

Masses For The Week

Monday - December 28

6:30 Margaret Zuk
9:00 Kristine Benasutti

Tuesday - December 29

6:30 Joseph Hoolahan
9:00 Charles & Ann Zolnik

Wednesday - December 30

6:30 Harry R. Smith
9:00 Mildred B. Flood

Thursday - December 31

NO 6:30 MASS

9:00 George Neumann
7PM Daniel Flynn, Anniversary

Friday - January 1, 2016 - Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 Deacon Jim Biggin
10:30 Danny Baccari
12 Noon Michael Russo

Saturday - January 2

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
5:00 Cezar B. Abad, Sr.
7:00 Madeline T. Stein

Sunday - January 3

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Mary Godek
10:00 Antonina Palmeri
11:30 Gerald Meehan
1:00 Michele DiStefano
5:30 Richard Henn

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Tues. 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Wed. 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Thurs. 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
Fri. **Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7**
Luke 2:16-21
Sat. 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

Sun. *Isaiah 60:1-6* Darkness covers the earth, and heavy clouds hang over the people. But the light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines bright.

***Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6* In Christ Jesus, Gentiles and Jews are co-heirs & co-sharers in the saving promise.**

***Matthew 2:1-12* The magi from the east followed the star until it stopped still over the house. They entered, found the child with Mary, prostrated themselves, and did him homage.**

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

We will report our collections in next week's bulletin. As always, we thank our parishioners and visitors for their generous support of our parish. God Bless you all!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?



We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who embrace stewardship as a way of daily life. Their relationships with family, friends, co-workers and even strangers are now different, influenced by a spirit of generosity and sharing, which affect all aspects of their daily lives.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Do you know someone who is broken? We are all broken in some way - some more than others. But inside every broken person is a child of God. In this Year of Mercy reach out to someone, lend a hand, make a call, give a smile. Even a broken clock is perfect for 2 minutes every day!

Our next meeting is Monday, December 28th at 7:30 PM in the Church. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

The Bulletin Company, in order to celebrate Christmas and New Year's with their families, require parishes to submit their bulletins far in advance.

Therefore, the HOP Club winners from December 21st to January 1st will be printed in the January 3rd bulletin.



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

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Wedding Banns
1st: Ross Vessillo &
Meghan Brolly



**"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: cereal, chili, mayonnaise, oil, laundry soap, diapers size 6, toilet paper, paper towels and tissues. We are so grateful for your tremendous generosity to those in need.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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

*** Food Pantry Hours**

New Year's Week:

Monday, December 28th 9:30AM - 2:30PM
Wednesday, December 30th from 2PM - 7PM

Altar Bread & Wine
Week of December 27- January 2, 2016

In Loving Memory of
Mary O'Neil



Sanctuary Candle
Week of December 27- January 2, 2016

In Loving Memory of
William & Erma Eichenlaub



Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
John C. Echezuria, Eileen Duffy Horan
Magdalen Elbers, John Enderle

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.

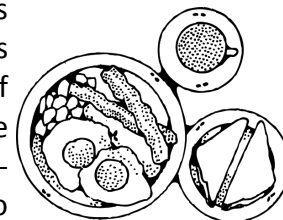
Ledwin Mason, Leevalli Annearosa, Pattie Meegan
Leigh Murphy, Richard Piernini, Joseph Simon
Douglas Torres, James Robertson, Amy Hayes
Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina, Pat Cannata
Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell, Barbara Thompson
Donald Castor, Dorothy Quinn, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov
Patricia 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
Fr. Edmund Faliskie, CSSR, Elinor Gabbola
Sheila Neumann, John (Jack) Phelps, Terrence Lynam
Joseph Abruzzo, Taylor, Michael Kott, Jr.
Angelo Pennestri, Ann Lazzara, Lee Berkowitz
Danielle McCarthy

The Pastor's Letter

I always feel a special connection between the Feast of the Holy Family and our parish here at St. Martin's. It is very clear how important family life is to you. Our parish does have a family sense where one can feel very much at home. However, my sense of connection goes back to almost thirty five years ago. I was a young priest teaching at our high school seminary. Since the students went home for Christmas break, we teachers were free for two weeks, one of the well-earned perks of being a teacher.

Since St. Martin was then, as it is now, a very busy parish, the priests here were eager to take a few days with their families. Father George Keaveney, CSSR would invite me to come to the parish from my family home in Brooklyn to say some Masses between Christmas and New Year's. I believe that the first time I ever came to St. Martin's was on the Feast of the Holy Family, which is the Sunday that falls between Christmas and New Year's. My family liked to come with me, not so much because they were eager to hear me preach, but because my mother always thought of Long Island as "the country." As a girl raised in the country hills of Clare, Ireland, she loved to go for drives on Long Island. Obviously even then, Bethpage was not a rural setting, but they insisted on coming. So my mother, dad, sister, and her three little kids, who now have children of their own, would pile into whatever car I was driving and head out for St. Martin's.

At that time, most of our Redemptorist rectories were very private. Lay people who stayed were not invited into our dining room or living room unless there was some very special occasion. Gratefully, that has changed today. However, when we came to the rectory, my family was immediately invited in for breakfast. Amy Dane cooked a lovely breakfast and was so very welcoming to my family. She continues to exhibit that beautiful spirit of hospitality. Since I was saying two Masses, my family would relax and enjoy the breakfast in the rectory. Whatever priests, deacons or staff members who happened to come through the kitchen or dining room that day was very gracious to the visitors from Brooklyn.



After celebrating my assigned Masses, mom always wanted to go to Zorn's in search of the perfect chicken. The kids would go to the animal farm that was on the grounds and delight in the turkeys and geese. We would often buy some food and have a kind of picnic in and around the car. (Perhaps we were inventing tailgating!)

The weather always seemed to be good and the day was something that our family enjoyed. Of course, with six people in the car including three little ones, there were some fights and arguments about windows and seats and who hit whom. I was anxious to get home and watch the Jets while my mother was mentioning a side trip to Montauk which I gently (editorial license perhaps) was about three hours away. We sometimes compromised on Riverhead because my family had once summered there many years ago.

I like this memory. I think that message I preached on the Feast of the Holy Family then is pretty much the same as the one I preach now. Family life is the place of the greatest joy and happiness in our lives. Yet, family can break our hearts and leave us wounded for life. We do not choose our families. I certainly believe that there are no perfect families. Looking for perfection in others will only cause others frustration and ourselves disappointment. Family life does not come naturally. A person has to work to be a good member of a family.

I am convinced there is no more essential quality for family life than the ability to forgive and let go of past hurts. I, as I am sure is true for you, have encountered many families who have fallen into anger and disappointment. I often find that families do like to sit and remember the past as I did in the article. We hold those memories precious. However, I wonder when they are actually happening, if we do not realize how special that time is. Every day can be a day of making good memories.

I have always admired the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am happy that our parish hosts several programs of A. A. Most of us know that great wisdom of the Serenity Prayer. I believe it is a prayer that is truly in line with the Gospel of Jesus. I am convinced its guidance could be a powerful way to enhance our own family life. Here is the prayer in its entirety.

The Complete Serenity Prayer

**God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the Courage to change the things I can
and the Wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.**

**Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.**

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



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.



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Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity

Wishing all of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year!

We will not have meetings during January and February.
Our next General Meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2016.
Please watch the bulletin for more information!

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



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

How beautiful this Christmas season. The night is aglow with lights brightly flickering on houses, while peeking into an occasional window, you might catch sight of a tree trimmed with a star shining at its very top. The radio plays 24 hour Christmas music, the television is full of inspirational Christmas movies, reminding us of Christmas' past. And yes, people are friendlier. Absolutely!

How blessed are we to celebrate the birth of our Lord, our Savior. As I am writing this, in the background, I hear the song, "O Holy Night," the words, "fall on your knees, O night divine." It brings me back to a Christmas Concert I attended at LUHI, where my son-in-law, is their principal. My little grandson, Liam, upon hearing the chorus sang this glorious song, got up from his chair, got down on his knees and bowed his head. He is only 7 years old. At that moment, I felt the glory of this Christmas season. Here, a little boy felt the meaning, and with all of his heart realized the true meaning of the birth of Christ. On the very same day, we drove out to Montauk to see our other grandson Finn who is just 6 years old. There he was singing and laughing and paying tribute to the Holiday Season. The smiles, the joy of little children so happy and full of surprise is a gift of childhood. From Kwanzaa to Chanukah to Christmas, they sang, and honored all religions. All these little children came together in the joy of this glorious holiday season. The children, God bless them, are our hope, our very future.

Those moments will stay with me through the hurry, the horns beeping, the traffic, and those that would turn off the lights, take down the trees, and remove the nativities. Those that would remove every sign of faith in God. I found my Christmas at that very moment. Beyond Santa, his sleigh, the stockings and the presents beneath the tree. I felt the glory of those that want to celebrate their faith, and the importance that that right never be taken from them.

Christmas came. We have celebrated, ate much too much, maybe even had too many glasses of wine. **But we will have celebrated! We are free here, in this amazing America to do just that! Beyond the Grinch, that we find here and there, it is and always will be a season of love, of giving and of peace. For over 2,000 years, that Babe in the manger has brought that glory and beauty in his name. We must always have that right to display the nativity, to light the menorah, or celebrate in any way we choose to celebrate our own faith.**

So, as we move forward to the New Year 2016, we must take serious that freedom that we have fought for. We must remain vigilant that our freedom to believe remains safe and intact. No matter what our faith, we must secure it. It is what this country was founded upon, lives sacrificed for. Never, ever, take it for granted.

Say a special prayer for Life! Mother Teresa will be made a saint by Pope Francis, remember her words. Life is...Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it!

Pray for Peace! Pray for those unable to practice their faith. Pray we reach out to each other, throughout the world. Clasp hands and hearts. Respect and honor each other. Celebrate Life! Every Life!

MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU, MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED WITH GOOD HEALTH, MUCH LAUGHTER AND PEACE.

Diana Hart Mirando and THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

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No First Friday Devotions in January.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS



Please come on January 2nd at 8:30AM in the Church. This devotion will consist of the Rosary of Reparation, a reading about Fatima and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All are most welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 28: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Jan 2: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Jan 4: Holy Face Devotion 1PM Church
- Jan 4: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Jan 12: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM Church
- Jan 19: Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Church
- Jan 30: Defensive Driving Course 8:30AM - 3PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 5: SMT Book Club 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall



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)
January 21, February 4, March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16

I love Christmas in New York City. There are a few special places I like to visit if I can during the days of Christmas. I like to pay my respects to Grand Central Station. Although there are some lovely decorations in that magnificent building, my main reason for going is to touch a sacred memory of mine. My Dad worked more than forty years at Grand Central Station, and it was one of our Christmas traditions to go with him to walk the grand spaces of architectural wonder. There was, and I believe there still is, a great set of trains that was displaced for Christmas and watching them with Dad delighted the young boy in me.



More recently, Bryant Park on 5th Avenue and 42nd Street has become another favorite of mine. Although the Christmas tree at this park does not have the reputation of the Rockefeller City Christmas Tree, I find it every bit as beautiful as its more famous counterpart. The ice skating rink at Rockefeller City gets all the attention and the wedding proposals, but the rink at Bryant Park is more fun to watch since it is so much larger and affordable for the laughing kids who are making their first attempts on skates.

Still, I must give the great tree at Rockefeller Center its fair due. Without a doubt, it is the most famous Christmas tree in America, if not in the whole world. The annual lighting of this tree now has its own NBC special on television. I've read that there is a special team that goes all over our country every year seeking out which tree will have the honor of having millions of eyes *oh and ah* before its beauty. From my observations as a lifetime New Yorker, I would say it is the most popular attraction of the Christmas experience in the New York City, and it doesn't cost anything to see it (except for some bruised ribs from the crowds that surround the tree). I must have about 50 photos of the tree that I have taken through the years, and every one of them has the arm or head of some stranger blocking my photo!

Lest you think this sermon is being sponsored by the New York City Christmas Tourist Board, I do want to say that I think the second most popular and visited spot at Christmas time in New York is St. Patrick's Cathedral, in particular, the Nativity Set that is placed to the left of the high altar on the 51st Street side of the Church. Because the space is so jam-packed with visitors, who perhaps because of the religious setting, are a bit less aggressive than the tree crowd, it is even more difficult to get up close to the large Crèche and spend some time with the newborn King than it is to get near the great Rockefeller tree a block away. Yet I am delighted to see how visitors - now let us call them pilgrims - make the effort to spend a moment with Jesus. Whenever I make this journey to the life-size nativity set, I hear people speaking a great variety of languages like the believers of the First Pentecost thousands of years ago. There are many children and babies in strollers, looking at the Baby in the manger, and hearing the Gospel, not from a Cardinal nor a priest, but from a mom, a grandpa, a dad. You hear, *Mommy, who is that Baby?* And the mom or grandma, uncle or dad, give a better theological answer than many biblical scholars: *That is the Baby Jesus. He is God's Son, and God sent him to us to show us how much he loves us. Christmas is his birthday and that is why we have Christmas.* Yes, that is why we have Christmas. That ancient but ever new story is what has brought you to Mass this night. *Who is that Baby? It is God's Son.*

A few years ago, the front page of the New York Daily News had a photo of a statue of large dog in the Cathedral's crèche. Monsignor Robert Ritchie, the pastor of St. Patrick's, has a golden lab named *Lexington* that he had grown to love over the years. He decided to have Lexington be the model for a dog that would be placed in the crèche. Some asked why a dog in a nativity set. That did not seem the norm. When questioned about this, Monsignor answered, "*While the Gospels make no mention of pooches in the manger on the first Christmas, it makes perfect sense to place the likeness near statues of a sheep, donkey, ox and camel. Didn't the shepherds have dogs to help herd the sheep?*" the clergyman said with a smile. So if you make a visit to the Nativity at St. Pat's Cathedral, you will see Lexington welcoming Jesus.

It was the great St. Francis of Assisi who gave us the first Christmas crèche more than a thousand years ago. It was his way of helping to have hearts moved at the wonder of God becoming man. I am sure you have a Christmas crèche in your home. Whether it costs \$5.00 made in China or is it filled with expensive hand carved statues, the Nativity set can be a great teacher.

The stable reminds us that Christ was born into the world as a poor man. It was God who created the wonder and glory of the heavens and earth, the sun setting over the ocean, an eagle soaring in flight through the skies, and yet God choose to come into the world as a poor man with no home of his own. Very often an angel is in the center of the roof of the stable, perhaps holding a banner that reads: *Glory to God in the Highest*. These words echo down from the hills outside of Bethlehem where legions of Angels once sang that Song of Exaltation to the newly born Messiah. Shepherds, having heard the message of the angels, rush to the stable, as they bring with them their sheep and perhaps their sheepdogs. They were poor men, struggling to survive, who are the first to come and adore him. The cows and sheep are in their stable, creatures created by God. They make room and warmth for the baby. Eventually, rich foreigners will follow a star and arrive on camels with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to worship him.

A young Jewish woman, perhaps fifteen or sixteen, holds the baby - her Son, her God - and is awed at the wonder of his birth. Her husband Joseph, a devout man of the Bible, prays for the grace to fulfill the mission that God has given him to protect Mary and Jesus. And there is the Baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, crying in hunger, helpless, totally dependent on Mary and Joseph. God, our Savior has become dependent on his creatures whom he so loves that eventually the wood of the manger will become the wood of the cross.

For one perfect moment they are all there in the stable. God and humanity, animals and angels. Jews, Palestinians, and foreigners. There is no division or hatred, bitterness or war. *Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright*. This is a night of hope that gives us strength and grace to go forth to seek to live in a messy sinful world. We come here tonight because we need to. We need the hope of this night to move each of us forward, trusting that God is with us as he was in that stable centuries ago.





12/27 - NO Life Night

Upcoming Events:

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.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 9 - 14

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You may visit his website at <http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>

The Administration and Faculty of Our Lady of Mercy Academy and the Parish of St. Martin of Tours are very proud of these students who have exhibited academic excellence for the First Quarter marking period.

Catherine Cannavina	Grade 10	First Honors
Cynthia Billovits	Grade 9	Principal's List

Dear SMT Book Club Friends,

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the joy of the Infant Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our next book is *Rosemary: the Forgotten Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larsen. Our meeting is on Friday, February 5, 2016 at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall.

All are welcome. New faces are always a pleasure to meet and seasoned members are an added joy. Please remember that the book does not need to be completed to attend the meeting. All sharing is appreciated and enjoyed.

Till then, happy reading!
 Father Patrick Woods



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

The following is the letter from our parish that was mailed to military personnel as per their family's request.

Christmas, 2015

Dear Protector of our Freedom,



This Christmas, St. Martin of Tours Church will be filled with thousands of people who come to adore and praise God for the gift of his Son Jesus. We will sit down to tables filled with all our special delights, surrounded by decorated Christmas Trees, sparkling lights and wrapped presents, as we sit with those we hold dearest to our hearts. But you will not be there because you have chosen to make a great sacrifice for our nation and for each one of us. You faithfully stand on guard so that we can celebrate a Christmas of faith, family and friends. Please know that here at St. Martin's we pray for you every day, and we miss you, especially at this joyful season. We are so very grateful for your service, and we thank you. We are so very proud of you and we hold you in our hearts and prayers.

The Grateful Parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Bethpage, N.Y

