

**Masses For The Week**

**Monday - January 4**

6:30 Lucy & John Speelman  
 Wedding Anniversary Remembrance  
 9:00 Robert & Michael Hill

**Tuesday - January 5**

6:30 Fran Jensen  
 9:00 Deceased Members of the Barry Family

**Wednesday - January 6**

6:30 Patrick Formato  
 9:00 Jerry Saloy

**Thursday - January 7**

6:30 Catherine Becker  
 9:00 John R. Kirk, Jr.

**Friday - January 8**

6:30 Edward Denave  
 9:00 Andrew McCarthy, Anniversary

**Saturday - January 9**

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS  
 5:00 John R. Kirk, Jr.  
 7:00 Robert C. & Michael C. Hill

**Sunday - January 10**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
 8:30 Catherine & Peter Gulotta  
 10:00 Maria & Salvatore Accardi & Deceased Mbrs.  
 11:30 Willy Krupitsch  
 1:00 Sam R. Merin  
 5:30 Barbara Zanchelli

**Readings For The Week**

Mon. 1 John 3:22 - 4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25  
 Tues. 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44  
 Wed. 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52  
 Thurs. 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a  
 Fri. 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16  
 Sat. 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30  
**Sun. *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11* "Comfort, give comfort to my people." Isaiah prophesies that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it."**

**Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7** Through the grace of God's appearance, we have been saved "through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...through Jesus Christ our savior."

**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22** When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened and a voice said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**

**Amount Budgeted: \$17,500.00**  
**Amount Received: Dec. 19/20, 2015**  
**\$16,200.47**

**Updates to all offerings in the next bulletin.**

**Reflection & Living Stewardship**

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?



We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who develop their talents to the fullest in order to use them to benefit church and community by assisting the poor, feeding the hungry, consoling the sorrowful and teaching the young.

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

**Happy New Year!**

**Fresh starts, clean slates!** Many of us will make resolutions to change something about ourselves. Here's a suggestion that won't cost you anything but time. Come and get closer to God! Strengthen your relationship with Jesus! Feel the power of the Holy Spirit! It's all here on Mondays at 7:30PM.

**Our next meeting is Monday, January 4th at 7:30 PM in the Church. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.**

**H.O.P. Club Winners**

12/21/15	#391	Michael & Diane Flood	\$25
12/22/15	#363	Kathy & John O'Shea	\$25
12/23/15	#351	Maureen & Bill Scharen	\$25
12/24/15	#359	Ernestine DeFanis	\$25
12/25/15	#56	Pat & Frank Foley	\$50
12/28/15	#214	Linda Leek	\$25
12/29/15	#67	Tom & Roseann Niczky	\$25
12/30/15	#404	Patricia Wessler	\$25
12/31/15	#154	Mary Napoleon	\$25
1/1/16	#17	Keri Zuaro	\$50



**Divine Mercy Novena**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



*Wedding Banns*  
*2nd: 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, oatmeal, chili, beef stew, canned chicken, jarred pasta sauce, lentils, catsup, mayonnaise, juice boxes, Jell-O, pudding, icing, laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels and rice.

We are so grateful for your tremendous generosity to those in need.

**Parish Outreach Food Pantry:**

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

*Altar Bread & Wine*  
*Week of January 3 - 9, 2016*

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Willy Krupitsch*



*Sanctuary Candle*  
*Week of January 3 - 9, 2016*

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Antoinette Vicedomini*



***Rest in Peace***

***Acts 7:49: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”***  
***Eleanor D. Brigante, Joseph P. Rush***  
***Noreen Fleming, Patricia Dyer***

***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, Jesusa Aquino, Joseph McCroary  
Guido Penafiel, Barry Monteleone Dolores Lordahl  
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, Charles Drew  
Kevin Connors, Fran Connors, Joseph Kostyak

## *The Pastor's Letter*

I will begin this Epiphany homily with two old jokes. The first one is about a very distinguished Protestant minister who gets into a cab at Kennedy Airport and tells the Irish cabby to take him to the Church of God in Manhattan. The cabby quickly drives away and soon arrives at the doorsteps to St. Patrick's Cathedral. The minister says, "This isn't the Church of God; it is St. Patrick's Cathedral!" The Irish driver responds, "Buddy, if he isn't here, he is isn't anywhere!" The joke is so old that it has an Irish cab driver in New York, a most rare possibility.

The other is a bit irreverent but fits my talk today. A first grade religion teacher asks her students, "Where is God?" A little boy eagerly raises his hand and says that God is Church. Teacher commends him for his answer. A little girl speaks up and says that God is in our hearts. The teacher is very impressed with that response. A third boy, eagerly waving his hands says, God is in our bathroom at home. The rest of the kids laugh and the teacher is perplexed and says to the boy, why do you think God is in your bathroom. Well, he says, every morning my dad yells at my sister who is the bathroom and says, "God! will you get out of that bathroom?"

Where is God? Ask a little child, or even an adult, and he or she will point their finger to the heavens. We certainly believe as Catholics that God is in our Church in the most profound way when we celebrate the Mass and also in our tabernacle where he is present under the form of the consecrated host. I think many of us would agree with the little girl in the story who said that God is present in our hearts. We have been created by God who has breathed his life into us at our conception. We know that atheists say there is no God and this entire universe is simply here by random chance - a bunch of molecules smashing into each other. There are philosophical agnostics who say there may or may not be a God, but either way, it has no impact on them. Then there are the rest of us, believing in a personal God, and practicing our faith in a variety of ways, some with great passion and others with indifference.

Today, is the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called Little Christmas. There are some nationalities that celebrate this day with great festivity. However, I think most of us by his time, are bit "Christmased" out, and worried about two things: stepping on the bathroom scale and the mail that will bring our credit card bills.



Epiphany comes from a Greek word which means an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being. The second definition is also important: a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way.

We love the three wise men named Gaspar, Balthasar, and Melchior who follow the star to the stable of Bethlehem and bring gold, frankincense and myrrh. Actually the Bible never gives us the names of the wise men nor does it say there were only three. The number three some from the fact that there were three gifts. The Magi wear colorful costumes and ride camels. They come from the East.

A key aspect of this feast is that it speaks to us that Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is for *all* people. First he appears to the shepherds and then to kings. He is born of a Jewish mother, but the Magi from the East teaches us that Jesus is not only the long awaited Messiah of the Jewish people, but he came to save all people of every nationality. God is for all people. Granted, many reject him but he has come with mercy for all sinners.

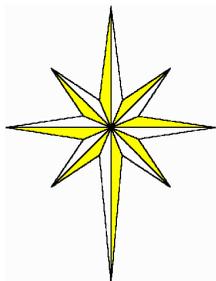
Back to my question, "Where is God?" Do we have a star similar to the one that guided the Magi to Jesus? Have we had our own epiphanies where for a moment a flash of grace and wisdom touched our hearts and souls, and we came to know something that we did not understand before? Many of you who are parents have had an epiphany when you recalled the words that your parents said to you when you were young - "Wait until you have your own children and then you will understand! I bet what they said came to be true for you in your own experience of parenting. I love the words that Mark Twain said when he was 20 that he could not believe how little his father knew; when he was forty he was shocked how much his father had learned in 20 years! As we get older, we often do see and understand things far differently than when we were young.

There are many spiritual epiphanies a person can have in life. There are certain times when I look at the sky, at the ocean, the tiny fingers of a newborn baby, hear the wisdom of an elderly person, hear of some very kind act that one person has done for another and I know that God is so very real and alive. Recently, as I was walking a bit gingerly in the midst of a crowd, a stranger said to me, "Are you okay, Poppy?" I was initially outraged! How dare he call *me*, a young man full of life and energy - *Poppy*? Later that night, still stewing about being called *Poppy*, I recalled that my nieces and nephews called my father Poppy. Suddenly it all changed, and I felt so very close to Dad. It was as if he had sent me a message from heaven. And this happened on mother's anniversary of death. Did they come up with that stranger together?

Epiphanies of awe and wonder of God happen all the time, in the midst of the most ordinary moments of life. God does not just have one star in heaven for us to follow. I looked on line and read that there are a billion trillion stars in the universe! (kind of sounds like the national debt). God has given us countless paths to know Him and his love. He is always revealing himself to each one of us.

I pray that God bless you with many epiphanies of his presence and love in your daily lives as he does with the gift of the Holy Eucharist that we will receive today.

Father Patrick Woods, CSSR  
woodscsr@aol.com  
Website: [smtbethpage.org](http://smtbethpage.org)





**St. Martin de Porres Marianist School**  
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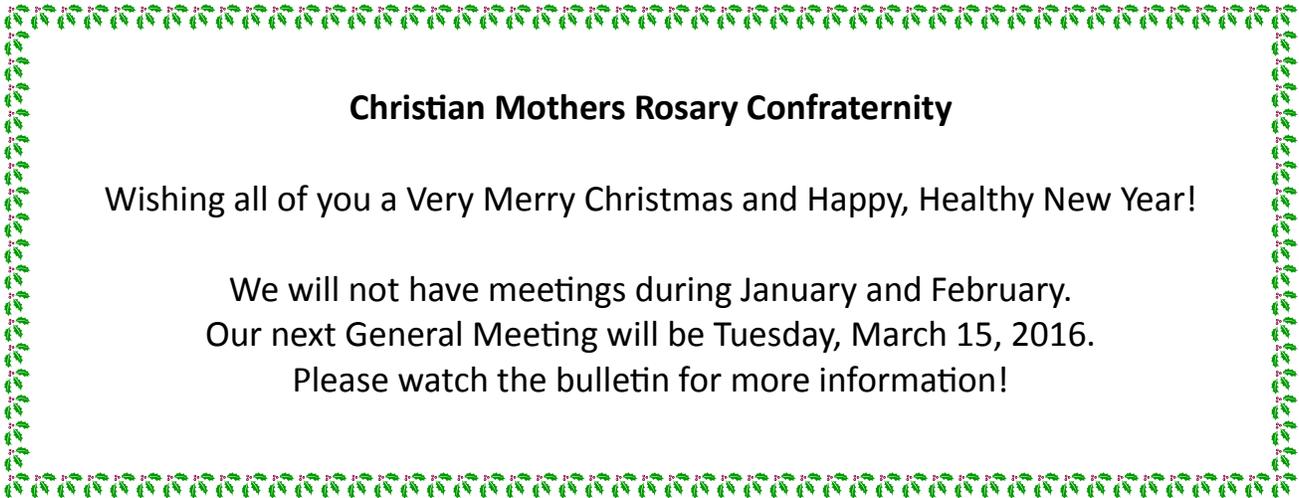
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**Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity**

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

As we look back on 2015, many of us will have been saddened by the loss of a loved one - a dear friend, a parent, or the deep pain of having lost a child. This poem was read by Father Nelson, Pastor of Maria Regina at the Funeral Mass of a dear friend of mine. The words in this poem are that of a child, and yet they encompass all death and new life awaiting all of us. His message brings truth, hope and courage to all of us as we mourn others, or come to face our own final days on earth.



## MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below;  
 With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.  
 The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear;  
 For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,  
 But the sounds of music can't compare with the  
 Christmas choir up here.  
 I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
 For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside your heart,  
 But I am not far away, we really aren't apart.  
 So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear,  
 And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.  
 I sent you each a memory of my undying love.  
 After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.  
 It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.  
 For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each of you.  
 So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.  
 Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

This poem was written by a 13 year old boy, who died of a brain tumor that he had battled for four years. He died in 1997. He gave this poem to his mom before he died. His name was Ben.

Father Nelson has held this poem with him for all these years, and has given permission to share this poem with all of you.

Diana Hart Mirando

**FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY**  
 Call Diana Hart Mirando (C) 830-5077  
 (H) 605-1979  
**ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS**  
**PROJECT RACHEL**  
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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

**Holy Trinity Diocesan High School  
 Honor Roll  
 First Quarter**

<b>Alyssa Lopez</b>	<b>Honor Roll A</b>
<b>Kerry Pancoast</b>	<b>Honor Roll A</b>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 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 20: VIRTUS training 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Jan 21: Young Families Ministry 6:30PM OLPH Youth Center
- 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](mailto: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

### Looking Over the Past Year Pondering in Our Hearts

Early on in his Gospel, Luke twice mentions Mary doing something extraordinary, namely, pondering something “in her heart.” The first occasion is after the departure of the shepherds at the Nativity; the second is when she and Joseph discover the Child Jesus speaking with the Temple elders. Luke’s phrase is telling. For Mary to “ponder” something “in her heart,” is not simply for her to remember the details or get her facts straight. Rather, it seems more a way to take in something in its totality and to let it sink down deep, into the heart, the place where it can change you.

Were we to be like Mary, how might we ponder in our hearts what we ourselves have seen and heard this past Christmas season so that, before it closes, we might learn something more from it than we did the first time through? Something which might just sink down deep and somehow change us.

Perhaps these questions might be of some help.

- What was the best, the greatest, gift you received this year – not the brightest gift or the shiniest or the fastest or the most expensive gift, but the best gift, the greatest gift? Who gave it to you? And do they even know they did?
- What was the best gift you gave this year, one that may have cost you a little or one which may have cost you a lot. And the little or a lot that it might have cost you might not have been money at all.
- If there was something you did in the last several weeks which was just what someone else needed, just when they needed it, just what was it?
- If there was one time when all your troubles, your cares and worries, seemed to you far, far away – what was that time? And what chased your troubles away?
- If there was one glance you had of someone else that allowed you to see them fresh, as if for the very first time, yet see them as well radiant with all that they mean to you – what was that time? And who was that person?
- Was there ever a time – perhaps in a crowd and surrounded with people or perhaps by yourself – that it struck you that you are a lucky, lucky person? What was that time? Who were those people around you, if people were there? And what seems to have brought that feeling on?
- If you said one thing exactly right, exactly true and straight from your heart, just what exactly did you say? And to whom did you say it? And why?
- If within the last few weeks you brushed a tear from your eye secretly so that no one else could see it, why did that tear come? And what did that tear mean?

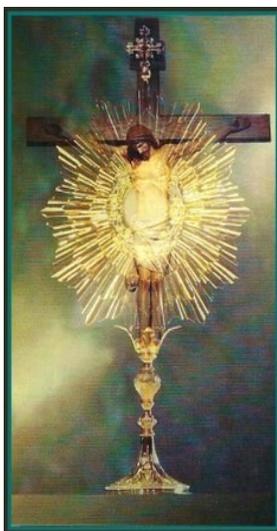
- When do you feel the proudest? The happiest? The most content? Indeed, the most yourself?

If you could look back over the many, many moments of this tender season now ending and pick out one moment from among them all – just one –pick the one where somehow you knew in your heart that it was all true: the angels indeed did sing, the shepherds indeed did worship, the kings indeed did bring their gifts and bow low – and all of this because at that one moment you felt almost held aloft by kind and mighty hands; and if you could take that one moment and hold it in your heart forever, take it out and gaze upon it from time to time as if to look upon a kind of snow globe, just what would that one moment be?

Written and offered by Fr. Michael Graham, S.J.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Youth Ministry Adoration is Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 PM  
in the Church.  
Everyone is welcome!



**LIFE**  **TEEN** **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](mailto:SMT_Lifeteen@Yahoo.com).

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

**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, please visit UVBH at [www.uvbh.com](http://www.uvbh.com) or call 631-665-1571.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



**BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 9 - 14**

**HARTIGAN COUNCIL'S  
ANNUAL FREE THROW CONTEST**

**J.F.K. MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016  
12 NOON TO 3PM**

**OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 9 - 14**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**PLEASE CALL BOB DEROSA  
(516) 776-688**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

**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>



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 Hidden 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's Prayers**

**The Year Ahead**

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making our path easy, But by making us sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from us, But by taking fear from our heart;  
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine, But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making our life always pleasant, But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,  
and by making us anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead

**Drenched in Holiness Prayer: Prayer for a New Year**

Dear God,  
On this day I ask You to grant this request,  
May I know who I am and what I am,  
Every moment of every day.  
May I be a catalyst for light and love,  
And bring inspiration to those whose eyes I meet.  
May I have the strength to stand tall in the face of conflict,  
And the courage to speak my voice, even when I'm scared.  
May I have the humility to follow my heart,  
And the passion to live my soul's desires.  
May I seek to know the highest truth  
And dismiss the gravitational pull of my lower self.  
May I embrace and love the totality of myself,  
My darkness as well as my light.  
May I be brave enough to hear my heart,  
To let it soften so that I may gracefully  
Choose faith over fear.  
Today is my day to surrender anything that stands  
Between the sacredness of my humanity and my divinity.  
May I be drenched in my Holiness  
And engulfed by Your love.  
May all else melt away.  
And so it is. **Debbie Ford**

**A Wish for the New Year**

Dear Lord, please give me...  
A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;  
A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;  
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;  
An understanding heart; A sense of humor;  
Time for quiet, silent meditation;  
A feeling of the presence of God;  
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,  
With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen.