

Masses For The Week

Monday - December 19

6:30 Carmine Bassano
9:00 Edward Naughton

Tuesday - December 20

6:30 Bill Holt
9:00 Marie & John Koch

**Wednesday - December 21 - Saint Peter Canisius
Priest & Doctor of the Church**

6:30 Sonia & Wallace Kankas
9:00 Kristine Benasutti

Thursday - December 22

6:30 Vincent Luna
9:00 George & Doris Held

Friday - December 23

6:30 Jeanine Meluzio
9:00 Patrick Curtin

Saturday - December 24

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
Please see the schedule for Christmas Eve p. 14

Sunday - December 25

The Birth of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Salvatore & Maria Accardi & John & Carolyn Lynam
10:00 Angelina Cilmi, 25th Anniversary
11:30 Mary Agrella, Anniversary
1:00 John R. Kirk, Jr.

NO 5:30PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Readings For The Week

Mon. Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
Tues. Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Wed. Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
Thurs. 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
Fri. Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
Sat. 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79

Sun. Isaiah 52:7-10 *The ends of the earth will see God's salvation. Break forth together in song, Jerusalem, for the good news of peace has come. God redeems Jerusalem and gives comfort to all people.*

Hebrews 1:1-6 *"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets," but now we have God's own heir, the glory of the Lord who sustains all things. Let all angels worship God's first-born, God's heir, God's son.*

John 1:1-18 *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory...full of grace and truth." We all have partaken of this fullness: love following love.*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00
Collection for 12/11/2016: \$15,739.16
Immaculate Conception: \$ 4,205.00

Reflection & Living Stewardship

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary.

We are grateful this week for all stewards who have the courage, like Joseph, to listen to God's voice in their own hearts and conscientiously pursue the tasks to which they have been called.



Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Why do you think we wrap Christmas presents ? Because the first and BEST Christmas present was wrapped --- in swaddling clothes !! Give yourself a gift and make Jesus the main focus of your holiday, not just on Christmas day but for the whole season. Think of what He's done for you!!

Our next meeting is Monday, December 19th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall - just 6 days before Christmas!! Call 516-993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.



Saint Maria Faustina

Divine Mercy Novena

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

H.O.P. Club Winners

12/12/16	#249	M/M Ernest Bertucci	\$25
12/13/16	#638	M/M Joseph Romuno	\$25
12/14/16	#607	Joseph & Santa Cambria	\$25
12/15/16	#631	Ken Makarius, Jr.	\$25
12/16/16	#350	Ralph Seiter	\$250



*"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 Chef Boyardee pastas, dry lentils, Jell-O, icing, evaporated milk, rice, catsup, oil, mayonnaise, boxed milk, juice boxes, toilet paper, paper towels, Rice-a-Roni. Please do not buy pasta or string beans till at least the end of January.

Thank you very much for your continuous generosity to those less fortunate.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

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



*Altar Bread & Wine
Week of Dec 18 - 24, 2016
In Loving Memory of
Vincenzo & Anna Critelli*

*Sanctuary Candle
Week of Dec 18 - 24, 2016
In Loving Memory of
Kristine Benasutti*



Rest in Peace

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

**Josephine Griffo, Catherine A. Sarro
Michael J. McPartland**

**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 Battiata, Brendan Rodriguez, Rebecca Passaro
Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna
Gary Vlahov, Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh, Louise Sandberg
Anthony Luisi, Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Florencio Carmenate
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, 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, Nicholas Amato, Poppy Singh, Jesusa Aquino
Joseph McCroary, Guido Penafiel, Barry Monteleone
Nadine Lewin Wall, Richard Graziano, Jean Mulligan
Geraldine Zeterberg, Stephen Hogan, Edward Boyce, Ann Adams,
Fran Gandolfo, Sheila Newmann, Fr. Edmund Faliskie CSSR
Terrence Lynam, Taylor, Lee Berkowitz, Danielle McCarthy
Joseph Kostyak, Lorie Penafiel, Johnny D., William Castle
Anthony Morello, Anthony Krich, Michael Siegler, 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, Betty Maggi
Elsie Ann Zinno, Olivia LoRusso, Betty Mara, Teri Pigott
Connie Kane, George Reif, Ed Ingels, Liam Escaniel, Gus Kunze
Eddie Morales, Tom Miles, Debra Dowdell, Elizabeth Hill
Louie Gandolfo, John Anderson, Tara Maune, Daniel McCullough
Mary Lafauci, Gerry Russo, Allegra LaFalce, Jessica Czarnecki
Bill Monahan, Maureen Roberts, Francis Meehan, Trish Berge
Kathleen Palumbo, Brendan Donahoe, Noelle Eichenlaub
Janet Scarpelli, Glenn Miller & Mom, Helen Uhl
Baby Omega-Bianchi, Andrew McCarthy, Alicia Manetta
Frank LoPinto, Declan McCollough, Pat James Joseph
Michael Hance, David Iovieno, Pasqua Giannuzzi, Robert Daniel

Pastor's Letter



A couple married for many years is preparing to go to bed. The wife turns to her husband and says, *I have a great taste for an ice cream sundae. Would you go to the Dairy Queen and get me one?* He reluctantly agrees. She says, *I want chocolate ice cream. Write it down on a piece of paper. I know you will forget.* He responds, *I will not forget.* She then goes on to say that she wants chocolate syrup on the ice cream. Again, she insists that he write it down which he refuses to do. She then asks for whipped cream with a cherry on top and insists he write it on a piece of paper. He refuses to do so. Finally, she says that she would like rainbow sprinkles on this sundae. He says ok but again will not write it down. He takes off to the Dairy Queen. An hour later he returns and hands her a bag with a cheeseburger and french fries. She responds angrily, *I knew you would forget. Where's the ketchup?*

The apostle James, in our second reading today speaks to us in a very direct way: *Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient.* St. James is telling us to be patient for the second coming of the Lord. At the time he was writing, many of the new Christians expected Christ to be coming in all his power and glory in the very near future. Quite honestly, I do not think the vast majority of us are in any hurry for the second coming of the Lord, whether it be the end of the world or our own personal end. Still, I think patience is a virtue that many of us pray for, seek, and wish we did not fail so often in lacking this quality.

The very word *patience* is rooted in the Latin word *patio* which means *to suffer*. Thus, we speak of someone in a hospital as a patient. Occasionally, someone will say, *that person has the patience of a saint. I do not know how they do it.* I know I struggle with patience. How can one not when you live on Long Island and have to face the Southern State, the Belt Parkway, or the LIE. Traffic is one of the great tests of patience for me. Shopping can be another personal struggle. I wait on a long line at a store and finally I am right behind a person who is paying his/her bill. The bill is six dollars and twenty-six cents. The person insists they have the correct change. They reach into a purse and slowly begin to count out pennies. The count is slower than watching the ball fall on New Year's Eve. Finally, I can't take it anymore and I say that I will pay the bill. Another reality that seems to befall me often is *the dreaded price check*. I seem to be able to find that one item in any store in which the price is not properly marked. You then hear the dreaded words, *price check*. This seems to involve the intercom and awaiting someone from aisle sixteen to finish their break and find out the price. I generally tell the clerk to forget about the item. That is not good either since now the manager must be called to cancel the order that has been already put in the register. When this is finally done, I then hear the frightening sentence: *I have to change the paper roll in my register.*

I was with my family the day after Thanksgiving. We had decided to go out to breakfast. Unfortunately, a hundred or so other people decided they wanted breakfast at the very same restaurant at the very same time. We were told it would be twenty minutes since some people were just about finished. I am convinced that one of the results of original sin is that the people who people are waiting for their table always suddenly order another cup of coffee!

Finally, after a delightful breakfast, I told the fifty or so people who were still waiting that they need not worry: they were in Purgatory, but a heavenly breakfast awaited them after their sins were washed away. By the sound of their grinding teeth, I am not sure if they appreciated my spiritual humor. I had a wonderful doctor in Brooklyn who may well have saved my life. However, when I had a three o'clock appointment, I would always try to arrive fifteen minutes early. This strategy never worked since I found twelve other people also had a three o'clock appointment and arrived even earlier. When I finally got into the doctor, she would take my blood pressure and tell me it was up a little bit. Is there any surprise to that! We can kid ourselves about our struggles with impatience, but it is not only a spiritual question, but one that involves our very health. There is no doubt that impatience, which is a nice way of saying being frustrated and angry, adds stress to our hearts, our arteries, and our entire bodies. Lacking patience can lead to headaches and body pains.

I want to try to make something clear in this homily. The feeling of being impatient is not a sin. It is all but impossible to control what I feel. If I am stuck in traffic, I will feel the emotion of impatience start to take hold. If I am on a long line that is going nowhere fast, I will start to feel frustrated. The key question, the spiritual question, is what do I do with the feeling? What does this feeling lead me to do? If someone cuts me off on the highway, I can chase them and try to get them off. We hear terrible stories of road rage in the news. A car can be a lethal weapon and allowing impatience to direct my actions can be very dangerous for others and myself.

Sometimes, we can get so angry at being on hold on the phone when we are making a business call that we take it out on the person who answers the phone. Most likely that person had nothing to do with the delay. I think the area we most have to look at our impatience is how we treat the people we love: our children, our spouses, our parents, and our friends. Little children drop things, spill things, have little accidents, make messes and sometime paint our walls when we do not want them painted. They should be corrected, but screaming at them does little good for them or the screamer.

Many of us, thanks be to God, are living longer lives. Part of aging can be some memory loss, repetition of the same story, very slow movements, and lack of hearing. These realities are frustrating for both the person who has them and the family member who is trying to be patient. It is not easy to be a caretaker. People who care for loved ones daily are borderline saints in my book, but they do face the challenge of not getting angry and frustrated and taking it out on someone who really cannot help what they are doing.

I have no easy formula on how to grow to be a patient person. A few things I try are:

- Pray for this grace. Ask God for patience on a daily basis. If you find yourself ready to explode, step back in your mind and calm down. Take a breath and don't be afraid to say you're sorry to someone you have been impatient with.
- Step back from what I am getting so frustrated about and ask if this is worth getting sick over. Have perspective. What I am getting so upset about most often is not that big a deal.
- Be compassionate and kind. No one of us, whether adult or child, wants to be berated and yelled at. Think of the words of our Lord Jesus, what you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me.

Now, I will stop talking or you will get impatient with me!

Father Patrick Woods, CSSR

Email: woodscssr@aol.com

Website: www.smtbethpage.org



Life Teen: 12/18- Life Teen Christmas Party after the 5:30PM Mass. All high school students are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events:

12/25- No Life Night- Merry Christmas!
1/1- No Life Night- Happy New Year!
1/8- Life Night- 6:45-8:30pm

Edge: We will be having our Edge Christmas Party on Thursday, 12/22 in the OLPH Youth Room – All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are welcome to attend. Please bring a \$10 gift to participate in the grab bag. Contact SMT_Lifeteen@yahoo.com with any questions.



Upcoming Events:

1/5- Edge Night- 7-8:30pm
1/19- Edge Night- 7-8:30pm

Camp Veritas Dates have been released for 2017 and sign up is 8am on January 1st! Contact the Youth Ministry office for more information. Also, check out their website for information and videos at www.CampVeritas.com.

Now is a great time to consider joining our volunteer team! If you want to know more about getting involved in SMT's dynamic and lively Youth Ministry Programs, please contact us at SMT_Lifeteen@yahoo.com. If you are over the age of 18, there are many different ways to volunteer including joining one of our Core Teams, providing meals or snacks for our Life Teen and Edge program, or even just remembering to keep us in your prayers. Youth Ministry is an incredibly rewarding way to get involved with your community and help lead the youth of our parish closer to Christ. Remember, all are welcome to celebrate with us at the 5:30 PM Life Teen Sunday Mass.

To see our full schedule, please visit SMTBethpage.org!

For questions about Youth Ministry at SMT or to inquire about joining our team, please contact Patricia Draghi at SMT_Lifeteen@Yahoo.com.

Thank you to all who bought a Christmas Tree from our Youth Ministry last week. We sold all 50 trees again this year! Just remember to water it every day. Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!



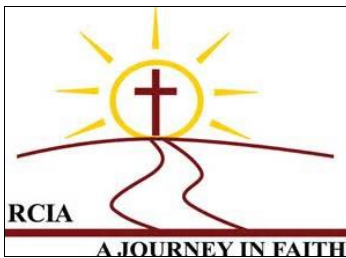
PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

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
 SGT Michael Patrick Murphy, US Army
 PFC William Corrigan, USMC
 PFC Salvatore Battiatia, 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
 SPC Matthew F. Mayerhofer, US Army
 BUCN Sean Bourke, US Navy
 PO3 James Fischer, US Navy
 LTC John Evans, US Army
 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
 MAJ Michael F. Wendelken, USAF
 PVT John Marcel, Jr USMC

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)**The Rite of Acceptance on 12/18/16**

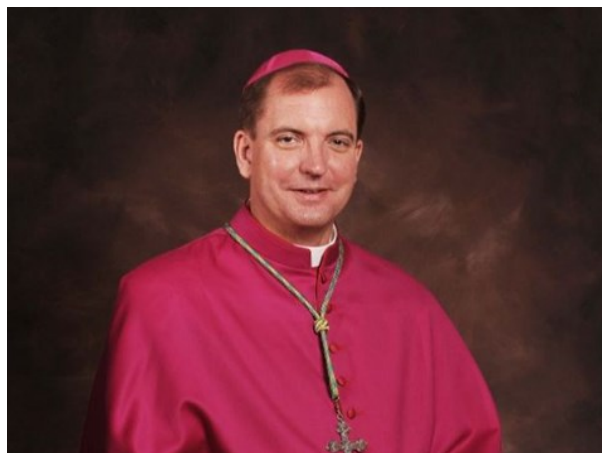
Today at the 8:30AM Mass, Catechumens and Candidates on the RCIA journey seeking full communion in our faith will ask to be accepted and welcomed into our community of faith and the family of St. Martin of Tours.

The period of Inquiry closes and this Rite is their "Exodus" from it. They have made the decision to move on to a new way of life. Please pray for them so that they realize that Jesus who originally called them, loves them unconditionally and is always at their side.

New Rockville Centre Bishop Was Baptized by Fulton Sheen

by Elise Harris

Vatican City, Dec 9, 2016 / 07:21 am ([EWTN News/CNA](#))



On Friday, December 9th, the Vatican announced that Bishop John O. Barres of Allentown – who was baptized by the famed Archbishop Fulton Sheen – will be taking the helm in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. “I must...thank the priests and the entire people of God of the Diocese of Allentown, where I have had the great blessing of serving as bishop for the last seven-and-a-half years,” Bishop Barres said in a Dec. 9 press release announcing his appointment. “You will all always be in my heart, my memories, my prayers and my Masses as I remember our days of ‘holiness and mission’ together.”

A native of Larchmont, N.Y., Bishop Barres, 56, has led the Diocese of Allentown since July 2009, and will take over in Rockville Centre for retiring Bishop William Murphy, who has reached the age limit of 75. His transfer will make him the first bishop of Allentown in their 55-year history to ever be transferred to another diocese. The Rockville Centre diocese, which includes the Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island, was established in 1957 and is the sixth largest diocese according to Catholic population in the U.S., serving 1.5 million Catholics with 291 active priests in 133 parishes.

According to the press release, Bishop Barres will be introduced to his new diocese by concelebrating with Bishop Murphy in Rockville Centre’s Cathedral of St. Agnes. He will be officially installed in the cathedral January 31, 2017. Until then, Bishop Barres will serve as diocesan administrator for Allentown. Once he makes the official transfer to Rockville Centre, Allentown’s College of Consultors, which consists of 10 senior priests in the diocese, will select a new administrator, who will serve until another bishop is appointed.

Born in 1960, Bishop Barres is the fifth of six children born to two Protestant ministers who met at Yale Divinity School and eventually converted to Catholicism in 1955, according to the Bishop’s biography on the Allentown Diocese’s website. Bishop Barres himself was baptized by then-Bishop Fulton Sheen in 1960. His father had been working for Sheen at the Propagation of the Faith in New York City.

After completing secondary school, Bishop Barres graduated from Princeton University with a BA in English Literature before moving on to obtain a MBA in Management from the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Wilmington October 21, 1989, by Bishop Robert Mulvee after studying in seminary at the Theological College of The Catholic University of America. He began his priestly ministry by serving as an associate pastor at different parishes throughout Newark and Wilmington.

Eventually Barres went to Rome for further study before returning to Wilmington, where he then served as Vice Chancellor and then Chancellor of the diocese. The bishop's theological background includes an STB and STL in Systematic Theology, which he got from The Catholic University of America, and a JCL in Canon Law and an STD in Spiritual Theology from Rome's Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

In 2000 St. John Paul II gave him the title "Monsignor," and he was named Bishop of Allentown by Benedict XVI in 2009 by Cardinal Justin Rigali, who was Archbishop of Philadelphia at the time. As shepherd of the Allentown diocese, Bishop Barres launched a diocesan-wide society for lawyers, called the St. Thomas More Society, in an order to promote religious liberty. He also established a special program aspirant for young men considering the priesthood.

He was also instrumental in expanding the diocese's Hispanic ministry, given the fact that the Hispanic population is one of the fastest growing in the diocese. He is also known for his strong social media presence, particularly on Twitter and a video blog he launched for the diocese. Beyond his diocese, Bishop Barres has also served on the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, and since 2013 has held the role of Episcopal Liaison to the Pontifical Mission Societies.

A Note from Father Pat

I do not know Bishop Barres, but a friend of mine who was with him in the Wilmington Diocese thought very highly of him and told me he will be a great blessing to our diocese. He is now the shepherd of almost a 1.5 million Catholics in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. What a responsibility! His resume suggests that he has great experience with parishes and he was on the Bishops' committee for Evangelization and Catechesis; both are great needs of the Church in the United States. He is also very well educated in theology. I also like the fact that he was on the basketball team at Princeton University. I think we are blessed to have him as our Bishop. I ask you to keep him in your daily prayers. We also wish Bishop Murphy a great word of gratitude and our prayers for his years of service to the diocese.

Advent Prayer Service on Tuesday, December 20th at 7:30PM in church.

You are invited in the midst of the preparations for Christmas to take some quiet time and reflect on the wonder of our God who chose to take flesh and come among us.

Notes from the Music Ministry

*Please join the St. Martin of Tours Musicians and Choir
for a Pre-Midnight Mass Concert on Christmas Eve
at 11:00 P.M. in the Church.*

WE WILL BE PERFORMING SONGS, OLD AND NEW, THAT WE ARE SURE YOU WILL ENJOY INCLUDING O HOLY NIGHT, THE CHRISTMAS CANON AND TU SCENDI DALLE STELLE, THE ITALIAN CHRISTMAS SONG WRITTEN BY THE FOUNDER OF THE REDEMPTORISTS, ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE BEAUTIFUL MASS AT MIDNIGHT FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD. DON'T MISS THIS WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR.

WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR... FROM ALL OF US IN THE ST. MARTIN OF TOURS MUSIC MINISTRY.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

THE LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE PARISH OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS HAS ONCE AGAIN REACHED OUT TO THE MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES THAT DESPERATELY NEED HELP AND HOPE. BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, THESE YOUNG WOMEN WILL FIND A SAFE REFUGE, GUIDANCE AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR BABY. ONCE MORE, YOU HAVE HEARD THIS MESSAGE AND WITH INCREDIBLE DEVOTION, YOU HAVE FILLED OUR BABY BOTTLES TO THE SUM OF \$12,637.00.

EACH YEAR, BOTH JERRY AND I STAND BEFORE YOU AND TELL YOU THE MESSAGE OF THE LIFE CENTER. WE ARE A MAJORITY OF VOLUNTEERS THAT WORK WITH WOMEN THAT ARE ALONE AND AFRAID, EXPECTING A BABY THAT THEY MAY BE UNABLE TO CARE FOR. HERE IS WHERE THE LIFE CENTER STEPS IN TO GIVE THEM THAT HELP, THAT HOPE AND THE CARE THEY MAY NEED TO BRING THEIR BABY SAFELY INTO THIS WORLD.

THIS CHRISTMAS FEEL A LITTLE BIT WARMER KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A YOUNG WOMAN AND HER CHILD. BECAUSE OF YOU, HER CHRISTMAS WILL BE FILLED WITH ALL OF THE THINGS SHE MAY NEED, SOMEONE TO LISTEN TO HER, AND MAKE HER CONFIDENT THAT HER LIFE WILL BE A LITTLE EASIER.



CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING. WE PLAN FOR PRESENTS FOR ONES WE LOVE, WE DROP A DONATION IN THE POOR BOX, WE GIVE CLOTHES AND TOYS FOR TOTS, AND WE CAN'T PASS THE SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEER RINGING THEIR BELL AT EACH STORE.

THERE ARE NEVER ENOUGH WORDS TO THANK YOU. TWELVE YEARS HAVE COME AND PASSED AND YOU REMAIN INCREDIBLY KIND AND GENEROUS.

SO, FROM THE LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND, TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU - THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU AND MAY YOU BE FILLED WITH THE JOYOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD, AS YOU ENJOY THE DAY, THE SEASON AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

THERE WILL BE A POSTER IN THE GATHERING PLACE THANKING YOU, ALONG WITH A NEW TOTAL. MORE BOTTLES HAVE COME IN!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR,
THE RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE
Diana and Jerry Mirando, Life Center volunteers



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although she was just a humble young woman from a small town, Mary's total "yes" to God was "the most important 'yes' of history" and overturned Adam and Eve's prideful "no," which unleashed sin into the world, Pope Francis said. "With generosity and trust like Mary, may each of us say this personal 'yes' to God today," Pope Francis prayed December 8 as he recited the Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Even when they do not say "no" to God, human beings can be experts in saying, "yes, but ..." to God, the pope said. "To avoid saying 'no' outright to God, we say, 'Sorry, but I can't,' 'Not today, but maybe tomorrow,' 'Tomorrow I will be better, tomorrow I will pray, I'll do good tomorrow,'" he said. But in responding that way, "we close the door to what is good and evil profits." Nevertheless, Pope Francis said, God keeps trying to reach out and save us. And through the "yes" of Mary, he became human, "exactly like us except for one thing, that 'no,' that sin. This is why he chose Mary, the only creature without sin, immaculate."

In the late afternoon, the pope made his traditional visit to a statue of Mary erected in the center of Rome, near the Spanish Steps, to celebrate the official church recognition that Mary was conceived without sin. Thousands of Romans and tourists crowded around the statue where people had been laying flowers all day. Pope Francis composed a prayer to Mary for the occasion and read it, standing under the statue's watchful eyes.

He offered special prayers for children who have been abandoned and are exposed to exploitation, for all families who give life and contribute to society, often in hidden ways, and especially for those who are underemployed or unemployed.

"We need your immaculate gaze," he told Mary, in order to "rediscover the ability to look at people and things with respect and recognition and without selfish interests and hypocrisy."

"We need your immaculate heart to love unconditionally, without any aim besides the good of the other, with simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and ploys," he said.

"We need your immaculate hands to caress with tenderness, to touch the flesh of Jesus in our brothers and sisters who are poor, sick, despised, to help up those who have fallen and steady those who waver."

"We need your immaculate feet to set out to meet those who cannot take the first step, to walk along the paths of those who are lost, to go and find those who are alone," he prayed.

LIVING WATERS CATHOLIC COUNSELING**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 for more information.

The Redemptorists ask your prayers for our seminarians as they discern their vocations as Redemptorist priests or brothers. Below is the list of all seminarians from the communities of Boston, The Bronx, Chicago, Houston and Toronto:

Augustus Riviere	Michael Vo	Ako Walker	Thien Hoang
Ivan Dzhur	Royce Thomas	Michael Cunningham	Ryan Holovlasky
Jesus Ruelas	Vincent Nguyen	Ken Stigner	Eumir Bautista
Greg Benjamin	Trung-Tin Huynh	Guy Mier	Mark McMullen
Angel Martinez	Brian Vaccaro	Tony Moreno	Hoang Thomg
Benchi Lindor	Song Yu	Romero Radix	Lam Tran
Garvey Blanc	Huyen T. Nguyen	Chung Tran	Toan Lai
Kevin McGraw	Huan T. Le	Vu Huy	Viet Nguyen
Kevin Zubel	Chung Cao Tran	Quy Duong	Damien Dinh
		Joaquin Garcia-Romanillos	

**GLUTEN, PEANUT & DAIRY FREE ALTAR BREAD**

Please see the sacristan before mass begins if you require altar breads that are free of gluten, peanuts and dairy. Let the sacristan know how many for consecration.

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

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.

*God is with us, and we are called to live in his presence
and take that joy out into the world.*

CONFESSIONS, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY, December 17

2:00-3:00PM & after the 7:00PM Mass

MONDAY, December 19

9:30-10:00AM; 3:00-4:30PM & 7:00-8:00PM

TUESDAY, December 20

9:30-10:00AM; 3:00-4:30PM & 7:00-8:00PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM - Church & Auditorium

4:30PM - Knights of Columbus

Fr. Hartigan Council Hall (Central Ave)

6:00PM - Children's Mass in Church

9:00PM - Life Teen Mass in Church

11:00PM - Pre-Midnight Mass Concert

12:00AM - Midnight Mass in Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM & 1:00PM

No 5:30PM Mass on Christmas Day

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, December 31 at 5PM & 7PM

SUNDAY, January 1, 2017

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30AM & 1PM

No 5:30PM Mass on January 1, 2017



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 19: Charismatic Prayer 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall (Monday)
- Dec 20: Advent Prayer Service 7:30PM Church
- Dec 24: Rectory Hours: 9AM - 12Noon
- **Dec 24: Pre-Midnight Mass Concert 11:00PM Church**
- Dec 26: Rectory Office Closed
- Dec 27: Charismatic Prayer 7:30PM Church (Tuesday)
- Dec 31: Rectory Hours: 9AM - 4PM
- Jan 2: Rectory Office Closed
- Jan 4: Charismatic Prayer 7:30PM Church (Wednesday)
- Jan 11: Alpha information session 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Jan 14: (repeated) Alpha session 10AM St. Alphonsus Hall

