

Masses For The Week

Monday - March 7

6:30 Michael Smith
 9:00 Deceased Members of the Garone Family

Tuesday - March 8

6:30 Tess Steubing
 9:00 Deceased Members of the Hospital Ministry

Wednesday - March 9

6:30 Christina Macchio
 9:00 Margaret Simone

Thursday - March 10

6:30 Elodia Rich
 9:00 Vincent R. Murphy

Friday - March 11

6:30
 9:00 Michael Wallace

Saturday - March 12

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Delia Connaughton, Anniversary
 7:00 Mary Ellen & Patrick Naughton

Sunday - March 13

7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Piero & Maria Sirianni
 10:00 Patrick, Sarah & Padraig McCann
 11:30 Jennie & Frank Juliano
 1:00 Cathy Rusch, LIVING
 5:30 Joseph Castora

Readings For The Week

Mon. Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
 Tues. Ezekiel 47:1-9; John 5:1-16
 Wed. Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
 Thurs. Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
 Fri. Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Sat. Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
Sun. *Isaiah 43:16-21* *Isaiah recounted how the Lord crushed the enemies of Israel. Then the Lord God did something entirely new by providing water in the desert for his chosen people to drink.*

Philippians 3:8-14 *Paul told the Philippians how much he has forfeited in order to arrive at resurrection from the dead. Paul's entire attention was on the finish line as he ran toward the prize: life in Christ Jesus.*

John 8:1-11 *Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery. They hoped he would condemn her to death by stoning, but Jesus said simply, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." No one dared. Jesus forgave the woman and told her to avoid sin.*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00
Amount Received 2/28/16: \$17,106.65

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward.



Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who, each evening during this Lent, have examined their consciences in the light of how loving and forgiving they were throughout the day.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Life is full of beginnings and endings - some happy, some sad and some scary! If you need help, go to God. Strange as it sounds, even though He had no beginning and no ending, He is the Expert on what we need - even before we know it! He is closest to you in the hardest of times if you but let Him in. **Our next meeting is Monday, March 7th (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

2/29/16 #569	Paula Alfarone	\$25
3/1/16 #411	Lois Damato	\$25
3/2/16 #410	James & Diana Hughes	\$25
3/3/16 #9	Lorraine Birbach	\$25
3/4/16 #536	Marie Mascia	\$50



Wedding Banns

3rd: Todd Ello & Justina Muller
2nd: Keith Miller & Keri Englert



“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 brown rice, carrots, beef stew, canned chicken, tomato soup, mayonnaise, hot chocolate, icing, brownie mix, sugar, pudding, Jell-O, pasta sauce, dish soap, laundry soap, crackers and cookies.

As always, we are so grateful for your generosity.

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 March 6 - 12, 2016

In Loving Memory of
Tess Steubing

Sanctuary Candle
Week of March 6 -12, 2016

In Loving Memory of
Tess Steubing

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

Alice Verity, Gwendolyn A. Miles
Christina Macchio, Jean Morrongiello
John Waage

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 Battiata, Brendan Rodriguez
Rebecca Passaro, Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano
Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna, Gary Vlahov
Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh, Chris & Raymond Mirendia
Louise Sandberg, Florencio Carmenate, Anthony Luisi
Mary McCarthy, 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, 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, Stephen Hogan, Edward Boyce
Fran & Al Gandolfo, Sheila Newmann
Fr. Edmund Faliskie CSSR, 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, Frank Ballatore, Jr., Rosemary O’Keefe

Pastor's Letter

I have had the experience of marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City many times. I would line up behind the banner for County Clare at 2:00 p.m. or so, with the weather being usually blustery and cold. We would be told that we would be stepping off any minute now, but "any minute now" would usually mean a good hour or two. The marches I treasure most are the ones I walked with my Dad. At the end of the parade at 86th Street, we would bid farewell to his brothers from the Bronx and take the Sea Beach Express home to Brooklyn for Mom's dinner of corned beef, boiled potatoes and cabbage.

Once we reached Fifth Avenue, (at least in my imagination), it always seemed that the sun came out and the parade route was packed with happy people of every color, race and nationality. Along the way you could see people wearing funny hats, with hair and faces painted green, and an array of Irish and American flags, balloons, and signs. People wore buttons saying: "Kiss me, I'm Irish," "St. Patrick was a Saint, I Ain't," "Erin Go Braugh," and "I Speak Blarney." Although the New York parade has had its controversies, it is a great day for all who choose to participate. I have heard that the origin of our parade here in Bethpage began 25 years ago to honor a great man who was a parishioner of St. Martin's. Connie Doolan had the great honor of being the Grand Marshal of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1992. People felt Bethpage should do something to honor Connie and the idea of the Bethpage St. Patrick Parade began. Today, we honor the Grand Marshal of this year's parade, Kathy Brenton, who was one of the original organizers of the first parade and who has played a key role in many other parades through the years. On this 25th anniversary, we remember Connie with our prayers and admiration and know we have a wonderful Grand Marshal for this year's parade in Kathy.

For many, St. Patrick's Day is a day to honor their heritage. People of Irish descent think about their parents and grandparents, and the others who left Ireland to come to America and play such an important role in our nation's history. Many people of all nationalities want to know their family history and take pride in it. I enjoy the commercial where a fellow thinks he is of Swedish background only to take a DNA test to find out that he is Irish and Scottish. St. Patrick's Day makes us proud of whatever our ancestry is.

For others this day is a spring holiday. After a long winter of cold and snow, there is a sense that spring is not far behind. The baseball players are in Florida, Easter is on the way, the bagpipes are playing in the parade. Thank God spring is on the way! Perhaps connected to this spring holiday is the feeling that there is a need to party. Corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, washed down with a foamy glass of Guinness is an important ritual for many. The parade is a day of coming together as family and friends, to let the Lenten fast cease for a day, and enjoy the celebration.

We also know that the meaning of this day is truly spiritual. We are honoring a Saint of the Catholic Church, a real man of flesh and blood. We can be all very grateful that parade organizers many years ago recognized this fact and made the celebration of the Mass the first act of this wonderful day in Bethpage.

Our saint lived a long time ago, probably in the four hundreds. There is a tradition that he may have been the uncle of St. Martin of Tours. In his famous book entitled the *Confessions*, Patrick tells the story of being captured on the continent and being brought to Ireland as a slave. According to his book, when Patrick was about 16, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Great Britain, and taken as a slave to Ireland looking after animals, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. Patrick became a priest and eventually a Bishop. He felt a call to return to Ireland and bring Christianity to the pagan nation. We can imagine the challenge of going back to a land where he was a slave. This was a most courageous decision. We might say Patrick went from the death of slavery to the resurrection of being a missionary to the people of Ireland.

This is the 100th anniversary of the Irish Easter Rebellion of 1916 with the hope of breaking free from the control of England. The rebellion was led by Padraig Pearse, a teacher of the Irish language, James Connolly, a union leader, and a group made up of amateurs and idealists. They were brutally beaten down by the soldiers of the British Empire. Even worse, the vast majority of the people were angry at them for this rebellion and tossed garbage upon them as they were marched to prison. However, after the leaders of this revolt were executed and time passed, the Irish citizens saw them as heroes, wrote songs about them, and recognized that their courage gave birth to the Republic of Ireland, free from the rule of England. The death of these brave men led to new beginnings and a free nation. Most of those who arose to a dream of a new nation were Catholics and it is not coincidence that the rebellion began on an Easter Sunday, the day of Resurrection.

How often in our own lives has failure, struggles, and sorrow led to new life. St. Patrick teaches us to have the courage to go back to the place of struggle and find new hope. Certainly, the central story of death to life is found in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He empties himself to become human, to be like us in all things but sin. He is rejected by the religious leadership of his time and brutally nailed to a cross. That death, the death of the Son of God, is the essence of our faith, and celebrated in every Eucharist as we *do this in memory* of him. The Gospel message of death to life is what led Patrick to go back to the land where he had been held in slavery. As you march today, march with a strong and lively step since we are a people grounded always in hope and trust in God.

I'll end with some concluding verses of a poem by the great William Butler Yeats entitled *Easter 1916*. The poem is about the Irish patriots of 1916. Still, I hear the message of new life given by Jesus and proclaimed by Patrick:

Was it needless death after all?

*Was it needless death after all? For all that is done and said.
We know their dream; enough to know they dreamed and are dead;
and what if excess of love bewildered them till they died?
I write it out in a verse--MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse.
Now and in time to be,
wherever green is worn, are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.*

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



Parish Assembly

Saturday March 19th Feast of St. Joseph
Beginning with Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Place: Emmaus Hall (school cafeteria)
 OR St. Alphonsus Hall (depending on RSVP)

Time: **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Ages: 14 and older are welcome

Continental breakfast with baked goods by the renowned
St. Clement Bakers

Topics for Discussion

- Moving Saturday Evening Mass from 5:00 p.m. to 4:00 or 4:30 p.m.
- Reviewing the Present Mass Schedule
- Do we need eight Masses?
- Discussion of the Final Stages of the Capital Campaign
- Needs of the parish: a gym, a ramp to the cafeteria, painting the Church outside, painting the Church inside, replacing the rugs, updating the outdoor playground, completion of the lighting
- An appropriate memorial to recognize the donors
- Future Spiritual Programs
- Your Questions and Concerns



**St. Martin of Tours Lenten
Evening of Mercy
Celebrating Pope Francis' Invitation
A Jubilee Year of Mercy
7:30PM in the Church**

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!

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
LAETARE SUNDAY**

LAETARE SUNDAY INDICATES THAT WE ARE MIDWAY THROUGH THE SEASON OF LENT. HOW ARE WE DOING IN TERMS OF SELF EXAMINATION AND POSITIVE CHANGES IN OUR LIVES? IF YOU HAD A GREAT START AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT BUT ARE NOW FALTERING, IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO BEGIN AGAIN.

JESUS TOLD US THAT HE AND THE FATHER ARE ONE AND TOGETHER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT NEVER GROW TIRED OF YET ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING, NEVER GET TIRED OF YET ANOTHER PETITION FOR FORGIVENESS, EVEN IF IT IS OVER AND OVER AGAIN. GOD'S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL. JUST BEGIN AGAIN...AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN.

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. Let us hold them in prayer.

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**



Daylight Savings Time begins 2:00AM on Sunday, March 13th. Set your clocks *ahead* one hour.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

Bulletin articles must be submitted to Genny at gamit1946@hotmail.com per the following schedule:

Palm Sunday bulletin will be sent to printers by Monday, March 14th at Noon
Easter Sunday bulletin will be sent to printers by Monday, March 21st at Noon

So if you can have your articles to me by Thursday or Friday of the week before, it would be appreciated! Thank you!

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

From the award winning creators of *Fireproof* and *Courageous* comes **WAR ROOM**, a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives. Tony and Elizabeth Jordan seemingly have it all—great jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream house.



But appearances can be deceiving. Tony and Elizabeth Jordan’s world is actually crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. While Tony basks in his professional success and flirts with temptation, Elizabeth’s bitterness only increases. But their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth’s newest client, Miss Clara, challenges Elizabeth to establish a prayer “war room” and a battle plan of prayer for her family.

As Elizabeth begins to fight for her family, Tony must decide if he will make amends. As Miss Clara wisely says, “Victories don’t come by accident!” A #1 movie in theaters, WAR ROOM is filled with more of the authentic characters loved by millions in previous Kendrick Brothers’ films and a vivid reminder that prayer is a powerful weapon.

Rated: PG

Movie begins at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 13th

St. Alphonsus Hall

Please bring your own snacks.

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for all the kind words, Mass cards and emails that I received for the death of my brother, Frank. I was deeply moved by all the words of consolation.

May God bless the Saint Martin of Tours parish family and keep us all close to His Merciful and Sacred Heart.

Gratefully,
Rita Verow

Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. By contributing, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

Christians, along with all of the clergy and religious who serve in the Holy Land, will deeply appreciate your prayers and financial help. The political, religious and military challenges are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Please give whatever your means will allow. Thank you!

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.
 & 1:00PM (Life Teen)

Additional Masses in the Auditorium:
 10:00 & 11:30 A.M.

NO EVENING MASS

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



Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity

Welcome back! Our General Meeting is Tuesday, March 15th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Rosary and CMRC prayers followed by a brief meeting. Helen Kurlowicz will be speaking about St. Padre Pio. Refreshments will be served. All women are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE ** April 5th ** SAVE THE DATE

Our Spring fundraiser is Tuesday, April 5th "BINGO." Doors open at 7PM and games will begin after a brief meeting in St. Alphonsus Hall. Raffles, 50/50, Bingo, cash prizes. Tickets on sale now and available at our March meeting. \$3 per ticket. Call Janet Dion at 433-9340 for tickets. All women are welcome! If you have not paid your dues or wish to become a member, please call Janet. Dues are still \$10 per year.

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Mirando
(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



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.

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>



I want to offer my deep appreciation to the Hartigan Council of the Knights of Columbus for the wonderful pancake and egg breakfast that they provided for our parish last Sunday. The Knights donated the entire breakfast with no charge to the parish. The free will offering raised \$456.00. When I offered that to the Knights to defray the expenses, they refused to take the money and suggested it be given to the Parish Outreach Center. I thank Grand Knight Steve DeRosa and Deputy Grand Knight Joe Interrante and all the Knights of the Council. I must also thank the great generosity of the St. Clement Bakers who provided wonderful pastries and breakfast cakes under the fine leadership of Joanne Veltri. It was a wonderful gathering of parishioners. - Father Pat



Thank You!



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

ELECTION 2016

We have become a very divided nation. Just turning on the TV, or picking up a newspaper, we can see the divisiveness in how America should go forward. Many are angry at a Congress that they feel is not carrying their message. Many feel that this administration has led us in a direction they disagree with. Many are looking for a new direction. Many feel that the Constitution is being violated. The important thing is, that there is a change coming about. Many are angry. On the other side, many are happy about how this country is progressing. They feel there is more opportunity for everyone to live on an equal basis by government playing a large role in their lives. And so, the division!

This election of 2016 will probably be the most important going forward in this new century. It may bring with it a change that will indeed recast America for a long period of time. Because of that change, or the lack of it, we must be knowledgeable about the facts, the candidates and the promises they bring. There have been many debates by the candidates that promise to lead America in a new direction. Some would say that some of those debates, were unprofessional, and not befitting the office of the president. Others might say, that the unpolished truth has surfaced, and it is a "tell it like it is," approach.

Somewhere in all of this is the answer for each of us as we head to vote for the new President of the United States this fall. But before we cast that vote, before our vote is counted in what might be a very close election, we must be sure that we know all that is available to us about each candidate. As an American, it is our duty to project this country in a direction that fits with our values. Voting along party lines should be thought about this election year. We must take into account what each party now stands for, if the dynamics have changed in a way that fits our ideals, and if the candidates reflect those ideals. *The economy, immigration, faith based values, terrorism in the world and homegrown here in America, are all topics that we MUST investigate. Abortion, Religious Freedom, and even our Freedom of Speech, in certain circumstances are at threat.*

We MUST pick up a copy of the CONSTITUTION and learn what it states. Without knowing that, we have little opinion on some of these topics. A new Supreme Court justice will be seated. Learn of the balance, understand how important this nominee coming forward will mean to this balance.

We are America! We are beautiful! We are diverse! We have freedoms! We are like no other country on the face of this earth! Take the time to listen! Know what is at stake! Make up your mind, and cast that vote after you know in your heart that your vote will indeed, count!

The issue of life at all stages should be investigated. Take the time. Our lives, those of our children, and our grandchildren are at stake. We owe it to ourselves and America.

Diana Hart Mirando
Respect Life Committee

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

The screening event will be held in Saint Alphonse Parish Hall beginning at 9AM. 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.

Medicare is billed for this visit. Pre-registration is required. **CALL 1-866-579-5069.**



Clergy News

Welcome Home Father Ciya!!!! Starbucks is going broke without you. We missed you. We are tired of listening to the Pastor!

I ask your prayers on a parish mission that Father John McGowan and I are giving from March 6th through March 10th in Good Shepherd Parish in Holbrook. I ask your prayers for God's grace on this mission. - Father Pat

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.

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. Alphonse Hall.** All are 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





March 2016

March begins during our journey through Lent... and it ends with the fulfillment of God's promises – Easter Sunday! We hope that we get an opportunity to serve you during this coming month.

~ Erin and the Core Teams

Long Island Life Teen Winter Retreat

Glory Revealed

March 11-13th

7pm

Kellenberg MHS

\$125

More info & permission slip included in this mailing!



Living Stations of the Cross

Come Relive the Journey of Jesus to Calvary...

Palm Sunday, March 20th

7:30pm in the Church

Join SMT Youth Ministry for pizza at 6:30pm in the OLPH Youth Center.

Please contact the Youth Ministry Office to RSVP.

It's Auction Time!!!

**SMT Youth Ministry is preparing to hold
it's BIGGEST Fundraiser of the year!**

Friday, April 8th

**There is *much* to be done!
Please consider volunteering to help us
make this the BEST Auction EVER!**

**Contact Erin to find out how you can
help!**

Edge

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

3/10: Edge Night

3/24: NO Edge Night – Holy Thursday

3/27: Happy Easter!

Youth Ministry Mass 1pm

Life Teen

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

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

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

3/20: Palm Sunday –Living Stations of the Cross

3/20: Easter Sunday Youth Ministry Mass at 1pm



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



Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." Exodus 3:5

Three summers ago, I made a long dreamt of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I consider the journey one of the great blessings of my life. It brought us into Egypt and Mount Sinai. We were fortunate since Egypt soon went into revolution and now most tours do not dare venture there. The trip was a bit intimidating since as soon as our bus arrived at Egypt, an armed guard boarded to protect us from bands of roving criminals who robbed tour busses.

After we arrived at the hotel near Mount Sinai, there was great excitement about climbing Mount Sinai after midnight so as to see the sunrise from the top of the mountain where Moses encountered the living God in the burning bush. I had signed up for the trip, but feared the four and half hour climb, so I had decided I would go up by camel. Alex, a new friend I made on the pilgrimage, was concerned about me. He told me that it was a very difficult trip up by camel as they walk on the edge of the cliffs. The walk down, which the camels don't do, was equally very difficult. He gently told me that I would be sore and worn out for a week if I made the trip. I felt my pride wounded a bit, but I decided to accept his counsel. I was so glad I took Alex's advice since many of the younger climbers returned saying it was a great experience but very exhausting. Some suffered back pain for several days. When I told this story back home, someone said that the camel should have also thanked Alex! There are wise guys everywhere! Consequently, I did not get to take off my shoes and stand on the holy ground where Moses met God in the burning bush.



Still, I love the image of holy ground. Certainly we have national holy ground at places such as Gettysburg, the Vietnam Wall and Ground Zero. As you walk about such sites, you cannot help but think of those who died there and the heroic sacrifices that were made. I think of the words of President Lincoln at Gettysburg: *We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.* When we visit such national places of honor, one feels in a most powerful way the presence of those who once were there. It is as if they are standing right next to you. In the silence you can see and feel them. It is holy ground. I loved the images of St. John Paul II who would get off a plane in a country he had never visited before and kiss the ground in recognition of the sacredness of the nation.

We have our own personal holy ground. For many, the cemetery where our parents or spouses are buried is sacred space. We trust they are home with God and we can sense their presence in moments that catch us off guard and surprise us. Still, we feel a special presence of a loved one at the place where he or she is buried. Visiting their graves is bittersweet, as we mourn their loss yet remember their presence. For many couples, the place where they first met, or the place where the wedding proposal took place is a place of grace. Perhaps, the hospital where your child was born or where your spouse died is forever holy ground to you because of what occurred there. We often see spontaneous places on the highways where there are candles and flowers. When you see such a place, you know someone died there and the family is marking it as a sacred place because that is where a loved one met God in eternity.

I have found holy ground in a place where you would least expect it - the FDR Drive in lower Manhattan! As I drive along that hectic road, I always look to the left as I pass a small red brick building. It was once the home of a hospice run by the Hawthorne Dominican Sisters, and it was the site where my father went home to God on September 27, 1985. I never drive by it without a prayer and a warm memory of Dad. When my sister Gerry died at the age of 45, the Redemptorists gave me a lovely statue of the Blessed Mother that is now in the lower church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Brooklyn. On holidays and special family events, family members visit the statue and bring flowers or just make a visit. We sense Gerry there.

I am sure you have your own special sites of holy ground. Mount Sinai is holy ground because God was uniquely present to Moses. Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem mark the places of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Our Catholic faith has many holy places: Lourdes, Fatima, Medjugorje, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and the many shrines to the Blessed Mother and the Saints.

But we do not have to travel far for holy ground. We have a beautiful sacred space here at St. Martin's. Perhaps you were married here; you saw your children receive their sacraments in this holy place; you have come here to pray in good times and bad, and you have said farewell for a time to your beloved deceased. Here in this Church is a thousand memories. Here in this Church, we celebrate the dying and rising of Jesus at every Mass. We welcome new members into our faith in baptism, and lift the weight of sin from our hearts. Here, Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament through the day and through the night.

I have a plaque in my office that reads: *Every common bush afire*. The world is full of the presence of God. The Son of God walked this earth. He was born here, lived under the same stars you and I see. He died and rose again to eternal life. Jesus promised he would not leave us orphans. The Holy Spirit continues to be with us in every moment of our lives. We live and move and have being in the presence of holy ground.

The great Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote: *the earth is charged with the splendor of God*. The Scriptures tells us that wherever there is love, there is God. What makes holy ground is not the wonder of the oceans or the majesty of the mountains. It is the simple acts of love and compassion that pass between one human being to another, the memories of those we have loved and seeing God in our midst.

I will end with the words of the English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

*Earth's crammed with heaven and every common bush afire with God.
But only he sees who takes off his shoes.*

Father Pat's homily of February 28, 2016



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 11, March 18



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 6: Bethpage Saint Patrick's Parade Mass at 1PM Church
Parade at 2PM followed by reception in Emmaus Hall
- Mar 7: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30 Church
- Mar 7: Holy Face Devotion 1PM Church
- 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 POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE
- 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

