housing & wrap around services with our goal in mind to help veterans become the independent productive members of society they once were & deserve to be. For more information contact our head-quarters.

HQ: 1715 Union Blvd Bay Shore, NY 11706 ~ p: 631-665-1571 ~ info@uvbh.com ~ www.UVBH.com

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



THE GIVING TREE



Last Call!

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!

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.

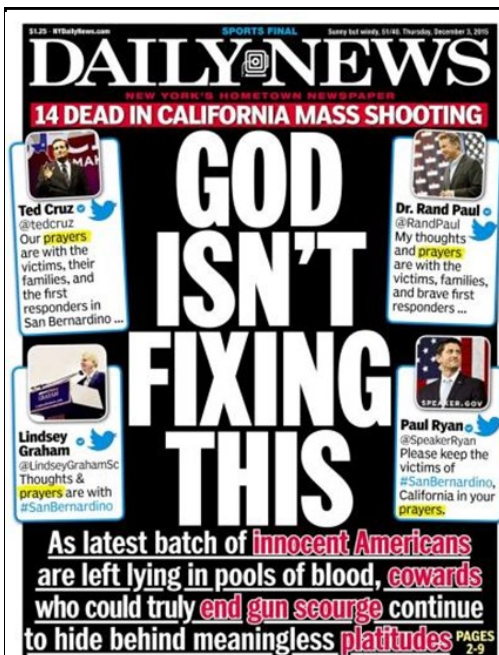
Age 16 – 75 (16 year olds must have parental permission. Age 76 and over need doctor's note)

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*



Front page of the New York Daily News for December 3, 2015 about mass shooting in San Bernardino, California - **GOD ISN'T FIXING THIS.**

This recent headline from the *New York Daily News* was very disturbing to me. I know the New York tabloids, the *Post and News*, duel to create readers and shock. For me, this headline was over the top, and I was somewhat reluctant to put it here in the bulletin since I so very much disagree with what it had to say. Still since many people read the *Daily News*, I wanted to say something about it.

Certainly it is a political headline since only Republicans were challenged for offering prayers since they have different views on gun issues than do many Democrats. I will not enter into that debate since that is a political debate and one for the voters to decide.

What bothers me about this headline is that there is also an undercurrent that prayer is useless in the face of such evil. For me, this raises serious questions for us. Several parishioners have asked me to place a prayer against terrorism into our Sunday Masses. I certainly understand this suggestion; I have responded that we do pray almost every Sunday in the Prayer of the Faithful for freedom from terrorism. I have also added at times to the closing of the Prayer of the Faithful the Prayer of St. Michael who is the patron saint of warding off the evil of Satan and his followers. Does it help to pray to end terrorism? Why don't we see more results from our prayers? Good and challenging questions! Will our well intentioned prayers change anything?

Unlike the *Daily News*, I am a great believer in the importance of prayers of petition to our Heavenly Father. Jesus told us over and over again to raise our prayers in petition to his Father. *Ask and you shall receive, knock and the door will be opened to you.* Jesus gave us several parables about the importance and power of prayers of petition. So, we pray in petition to our God for what we most need and desire.

I will admit that prayers of petition are a kind of mystery to me. In purely human terms, I ask myself if I am trying to change God's mind about something that is about to happen due to the evil choices of certain people. Quite honestly, I do not always see how many heartfelt prayers are seemingly not answered by God. This troubles many of us, including people of deep faith. We not only pray for freedom from terror, but we pray for our sick and suffering who have cancer and other diseases. We pray that they get well; sometimes they do, but very often they do not. I do believe all prayers are answered but not in ways that I can always see and understand. To truly pray a prayer of petition is to recognize that I am not in charge of the world and how it operates. It is to recognize I am a creature and dependent on God. To pray is to enter into mystery: I pray as well as I can and leave the rest in the hands of Almighty God. To pray in the most difficult moments of life, especially when we do not seem to receive the response we seek, is a great act of faith and trust in God.

At the same time, our prayers of petition for the suffering people of San Bernardino and Paris, as well as for others who have suffered the horrors of terrorism, puts me in solidarity and union with the suffering people of the world. It is to say to them that we are **with** them. We **love** them. I know that I draw comfort and strength from those who tell me they are praying for me. These prayers lead us into the suffering of our fellow human beings. We allow their pain to touch our own hearts.

Sometimes, our prayers of petition lead us to action. We may donate to a relief fund or a college education fund because we want to help other people who have been devastated by terror. Our prayer of petition becomes a very strong reminder to allow our prayer to lead us to also take whatever action we can reasonably take. Granted, you and I can do very little to stop ISIS and radical Islamic Jihadists. But we can work to make our own homes, our families, our places of work, our neighborhoods, our society as good and loving place as possible. We can work for peace and understanding with the very people we meet each day. Our prayers of petition may move our hearts to help someone or be compassionate to a person in need.



Advent is the great season of hope. Our Savior Jesus was born into the most violent area of the world and it continues to be so. However, we choose not to give into despair and cynicism. We know that ultimately God will prevail over evil. We walk in faith and draw strength from our hope in the Gospel. We choose to hear the words spoken so often in the Scriptures: ***Do Not Be Afraid.***

***Do not let anyone seek to take that hope away from you!
Keep storming heaven with your prayers of petition!***

One day, after celebrating Mass, the aged Pope Leo XIII was in conference with the Cardinals when suddenly he sank to the floor in a deep swoon. Physicians who hastened to his side could find no trace of his pulse and feared that he had expired. However, after a short interval, the Holy Father regained consciousness and exclaimed with great emotion: "Oh, what a horrible picture I have been permitted to see!"

He had been shown a vision of evil spirits who had been released from Hell and their efforts to destroy the Church. But in the midst of the horror the archangel St. Michael appeared and cast Satan and his legions into the abyss of Hell. Soon afterwards Pope Leo XIII composed the following prayer to Saint Michael, which is the original version:



Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

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>



Last week to sign up!
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