

Masses For The Week

Monday - February 1

6:30 Kathleen & Lester Smith
 9:00 Deceased Members of the DiCarlo Family

Tuesday - February 2 - Presentation of the Lord

6:30 Rev. Frank O'Rourke, CSSR
 9:00 Deceased Members of the Serventi Family

Wednesday - February 3 - St. Blaise

6:30 Stanley & Joseph Drobig
 9:00 Barbara & Vincent Mangiamele

Thursday - February 4

6:30 For Friends and Crew at the 6:30 Mass
 9:00 Mark Joseph Ridge

Friday - February 5

6:30 Catherine & Silvio Sita
 9:00 Ray Reynolds

Saturday - February 6

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Frances Sanfilippo
 7:00 Dorothy Mistretta

Sunday - February 7

7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Esther O. Abad
 10:00 Carolyn & John Lynam & Deceased Members
 11:30 Lazzati & Tesoriero Families
 1:00 Carlo & Laura Minucci
 5:30 James Boglioli

Readings For The Week

Mon. 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20
 Tues. Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
 Wed. 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6
 Thurs. 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13
 Fri. Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29
 Sat. 1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34
Sun. *Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8* Isaiah received a call from the Lord. With a burning coal his lips were cleansed and his sin removed. When the Lord asked for a messenger, Isaiah replied, "Here I am, send me!"

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Paul urged everyone to remain faithful to the gospel he preached, namely, that Christ died for sin and rose again. This "least of the apostles" received the Lord's blessing.

Luke 5:1-11 Jesus boarded Simon Peter's boat and told him to cast his net for a catch. Simon and his friends caught enough to fill two boats. When Jesus invited them to become fishers of men, they left all to follow him.



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

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00
Amount Received 1/24/16: \$4,797.16

Thanks to those who braved the storm and the roads last weekend. Our first wish is that our parishioners and visitors be safe. God bless you all!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



Jeremiah declares that the Lord knew him before he was born and dedicated and appointed him to his role as prophet even before he drew breath. We too, are known and sent by the Lord. What deeds of love and service are mine to perform?

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who practice a spiritual work of mercy by having Masses said for departed friends and loved ones, praying for the living and the dead.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Some people hate to ask for directions. One of them must have invented the GPS. Asking God for directions is easy. You ask, He tells you. You mess up, you ask again. He tells you again and again - as many times as you need it. So come and get your directions!

Our next meeting is Monday, February 1st (weather permitting) at 7:30 PM in the Church. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

H.O.P. Club Winners

1/25/16 #51	Pat & Mike Sangirardi	\$25
1/26/16 #301	Eleanor Shaw	\$25
1/27/16 #66	Tom Imbornoni	\$25
1/28/16 #34	Frances Ostermeier	\$25
1/29/16 #179	Ellen & John Gulli	\$50



Wedding Banns
None at this time.



“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: Rice-a-Roni, rice (white & brown), oatmeal, egg noodles, beef stew, pasta sauce, tomato paste, tomato soup, icing, mayonnaise, brownie mix, Jell-O, pudding, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap and laundry soap.

Thank you for all you do for 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 Jan. 31 - Feb. 6, 2016

*In Loving Memory of
Carmelo & Rose Morganti*



Sanctuary Candle

Week of Jan. 31 - Feb 6, 2016

*In Loving Memory of
Ray Reynolds*



Rest in Peace

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

Patricia McGlynn, Paul H. Heilig

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 & Victor Battiatia, 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 Baciaska, 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, Elsa Ryan, Sarah Messin, William Boyce
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, Terrence Lynam, Joseph Abruzzo
Taylor, Michael Kott, Jr., Angelo Pennestri, Ann Lazzara
Lee Berkowitz, Danielle McCarthy, Charles Drew
Kevin Connors, Fran Connors, Joseph Kostyak
Lorie Penafiel, Johnny D., Anthony Morello

The Pastor's Letter

Jonas: The Nor'easter of January 23/24, 2016

I lived ten years in a little town called North East that was outside the city of Erie PA, located about a mile from Lake Erie. We averaged about 140 inches of snow in winter, and I never managed to become



friends with great snowfalls. This past weekend made me think I was back in Erie. As a pastor, I have grown to particularly dislike snow because it impacts a parish as it seeks to go about doing its mission. However, I also know that it affects all of you as your homes and apartments become plowed in by the road plows. Schools close and arrangements have to be made for minding the children if we have to work. Shoveling and digging out our cars, paths and driveways is exhausting work and can even be dangerous if we are not physically able to take on such demanding stress.

The first layer is beautiful to see but then we know that the snow will stick around for weeks, making parking hard to find in many situations. I know I am sounding a bit whiny, since the snowplow companies and the ski resorts are delighted with the snowfall and God has the best laid plans for the overall workings of this marvelous creation we call the Universe.

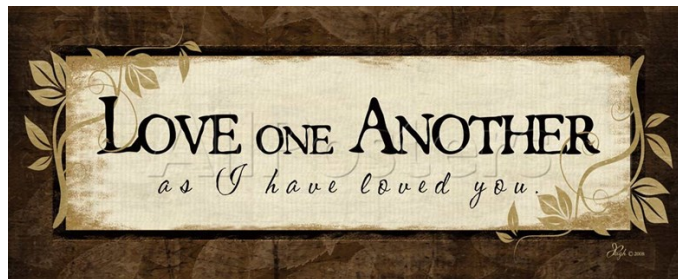
What I would like to do is draw some learnings from this storm that we might consider for the future.

- The first learning I take from the snow is that I am very blessed to have a roof over my head, food in the house, cable television for the football games, and heat. God is good to me. I think of so many people who don't even have shelter in such harsh weather who seek to live on the streets or spend all night at a train station or on the subway just to get out of the cold and frost. Even as I fall into a snowbank walking over to Church, I still know that I do not have near the hardships of so many people in our world and even in our parish. So, Father Pastor, don't be whiner.
- Naturally our Mass attendance on this blizzard weekend was down. When we have such terrible weather, under no circumstance should anyone risk driving in dangerous conditions. Likewise, we have many elderly parishioners who we would not want falling and hurting themselves in snowy, icy conditions. I also realize that many parishioners have their cars plowed in by the snowplows and it is very difficult to dig out. Shoveling our driveways and paths is very hard labor and people must be careful not to overexert themselves. So if you were not able to get to mass this past Sunday, please know you did not do anything wrong. **We are not under obligation to go the Mass if it might prove hazardous to our health and well-being.**
- We did not cancel Masses here at St. Martin's. The reason we did not is because it is relatively easy for the priests to get to the Church even if there is heavy snow. I will admit to hiring a St. Bernard for the weekend to help me if I got stuck in the snow. There are some people with four wheel drives and others who walk so we usually have a few people in difficult weather. Another reason for our celebrating the Masses is that the Masses have intentions and we try our very best to say the Masses on the day they were requested.

- Something that I need to do better within our parish is to work on better communications through the social media and text messages. Several people did sign up in our ministry sheets and this issue needs to be addressed so we can contact you more quickly about any changes in parish scheduling due to unforeseen events.
- The parish counts on the weekly collection to operate and maintain our budget. Some of you may live paycheck to paycheck. We operate pretty much collection to collection so missing the vast majority of a Sunday collection has a serious impact on our parish budget. Many people do bring in or mail any missed mass collection envelopes due to the bad weather and this is most appreciated. I dread snow on weekends for many reasons!
- I heard some great stories of neighbors and even strangers helping one another cope with snow difficulties. I also know that many of you watch out for your homebound neighbors and family members. Challenges often bring out the best in people and that is certainly true of our parishioners.

I have to go now and bring *Jamison*, my rented St. Bernard, to his owner. God is good...*all* the time.

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



The word *Gospel* means *Good News*. Here is a bit of good news I recently received.
- Father Pat

In response to our Giving Tree and Food Pantry from a Grateful Heart:

"Your pantry has been a godsend. I am so very grateful for the very healthy food you offer to those of us in need. The gifts from the Giving Tree have lifted my spirits very much. I am not a parishioner but you have shown me so much mercy and love. I am so grateful for the love and kindness of the women who work in the pantry."

Pope Francis gives encouragement to the young around the world!

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Don't fall for hate and fearmongering from others; make new friends instead and always help and show concern for others, Pope Francis told the world's teens. "Be brave and go against the tide, be friends of Jesus, who is the prince of peace," he said in a written message for the Jubilee of Mercy for Young People, scheduled to be celebrated in Rome and dioceses around the world April 23-25.

In his written message, released by the Vatican January 14, the pope said the Year of Mercy is open to everyone so they may experience "a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy."



"God invites everyone, he said, because "there are no walls or distances which can prevent the father's mercy from reaching and embracing us." While three days in April have been set aside for those between 13 and 16 years of age, every day of the jubilee year marks "a chance for us to grow in holiness." It is also a time to realize "that life together as brothers and sisters is like a great

party, perhaps the most beautiful party we can imagine, the endless party that Jesus has taught us to celebrate by his Spirit."

However, the pope said, "I cannot forget those of you who are living in situations of war, extreme poverty, daily troubles and loneliness. Don't ever lose hope! The Lord has a great dream which, with your help, he wants to come true." Other young people around the world have not forgotten about those who are less fortunate and they "are working for peace and justice for everyone everywhere," he said. "Don't be taken in by the messages of hatred or terror all around us. Instead, make new friends. Give of your time and always show concern for those who ask your help," he said.

Pope Francis reminded young people that preparing for a pilgrimage or jubilee celebration didn't just mean getting backpacks and banners ready, "but your hearts and minds as well." He urged them to grow closer to Jesus and draw nourishment from the sacraments. Becoming more merciful during the Year of Mercy means not only growing "in a love which is courageous, generous and real," it means greater spiritual growth, too.

"You are preparing to be Christians capable of making courageous decisions in order to build daily, even through little things, a world of peace," he said.

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



Happy New Year!

2016 is going to be a fabulous year for SMT Youth Ministry!
We are looking forward to serving you and hope to see you at some
of our upcoming events!

~ Erin and the Core Teams

STEUBENVILLE NYC+

June 24th – 26th
St. John's University

Open to all 9th-12th Grade Teens

Dynamic Speakers, Engaging Liturgies,
Energetic Praise & Worship Music, &
Much, much more!



\$50 deposit DUE January 10th

Total cost: \$300 per teen

(less if you volunteer for our fundraisers)

For More info: www.lifeteen.com/events/steubenville-NYC



Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed!

Open to HS students ONLY!

January 30th – Harlem, NY

Contact the Office of Youth Ministry for more information!

CAMP VERITAS



Join **St. Martin of Tours Youth Ministry** for a week long Catholic Summer Camp for 6th- 12th graders.

August 14-20th at Camp Lakota

Located in the foothills of the Catskills

Cost: \$370 includes housing & all meals

Registration Opens January 1st

(\$400 is registration is after March 31st)

Activities include: daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship, go-karting, swimming, lake activities, bonfires, pool parties, talent show, and much, much more!

Spiritual staff includes Catholic Priests, CFR friars, and Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese of New York.

**Camp Veritas is SELLING OUT!
Don't wait to register!**

Please contact The Office of Youth Ministry **before** enrolling your child!
SMT_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com

Edge

Edge Nights take place from 7-8:30pm in the OLPH Youth Room

- 1/14: Edge Night
- 1/28: Edge Night
- 2/11: Edge Night
- 2/25: Edge Night
- 2/27: Edge's Day of Retreat- More info coming soon!!!

Life Teen

Life Nights take place from 6:45-8:30pm in the OLPH Youth Room – Dinner is served.

- 1/10: Life Night
- 1/12: Adoration 7-8pm
- 1/15: Holy Hour for Vocations
- 1/17: NO Life Night
- 1/24: Life Night
- 1/30: Soup Kitchen
- 1/31: Life Night
- 2/7: Life Night
- 2/9: Adoration 7-8pm



SMT Youth Ministry Office
SMT_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com
(516) 870-5669
www.SMTBethpage.org



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

LIFE NEWS: MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, JANUARY 22, 2016

Due to the blizzard hampering most of the East Coast, some buses heading for the PRO-LIFE MARCH in Washington were cancelled. Our own DRVC cancelled the trip. But many others prevailed, some even getting stuck in snow on highways to the event. One report told of how a bus full of teens got out of their bus and helped cars stuck in the snow. Life News.com reports that actor KELSEY GRAMMER joined PRO-LIFE PEOPLE at the MARCH FOR LIFE to condemn abortion. Actor Kelsey Grammer is continuing to make good on his pro-life views- this time showing up to join with hundreds of thousands of pro-life people to MARCH FOR LIFE on the horrific 43rd anniversary of legalized abortion. Grammer's wife Katy posted a picture of the couple in front of the main stage where speakers kicked off the March for Life before pro-life people lined the streets in a procession passed the Supreme Court. "There are better ways to avoid pregnancy than abortion. We advocate those. We can respect a woman's right to choose and respect a child's right to life at the same time. They do not need to stand in opposition." "WE NEED NEVER KILL ANOTHER INNOCENT LIFE. RESPECT LIFE!" Grammer posted: "We've distorted things to the point where people believe that anyone who opposes mothers killing their babies is waging a war on women. How can we be so foolish to believe such a thing! One must be able to recognize the depravity to which we have sunken as a society when valuing a baby's life is frowned upon." Kelsey Grammer has been the star of the long running sitcom *Frazier*, and a weekly appearance on *Cheers* in the past.

Catholic News Agency, EWTN News: "WOMEN'S LIBERATION" "WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT: "WAR ON WOMEN" For many the buzzwords surrounding the intersection of feminism and the pro-life movement call to mind a conflict between the two campaigns. However, for many of those involved in the pro-life movement, PRO-LIFE AND FEMINIST GOALS ARE **ALIGNED, NOT OPPOSED!** "In popular society many people are hearing a lot of messaging that's false saying that in order to be PRO-WOMAN, you have to be PRO-CHOICE," said Jeannie Mancini, president of the March for Life to CNA. For MARCH FOR LIFE ORGANIZERS, PRO-LIFE and PRO-WOMAN GO **HAND IN HAND!** Aimee Murphy, states: "Women really were sold this lie, especially during the 60s and 70s that in order to be successful, in order to be career orientated, in order to get a good education, that they needed to have the RIGHT TO ABORTION. Honestly, it is an idea rooted in a system of patriarchy."

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE: THE BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN OF 2015 BROUGHT ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF \$12,384 to date. We have a crate of additional bottles that will be counted and that amount finalized on a poster that will show many photos of you taking a baby bottle. Also will be photos of the Baby Shower last May. You are the most giving, life-faring parish that Jerry and I have been blessed to be a part of. The poster will be in the Gathering Place, in the next few weeks.

THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE WILL BE HOLDING IT'S MONTHLY MEETING on FEBRUARY 24TH AT 11:00AM in ST. ALPHONSUS HALL. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US, AS WE WILL BE SHOWING VIDEOS OF THE MARCH FOR WASHINGTON, ALONG WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAKING IN BEHALF OF THE MARCH FOR LIFE.

Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank all the Redemptorists, staff, ministries, and just all the parishioners who showed such kindness and compassion during the time of my sister Pat's illness and death. The hardest thing, it is said, is to say goodbye to one you love and I know that truly. However, the sharing of grief by so many good people of St. Martin's is like having a caress from Jesus himself.

I love this parish and in my 50 years as a parishioner I have always known that this place is a holy one because of the warmth and generosity of those who come here. Pat is in a better place for her and I, fortunately, too am in a good place here at St. Martin's.

Thank you on behalf of my entire family. Ann Hughes



Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
 And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
 I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,
 Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death
 by the Resurrection of Your Son.
 I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
 Today I commit myself - Never to be silent, Never to be passive,
 Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
 I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,
 And never to stop defending life
 Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
 And our nation once again becomes A nation with liberty and justice
 Not just for some, but for all.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Priestsforlife.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

St. Martin of Tours has a website at www.smtbethpage.org where you can sign up on the home page to receive our Newsletter.

All that's required is to provide your email address to be part of an E-blast for news and information in the parish.

Respect Life Committee is meeting on Wednesday, February 24th at 11AM in St. Alphonsus Hall.

All are welcome to come and join our meeting. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on right to life issues.

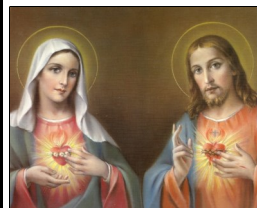
The Men's Group will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30PM** in the Eucharistic Chapel.

Open invitation to all men to come and see what we're about.

No obligation or commitment required.

Holy Face of Jesus Devotions are prayed on the first Monday of the month (unless otherwise noted). Please come and venerate Christ asking him to be your joy, courage, wisdom, strength and zeal. The next devotion will be **Monday, February 1st at 1:00PM in the Church.**

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS



Please come on **February 5th at 7PM** in the Eucharistic Chapel in reparation for all the sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus. All are welcome!

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Please join us on **February 6th 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!

SAVE THE DATE

Bishop Murphy is happy to announce that there will be a Diocesan Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington, D.C.

Saturday, September 24, 2016

More information will be coming soon. Please watch your bulletin and diocesan website.

Blessing of Throats

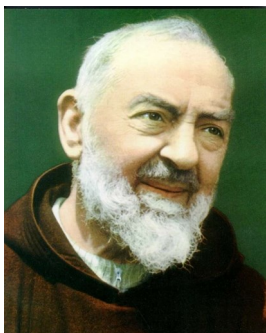


February 3rd marks the Catholic celebration known as the Feast of St. Blaise, the patron saint of those with ailments of the throat. According to tradition, a woman threw herself at the feet of St. Blaise as he was being led into custody, which would eventually lead to his beheading, and begged him to help her only child who was choking on a fishbone. He offered up his prayers, and the child was

cured. Now St. Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat. Following a traditional mass, the blessing is offered by a priest or deacon who places two candles on the throat while reciting a brief prayer.

At the conclusion of all weekend Masses this weekend, January 30th & 31st a general blessing of throats will be offered. If you have a serious health issue of your throat, you can ask the priest or deacon for an individual blessing.

On the feast day itself, Wednesday, February 3rd at the 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Mass, individual blessings will be given at the conclusion of Mass.



There's Been a Change!

Please note that the weekday for the Padre Pio Holy Hour has been changed *from* the 3rd Tuesday of the month **TO the 3rd **WEDNESDAY** of the month.**

The next Saint Padre Pio Holy Hour will be on Wednesday, February 17th at 7PM in the Eucharistic Chapel!

Harvest House

Harvest House, directed by the Sisters of St. Dominic, is a positive option for independent Seniors 65 and over who want the fullness of living in a family atmosphere, in a secure environment minus the burden of managing a home or apartment.

Harvest House offers companionship, nutritious meals, private bedrooms, common living space to be with friends, share ideas, stories and good times. It is affordable, conveniently located to shopping, places of worship, library, restaurants, public transportation and more. Locations: Syosset and Floral Park. For more info, please call Sr. Jeanne A. Brendel, O.P., CSW at 516-496-9796. Website: www.harvesthouses.org

Our Next Book for the Spiritual Book Club

The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World by Desmond Tutu



Forgiveness is an issue that challenges all of us in our daily lives. In this Year of Mercy, I thought this would be a good book for our spiritual book club. The discussion will take place on **Saturday, March 12th at 10:00 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall**. All are welcome

Each of us has a deep need to forgive and to be forgiven. After much reflection on the process of forgiveness, Tutu has seen that there are four important steps to healing: admitting the wrong and acknowledging the harm; telling one's story and witnessing the anguish; asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness; and renewing or releasing the relationship. Forgiveness is hard work. Sometimes it even feels like an impossible task. But it is only through walking this fourfold path that Tutu says we can free ourselves of the endless and unyielding cycle of pain and retribution. *The Book of Forgiving* is both a touchstone and a tool, offering Tutu's wise advice and showing the way to experience forgiveness. Ultimately, forgiving is the only means we have to heal ourselves and our aching world.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Annual HEC #32 Weekend – April 28 – May 1, 2016

PLANNING MEETINGS: February 11, March 9 and April 13



Long Island Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC) is in need of volunteers for its annual retreat which will be held **Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1, 2016 at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY.**

HEC is a program that provides retreat opportunities that celebrate life, nurture faith and offer support for persons 18 years and older with special needs. HEC retreats provide an environment which persons with disabilities and able-bodied friends step away from their usual routines and enjoy a prayerful experience of song, talks and meditations, group sharing, Eucharist and many other joyful moments. The shared experiences of the retreat often develop into relationships of mutual support.

There are many volunteer roles to be filled. We are in need of team members, kitchen help, setting up and taking down the camp, as well as drivers for our candidates.

Our **first planning meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, February 11 at 7 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn** – we invite you to come hear what we are all about. Two follow-up meetings are planned for Wednesday, March 9 and Wednesday, April 13.

Please call Deacon Frank & Michele Barone at (516) 420-1207 **or e-mail** at LongIslandHEC@gmail.com for more information, to volunteer or request an application for candidate participation.

Catholic Charities Employment Opportunity Residence Counselor - Teaching Family Home Program (Full-time and On Call opportunities available) Manorville & Bethpage Locations

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- A sincere desire to contribute to the mission of the Teaching Family Homes Program
- High School Diploma or GED
- Some experience overseeing minors
- Clean, valid NYS Driver's License
- The ability to successfully complete background check including fingerprinting & NYS Children's Registry screening.

Email cover letter of interest and your resume to jobs@catholiccharities.cc or fax to (516) 733-7038. Please reference "Teaching Family DSP" in the subject line of your email.



JUBILEE OF MERCY

As with other jubilee years, the Holy Father has instructed that special indulgences be available for the faithful through the duration of the Year of Mercy. Here is how to receive one.

For able-bodied Catholics:

Make a pilgrimage. Make a journey to one of the four Holy Doors in the diocese or one of the four Holy Doors in the four papal basilicas in Rome. Crossing through

the Holy Door is a spiritual journey that signals, as the Holy Father said, “the deep desire for true confession.”

Go to Confession.

Receive the Holy Eucharist “with a reflection of mercy.”

Make a profession of faith.

Pray for the pope and for his intentions.

For the elderly, confined and the ill:

Pope Francis said they may obtain the indulgence by “living with faith and joyful hope during this moment of trial.”

Receiving the Eucharist, or by attending Mass and community prayer, “even through the various means of communication.”

What is an Indulgence?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1471): “An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary accordingly as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.” Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead.

For more information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy visit www.im.va and drcv.org.

Schedule at Jubilee Churches for the Year of Mercy

Tuesdays

Cathedral of St. Agnes – 1 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

- Mass (12:10 p.m.)
- Exposition and Adoration
- Confessions
- Chaplet of Mercy
- Benediction (4:00 p.m.)

Wednesdays

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception – 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743

- Optional lunch (12 Noon)
- Tours of the Seminary (1:00 p.m.)
- Rosary (1:45 p.m.)
- Exposition and Adoration (2:00 p.m.)
- Confessions (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- Vespers and Benediction (4:00 p.m.)

Thursdays

Basilica of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – 168 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968

- Beginning with Mass at Noon
- Confessions
- Exposition and Adoration
- Tours of the Basilica (as arranged)
- Devotions to Divine Mercy in Spanish (3:00 p.m.)
- Benediction (4:00 p.m.)

Saturdays

Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, 258 Eastport Manner Road, Manorville, NY 11949

- Beginning with Mass at 11:30 a.m.
- Exposition and Adoration
- Confessions
- Chaplet of Mercy
- Benediction (4:00 p.m.)



**JUBILEE
OF MERCY**

How Long Is This Mass Going to Be?

Our first reading today from the Old Testament of Nehemiah brought to my mind an experience I had several years ago when I was in Ireland. I was with some of my family and a family friend named Mary. Mary has now gone home to God. May she rest in peace. She was a very good hearted woman but she was quick to speak her mind. We might say she did not have too much of a filter. We were in a pub and Mary ran into a man she knew. She proudly introduced the priest from America to the man. Quite honestly, he was not too impressed with me and was far more attentive to his pint of Guinness. Mary told him that Father Pat, yours truly, had said Mass that Sunday morning at the village church. This fact was accompanied by another swallow of Guinness from our man at the bar. Mary went on to quiz him if he had been at Mass that morning. He finally said that he was a very busy man and he did not have time for Church. She quickly told him if he was able to spend four hours on a certain part of his anatomy in the pub, then he could find an hour to go to Mass. At that point, I headed out of the pub lest this theological conversation grew more tense.



I was thinking - what was the longest Church service that I ever attended? I remember being at a Mass where the celebrant decided to speak about each of the 14 stations. After going on for 20 minutes on the first station, I knew the congregation was in trouble. I recall someone saying to me about a homily she heard that reminded her of Kennedy Airport. I was surprised by that and asked her what she meant. She said that sermon had many take off and landings. I love the Easter Vigil and I suppose the longest one I ever went to was almost three hours. I went to a ceremony at the

Vatican where five men and women were being declared beatified by Pope John Paul II, not a saint. I would say that ceremony was about three and half hours. Some folks love to go *The Seven Last Words* services that some churches have on Good Friday. They are traditionally from twelve to three. So, I guess I would say that longest stretch I ever spent in church was about three and half hours. I have noticed here at St Martin's that as the length of Mass nears the hour mark, many people seem to develop emergencies that force them to leave church. I am always surprised by how many of these emergencies develop as Mass is moving towards its conclusion.

I remember watching on television a famous baseball game between the Mets and the Braves. It was a playoff game on October 17, 1999. The game lasted five hours and forty six minutes and I saw every second of this exciting game that the Mets won. I also recall once going to a movie marathon that showed *Godfather I and II* back-to-back. I think that was almost six hours. I suppose it is not fair to compare time at baseball game or a movie to that of being at Mass or a prayer service. Unless you are a saint or preparing to be monk, many of us find the thought of several hours at a religious service not something we want to do. However, I am sure there have been times when we have had a particular Mass or prayer experience very powerful, and we never noticed the time.

Today, in our first reading, we heard: *Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand.*

Did you read that? - from daybreak until midday! That is at least six hours. I wonder if someone was selling beer and soda during the readings. Even more amazing is the verse that says the people listened attentively. They were weeping and crying and prostrating themselves in prayer. What was going on to make this such a powerful experience for our ancestors in faith. This Jewish community had just gone through a terrible period of exile called the Babylonian exile. The Jewish holy city of Jerusalem has been destroyed and the people are held in captivity in a strange land and they are losing the practice of their faith. Finally, King Cyrus of Persia overthrows the Babylonians and allows the Jews to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple. They are home and can once again be Jews and live their faith. At the end of the reading of the Word of God which they had not heard for years, they celebrated with choice wine and the best of food.

Thank God most of us, unless we come from a land of religious persecution, have never had such an experience. We can go to Mass freely and receive Holy Communion. We can read the Word of God anytime we wish. For a moment, just imagine seeing all our churches shattered and destroyed, the Eucharist desecrated, the Scriptures burned, and all of us moved to a strange land where we could not live in freedom or faith. If we can imagine that, we can certainly imagine the joy we would have if we could return home to our native land and to the practice of our faith.

As I was writing this imaginary scene for our meditation, I was conscious that many Catholics and Christians are experiencing such horror right now in the countries in the Middle East and Africa. Christians are being killed if they do not give up their faith. We pray for them and for an end to such persecution.

We are blessed not to face persecution. I believe our greatest challenge and temptation is that we begin to take the gifts that God has given us in our faith for granted because they are always there. We can easily be casual about receiving Holy Communion or attending Mass. We can grow restless if the Mass may be five or six minutes longer than we wish. Allowing faith to become routine can happen to any one of us.



But I am sure you have moments as do I when I look at the cross, a cross I have seen all my life, and be awed and amazed by the love of God. We can hear anew the Word of God: God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son that we might have eternal life. In a few minutes we will hear "the Body of Christ" and we will say "Amen." O God you are too wonderful for me to understand!

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>

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

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

ANNUAL LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016
SCHOOL CAFETERIA (EMMAUS HALL)
6PM - 8PM**

All Parishioners and their families and friends are invited to share, not only the warmth and goodness of homemade soup, but also in the warmth and goodness of our parish family!



This simple Lenten meal of soup and rolls is offered to all who come. Any leftover soup will be brought to the home-bound and the sick. This means that those in need can feel the warmth of soup, sharing with their fellow men and women and, above all, the love of Jesus Christ. This is the gift of our faith reaching out to others during this sacrificial season.

**It's time to think about making soup
for this annual Lenten event!**

**To make soup or to volunteer,
please call Pat Ricci at (516) 796-1320.**

**Soup warms our bodies.
Sharing warms our hearts.
The Season stirs our souls.**

Be part of St. Martin of Tours reaching out!



Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Married Couples!

Are you looking for the perfect Valentine's Gift?

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Just might be what you are looking for.

*The original and still the best communication weekend
for married couples.*

The next weekend on Long Island is scheduled for

February 12-14, 2016

at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore, NY.

**Space is limited. For more information about the weekends or to apply,
call 1-877-697-9963 or visit our web site at <http://www.wwme.org>.**



The Church in Need Second Collection

February 13/14, 2016

Please give as much as your means will allow. Thank you!

St. Martin of Tours Hosting LIFE LINE SCREENING

Protect your health by finding out your risk of having a stroke by participating in the **Life Line Screening that will be on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Hall, first appointment begins at 9AM.** Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke.

Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package, which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.



Ash Wednesday is February 10th.
 Ashes will be distributed at
 the following Masses:
 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
 And at the following services:
 12 NOON & 4:00 p.m.

**2016 Schedule of the Stations of the Cross
 Fridays at 7:30PM During Lent**

**February 12, February 19, February 26
 March 4, March 11, March 18**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 1: Holy Face of Jesus Devotions 1PM Church
- Feb 1: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Feb 5: First Friday Devotions 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Feb 5: SMT Book Club 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 6: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Feb 9: Youth Ministry Holy Hour 7PM Church
- Feb 10: Ash Wednesday - see schedule top of this page
- Feb 12: Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church (every Friday during Lent)
- Feb 15: Presidents Day - Rectory Closed - No 6:30AM Mass
- Feb 17: St. Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Feb 23: Men's Group 7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Feb 24: Respect Life Committee 11AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 10: Life Line Screening
- Mar 12: Spiritual Book Club 10AM St. Alphonsus Hall

