

Masses For The Week

Monday - February 20 - Presidents Day

NO 6:30 MASS

9:00 Paul & Angelina Pantano, Katherine Janovitch and Richard Kluth, Sr.

Tuesday - February 21

6:30 Carmine Bassano

9:00 Kathleen Ronan

Wednesday - February 22

6:30 Antoinette & Arthur Chiampou

9:00 John J. Wolfe

Thursday - February 23

6:30 Mayra DiDomenico

9:00 Ann Gorman

Friday - February 24

6:30 Josephine Chimera

9:00 Robert & Wanda Evans

Saturday - February 25

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS

5:00 Louis Ruggiero, John & Gertrude O'Rourke

7:00 Madeline & Dominick Mellone

Sunday - February 26

7:00 The People of the Parish

8:30 J.P. Hederman

10:00 Jean & Frank Portelli

11:30 Vito J. Amarosa

1:00 Christopher Rochford

5:30 John R. Moore

Readings For The Week

Mon. Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29

Tues. Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37

Wed. 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Thurs. Sirach 5:1-8; Mark 9:41-50

Fri. Sirach 6:5-17; Mark 10:1-12

Sat. Sirach 17:1-15; Mark 10:13-16

Sun. *Isaiah 49:14-15* *Israel feels rejected and lost because of her sufferings. But Isaiah reminds Israel that, as a mother loves her infant, the Lord loves his people. He will not forget us in our time of trial.*

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 *We are administrators of the mysteries of Christ. As such, we should do everything in our power to prove worthy of this great trust. We should not be passing judgment on others, for this is the Lord's right. Rather, we should joyfully await his return, when all shall be brought into the light.*

Matthew 6:24-34 *No one can serve two masters. Therefore, we must choose either to live for the world or to live for Christ. We should not be concerned about what we are to eat or wear, for the Lord provides all these things to his people. Instead, we must seek first his kingdom.*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00

Regular 2/12/2017: \$14,064.17

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



In today's first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbors as themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus spells out how we are to do that - to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who strive to see the humanity in everyone, not by judging others, but rather by serving them.



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

Charismatic Prayer Group

We are like mosaic works of art. Think about how mosaics are made. Pieces of broken pottery, dishes and tiles are re-assembled into new and beautiful treasures. What some see as useless garbage, others see as priceless beauty. God takes our broken pieces and creates beautiful works of art. The more broken we are, the more pieces He has to work with.

Weather permitting, our next meeting is Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:30PM in the Church. Be a friend -- bring a friend. Call 516-993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

H.O.P. Club Winners

2/13/17	#448	Frances Segretario	\$25
2/14/17	#372	John & Denise Speelman	\$25
2/15/17	#37	Frances Ostermeier	\$25
2/16/17	#278	Margaret Franko	\$25
2/17/17	#535	Gerald & Terri Brace	\$50

No Wedding Banns



"Whatever you do for one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me."

This week, the Pantry is low on chili, beef stew, tuna fish, coffee, Jell-O, mixed fruit, applesauce, Rice-A-Roni, mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, paper towels, tissues, wipes.

PLEASE NO STRING BEANS OR PASTA UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF FEBRUARY.

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 February 19-25, 2017*

*In Loving Memory of
 Bernie Lavin*



*Sanctuary Candle
 Week of February 19-25, 2017*

*In Loving Memory of
 John J. Jauregui*

Rest in Peace

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

**Patricia Foley, Salvatore "Sam" Scollo
 Ergia Martina Sciabica, Robert Lorentson**

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, 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 Baciуска, Carol Ann Scudder, John Scudder Justine & Nicole Scudder, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall Catherine A. McCarthy, Paul Granberg, Charles Boyce, Elsa Ryan Sarah Messina, 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, 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 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 Omage-Bianchi, Andrew McCarthy, Alicia Manetta Frank LoPinto, Declan McCollough, Pat James Joseph Michael Hance, David Iovieno, Pasqua Giannuzzi, Robert Daniel Caroline McNeill, Michael McNeill, Anne Riegal, Louis Fielack Dorothy Eisenstadt, David Drohan, Martin Lee, Joe Zarou Maryann Miller, Ralph Caputo, Joan Morezzi Benita Mickens, Gilda Tornato, Michael Vigotty, Vinny Vanturini Kristen Smith, Pat Murphy, Tarabokija Family



Pastor's Letter

I love being pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish. I live in community with two excellent confreres, Fathers Ciya and Jim, work with a dedicated and talented staff, and a parish community that has 4,000 families. It is a joy to celebrate the Eucharist, preach the Gospel, celebrate baptisms, first communions, to teach children about Jesus, to officiate at weddings and anniversaries. To forgive sins in the name of Jesus, to anoint the sick with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to comfort the grieving with the message of Jesus' Resurrection both humbles and graces me. Yet, being pastor has its moments: a leak in the roof of the church, an undelivered supply of oil leaving a frozen church, balancing a budget, a broken pew, snow on a Sunday, being told there is no toilet paper in the restroom, trying to decipher federal and state employment policies. These are some moments that leave me ready to eat a box of *Twinkies*.

Last week, Deacon Tom Hennessy and I drove to St. Agnes Cathedral for the installation of Bishop John Barres as the fifth Bishop of Rockville Centre. The Mass of Installation was very inspiring to me. The principal installing prelates were Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of the New York Province and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America. Cardinal McCarrick also attended as well as numerous archbishops and bishops. Many of the priests of our diocese celebrated the liturgy along with visiting priests from other dioceses where the Bishop had been assigned including Allentown and Wilmington. Many of the deacons of the diocese attended. Clergy of other faith traditions attended along with some local civic officials. I could see in the front pews the family and friends of Bishop John beaming with joy and pride. There was a sense of joy in the congregation and I find the entire service very inspiring. I had a feeling, not easy to describe, that I belong to a community that has its roots in Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which continues with all its strengths and weaknesses, to proclaim the Gospel. Just as I have a deep feeling of love for my family, my Redemptorist Congregation, our parish family here at St. Martin's, I felt a love for our universal and local Catholic Church.

I could not help but think of the years of ministry of Bishop William Murphy who was well recognized and applauded by the congregation for his service. I have no doubt that much of the good he did for many on a personal and human level will only be known in eternity. I know he had moments that left some upset and disappointed. We are a human church and I believe he did his best to serve us faithfully.

God bless Bishop John Barres. I spoke about my joys and challenges as a pastor. Here are some facts about his responsibilities:

- Bishop John is now the pastor and chief shepherd of 1, 455,644 Catholics. There are 2,908,917 people living on Long Island so you can see that the Catholic population makes up about half of Nassau and Suffolk counties.
- The Roman Catholic Church on Long Island is comprised of 133 parishes (plus one campus parish) in 115 towns as well as the Diocesan corporation, housed at the Pastoral Center in Rockville Centre.
- The Diocese is blessed with 351 priests in active ministry: (208 incardinated, 89 externs, 54 religious), 980 religious women, 67 brothers and 292 permanent deacons are in ministry.

- The Diocese of Rockville Centre, with its parishes, schools and other Diocese-associated institutions is the second largest non-governmental employer on Long Island with approximately 19,800 lay employees.
- Last Year in our Diocese we had: 14,287 infant baptisms, 738 minor baptisms, 932 adult baptisms, 512 received into Full Communion, 15,312 First Holy Communions, 15,195 Confirmations, Marriages: 2,710 Catholic. 557 Interfaith and Catholic clergy and community provided consolation to families and loved ones of 9,880 deceased Catholics.
- 16,047 students in 47 Catholic elementary schools (14,691 students in 43 parish or regional schools and 1,356 students in 4 private schools).
- 11,470 students educated in 10 Catholic high schools (4,013 students in 3 diocesan and 2 parish schools and 7,465 students in 5 private schools) by over 1,800 dedicated educators inclusive of clergy, Brothers, Sisters and the laity. 99 percent of our Catholic high school graduates go on to college.
- One Catholic College – Molloy College with 4,400 undergraduate and graduate students.
- We are a Diocese with over 12,000 parish catechists educating approximately 102,353 elementary and high school students in religious education.
- Total number of students under Catholic instruction: 134,360.
- 12 Diocesan seminarians in formation.
- Hundreds of thousands are brought to a closer relationship with God through the work of the ministries of the office of new evangelization, including: Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry, Haitian-American Apostolate, Hispanic Ministry, the Diocesan Mission in the Dominican Republic, Renewal, Youth, Young Adult and Campus ministries, the Pontifical Mission Society and Catholic scouting groups.
- In 2015, Catholic Charities provided more than one million caring, face-to-face services to more than 60,000 people of every faith and background.
- Catholic Health Services of Long Island (CHSLI) comprises six hospitals, three skilled nursing home facilities, a home nursing service, hospice network and a community-based agency serving individuals with special needs. It is staffed by approximately 17,000 employees, more than 4,600 medical staff and 3,000 volunteers.
- Through the ongoing efforts of pastoral staff and volunteers, we prepare engaged couples for marriage and parents for the baptism of their children. We work for the inclusion of persons with special needs in faith formation and parish life. Parish and diocesan programs provide ongoing formation in the faith for our adult members.

- More than 3,431 interments were performed in 3 Diocesan and 20 parish cemeteries. 68 parishes offer bereavement support groups and programs for the bereaved (37 in Nassau County, 31 in Suffolk County).

Here at St. Martin's we have a beautiful Church, St. Martin's school building, the Saint Mother Teresa Outreach Centre, St. Alphonsus Hall, and the parish rectory. There are five buildings and our parking lots. Multiply that by 133 parishes and we get a sense of how many buildings and properties are in the diocese. That is a lot of roofs to worry about.

Of course, Bishop Barres does not have to do all this ministry by himself. He has three excellent auxiliary Bishops, a staff of experienced clergy and lay professionals, and consultants who will assist him. Still, as President Truman wisely said, *the buck stops with him*. Bishop John will be asked to address some of the pressing political and social issues that affect society at large: immigration immediately comes to mind along with universal health care, along with many other issues facing us today. He will seek to protect life and promote both evangelization and religious education. His plate is full. My first impressions of our Bishop John Barres, as I saw him preside at the liturgy and preach the Gospel were very positive. At every Mass celebrated, during the Eucharistic prayer, we pray by name for the Pope and the Bishop of the Diocese.


Prayer For Bishop John Barres

Heavenly Father, in these trying times when the spirit of the age threatens Christian values, give our Bishop, John Barres, holiness of life and wisdom to direct and guide our diocesan family so that we may grow in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Father Patrick Woods, CSsR

Email: woodscsr@aol.com Website: www.smtbethpage.org

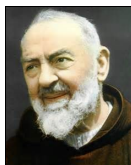
Upcoming Events:
 **2/19: NO LIFE NIGHT...Happy Presidents Day!**

Upcoming Events:
 **3/2: Edge Night 7-8:30PM**

To see our full schedule, please visit SMTBethpage.org! For questions about Youth Ministry at SMT or to inquire about joining the team, please contact Patricia Draghi at SMT_Lifeteen@yahoo.com.

SAINT PADRE PIO HOLY HOUR

Tuesday, February 21st at 7PM in the Eucharistic Chapel. His first and second class relics will be venerated. All are welcome!



The Parish Men's Club will be meeting on Thursday, February 23rd at 7:30 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall. The Men's Club meets to pray together and to discuss our Catholic faith. All men 18 and over are welcome.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

DOCTORS WHO OBJECT TO ABORTION NEED MORE LEGAL PROTECTIONS BISHOPS SAY

Washington D.C., February 13, 2017: CNA/EWTN NEWS: Objectors to abortion need stronger conscience protections in federal law, the U.S. Bishops have said in a letter to Congress supporting a bill being considered by Congress. *"While existing federal laws already protect conscientious objection to abortion in theory, this protection has not proved effective in practice"* the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said. They said the proposed **CONSCIENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2017** is essential to protect health care providers' fundamental rights and ensure that they are not FORCED BY GOVERNMENT TO HELP DESTROY INNOCENT UNBORN CHILDREN.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, chair of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop William Lori, who chairs the U.S. Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom, backed the legislation in a February 8th letter to Congress. They said the bill would benefit the GREAT MAJORITY of OBSTETRICIANS and GYNECOLOGISTS who are UNWILLING TO PERFORM ABORTIONS. They said Catholic and other religious health care providers are ESPECIALLY AT RISK of coercive policies related to abortion. The Bishops also invoked medical ethics traditions such as the HIPPOCRATIC OATH, which rejected abortion and, in their words, helped define medicine as AN ETHICAL VOCATION DEDICATED TO LIFE AND WELL BEING OF ONE'S PATIENTS.

The CONSCIENCE PROTECTION BILL is sponsored by U.S. Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) and Reps. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.). Lankford said the legislation *"will ensure that health providers have the ability to defend their religious or moral beliefs without fear of discrimination."* *"This bill is needed to give health care providers the right to provide medical care without violating their deeply held beliefs,"* the senator said February 3rd. *"Americans have very different views about abortion,, but we should not force anyone to o participate in it or provide coverage."*

The U.S. Bishops said the bill will *"address the deficiencies that block effective enforcement of existing laws and would establish a private right of civil action that would allow VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION TO DEFEND THEIR OWN RIGHTS IN COURT."* They said mandating involvement in abortion would undermine health care providers' civil rights and limit health care access for everyone. Backers of the bill said organizations that are compelled by state laws to provide abortion coverage at present only have one line of recourse: filing a complaint with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights. *"The CONSCIENCE PROTECTION ACT of 2017 would provide another remedy for those coerced into performing coverage for abortions in health plans,"* backers of the bill said.

OREGON BILL COULD ALLOW MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS TO BE STARVED EWTN/CNA: NEWS

Portland Ore., February 13, 2017. An Oregon bill on advanced medical directive rules could allow patients who suffer from dementia or mental illness to be starved or dehydrated, opponents warned. *"These are patients who are awake, can chew and want to eat, even though in some cases they may need help in delivering food to their mouths,"* Gayle Atteberry of Oregon Right to Life said, January 31st. *"Current safeguards in Oregon's law protect these patients from this type of cruelty. This bill takes away these safeguards."* The LEGISLATION S.B. 494, would create an appointed committee empowered to make changes to the advance medical directive governing END OF LIFE DECISIONS. If the bill passes, it could allow a court to interpret a request on an advance directive to refuse tube feeding to also mean you don't want to receive spoon feeding. *"This is not tube feeding or an IV - this is basic, non-medical care for conscious patients."* It charged that the process *"could easily result in further erosion of patient rights."*

(excerpts from EWTN/CNA News, (for more on this article: www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/an-oregon-bill-could-allow-mentally-ill-patients-to-be-starved.com).



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



We have been in the process of organizing a small parish library consisting of spiritual books in the backroom of St. Alphonsus Hall. There are videos and tapes available. It is my hope that a group can meet and watch a video or listen to a CD that might enhance their spirituality. Also, I would hope that people could take a book or video home with them to watch and then return.

I am looking for a person or two who might help organize the books we have. (I am not looking for the Dewey Decimal System), but a simple way of categorizing them by theme or topic, such as the Scriptures, the saints, children's books and so on. The library would be open on Sundays, and work on an honor system of people writing their name and phone number on a card when they borrow a book. I will not be hiring Mr. Bookman from the Seinfeld show to collect money on overdue books. You would not have to be there very often since I hope the lending library would work on a self-service basis. After it is organized, I would just need someone to check each week for an hour or so to make sure it is not getting disorganized.

PLEASE NOTE: I am not looking for more books since I know many people have books that they do not know what do with, because we would not have the space for them.

This is a volunteer ministry with no immediate salary but great benefits in eternal life! Please email me if you might consider taking this project on. (woodscsr@aol.com)



VIRTUS TRAINING

St. Martin of Tours will host Virtus Training on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7PM in St. Alphonsus Hall**. Training is mandatory for anyone who volunteers or works for a parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. **To register**, please go on line to www.virtus.org or through the Diocese website at drvc.org and click Virtus on their home page. If you are not able to register, please call the rectory office at 931-0818 for assistance.

CHILD ID PROGRAM

Sunday, February 19, 2017

**Before and After the 10AM Family Mass
In the Gathering Area of the Church**

New York Life Insurance Company is offering FREE of charge an opportunity to ID your child in case of an emergency. In 3 to 5 minutes, a Child ID card is printed for each parent or guardian and features a child's photo, fingerprints, contact information, and other pertinent data needed by the police. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. No child's information or pictures are electronically retained. All data is automatically erased upon printing the Child ID.

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.

**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ROSARY CONFRATERNITY
TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH AT 7:30 P.M.
HEART HEALTH AWARENESS**

Dr. Salvatore Trazzera will speak about **HEART HEALTH**. He will discuss exercise, non-invasive cardiac imaging and cardiac CT. Included will be specific information regarding symptoms of heart attacks in men and women.

Ms. Elizabeth Schwind, representing St. Joseph's Hospital, will distribute informational handouts on the subject and on St. Joseph's most up-to-date services and equipment.

HOLY HOUR

There will be a holy hour before
the Blessed Sacrament at 3PM
on Tuesday, February 28th.

Jesus said, "Come and watch with me."

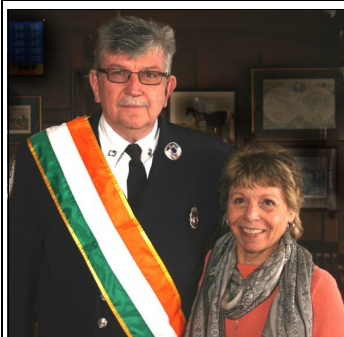
I am happy to inform you that our parish will be implementing Alpha this April. Alpha is a ten week program that invites people to a meal, a video, and a discussion about making sense out of our lives by coming to know or is seeking to deepen his or her relationship with Jesus. The approach of Alpha is to be welcoming to anyone who is searching for meaning in life. I am hoping that many of

our parishioners will consider eventually attending an Alpha program (we hope to put on more than one a year if possible). It is a great opportunity for us to open our hearts to the Lord. A key goal of our commitment to bring Alpha to the parish is that it can be a tool to reach out to those who may have left their faith, who are confused about what it means to believe, or are searching for a path to guide them in life. I think we all know people whom we love who may benefit from Alpha.

This is a commitment on the part of our parish since we will be preparing and serving ten meals to our guests (whoever chooses to attend) cleaning up after the meal, welcoming those attending, and being a host at one of the tables to be part of the discussion. I hope that this can be a parish project. I was so moved by how many parishioners worked together and shared so generously to make our Capital Campaign, *Paving the Way for Christ*, so amazingly successful. This is now our next step: to help each of us know and love Jesus who so loves us.

We are looking for parishioners who want in some way who wish to help in this ministry whose only goal is to help people know Jesus. We will be opening the program up soon for those who wish to attend the first Alpha and I welcome anyone to contact me who wishes to help spread the Gospel of Jesus through Alpha. Father Pat

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)



**Bethpage St. Patrick's Parade 2017 Grand Marshal
Captain Thomas McKeon - Bethpage Fire Department**

Tom and his wife Nancy, parishioners of St. Martin of Tours, have lived in Bethpage for thirty-six years. They have two daughters and now are the very proud grandparents of a little girl. Tom is a decorated member of the New York City Department of Corrections. He is retired but continues to be active in the Department's Emerald Society.

Mark your calendars

26th Annual Bethpage St. Patrick's Parade - Sunday, March 5, 2017

Beginning with the 1:00 PM Mass - at St. Martin of Tours
St. Patrick's Parade to follow through Downtown Bethpage
Reception after the parade in the school.

Father Pat's homily from Sunday, February 12, 2017

My great niece, Fiona, is a sixth grader who takes her studies very seriously. The other day, I met my sister who had just picked up her two grandchildren, Sean and Fiona from school for an early supper since I had some business to do in Brooklyn. After a while, Fiona was getting nervous and said that she had lots of homework and needed to get home. I told her that a half hour with me would give her more learning than four hours of homework. She gave me her standard response when I say something silly to her. *Uncle Pat, you are supposed to be priest.* I always respond with a standard response: *I **am** a priest!*

I must confess that I get annoyed when I read the papers and see a story about someone who has committed a crime. Certainly, the crime is very wrong but what also bothers me is that they will often add that the accused went to Catholic school, was a former altar server, or was involved in their parish church. Maybe I am bit paranoid, but it seems such details are only given in the mention of Catholics.

Years ago, I was at a Mass that the late Cardinal O'Connor celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He spoke about the abuse crisis that was so much in the news. I remember that he said something like this: *It is good that the people are very angry and upset when they see their clergy do dark deeds. We should be held to the highest standards of morality and integrity.*

Two weeks ago at Mass, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. His preaching was about how to live a life of joy and peace here on earth and one that would lead us to be with him in eternal life. *Blessed at those who are peacemakers, merciful, compassionate, and pure in heart.* In today's Gospel, our Lord fleshes out and give us details on how his disciples are to live. When you hear these norms of behavior, we can see that Jesus sets a very high bar for the living out of the Gospel. Our Lord is not calling us to mediocrity but to a most challenging way of living.

Much of the religious leadership at the time of Jesus focused heavily on rules and laws. Some of these laws were very important for the protection of the community and to prevent evil and sin. Yet, many others were very minimalistic and exaggerated norms that one observed quite externally but had almost nothing to do with a living relationship with God. There were countless laws about what could be eaten and how the food should be prepared, detailed obligations about what could and could not be done on the Sabbath, and of host of other detailed regulations about what it meant to observe the Jewish law.

Jesus tells the people he has not come to overthrow God's laws, but to help us to understand their meaning so they lead us to the kingdom of God.

He tells us: *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to hell.* Violence of any kind begins with anger in the human heart. The heart and mind are the places of hatred and resentment and in need of transformation by the grace of God.

Our Lord goes onto say: *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* We would all agree that adultery is an act that causes destruction to relationships and families. Such acts do not just happen. Many little decisions, that one may deem harmless, set the stage for such betrayals. Our Lord is addressing our hearts to be pure in spirit.

Divorce was a much debated issue at the time of Jesus. One school of rabbis was very strict about allowing a divorce and taught that one had to have the most serious reasons for such a decision. Another school of rabbinical thinkers said you could leave your wife for such trivial matters such as your wife being a bad cook. Jesus strongly affirms the sacredness of marriage. Ending a marriage is never a casual decision. Yet, Jesus speaks constantly about mercy and forgiveness. Our Church does recognize there are relationships that never should have led to marriage, and that there are times when the love in a relationship has died and staying together may not be healthy for either party. Our Church struggles today to find how best to protect the sacredness of the marriage vows, while at the same time, pastoring those who, for whatever reasons, were unable to continue living the vows.

In my life, I had to take several oaths made to God. Most of the times that I took these oaths, it was presented to me by the Church because of some office I was going to hold. Today we hear: *Do not swear by your head - Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one.* Jesus is telling us that in the kingdom of God oaths should not be needed. Your yes should mean yes, and no mean no. You and I sign contracts and documents all the time. Jesus is not condemning oaths but calling us to be people of truth who do not need an oath to tell the truth.

Jesus sets a high bar for Christian living. It is hard for me to get through a day, sometimes even an hour, without some anger, resentment or bad thoughts. Key to understanding the message of Jesus is that we will all fall short. The just person fails seven times a day. Our struggle to live the Gospel leads us to the clear knowledge that only by the grace of God, and not by the strength of my own character, can I be faithful. God is a God of mercy and forgiveness. As we received Jesus in Holy Communion, we know that this is bread of life that strengthen us in living out the Gospel.



**Mark your calendar for our
Annual Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 29, 2017 from 6PM - 8PM
Emmaus Hall located in the school**

It's time to think about making soup for this annual Lenten event! To make soup or to volunteer, please call Pat Ricci at (516) 796-1320. Any leftover soup will be brought to the homebound and the sick. This is the gift of our faith reaching out to others during this sacrificial season!

The Most Reverend Bishop John O. Barres, the 5th Bishop of Rockville Centre, respectfully requests your presence at a special Mass to be celebrated at St. James Church, Seaford on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 12:10 PM.

Bishop Barres would like to take this opportunity to begin to meet the priests, deacons, parish staff members and parishioners of the Churches in Deanery 5 of which St. Martin of Tours belongs.

Final Report on Paving the Way for Christ Capital Campaign

It seems like a very long time ago that I nervously stood at the pulpit as a relatively new pastor and asked to raise a million and a half dollars to address some serious needs of the parish. That was more than three years ago! Your overwhelming support in terms of volunteering, generously pledging donations and in prayerfully encouraging me and one another was amazing. I quickly came to realize that I was blessed to be pastor of parishioners who so loved their parish and wanted to provide for its future.

So it is with grateful thanks that I submit the final report on *Paving the Way for Christ Capital Campaign* which officially ended December 31, 2016.

HERE ARE SOME FACTS:

884 parishioners pledged:	\$1,778,617.00
To date we have received:	\$1,716,070.00 – 96.48% of funds pledged
Amount spent:	\$1,232,887.00
We have on hand:	\$ 474,478.00

SOME COMMENTS:

The Donors

As always, the parishioners of St. Martins are very generous, with some still completing their pledges. Even though a few parishioners were not able to complete their pledges due to various reasons, I am nevertheless humbled by their intentions and prayers. Whether you were able to donate or not, the spirit of the parish, which was always strong, increased even more. We were ALL involved.

Project Company and Completed Jobs

The Lynch Development Firm was key to a smooth beginning and completion.

We have completed three major projects:

- Paving of the parking lot, the restored brick work for the school, and a new roof on the school.
- Since our parish values our concern for those in need, we renovated the Parish Outreach Center (the Blessed Mother Teresa Center) to better serve those in need.
- The idea of a gymnasium proved far costlier than expected and, after considerable discussion, it was decided that it would not be the best stewardship of our donated funds. However, to reach out to young families, we did put in a new playground that has been well-received.

Three key projects remaining are:

- a ramp for the parish cafeteria (Emmaus Hall). This will allow those who cannot navigate steps to attend events in the cafeteria.
- New exterior doors for the Church are needed. We have been told the present doors, which have become increasingly problematic, are beyond repair.
- Finally, the exterior of the church needs to be painted (with a kind of plaster) since it is beginning to show some cracks.

We do have the funds to accomplish these projects. However, getting them done is a slow process since we must get bids, meet with our building committee, await approval from the Diocese, and then begin the work. I would hope these projects will be completed by the end of 2017.

At the beginning of the Paving the Way for Christ, a promise was made to recognize the donors. Some have suggested that this is not necessary, but I am committed to honor this promise. A wall of recognition will be placed near the outdoor statue of the Blessed Mother. We have gathered the names (while recognizing that some parishioners have chosen not to have their name on the wall or to simply be list anonymously).

The final list will be submitted to the designers on March 1st, 2017. So, if you have not given your name in recognition or in memory of a loved one, please do so before March 1st. You can contact the rectory office at 931-0818. If you were not able to make a donation to the campaign, and would like to now, you are welcome to contact me at woodscsr@aol.com.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

I want to offer a special word of thanks to some parishioners who were very helpful to what has been accomplished in the Paving the Way for Christ Capital Campaign. Kate Mayerhofer and Marty Meaney were excellent co-chairs of the campaign. John McCarthy, who chaired both the building and financial committees, along with all the members of these councils, provided excellent counsel and guidance. T.J. Hance, our head of maintenance, was hands-on with all the construction work.

Barbara Amoroso did outstanding work as the parish liaison officer to the Lynch Development Firm. As always, Genny Mitchell, the office administrator was a key figure in meeting many details of the campaign. I also offer a special word of thanks to Frank and Linda Sehn and Carmela Biggin who spent countless hours recording details and information that was needed for the smooth flow of the campaign. Thanks also to Susan Oliver, our new finance manager, who handled the 5 remaining months of the campaign. Thank you to them and to anyone who I may have accidentally overlooked.

Each and every member of the parish should be very proud of what you have accomplished during the Paving the Way for Christ. The work that has been done, and the work that will be done, are and will help people to continue to experience God's love here at St. Martin's as they have for more than ninety years. This campaign was not about bricks and mortar but rather was a true sign of our faith in the Lord Jesus. I know well that many of you made great sacrifices of your time, your treasure, and your talent for your love of God and this parish community. Thank you so very much.

In Jesus the Redeemer, Father Patrick Woods, CSSR

A Prayer for the Nation on Presidents' Day



Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Thomas Jefferson, March 4, 1801

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 20: Presidents Day - Rectory Closed
- Feb 20: NO 6:30AM Mass. 9AM Only.
- Feb 21: VIRTUS Training 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 21: Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Feb 26 Coffee Sunday after the 8:30, 10 & 11:30 Masses St. Alphonsus Hall
- Feb 28: Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament 3PM Church
- Mar 1: Ash Wednesday **Masses** 6:30, 9AM & 7PM. **Services Only** at 12Noon & 4PM
- Mar 3: First Friday Devotions 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Mar 4: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Mar 5: St. Patrick's Mass 1:00PM Church. Parade and reception in Emmaus Hall to follow.
- Mar 11/12: Introduction Weekend for SMT's Mission Week by Father Charles Coury, CSSR
- Mar 13-16: MISSION WEEK with Father Charles Coury, CSSR
- Mar 14: Christian Mothers 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall with guest speaker from St. Joseph Hospital
- Mar 19: Pre-Cana Closing at 11:30AM Mass
- Mar 21: Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Mar 26: Coffee Sunday after the 8:30, 10 & 11:30 Masses St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 29: SOUP SUPPER 6PM-8PM Emmaus Hall (Cafeteria)
- Apr 2: Mass for Special Needs Children, their friends and families 3PM Church

