

**Masses For The Week**

**Monday - July 25 - St. James, Apostle**

6:30 Raymond & Carol Masino  
 9:00 Deacon James Biggin

**Tuesday - July 26 - Sts. Joachim and Anne**

6:30 Alfred & Doris Urbanski  
 9:00 Geraldine O'Brien

**Wednesday - July 27**

6:30 Ruth Odwazny  
 9:00 Viola Newman

**Thursday - July 28**

6:30 Theresa Masino & Pasquale & Patrick Santoro  
 9:00 William McCabe & Family, Anniversary

**Friday - July 29 - St. Martha**

6:30 Bob MacCulloch  
 9:00 William & Erma Eichenlaub

**Saturday - July 30**

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS  
 5:00 Josephine Ryan  
 7:00 Frances Sutton & Mary Ann Kraus

**Sunday - July 31**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
 8:30 William Zura, Sr.  
 10:00 John & Carolyn Lynam & Salvatore & Maria Accardi  
 11:30 Paquet & Westhoff Families  
 1:00 Robert Hermann, Anniversary  
 5:30 Eugene & Elizabeth Kruckel

**Readings For The Week**

Mon. 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28  
 Tues. Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43  
 Wed. Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21; Matthew 13:44-46  
 Thurs. Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53  
 Fri. Jeremiah 26:1-9; John 11:19-27  
 Sat. Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12  
**Sun. *Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23* "All things are vanity!" Some people have labored skillfully a whole lifetime, but the fruits of their labor go to others who did nothing. What good comes from hard work? Everything is vanity.**

***Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11*** Since you now belong to Christ, set your heart on things above rather than on things of earth. For in Christ there is not Greek or Jew, slave or free person. "Christ is all and in all."

***Luke 12:13-21*** Jesus told a parable about the rich man who stored up all his wealth in order to eat, drink and be merry. God told him, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you." In this way Jesus encouraged people to grow rich, not for themselves, but in God's sight.

**Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**

**Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00**  
**Weekly Collection 7/17/2016: \$15,450.32**  
*Thank you for your great generosity!*

**Reflection & Living Stewardship**

Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's gospel, "Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted." But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards - those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others.



We are grateful this week for all stewards who embrace God's mercy, striving to make God's mercy visible in our world by sharing it with others.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Nobody likes feeling "used." BUT being used can be a **good** thing when The One using you is GOD! He sets up opportunities all the time for us to be the tool He uses to do His work. Just remember, sometimes you are the tool; and sometimes you are the project!!!

**Our next meeting is Monday, July 25th at 7:30PM in the Church. God knows what you need. Come and bring a friend. 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**

7/18/16	#450	Elizabeth Robertson	\$25
7/19/16	#518	Ann Meehan	\$25
7/20/16	#200	Grace Lamb	\$25
7/21/16	#193	Tom & Kristine Robertson	\$25
7/22/16	#587	John & Rachel Mangano	\$50

*Wedding Banns*

3rd Joseph Aniano & Maria D. Agostino  
 2nd Anthony Tarantino & Anna DiMaggio  
 2nd Stephen Giovanniello & Courtney Lavin  
 1st Andrew Weinart & Stephanie Cipolla



**"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: pancake mix, whole corn, peas, chili, beef stew, salmon, tomato soup, vegetable soup, macaroni & cheese, Jell-O, tea, cookies, crackers, dish soap, toilet paper, and napkins. During the month of June, we were able to serve 461 people from 72 individual families. Thank you for your tremendous generosity!

**Parish Outreach Food Pantry:**

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY  
 WHOLE FOODS PICK UP ON SATURDAYS!**

We are in need of volunteers for our **Whole Foods Pick Up Program**. Heavy lifting (20-25 lbs.) may be required. You will be asked to serve one Saturday per month from approximately 3:30-5:30PM. If interested, please call Jack Raha at 935-7093 for more information.

*Altar Bread & Wine*  
 Week of July 24 - 30, 2016  
 In Loving Memory of  
 Anthony Ponzini



*Sanctuary Candle*  
 Week of July 24 - 30, 2016  
 In Loving Memory of  
 Minnie & Steve Crème & Family

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

**Please pray for the sick of our parish:**

Leevalli Annearosa, Leigh Murphy, Richard Piernini  
 Joseph Simon, Douglas Torres, James Robertson Amy Hayes  
 Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina, Pat Cannata  
 Christopher Gratton, 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, Louise Sandberg  
 Chris & Raymond Mirendia, 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, Hector Valentine, Theresa DuRoss  
 Bob Baciuska, Carol Ann Scudder, John Scudder  
 Justine & Nicole Scudder, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall  
 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, Connie Burgess  
 Dolores Miller, Susan Carroll-Goyan, Carol Episcopio  
 Samantha McNeil, Patty & Tom Turano, Layla Barr, Fran Brideau  
 Sal Mascolo, Jerome Antonucci, Nicholas Amato, Poppy Singh  
 Jesusa Aquino, Joseph McCroary Guido Penafiel  
 Barry Monteleone, Dolores Lordahl, Kathleen Janovitch  
 Nadine Lewin Wall, Richard Graziano, Jean Mulligan  
 Carol Posnjak, Geraldine Zeterberg, Stephen Hogan  
 Edward Boyce, Fran Gandolfo, Sheila Newmann  
 Fr. Edmund Faliskie CSSR, Terrence Lynam, Joseph Abruzzo  
 Taylor, Angelo Pennestri, Steve Lazzara, Lee Berkowitz  
 Danielle McCarthy, Charles Drew, Kevin Connors, Fran Connors  
 Joseph Kostyak, Lorie Penafiel, Johnny D., Anthony Morello  
 Anthony Krich, Cynthia & Don Mirabel, Michael Seigler  
 Aida Gilday, Jackie & Pat Simoniello, Candy DeVita  
 Frank Ballatore, Jr., Anthony Della Croce, Christine Orlando  
 Little Sonny D'Ambrosio, Barbara Rusch, Justin Dittmar  
 Beverly Viselli, Casey, Elsie Ann Zinno, Olivia LoRusso, Betty Mara  
 Henry Lehmann, Teri Pigott, John Castagna, William Castle  
 Connie Kane, George Reif, Joan DeBona, Ann Adams, Ed Ingels  
 Liam Escaniel, Gus Kunze, Eddie Morales, Tom Miles  
 Debra Dowdell, John Anderson, Daniel McCullough, Mary Lafauci  
 Gerry Russo, Allegra LaFalce, Jessica Czarnecki, Jerry Berkowitz  
 Bill Monahan, Maureen Roberts, Kristen Marino, Francis Meehan

**Rest in Peace**

**Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."**

**James J. Judge, Sr.  
 Lisa Ann Byington**

## *Pastor's Letter*

One of the great gifts that I inherited here at St. Martin's when I came to the parish is that we have a great staff of men and women. Those who work at St. Martin's, both full time and part time, are a core part of our parish as it seeks to fulfill its mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I would be hard pressed to explain how much I count on them for their dedication, their professionalism, and their love of the parish. In many work places, there can be jealousies and bickering among employees. I have never found that to be the case among our staff. I often say that when you work for the Catholic Church, you are not going to get rich since our budget does not afford us large salaries. Yet, I have found that our employees serve us quite generously with their time and talent.



**ERIN AND BARBARA**

Two staff members, Barbara Amoroso and Erin Horan-Baudille are stepping down from work at the parish this summer.

**Barbara Amoroso**, our finance manager, has decided to retire. Barbara began work at St. Martin of Tours Elementary School in 1994 as school secretary. In 2004, she began working in the rectory as our bookkeeper and has served in the parish for 22 years. Barbara was incredibly committed to the parish and worked very hard to assist me in stewarding our money. There were times when Barbara noticed a company had overcharged us (hopefully by accident), and she traced it down and recovered our funds. Barbara recorded the offertory collections every week and her professionalism dictated the confidentiality of all donations in support of the parish. She took on a great responsibility when we had the capital campaign and did her work so very efficiently.

She did some tasks for me that were not part of her job description such as organizing the trips to the retreats at West End, Our Lady of the Island, and Washington, D.C. I counted very much on Barbara for her wisdom and counsel. Our parish has been very blessed to have her on our staff, and we wish her a most happy retirement with her husband, Tony. We will still be blessed by her presence among us as a parishioner.

**Erin Horan-Baudille** has decided to step down as coordinator of the Life Teen Youth Ministry. It could be said that Erin grew up here at St. Martin's since she first began helping in the parish office in 1999. In 2007, she became the coordinator of the Youth Ministry. Those of you who are parents know that it is not always easy to get your teenagers to participate in the life of the Church. I do not think there is a more challenging ministry in the Church than youth work. For the past nine years, Erin has shown a great love of the young of our parish, and worked so very hard to give them a positive experience of God and Church. A key part of the program that she brought to our parish was to focus on inviting the young (and the rest of us) to prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

It was always a delight to see Erin with her two beautiful children, Hannah and Luke, (two great Biblical names) at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Erin's faith and love of God shined through her as she made announcements and told us about upcoming events for the middle schoolers and teens. I also want to thank Erin's parents, Nancy and Bob Horan for their help through the years with many of the Life Teen projects. We will miss Erin's ministry, but we are happy that she is a member of St. Martin's Parish. We pray that God bless her always.

It is my hope that we will have a new bookkeeper in place by the end of this month. I appreciate the work that John McCarthy and Tony Citrolo along with Barbara Amoroso, have been doing to fill this position, after which I will begin the search for a new youth minister. Please pray for those who are choosing the people to fill these two important staff positions.

Change is not easy and I ask your patience in this time of transition.

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

**PLEASE READ THIS UPDATED INFORMATION!!**

**This week we were notified that we can now collect the \$25 for tickets to the reception. All those who have booked a seat on the coach bus can either mail or drop off cash or a check payable to St. Martin of Tours at the rectory office. The tickets will then be mailed to us from the Perpetual Help Center. You will receive your ticket on the day of the trip! At this writing we still have seats available, but book soon!**

**Jubilee Celebration in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
Saturday, September 17, 2016 - \$25.00 per person**

**On September 17, 2016, there will be a very special Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 2:00 p.m.** We hope to provide a free bus ride for our parishioners. Your only cost would be for a ticket to the reception at \$25.00 per person. This fee includes heavy appetizers and refreshments. Many Redemptorist parishes will be attending this celebration, and I do hope we can get a full bus.



**To Register: This will be a full day trip which means that we will be leaving St. Martin's around 6:00 a.m. with an estimated return to Bethpage at midnight.**

Please call the rectory office at 931-0818 with your name, phone number and how many attending to reserve a seat on the coach bus. Once the bus is filled, call the Perpetual Help Center at 877-876-7662 or email [info@redemptorists.net](mailto:info@redemptorists.net) to make other arrangements or for directions should you wish to drive your own car.





**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	2LT Sean O'Donnell, USAF
MAJ Erika Holownia, US Army	SGT Matthew C. Windisch, USMC
PO3 Matthew Sadecki, USCG	E3 CORPSMAN Robert Fidnarick, US Navy
SGT Zachary John Sheehy, USMC	1LT Brian Thorpe, US Navy
PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army	PO3 Joshua Zimmerman, US Navy
CPL Dennis Diesel, USMC	MAJ Brendan McEvoy, US Army
L CPL James Kruper, USMC	PVT Matthew F. Mayerhofer, US Army
SPC Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army	BUCN Sean Bourke, US Navy
CPT Conor B. Murphy, USMC	PO3 James Fischer, US Navy
1LT Victoria Meyer, US Army Nurse Corp	LTC John Evans, US Army
PO1 John Paul Pedalino II, US Navy	ABHAA Michael Creagh, US Navy
CPT Thomas P. Shea, USAF	PVT Steven DiPaolo, USMC
SGT Michael John Kelly, USMC	SSGT Sean V. Oliva, US Army
1LT Brian McGrath, US Army	2LT Samantha Lopez, US Navy
SPC Matthew Castellano, US Army	SSG George Howard, US Army
PFC Michael Patrick Murphy, US Army	LT Mario Lopes, USMC
PFC William Corrigan, USMC	PVT Brian Barcavage, US Army
PFC Salvatore Battiata, USAF	CS1 Andrew L. DeMarsico, USN
LT Daniel Cloonan, USCG	MAJ Thomas E. Mangiamele, US Army
PVT Daniel Kuhlmann, US Army	PVT Edward Morales, US Army
LCPL Jonathan M. Gordon, USMC	MAJ Michael F. Wendelken, USAF



Our parish is beginning a weekly program called **Symbolon** every Thursday evening for **five sessions** on **July 21, 28, August 4, 11 and 25**. The meetings will be in **St. Alphonsus Hall at 7:30PM**.

This program is based on the scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church for the purpose of reviewing our Catholic faith which has been handed down by the Holy Spirit through the centuries.

**St. Brigid's Church, 75 Post Avenue, Westbury** will be celebrating a mass in honor of the Blessed Mother on Monday, August 15th at 5PM. Immediately following, the members of the Maria SS. Dell'Assunta Society will lead the procession from St. Brigid's Church and up Post Avenue to the Feast grounds. All are welcome to attend the mass and to join in the procession.

Our 106th annual feast begins on Thursday August 11 through Monday August 15 at St. Brigid's School Parking Field on Maple Avenue, Westbury. For more information email us at [dellassunta@aol.com](mailto:dellassunta@aol.com).

### RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

When we sometimes feel helpless to reach out to help those that are suffering injustice, persecution and loss of life, let us lift them all up in prayer. May our Heavenly Father hear our hearts and send our message to those broken hearted, lost, and grieving the loss of those they love. Let us pray!

### **PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE**

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle, the strength to be forgiving, the patience to be understanding, and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others. Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created.

May we keep in mind all police officers that put their lives on the line each day to protect each of us. May we be fair and judge the majority as good men and women that have sworn to uphold the law. May we pray that those that have been unfairly judged or treated, protest against abuse in an orderly fashion and not use deadly force in a vengeful way.

May we come together to pray for peace in our own country. May we reach out to each other as Americans. So many have given their lives for this country we call home. So many lay silent in cemeteries across this nation, having made the ultimate sacrifice for our very right to protest. May we ask our Lord to help us see each other through His eyes.

Let us not be divided by race, religion or political views. We will be voting for a new president of the United States in November. This election will probably set the direction that this country will take for a very long time. It is so important that we take into mind what we want for America. It is so important that we take time to learn who the candidates are and what they stand for. Before we cast our votes, we must pray that our vote will bring about peace and prosperity in a nation that has become unsettled and divided in its ideas for the future.

Let us ask our Mother Mary to guide us. May we ask for protection against terrorism, racism, and violence. Let us celebrate each other, support each other.

**Tip of the day:** When you hear a speech from a candidate, try not to turn to strategists or political analysts to explain what you have just heard. Think for yourself! Analyze for yourself what you have just listened to. And register to vote! Make your vote count!

## Defensive Driving Course

*"You Can't Afford to Miss It"*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for the next DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Your Name & Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ COST: \$45 per person

Payable to: Martin Hirschfield

MAIL TO: DRIVER ED

P.O. BOX 314, DEPT. V

LAKE GROVE, NY 11755

**THIS COURSE WILL BE HELD:**


St. Martin of Tours at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall  
38 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage NY 11714

Date: Saturday, August 6, 2016

Time: 8:30am - 3:00pm

For registration questions and more information, please call (631) 360-9720

### Updates

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I decided to install a new playground in place of the present one. The first reason I did so was because the old one was beginning to show wear, and we were having some problems with splinters. I have found that the playground is very popular with the younger children in the parish. I see many children playing there before or after religious education classes during the year as well as after the children's Mass at 10:00 a.m. Since we were not able to have a gym as part of our capital campaign due to the very high cost, I thought this was a small way to make up for that. The cost was \$19,000 which was taken from the Capital Campaign Fund. We sought to get a very safe unit, and we pray our children have great fun in safety on the new playground.
- I am working on the possibility of our having a handicap accessible ramp into the school cafeteria, named Emmaus Hall, which is the first floor of the school. Many parishioners have asked for this and we are presently working to study what is possible and what it would cost.
- The Capital Campaign will end this December. I am working on a how to recognize our many donors and you will be hearing from me shortly. It is still not too late to make a donation to the campaign. Any money given remains in the parish and is not taxed by the diocese.
- There are other projects that I hope to complete in the coming year. As a former teacher, I think of the year as beginning in September. They include the painting of the exterior of the church, the lighting in the church, and new doors for the church.
- The large derrick in the Town of Oyster Bay's municipal parking lot is not any kind of parish project. I do regret that it is blocking one of the entrances onto Church property. I was informed of the project by the Arcadis Company for the purpose of conducting an environmental study.

## Liturgical Ministry Training

**Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** is required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. Session A is required for **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**, please write a letter to our pastor, Father Patrick Woods, CSSR letting him know your desire to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Please indicate your service as either in the Church or service to the homebound/nursing homes/hospitals. Please let him know the date and place of training. The pastor then 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 training session the person will attend.

### Times and Places for Ministry Training:

#### In Nassau: EM Session A

ENGLISH AND SPANISH

**October 15, 2016; 9AM - 1PM**

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale  
MAIN ENTRANCE

#### In Suffolk: EM Session A

ENGLISH AND SPANISH

**October 22, 2016; 9AM - 1PM**

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead  
MAIN ENTRANCE - AROUND THE BACK OF SCHOOL

#### EM Session B

**October 29, 2016; 9AM - 1PM**

Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale  
MILLENIUM ROOM - AROUND BACK OF SCHOOL

#### EM Session B

**November 5, 2016; 9AM - 1PM**

McGann Mercy High School, Riverhead  
MAIN ENTRANCE - AROUND THE BACK OF SCHOOL

**EVENING SESSIONS** for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at St. Elizabeth, Melville

**Session A** - Wednesday, September 28, 2016; 7PM - 10PM

**Session B** - Wednesday, October 19, 2016; 7PM - 10PM

**Workshop Fees:** \$30 per person (paid by St. Martin of Tours Church)

### LIVING WATERS CATHOLIC COUNSELING

[www.livingwaterscounseling.biz](http://www.livingwaterscounseling.biz)

**Melville location: Campus of St. Elizabeth's Church**

**175 Wolf Hill Road, Melville NY 11747 Tel: 631-754-3990/Fax: 631-271-0914**

We are dedicated to the healing of the whole individual. Wholeness is in the four quadrants of our being human: the intellectual; the emotional; the body; and the spirit. At Living Waters, our therapists use their clinical skills but also include a strong spiritual component, much like the 12 Step Programs.

Insurance claims are submitted by Living Waters Center. We participate in many insurance networks and will be glad to work with you in this area. In addition, some insurance plans include our services as out of network providers. Fees are based upon the services provided. Please go to our website at [www.livingwaterscounseling.biz](http://www.livingwaterscounseling.biz) for more information.



*“Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”*

I remember reading this Gospel in a parish in Erie, Pennsylvania when I was preaching a mission there. Several people smiled as I was reading the scripture. I was wondering if I had the vestments inside out (something I have done) or if I had the wrong reading. At the end of Mass, a woman told me that she loved my New York accent, especially the way I added an R to the word Martha making it sound like Marther. I know I do the same thing with soder for soda. It is good to be preaching in front of New Yawkers who understand this beautiful accent.

*The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.*

Are you more of a Martha or a Mary? When I have asked that question of people, I have found that most say they are Marthas. Jesus loved to go to the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. It must have been a place where he could really rest and relax. They must have told him many times, *“Jesus, make yourself at home; you are always welcome!”* Martha is the one who is busy about doing many things. She is preparing the family meal and wants to be so very hospitable to Jesus. Meanwhile, her sister Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening and speaking to him. The words of Jesus have so captivated Mary that she delights in just being with him. Martha complains to Jesus about this and wonders why Mary does not help with the meal. To my mind, it is certainly a very reasonable request. Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the better part - that of focusing on the message that Jesus has to bring to his people.

*There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.” Luke 10*

We have all heard the voice of Martha. *Stop watching that football game and take out the garbage! Get off that cell phone and set the table for dinner! Turn the television off and come to dinner!* Both Martha and Mary love Jesus and he loves them. They express their love in different ways. I am sure Jesus enjoyed the meals that Martha prepared for him. I am also sure that Jesus appreciated the presence of Mary as she listened to him.

I wonder if those of us who are Marthas sort of resent Mary a little bit. Sure, she loves Jesus and sits with him, but let's get practical - who is going to prepare the dinner? Preparing the meal for Jesus is also a great act of love. Most people tend to be Marthas rather than Marys. We like to be busy; we like to get things done. We are very faithful to being at Mass on the weekend; we love the intimacy we have with Jesus in receiving his Body and Blood. There are times when the sermon inspires us, or we hear a favorite hymn.

When I visited our parishes in the Caribbean, the average Sunday Mass was about two hours, and the priest spoke for at least a half hour. If you did not preach a long homily, the people would tell you that they were cheated. I suspect that if we started having two hour Masses here that many parishioners would start going to St. Kilian's or St. James. It is hard not to look at our watch during Mass and wonder why the Mass does not move more quickly. Some of us leave the Mass as soon as we feel we have fulfilled our Sunday obligation. Breakfast is waiting; we need to do our food shopping; the kids have soccer games to be played; the Jets are on; the grass must be cut; there is homework to be done.

We also need to work to provide for our family. The luxury of sitting at the feet of Jesus, of prayer, of just being with God is too challenging in the face of my busy life. I have met some Marys in our parish. They are men and women who pray here in the church at odd times during the day. Some of them sit for an hour or so in front of the Blessed Sacrament or say the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. When I see them, I am both inspired and challenged. They remind me that I should pray more. Let me be clear, both Marthas and Marys are loved by God; neither is better than the other.

I believe this Gospel account of Martha and Mary is inviting us to look at our life styles. I just finished two weeks vacation that I shared with family and friends. I did some bike riding, swimming, walking, shopping, and enjoyed wonderful meals. (I was certainly a *Mary* during the preparation of the meals as I concentrated on the Mets and the news.) A vacation is a great gift, a time to slow down and enjoy our family and friends, the sun, the scenery, and the food. I am not sure how good we are at leisure and recreation. I love the word *recreation*. It means to be *re-created*. That is why God gives us the Sabbath, a time to rest, a time to slow down, and a time to pray.

If you are asked, "*how are you?*" the common greeting of today is to respond, "*Oh, I am so busy!*" The person who asks the question goes on to say how busy he or she is. It's as if it is a contest to see who's the busier one! There is a certain amount of busyness that is necessary and good. We need time to work, to raise our children, to upkeep our home or apartment, to pay our bills, to see our doctors. These are all necessary activities that must be done. However, we all need to find some time to pause and slow down. Try reading sentences without punctuation. Living without some quiet times throws us out of balance. While I was on vacation, there was the opportunity to use the community pools. One pool was your average pool, filled with laughter and children splashing about. But this community had a unique pool called the serenity pool that was quiet for very quiet conversation.

Maybe we all need a space for some quiet in our lives. On the Fourth of July, I went to a wonderful fireworks display over the bay in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. It was breathtaking to see all the glorious colors and feel a deep sense of patriotism from those around us. As we left the lot, the traffic was unbearable, as we sat for almost an hour without moving. The glory of the fireworks were soon forgotten as I grew more and more frustrated.

The clichés "stop and smell the roses" or "smell the coffee" are used so often because they contain a truth very similar to the story of Martha and Mary. We can be both Marthas and Marys. In the midst of all our activities and especially in our relationship with loved ones, we can for just a moment slow down and appreciate all that we have and all that is going on around us.

How often we hear, "I can't believe my son is going to college" or "my daughter is graduating from grade school!" "They grow up so fast!" "It seemed like only yesterday they were babies!" How true! Today's Gospel is a powerful call to see God in the world around us, in the people of our lives, in the daily events that make up our lives. This Eucharist invites us to slow down and reflect on the presence of God in our lives. As we leave Mass, we go forward to see him in the world around us.

One last thought - If you looked at your watch during this sermon, you must say one "Hail Mary!"

## Summer Retreat

at San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ - Redemptorist Spirituality

## August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>

Begins Friday at 6:00 p.m. with Supper; Ends with Dinner at 12:00 p.m. Sunday

**Cost: \$ 210.00 per person**

Fathers John McGowan CSSR and Pat Woods CSSR have given this retreat for the past fifteen years. All are welcome, but we offer a special invitation to those who are part of the Redemptorists as family members, as friends, as co-workers in our various ministries, as parishioners in a CSSR parish or someone who has shared in a Redemptorist mission or retreat. We seek to make the retreat spiritually refreshing while at the same time, give the participant time to relax and enjoy the wonders of God's creation.



**TO REGISTER:**

**Contact the office at San Alfonso, Monday to Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 1-732-222-2731 or 2738.**

If you want to register through our parish office here at Bethpage, you are most welcome to do so by calling 931-0818. We may be able to get some rides for people.

## COMING IN THE FALL!



FATHER JIM MCCABE WILL CONTINUE HIS WORKSHOP ON THE BOOK OF GENESIS FROM 7:30 - 8:30PM IN ST. ALPHONSUS HALL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES (ALL WEDNESDAYS):

SEPTEMBER 28	CHAPTERS 19 & 20
OCTOBER 5	CHAPTERS 21 & 22
OCTOBER 12	NO SESSION
OCTOBER 19	CHAPTERS 23 & 24
OCTOBER 26	CHAPTERS 25 & 26
NOVEMBER 2	CHAPTERS 27 & 28
NOVEMBER 9	CHAPTERS 29 & 30
NOVEMBER 16	CHAPTERS 31 & 32

## Our Annual Parish Block Party Friday Night, August 12<sup>th</sup> - 6PM

This annual event is one of the highlights of the year as we gather to celebrate the summer, our love of our parish community, to meet other parishioners and to eat! In the coming weeks, we will be gathering the numbers for those who will be attending. Very soon we will be seeking volunteers and reaching out to those in the Simeon Ministry. The prayer warriors of the parish are assigned to pray for good weather.



My hope is that this be like a family gathering where many pitch in to help, as such a spirit creates a wonderful sense of community. I know the St. Clement Bakers will be baking which is reason enough to come to the party. So what can you do now? If anyone would like to donate paper ware such as cups, small plates and napkins, that would be a great help.

If anyone has something to donate such as gift cards, tickets to an event like a METS/Yankee game, a Broadway show, a trip to Ireland, a bottle of wine or some other delight for our basket of cheer, that would be most welcome.

### *We will need:*

- volunteers to sell raffle tickets at Sunday Masses
- volunteers to sell 50/50 tickets on the night of the party
- volunteers to make coffee and tea
- volunteers to serve the food
- volunteers to supervise water and juice table
- volunteers to supervise the blow-up jumper
- volunteers to be available for other ad hoc jobs (classy way of calling one to be a go-fer)

The Knights of Columbus will be cooking. (There is a rumor of filet mignons being served this year!) Looking for my snow cone man and the lady who made such lovely fans.



**Our dear Deacon Jim at the Block Party**

**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.

**Saint John the Baptist Diocesan High School is offering a Prep Course to prepare students for the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.** We will run five 2 1/2 hour sessions beginning in September.

**Saturday, September 24th, October 1st  
 October 15th and October 22nd  
 and Wednesday, October 26th**

**6PM - 8:30PM**

**\$300 for the cost of the program.**

For additional information, please visit [www.stjohnthebaptistdhs.net](http://www.stjohnthebaptistdhs.net) or call (631) 587-8000 x 117

**St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School**  
**1170 Montauk Highway, West Islip NY 11795**

**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**

**Our Lady of Mercy Academy is offering a Prep Course to prepare students for the Catholic High School Entrance Exam.** The actual date of the exam is October 29th.

**Saturday, September 10th, 17th and 24th  
 October 1st, 15th and 22nd**

**10AM - 12 NOON**

**\$300 for the cost of the program.**

For additional information or to register, please call Mrs. Lucille Fitts (516) 921-1047 x 10

**Our Lady of Mercy Academy**  
**815 Convent Road, Syosset NY 11791**  
**Www.olma.org**

**St. Anthony's High School**  
**Catholic High School Entrance Exam Prep Course**

To download an application visit [www.dactestprep.com](http://www.dactestprep.com)  
 Or call DAC Test Prep for an application at 631- 663-3303  
 For new SAT Courses, see our website.

**Space is Limited! Call Today!**

## LAST CALL!

**St. Martin of Tours Summer Bible Camp**  
**Save the Date!! August 15th to 19th**

**MORNING SESSION:**

9:30 TO 12 NOON

FOR CHILDREN 5 - 8 YEARS OLD

**EVENING SESSION:**

6PM TO 8PM

FOR CHILDREN 9 - 12 YEARS OLD

**COST:**

\$25 FOR ONE CHILD

\$40 FOR TWO CHILDREN

\$50 FOR THREE OR MORE IN ONE FAMILY



Last summer we had 25 children and the program was very well received by both the children and the parents. We offered arts and crafts, games, videos, prayer Bible time and snacks. A Bible Camp tee shirt is also given to the children. The kids really seemed to enjoy the time spent with one another!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 25: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Aug 1: Feast Day of St. Alphonsus Ligouri, Founder of the Order of Redemptorists 9AM Mass
- Aug 5: First Friday Devotions 7PM Church
- Aug 6: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Aug 6: Defensive Driving Course 8:30AM - 3PM St. Alphonsus Hall - To register, see page 8.
- Aug 12: SMT Parish Block Party
- Aug 15: The Assumption of Mary - NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. 6:30 & 9AM Masses Only
- Aug 15-19: Children's Bible Camp Week
- Aug 17: St. Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Church
- Aug 26-28: Summer Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House. Registration required.