

Masses For The Week

Monday - February 29

6:30
9:00 Thomas O. Regan

Tuesday - March 1

6:30 Thomas McCabe
9:00 Lucille Regan

Wednesday - March 2

6:30 Carmen Enrique
9:00 Patrick Hopkins, Birthday Remembrance

Thursday - March 3

6:30 Nicolette Mattariello
9:00 Michael Smith

Friday - March 4

6:30 Barbara Mangiamele
9:00 Lawrence & Rose Territo

Saturday - March 5

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
5:00 Richard Henn
7:00 Memory of Zoitke & Szmytkowski Families

Sunday - March 6

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Joseph Gianni
10:00 Lucy Speelman, Birthday
11:30 Maria & Salvatore Accardi & Dec'd Members
1:00 William & Margaret McCabe & Family
5:30 Rose Maneri

Readings For The Week

Mon. 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30
Tues. Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
Wed. Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
Thurs. Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Fri. Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
Sat. Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14
Sun. *Joshua 5:9a, 10-12* God delivered Israel from Egypt. All the people celebrated Passover with unleavened cakes and parched grain in their new land, the promised land flowing with milk and honey.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 *We are ambassadors for Christ and ministers of reconciliation to one another. We must all be reconciled to God so that we might "become the righteousness of God in him."*

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 *Jesus told his followers the parable of the prodigal son. It is never too late to repent, to be received back by a loving father, and to enjoy his presence forever.*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00
Amount Received 2/21/16: \$17,665.94

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!



We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who love actively. How? By serving in a soup kitchen, food pantry, homeless shelter, hospital or assisted living facility.

Charismatic Prayer Group

You Are Invited!

Someone thinks you are special and important and they want you to share in a joyous occasion. Jesus invites us at every Mass to celebrate with Him. Imagine that! The Savior Himself is holding a place of honor just for you! What does your R.S.V.P. say? **Our next meeting is Monday, February 29th (weather permitting) at 7:30 PM in the Church. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.**



Divine Mercy Novena

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

H.O.P. Club Winners

2/22/16	#285	Flora Houston	\$25
2/23/16	#396	John & Ethel Toland	\$25
2/24/16	#613	Marion Mendola	\$25
2/25/16	#325	Edmund Rahl	\$25
2/26/16	#420	M/M Anthony Sabino	\$50



Wedding Banns

3rd: Dan Markus & Kristi Shaffer
2nd: Todd Ello & Justina Muller



“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 canned chicken, tuna, pasta sauce, black beans, tomato soup, evaporated milk, brownie mix, sugar, Jell-O, pudding, cookies, crackers, hot chocolate, coffee, mayonnaise, dish soap, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, brown rice, diapers (size 5 & 6) and baby wipes.

As always, we are so grateful for all that you do to help 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 Feb. 28 - March 5, 2016

In Loving Memory of
Bernie Lavin

Sanctuary Candle
Week of Feb. 28 - March 5, 2016

In Loving Memory of
Patrick Hopkins

Rest in Peace
Acts 7:49: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
Robert W. Tyd, Anna B. Coticchio

REMINDER: Please call the rectory at 931-0818 to remove a name from the list.
Thank you.

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

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, 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
 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, Antonia Binetti, Samantha McNeil
 Patty & Tom Turano, 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, 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, Anthony Krich, Cynthia & Don Mirabel
 Addie Romano, Michael Seigler, Jackie & Pat Simoniello
 Candy DeVita

The Pastor's Letter

Saturday, March 19th is the Feast of St. Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church and the patron of a happy death. He is also a great model to husbands, fathers, stepfathers and grandfathers. From what the Scriptures tell us, he was a carpenter who worked hard and was skilled at his craft. St. Joseph has another feast day on May 1st called St. Joseph the Worker. He is one of the most beloved saints of the Catholic Church.



We will certainly celebrate St. Joseph's feast day at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, March 19th, and after Mass, we will have our annual parish assembly. For the last several years we have gathered on a Saturday for Mass, presentations and discussions followed by a light lunch.

Depending on how many sign up for the gathering this year, we will meet either in the parish hall or the parish auditorium. The meeting will go from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A wonderful continental breakfast with delicious baked goods from the St. Clement Bakers will be served. That is reason enough to come! All who are fasting from such great baked items will be given a dispensation for the breakfast by Pope Francis! We will let you go home for your own lunch since we have found that we ended up wasting a fair amount of food.

The assembly will be somewhat like a town hall. You have seen plenty of them on television during this political campaign! (I will be consulting with my barber to see if I can get a flashy hair cut for the event.)

We have significant topics on which I would like to hear your thoughts:

- Might we change the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass to 4:00 p.m. Saturday?
- Might we consider adjusting the Mass schedule and possibly eliminating a mass or two from our schedule of Masses?

As we continue with the last phase of our capital campaign, there are some issues to discuss such as:

- Should we put the remaining sum of money into converting the school auditorium into a gym for the young of the parish?
- Or might the money be spent on the care of the church in terms of addressing painting the church both inside and outside, new doors for the church, possible cushions for the Church pews?
- Might we consider a ramp into the school cafeteria?
- What type of memorial do you wish to see to express our gratitude to the donors of the Paving the Way to Christ Campaign?

Other issues for discussion:

- How to best continue with our program of Time, Talent and Treasure
- An extensive faith sharing and evangelization program for the parish
- Diocesan Five Year Plan
- Your Concerns and Issues

As you can see, this is a pretty full agenda. A good part of my previous ministry in the Redemptorists was planning and leading such meetings for my confreres. I must say it always bothered me when a few would suggest that everything has already been decided and the meeting was just a kind of window dressing.

Let me assure you that none of these issues have been decided. They have been surfacing over the past several years. I have thought about them and discussed them with some of the committees of the parish, but I am committed to inviting as much dialogue as possible into our parish. I can also say, most of these things will not happen overnight once they are decided. Planning must then be done and there are certain issues that would need approval from the Bishop.

Look for RSVP cards in the pews for the weekend of March 12th and 13th. I hope you can put this date on your calendar and attend this important meeting.

Saturday, March 19th
9AM Mass followed by the Parish Assembly
St. Joseph, pray for us!

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

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration

One of the key aspects of Lent is prayer. Why not treat yourself to some time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

On Saturday, February 27th, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar from the end of the 7:00 p.m. Mass to 11:00 p.m. Spending a few minutes with Jesus is a great gift you can give yourself.



2011 Yvonne Collins
http://www.blessed-sacrament.org/blog/2011/02/

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!

St. Martin of Tours Lenten Evenings of Mercy

Celebrating Pope Francis' Invitation

A Jubilee Year of Mercy

All Services are at 7:30PM in the Church

Thursday, March 3rd - Peace Be With You - Come and Know His Endless Mercy



A Penance Service led by Father John McKenna, CSsR and Ann Hughes, our parish's most gifted writer. It is encouraged that you invite someone to join you to experience God's Love and Forgiveness.

Monday, March 14th - The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Whether broken physically, emotionally or spiritually, come and be healed by this outward sign of God's Grace. All are welcome!

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

"THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS," AND THAT LOVE IS IMMEASURABLE.
"WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US."

ROMANS 5: 1-2, 5-8

stations
of the
CROSS



St. Martin of Tours Stations of the Cross Bethpage State Park Picnic Grounds

Please join us on ***Good Friday, March 25th at 10AM*** as we journey with Christ in His Passion and Death through the Stations of the Cross. In case of bad weather, we will instead meet in the Church for the Stations.

All are welcome!

What is National Catholic Sisters Week?

NCSW is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8 – 14. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten, and bring greater focus to the lives of these incredible women. It's our chance to recognize all they have done for us. It's also our hope that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example. Many of us were taught by wonderful Sisters who gave their lives to God and to the Church. Many of them are home with God and others are in nursing facilities. Still, many continue to do great ministry for the Lord. We thank God for their role in the life of the Church. Let us hold them in prayer.



Prayer for Our Sisters

National Catholic Sisters Week

Gracious and all-loving God, we thank You that You call us to be one with You and to be, in every way of life, doers of Your Word and not hearers only.

In this National Catholic Sisters Week, we celebrate women religious who consecrate their lives in poverty, celibacy and obedience.

We thank You for their character, courage and commitment to live in solidarity with those who live in poverty and suffer violence in everyday living.

Your love and grace inspire them. Their joy and total generosity inspire us.

Together they form a "global sisterhood" whose network of prayer and ministry call all of us to broader and deeper understanding and communal responsibility for the common good of our Earth community. May their powerful stories ignite the hearts of girls and women today to answer your call to live a life dedicated to the common good through living in community and sharing ministry.

May religious life abound in vitality so that the boundless power of your love and care will be known more and more throughout our world. In every way of living we are all called to be poor in spirit, faithful in heart, and obedient to Your Love. Strengthen in each of us a deeper commitment to our own calling, that all may be one with each other and with You.

I want to thank Chris Catalano and Voices of Faith for the beautiful Evening of Prayer they conducted on Thursday, February 18th. These gifted musicians certainly helped us raise our minds and hearts to God in prayer. I offer particular thanks to Elena Scollo, our music ministry director and a member of Voices of Faith for arranging this evening of song and prayer.

A Little
Thank You



Our next special program will be a night of entering into the great mercy of God that will be **led by Ann Hughes and Father John McKenna, CSsR** who is well known to many of you from his time here in the parish. **That prayer service is Thursday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m.** - Father Pat

ANNOUNCING**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS ADULT EDUCATION COURSE IN THEOLOGY****THE DECEIVER****(The Daily Human Struggle Against Evil)**

Cardinal Walter Kasper tells us that the basic Christian attitude before the reality of evil is not one of fear but of hope in the definitive destruction of evil by the victory of Christ over Satan.

The Deceiver of humanity is always at work in his ordinary and typical activity that can be characterized in four ways: deception, division, diversion and discouragement. In a word, he uses these areas to move us away from the God of love.

Join us as we come together prayerfully to discover and unmask the various ruses that Satan uses to divert us from God by using our unique human susceptibility against us. Knowing our enemy and his strategy can only benefit us in the daily struggle against evil which is the common lot of all humanity.

If the Spirit is attracting you, pay attention to it.

Do something for your spiritual and intellectual growth by attending this course.

DATES: Begins Thursday, April 7, 2016 and continues on Thursdays April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12. Attendance at all sessions is **NOT** required.

TIME: 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

LOCATION: St. Alphonsus Hall

INSTRUCTOR: Deacon Thomas R. Hennessy, Spiritual Director

REGISTRATION: Required before course begins. Complete the form below with a **check for \$10.00 made out to Deacon Thomas Hennessy to cover the cost of course material.**

REGISTRATION

Please enroll me in **The Deceiver** adult education theology course beginning Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 7:30 PM in St. Alphonsus Hall.

My check for \$10.00 for course material made out to Deacon Thomas R. Hennessy is enclosed.

(please print)

Full Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

(Mail or drop off completed form to the rectory office c/o Deacon Tom.)

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
 PVT Edward Morales, US Army

**25th Annual Bethpage Saint Patrick's Parade
Honoring Katherine Brenton
2016 Grand Marshal**

Grand Marshal Kathy Brenton is a founder of the Bethpage St. Patrick's Parade. In addition, she has organized the reception following the parade - for the past 24 years!

**Sunday, March 6, 2016
1:00 PM Mass
2:00 PM Parade
Through downtown Bethpage**

**Reception immediately
following the parade
St. Martin of Tours Emmaus Hall Auditorium and Cafeteria**



FDNY Emerald Society Pipes & Drums



2015 - Isabelle, Lady Liberty,
Cassandra & Grandmother
Pat Astarita



February 2016

February is one of those months that often gets overlooked. It's cold, gray, and nothing exciting is happening... Luckily SMT Youth Ministry has plenty of things going on to keep you busy!

We look forward to serving you!

~ Erin and the Core Teams

STEUBENVILLE NY

We're Registered!!!

June 24th – 26th

St. John's University

Limited spots still available!

Contact the Office of Youth Ministry to find Out how you can sign up TODAY!



BethanyHouse

changing childrens' lives

Bethany House is a composite of residential options for women and children who are caught in the crisis of homelessness. Bethany defines its mission as a response to its belief that each person deserves and needs adequate food, clothing, and shelter, provided in a nurturing and sustaining environment.

More Info about Bethany House can be found here. www.bhny.org

SMT Life Teen Welcomes

Bethany House!!!

At our Life Night on **February 28th** we will be joined by representatives from Bethany House.

We are looking forward to learning about the mission work of Bethany House and finding out how we can partner with them to serve the residents of Bethany House in the future!

RETREATS



Faith * Hope * Love

February 27th

10am – 8pm

SMT

Open to all 6-8th Graders

\$5



Long Island Life Teen Winter

Retreat

Glory Revealed

March 11-13th

7pm

Kellenberg MHS

\$125

Contact the Office
of Youth Ministry
for more info!!!

Life Teen

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

2/7: NO Life Night – Super Bowl Sunday

2/9: Adoration 7-8pm

2/14: NO Life Night – President’s Day Weekend

2/21: Life Night

2/28: Life Night – Bethany House!!!

3/6: NO Life Night – SMT St. Patrick’s Day Party

3/11-3/13: LTLI Retreat Weekend!!!

Edge

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

2/11: Edge Night

2/25: Edge Night

2/27: Edge’s Day of Retreat

3/10: Edge Night

3/24: NO Edge Night – Holy Thursday

3/27: Happy Easter!

Youth Ministry Mass 1pm



SMT Youth Ministry Office

SMT_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com

(516) 870-5669

www.SMTBethpage.org

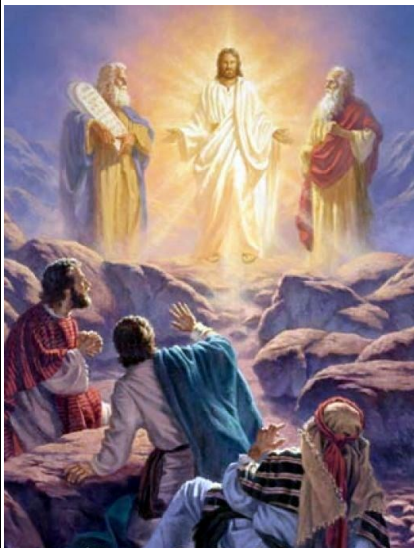


Fr. Pat's Homily of February 21, 2016

This past Thursday, I went to Sacred Heart Convent in Hempstead where the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood have an assisted living facility for some of their Sisters who are infirmed and need daily care. I have a close relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph since I was taught by them in grade school and my sister Gerry was a member of this community before she went home to God. I was invited to give them a sort of two hour mini retreat. I was a bit nervous about one my presentations since it was on preparing for death and eternal life. Although I had some humor and light moments in the talk, I wondered if they might find it too heavy and depressing.

Well the talk went very well and the Sisters seemed to be very grateful for what I had presented. I heard confession, visited with them and celebrated Mass. I found the experience both very humbling and uplifting. As I looked at the Sisters with their walkers and wheelchairs and could see that some were suffering some form of dementia, I could not help but think of the great ministry and service these women had given God and the Church ever since their late teens. I knew I was standing on holy ground and I very much sensed the presence of God. For the last few days, I continued to feel that grace and it has been a blessing to me as I go about my daily life.

The entire experience was something I did not expect or plan; grace is always a free gift from God. I have no doubt that if you look over the last month or two, you may well see such a moment that you had - a moment perhaps shared with someone you love, or a time when you just had a sense of God's love and presence in your heart. God sends them to us all the time, but I do think we sometimes fail to see them or be attentive to them.



Today Jesus, along with his three closest disciples, Peter, James and John, goes up Mount Tabor. I had the opportunity to go up Mount Tabor a few years ago. I must say, Jesus must have been a man who was in very good shape since it was about a twenty minute mini bus ride up the mountain. The ride was probably one of the greatest tests of faith I've ever had. It was a very winding ride with a deep drop if the bus were to miss a turn. It certainly led you to pray!

The Gospels give us several moments when Jesus has deep encounters with his Father. A few weeks ago we celebrated the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan by John the Baptist. Our Lord heard his Father say, *"You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."* Jesus also experienced the power of the Spirit of God coming upon him in the form of a dove.

In today's Gospel, we heard: While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. A cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, *"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."* The three apostles see the glory of God shining in Jesus. The scriptures do their best with words to describe the indescribable.

The apostles are described as sleeping until the dazzling lights wake them up. They see Jesus filled with the presence of the Divine. They fall to the ground, and then plead with Jesus to let them stay there forever. They do not want to leave.

Biblical experts debate about the meaning of the Transfiguration. Some say the Father wanted to give Jesus this sacred moment to assist him to face the coming days of rejection, agony, crucifixion and death. Others say it is a moment for the apostles to have so they will not lose hope when Jesus begins his Passion. This Gospel certainly sees Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament since our Lord is conversing with one of the great prophets of the Bible, Elijah and the man who saw God face to face, Moses.

Jesus resists the plea from Peter to stay on the mountain. They must go down and Jesus must be ready to accept what is to come. I shall never forget my first Sunday as a priest. After the many long years of preparing to be ordained, I was so very happy to be priest, and the joy of my family and friends increased that happiness. Since a friend of mine was to have his first Mass on an upcoming Sunday at our home church in Brooklyn, I happily accepted to say two Masses in a parish church near the seminary. None of the people knew I was just ordained and they treated me in a normal way. However, the pastor had a reputation for being very hard on young priests, and he did all he could to make the time I spent with him miserable. One week after my ordination, I **was** miserable. I had been to the mountain and now had to come down to the reality where not everyone was excited about my ordination, and you could run into grumpy pastors!

I am sure most of you have had such experiences. Marriage is most often followed by a delightful honeymoon. The first weeks and months and years of a marriage can be easy. But then, the powerful emotions lessen and the couple begins to see the flaws of the other and the challenge of loving him or her. We come down the mountain. A similar pattern can sometimes happen with a job that initially makes us so happy and then the ordinariness and routines can become wearying. We come down the mountain. Parents are ecstatic at the birth of each child. Then there's the sleepless nights, endless diapers, the terrible twos, and then the teenage years can bring a parent back down from the mountain. We can have the experience of all is well until we hear about a biopsy, a heart condition, or the sudden loss of a loved one. But still, in this journey, I do believe the Lord gives us some of those transfiguration moments that sustain us in the journey of life.

Our lives are made up of some great peak moments and some very difficult and hard times. However the vast majority of our lives are made up of thousands upon thousands of ordinary moments. Lent is a time to see that these moments may not be as ordinary as we think. God is with us in these seemingly average days. God is not only found on the mountaintop, but in the trip down the mountain and the daily actions of living.



The Mass, the sharing of the Word and the Body and Blood of Jesus, is an invitation to a peak moment. It is to see God in the most ordinary of human elements: bread and wine. To receive the Body and Blood of Jesus is to know that God is with us in all our days.

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Miranda
(C) 830-5077 (H) 605-1979

ROSELINE LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS
631-243-2373
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

**You are invited to celebrate
the Year of Mercy at the
Shrine of Our Lady of the Island**

**Bishop Nelson Perez will preside Holy Hour
and Confessions on
March 5th at 3:00 PM
in Spanish**

**For more information please call
the Shrine Office at 631-325-0661
258 Eastport-Manor Rd
Manorville, NY 11949**

Diocese of Rockville Centre

Golden Wedding Liturgy

Honoring Couples Married 50 Years or More

SUNDAY, APRIL 10th - St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville

SUNDAY, APRIL 24th - Maria Regina in Seaford

Both Liturgies will begin at 2:30PM/Couples may register for ONE liturgy

Please fill out a form at the rectory or call 931-0818. The office staff will have it signed by Father Pat and will send it to the Office of Worship.

Registration for the April 10th liturgy must be received by March 25th

Registration for the April 24th liturgy must be received by April 8th

Approximately one week before the liturgy, you will be mailed a letter confirming your registration and directions. There will be reserved seating for the registered couple only. Family and friends will be seated on a first come-first served basis.

After the liturgy, there will be an opportunity to have a photo taken with the celebrating bishop if you wish. You will be mailed a complimentary photo and certificate approximately four to six weeks after the liturgy.



On Saturday, February 20th at the 5:00 p.m. Mass, Father Pat presented Karen Sullivan with the St. Agnes Medal. Honorees are lay people whose love of the Church has been shown through the devotion to the Holy Father, to our diocese and to their parish. Bishop Murphy said, *“They are the unsung heroes in our midst who build up our parish communities by extraordinary service in parish ministry, parish administration or some significant volunteer role.”*

The Saint Agnes medal features the image of Saint Agnes, patroness of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, on one side and a depiction of the Cathedral of Saint Agnes on the other.

Father Pat thanked Karen for her ongoing dedication to the parish’s Baptismal Program, the F.I.R.E. family religious education program, and for her many years in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ministry. Karen is a great blessing to our parish. Father also expressed his gratitude for all parishioners who are so generous in serving in the various parish ministries.

HELP WANTED FROM OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL, WEST ISLIP

Administrative Assistant to the Principal - Immediate opening

Skills: Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher, computer skills, problem solving, writing and communication skills, customer service skills.

Duties include: Enrollment, Marketing/Publicity, Record Keeping, Phones, Web Site, Billing/Collecting Tuition, General Office Duties.

This position calls for discretion and sensitivity. Must be able to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information. Experience managing a web site, PowerSchool or FACTS programs a plus. Volunteer or paid experience in a Catholic school also a plus.

Contact: Email resume to Louise Krol, Principal (lkrol@ollschool.org)

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)
March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16**

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>

St. Martin of Tours CYO Program
Night at the Races
Saturday, March 12, 2016
Doors Open at 7:30PM
School Auditorium and Cafeteria (Emmaus Hall)



This event is sponsored by the St. Martin of Tours CYO Program. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance or \$25 per person at the door. Includes price of admission, a hero and non-alcoholic beverages. You are welcome to B.Y.O.B.

First race is at 8:00PM. You will be able to wager on the races as well as sponsor horses for each race. All proceeds benefit St. Martin of Tours Church and the St. Martin of Tours CYO Program which serves over two hundred children from our church community. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Rectory at (516) 931-0818.

We look forward to a great evening of fun!

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

For over 35 years, Bethany House has been growing and adapting to the changing needs of the homeless community in Nassau County. However, the need for emergency and transitional housing and services for families has never been so great as at the present time. In the past 3 years they have grown more than 400% from a bed capacity of seventeen to that of eighty five nightly.

Bethany House has defined its Mission as a call TO PROVIDE CONCRETE RESPONSE TO THE BELIEF THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND DESERVES TO HAVE ADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER AND SAFETY. In September 1973, before homelessness had become a common term, three AMITYVILLE DOMINICAN SISTERS rented a small house in Roosevelt, Long Island and opened their doors and to the frightened families who came to them in need of shelter, guidance and comfort. In the 1980s Bethany House expanded into a larger facility which is called Bethany One. Three other residences, Bethany Too, Bethany South, Bethany West as well as Bellmore Apartments have since been added. Each family case receives individual attention from seasoned case workers, dealing with the unique problems faced by persons that have become homeless. The Executive Director is Sister Aimee.

Here are listed some of the shelters that are available for our homeless on Long Island. If you know of someone who might need their help, please reach out to them with this information:

Bethany House: www.bhny.org/

Haven for Homeless Youth: www.safehorizon.org/

Nassau County, NY Shelters, www.shelterlistings.org/county/ny-nassau





Life Line Screening will be at St Martin of Tours Parish on Thursday, March 10th.

The screening event will be held in Saint Alphonsus Parish Hall. Ultrasounds for stroke, peripheral arterial disease, abdominal aortic aneurysm and osteoporosis as well as an EKG for atrial fibrillation are offered for only \$149 (averages out to only \$30/test). Pre-registration is required. **Appointments begin at 9am. CALL 1-888-653-6450** to register and receive a \$10 discount off the package price.

Life Line Community Healthcare will also offer the **Medicare Annual Wellness Visit to eligible Medicare beneficiaries with TRADITIONAL MEDICARE PART B.** There is **NO COST/NO CO-PAY.** This is not a physical, but a personal wellness consultation **performed by a certified Nurse Practitioner** designed to help you and your doctor keep you healthy, safe and independent for a long time. *This wellness consultation is an entitlement!* **Medicare is billed for this visit.** Pre-registration is required. **CALL 1-866-579-5069.**



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, March 7th at 1:00PM in the Church.**

Due to the Liturgy of the Hours at 8:30AM during the week days of lent, the next **First Friday Devotion will be on April 1st** at 7PM in the Eucharistic Chapel.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Please join us on **March 5th 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!

Liturgical Ministry Training

TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. Session "A" is required of **ALL** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are required to attend Session "B" **in addition** to Session "A". **Session "A" must be attended prior to Session "B"**.

TO REGISTER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING: the pastor must send a letter to Bishop Murphy ***at least 10 days in advance*** requesting the training for each person attending.

This letter must mention the date and place of the training session the person will attend.

TIMES AND PLACES FOR MINISTRY TRAINING:

**In Nassau: EM "A" Session and Lectors
ENGLISH AND SPANISH**

April 2, 2016; 9 AM—1 PM

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

**In Suffolk: EM "A" Session and Lectors
ENGLISH AND SPANISH**

March 12, 2016; 9 AM—1 PM

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

"B" session for Extraordinary Ministers

May 14, 2016; 9 AM—1 PM

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale

"B" Session for Extraordinary Ministers

April 23, 2016; 9 AM—1 PM

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead

EVENING SESSIONS for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors at St. Elizabeth, Melville

Session "A" - Wednesday, April 13, 2016; 7:00—10 PM

Session "B" - Wednesday, April 27, 2016; 7:00—10 PM

WORKSHOP FEES:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: \$30 per person



What the Pope said about Donald Trump and the Wall Immigration: A Most Difficult Issue to Address

Our Holy Father certainly made news when it was said that he had called presidential candidate Donald Trump not a Christian. There were people quite upset with what he said, and his seeming interference in the American election process. Here are some thoughts on this issue.

What did the Pope actually say and in what context was it said: a transcript of the Pope's remarks was released by the Vatican. It has been confirmed by the network pool on the Pope's plane.

Here is the full question and answer:

Q: *Today you spoke a lot and eloquently about the problem of immigrants. On the other side of the border there is an electoral campaign that is rather hard. One of the candidates for the White House, Donald Trump, in a recent interview said that you are a political man, and indeed perhaps a pawn of the Mexican Government when it comes to the policy of immigration. He said that if he were elected president he would build a 2,500-km wall along the border. He wants to deport 11 million illegal immigrants and, in that way separating families and so on. I would therefore like to ask, first of all, what you think of those charges against you, and if an American Catholic could vote for a person like this?*

A: *Thank God he said I am a politician because Aristotle defined the human person as an 'animal politicus' [a political animal]. So at least I am a human person. As to whether I am a pawn, well, maybe, I don't know. I'll leave that up to your judgement and that of the people. And then, a person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the gospel. As far as what you said about whether I would advise to vote or not to vote, I am not going to get involved in that. I say only that this man is not Christian if he says things like that. We must see if he said things in that way and in this I give the benefit of the doubt.*

I think how the Pope spoke is certainly far more nuanced than the media has reported on what he supposedly said. As you can read, I think it was a kind of a *gotcha* question from a media person. I wonder how Pope Francis would have responded if he was asked about a candidate by name, let us say Hillary Clinton, who support partial birth abortion (which is the brutal killing of a nine month old baby). The media never seems to ask such questions.

The Pope clearly says that he is not going to advise people on how to vote. Personally, I wish Pope Francis had not been drawn into this discussion, but he is a lot smarter and holier than I am, and he is the Pope whom I love and respect. However, I wish he had said something focusing on the fact that we should not be building walls, which is not the most Christian way of acting, but building bridges rather than suggesting that Donald Trump is not Christian. Even though I believe our Holy Father did not intend it, it does sound critical and much of the media is delighted in reporting that the Pope is judgmental. We know that is not true. His entire time as Holy Father has been about the mercy of God. The Pope describes himself as a sinner forgiven by the mercy of God. I would venture to say that he is one of the least judgmental people on the face of the earth.

INFALLIBILITY

There is confusion about the issue of infallibility. The Church teaches that infallibility holds true whenever the Holy Father teaches from *Ex Cathedra*, that is, formally as pope in the Name of Christ, invoking the infallibility of the Holy Spirit. This teaching is based on the Scriptural words: "*Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" (Mt. 18:18) **This has only been done twice in the history of the Church:** a) in the declaration of the doctrine of infallibility and b) in proclaiming with the Doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother into heaven.

WHEN NOT A MATTER OF INFALLIBILITY

The pope often writes letters called *encyclicals* and offers teachings on the many issues facing Catholics and the world at large. His words, as well as the teaching authority of the bishops *with* the pope, and again when a bishop speaks in his own diocese, should be considered very seriously as teachings of the Church, but they *are not* infallible. We are obliged to read them, study them, and respond to them in our daily living. However, there may be times when a good Catholic, after careful prayer and study, may not be able to accept a certain teaching at a particular time in his or her life.

Some people, both Catholics and non-Catholics, are surprised and sometimes are upset when the Holy Father and the Bishops speak on the key issues of the day such as war, nuclear weapons, care of refugees, the care of the environment, economic matters, racism, and family life and marriage. They say he should only speak about religious matters. I am surprised when I hear people say the Church should just talk about religion. If our faith and beliefs are not part of our thinking about such critical issues that face our world today, then it is a dead faith.

I have a personal pet peeve about the recent discussion of the Pope. I have heard several commentators make the point that the Vatican is a city with great walls and "how dare" the Pope speak to us about walls and immigration. I want to throw something at the television (but I already broke two televisions watching the Jets)! This is out and out nonsense! There are some walled sections of the Vatican that go back for centuries. I had a previous assignment that brought me to Rome six or seven times. I walked many times into Vatican City without seeing any walls or security. One can walk right into St. Peter's Square through a very open space that has no walls. I have a picture of myself with one foot in Rome and other in the Vatican. Tourists pour into the Vatican by bus and foot all day long. When the media tells you that the Vatican is a walled city, they are lying!

The Challenge of Immigration

I do think one of the most difficult issues we face as a nation is the issue of immigration. We are a great country and we have a long tradition of welcoming immigrants to our nation. In truth, we are a nation made up of people from all over the world. The issue of immigration is a highly political one that I sometimes wonder if either major political party wishes to resolve in a fair way both to the citizens of our nation and to the immigrants who seek to come.

I cannot enter into Pope Francis' mind, but when he spoke the words about immigration and walls, do not forget he had just visited Mexico where he had seen great suffering from the poverty of that land. I believe he truly entered into the pain of the people. I understand that the United States cannot have open borders; we have a right to have our national boundaries. Still, I am proud to have a Pope who is always concerned about the poor.

Here is the official position of the Catholic Church on immigration taken from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

The Catholic Catechism instructs the faithful that good government has two duties, both of which must be carried out and neither of which can be ignored. The first duty is to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to immigrate and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially financially blessed nations: "The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him." Catholic Catechism, 2241.

The second duty is to secure one's border and enforce the law for the sake of the common good. Sovereign nations have the right to enforce their laws and all persons must respect the legitimate exercise of this right: "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens." Catholic Catechism, 2241.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops accept the legitimate role of the U.S. government in intercepting unauthorized migrants who attempt to travel to the United States. The Bishops also believe that by increasing lawful means for migrants to enter, live, and work in the United States, law enforcement will be better able to focus upon those who truly threaten public safety: drug and human traffickers, smugglers, and would-be terrorists. Any enforcement measures must be targeted, proportional, and humane. The Bishops stated this in August 2013.

If you read the above words it is clear that our Church seeks to have policies that are both humane and welcoming to immigrants while protecting our nation and our borders. How to do this is where our political leaders have been stuck for many years without bringing forth a clear plan for the future. Personally, I lay the blame for this at both Democrats and Republicans since they seem unwilling to work together for a solution to a most challenging question.

I believe our Holy Father's concerns about the poor are very challenging to us as Americans. We are the most generous nation that the world has ever known, not only offering our money and skills to other nations, but also to the point of shedding the blood of our young men and women in defense of those who are oppressed by evil governments. Pope Francis' words about the poor are taken from Jesus: *I was hungry, did you feed me; I was thirsty, did you give me a drink; I was naked did you clothe me? Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me.* I often feel guilty and helpless when I see a homeless person on the street or see images of starving children and battered war refugees. I think of the quote of Dorothy Day, an American Catholic woman, who wrote: *Religion should comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.* Some of the words of Jesus do make me uncomfortable.

Pope Francis is the first one to say that he is a sinner and a very human man. Still, he is the Vicar of Christ on earth. Although some of his words challenge me and make me uncomfortable at times, I love the Pope and very much trust that the Spirit of God is with him.

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.

Living Stations of the Cross

Come Relive the Journey
of Jesus to Calvary

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016

7:30 pm

St. Martin of Tours Church



2016 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

March 21, Monday

Mass: 6:30, 9:00 A.M.
3:00 - 5:00 P.M. Confessions
7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Confessions

March 22, Tuesday

Mass: 6:30, 9:00 A.M.
7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Confessions

March 23, Wednesday

Mass: 6:30, 9:00 A.M.
7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Confessions

March 24, Holy Thursday

9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
7:30 P.M. Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
9:00 P.M. Adoration until 11:00 P.M.

March 25, Good Friday

9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
10:00 A.M. Stations of the Cross -
Bethpage State Park
3:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Passion
7:30 P.M. Liturgy of the Passion

March 26, Holy Saturday

9:00 A.M. Morning Prayer
1:00 P.M. Blessing of Bread/Food
8:00 P.M. Easter Vigil

March 27, Easter Sunday

Church: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.
Auditorium: 10:00 & 11:30 A.M.
Church: 1:00 P.M. (Life Teen)

NO EVENING MASS



Monday through Friday during Lent, come and pray the Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours at 8:30 a.m. before the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church. All are welcome.

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

March 4, March 11, March 18



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 27: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7PM Mass until 11PM
- Mar 3: Penance Service: Come and Know His Endless Mercy 7:30PM Church
- Mar 5: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Mar 6: Bethpage Saint Patrick's Parade Mass at 1PM Church
Parade at 2PM followed by reception in Emmaus Hall
- Mar 8: NO YOUTH MINISTRY ADORATION THIS MONTH
- Mar 10: Life Line Screening beginning at 9AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 12: Spiritual Book Club 10AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 12: CYO Night at the Races 7:30PM Auditorium & Cafeteria (Emmaus Hall)
- Mar 14: Anointing of the Sick Prayer Service 7:30PM Church
- Mar 16: St. Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Church
- Mar 19: 9AM Mass following by Parish Assembly
- Mar 20: Living Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church
- Mar 25: Stations of the Cross at Bethpage State Park 10AM

