

Masses For The Week

Monday - March 27

6:30 Jean Russo & Thomas Cortese
 9:00 Fred & Josephine Rella

Tuesday - March 28

6:30 Catherine & Silvio Sita
 9:00 Rosa DellaRosa & Maryann Nephthalie-Suarez

Wednesday - March 29

6:30 Carmine Bassano, 2nd Anniversary
 9:00 Margaret, Emil & Walter Schweiger

Thursday - March 30

6:30 Wally Mitchell, 75th Birthday Remembrance
 9:00 Richard Godek

Friday - March 31

6:30 Michael Hance
 9:00 Deacon Jim & Anthony Biggin

Saturday - April 1

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Charles & Angelina Maxwell
 7:00 Joseph & Kathleen Doherty

Sunday - April 2

7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Carmela Gandolfo
 10:00 Deacon Jim Biggin, Birthday Remembrance
 11:30 Rudy Casal
 1:00 Rosemary M. O'Keefe
 5:30 Kristine Benasutti & Robert Gallo

Readings For The Week

Mon. Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
 Tues. Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
 Wed. Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
 Thurs. Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
 Fri. Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Sat. Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
Sun. *Ezekiel 37:12-14* *The Lord God told the people that soon the graves of the dead would open and they would rise. "I will put my spirit in you that you may live...says the Lord."*

Romans 8:8-11 "Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him." God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will raise also those in whom the Spirit dwells.

John 11:1-45 Lazarus died, and Jesus raised him from death. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17,500.00
Regular 3/19/2017: \$16,614.34

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, seeking to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like - the man born blind or the Pharisees?

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who are ready to respond whenever and wherever Jesus speaks and allow Him to change their lives.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Give glory to God! We say it in the Gloria at the beginning and end. Jesus, the Son of God, glorified God. He called Lazarus from the dead, not for His own glory, but for His Father's glory. How can we NOT give glory to God? What you do everyday can be for His glory. Even the smallest act of kindness, if done with love, is pleasing to God. Whatever you do for the glory of God will be glorious in His eyes.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 27th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Be a friend -- bring a friend. 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

3/20/17	#540 Dolores Volkommer	\$25
3/21/17	#14 Jim & Nancy Waters	\$25
3/22/17	#277 Anne Weingarten	\$25
3/23/17	#518 Ann Meehan	\$25
3/24/17	#424 Grace Mancz	\$50

Wedding Banns
 3rd Eric Wider & Megan Asher
 2nd Vincenzo DiPrima &
 Jennifer Torchetti

Social Ministry

"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 pancake mix, egg noodles, dry lentils, brownie mix, sugar, ketchup, canned potatoes, tomato paste, evaporated milk, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry soap, diapers size 6, wipes. PLEASE, NO STRING BEANS OR PASTA UNTIL JUNE.

Thank you for your generosity to those less fortunate. God bless you!

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 March 26 - April 1, 2017

In Loving Memory of
 Thomas P. Keegan

Sanctuary Candle
 Week of March 26 - April 1, 2017

In Loving Memory of
 William & Erma Eichenlaub

Rest in Peace
Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
 Maria Lopes

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, Baby Scarlett, May Duffey, Tommy Johnson Anna M. Bosco, 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 Messina, William Boyce Joann Sescila, Albert La Rocca, Michael Arato, Elizabeth Ryan Tom Doty, Lynn Calo, Christine Chiarappa, Connie Burgess Dolores Miller, Susan Carroll-Goyan, Carol Episcopio Samantha McNeil, Patty & Tom Turano, Layla Barr, Nicholas Amato Jesusa Aquino, Joseph McCroary, Nadine Lewin Wall Richard Graziano, Jean Mulligan, Geraldine Zeterberg Edward Boyce, Ann Adams, Fran Gandolfo, Sheila Newmann Fr. Edmund Faliskie CSSR, Chris Mitchell, Terrence Lynam, Taylor Joseph Kostyak, 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, Daniel McCullough, Mary Lafauci Gerry Russo, Allegra LaFalce, Jessica Czarnecki, Bill Monahan Maureen Roberts, Francis Meehan, Trish Berge, Kathleen Palumbo Brendan Donahoe, Janet Scarpelli, Helen Uhl, Andrew McCarthy Alicia Manetta, Frank LoPinto, Baby Lucia Bianchi, Uncle Ed Declan McCollough, Pat James Joseph, David Iovieno Pasqua Giannuzzi, Robert Daniel, Caroline McNeill, Michael McNeill Kurt Hamilton, Dorothy Eisenstadt, David Drohan, Martin Lee Ralph Caputo, Kristen Smith, Michael Vigotty, Vinny Vanturini Pat Murphy, Tarabokija Family, Philip Marino, Henry Hamilton Libia & Maria Teresa Valdez, Nancy Gerace, Robert Harris Glenn Clentes, Jim Moran, Robert Collelouri, Arthur Baudo

Pastor's Letter

*Jesus answered and said to her,
"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
The woman said to him,
"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.*



Last summer, I experienced thirst like I never had before. I always liked to drink diet sodas, juices and water but now I felt like I was a camel preparing to go for a long journey across the desert. I was in search of great water bottles that could hold two quarts of water which I would quickly drink and then refill. My thirst never was satisfied. Now, I did come to know that drinking such prodigious amounts of water led me to the exact location of every restroom within 50 miles of Bethpage. After two months or so of this thirst addiction, I went to the doctor and found out that I had diabetes. At first I was very discouraged about this diagnosis, but over time, with a great change in my diet and some medication, I am doing very well, and my bloods tests are very good. I have stopped asking every gas attendant in Long Island for the keys to their rest rooms.

I learned that my intense thirst was telling me something very important and I needed to pay attention to it. For me, thirst was a powerful teacher and may well have helped me from really damaging my health. I am sure you learned in biology class that more than half our bodies are made up of water. You can live a few minutes without air, though we don't recommend trying. In a harsh environment — it's snowing, say — you have several hours to survive without shelter. After 3 days, you need water or you'll perish. You can make 3 weeks without food, though we promise you that it won't be fun. I am not sure how long one can live without chocolate or pizza, but I am beginning to learn that.

I remember when my mother was in her last years, there were a few times that my sister and I brought Mom to the emergency room because she was acting in very disorientated ways. The first time this happened, we were afraid that she had a stroke which was also the initial diagnosis of the doctors. However, it turned out that she had a tendency to get dehydrated. The hospital staff would give Mom an IV and she would soon be back to normal. Occasionally, as this happened again, the doctors would immediately want to test her for a stroke, and my family would ask for IV and that would solve the issue. Water is essential to our lives. Water is such a basic of life. Every diet and nutritionist suggest that we drink about eight glasses of water a day for good health. I am not sure if beer counts or not.

I have lived in Bethpage for almost six years, and there is concern in the town about the water. There is no problem with our tap water, but there is concern that the water table well below the surface may have possibly been polluted by the Grumman Corporation. Recently, in the parking lot adjacent to the Church, the government did some drilling, and the parishioners teased me that I was drilling for oil. But we know that clean water is not a laughing matter, and very often the poor in third world countries suffer greatly from a lack of good water.

Today, in our Gospel, a Samaritan woman does what people have done since the beginning of time, and still do in many parts of the world. Like all human beings, she needed water to live. But she goes to the well at a very odd time of the day, at noontime in the heat of the day. It was the custom of the women, as the men were home having their coffee and reading Long Island Newsday or watching ESPN, to go as a group in the early morning, before the heat of the day, to draw their water in as many buckets as they could carry. We can almost hear them talking about the local news and perhaps, a few complaining about their husbands.

But this unnamed woman is at the well alone in the heat of the day, and probably cups the first drawn water into her own hands to allay her thirst before she makes the lonely trip back to the village with her heavy buckets. A stranger approaches her and asks for a drink. I am sure most of us have had the experience of a stranger asking us for money in New York. Although I am a Catholic priest, like all Christians, called to see Jesus in the face of the poor, my first instantaneous reactions are to walk away, be annoyed or afraid of the person. However, very often, either my faith or my Irish guilt take hold and I give the person a dollar. As a sidebar, Pope Francis in a recent interview said that we should give something to every person who asks. The interviewer inquired, *what if they are going to spend the money on wine?* The Pope said, *So what! Let them have a little joy in their lives!* I love the Pope but if I give to every stranger in New York who asks me for money, I will soon need to ask others for money!

This woman is clearly annoyed with the stranger. She quickly sizes him up as trouble. Most likely, in her experience, strange men have caused her nothing but problems. Even worse, he is a Jew and Jews hate Samaritans whom they consider religious traitors deserving of utter contempt. Also in the Mid-Eastern culture (as is true in some of the Mid-Eastern countries even today) a woman is not to ever be seen in public with a man who is not a blood relative. They could be severely punished for such behavior. His desire for a drink is fraught with danger for her. She believes this encounter is not going to go well for her.

She tries sarcasm: *"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink? — for Jews have nothing in common with Samaritans!"* But the stranger is persistent in his thirst. He answered and said to her, *"If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'" Again, she resorts to cynicism: "You don't have a bucket! What are you talking about!* Again, he speaks to her in a way that no man has ever spoken to her. His words about living water are captivating. *Imagine, she thinks to herself, never being thirsty again!* The stranger has her attention. *Sir, notice now the term of respect she has, I want that water. I can see you are a holy man.* Now, the man gets personal with her, and asks where is your husband? At first glance this is a devastating question; it cuts her to the core of her being, but he has asked not as an accuser but in a gentle trusting way. She speaks softly, *I have no husband.* He nods with compassion: *that is true, you have had five husbands and the one you are with now is not your husband.*

Now, we know why she is alone at noon and not with the other women before the heat of the day. Women generally do not like women with five husbands. After a lifetime of pain, ridicule, rejection, and heartache, this man has spoken to her in way that no other human being ever has. The woman says to him, *"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything."* Jesus said to her, *"I am he, the one who is speaking with you."* Human thirst had made a bond between the Son of God and a sinner and she experiences the love and mercy of God. She is no longer a promiscuous woman but a child of God embraced in compassion by the love and mercy of God's Son.

She is so transformed by this encounter with the Living God at the well that she rushes to town, the town where she is publicly ridiculed, to announce the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She went to a well for water and found the Living God. We are good people seeking to follow Jesus. We have times of great joy and happiness in our lives, but we do have our struggles at times. Loved ones have died and we miss them terribly. For some, our marriages may have ended in divorce and others feel a distance where there was once a deep bond. Our children and grandchildren, good kids, but many of them have left the faith we worked so hard to give them. The daily news with stories of anger, accusations, protests, name calling, threats of terrorism makes us wonder about the future. None of us can escape worry about our health, our finances, and what is to come. I have been going to Church and being a Catholic all my life but I sometimes long to meet Jesus in a way that this unnamed Samaritan woman met him 2,000 years ago on a hot afternoon at a well.

Whether we know it or not, we are thirsty for God, and, God is thirsty for us. On the cross on Good Friday, Jesus says, *I thirst*. Our Lord certainly thirsts from a lack of water and the loss of blood, but there is a far deeper meaning to his thirst: he thirsts for us his people, that we know him and his love. There are so many wells in our lives where God is waiting to give us his living waters. They are here in our churches, in the Scriptures, the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, in our relationships, our joys and sorrows, and in our prayers. Jesus is thirsty for us to know his love. Our thirst is only satisfied by the living water of Jesus.

Father Pat Woods, CSSR
woodscsr@aol.com [website: smtbethpage.org](http://smtbethpage.org)



There will be a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, March 28th at 3:00 p.m.** You are invited to come and be with Jesus in a very special way before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Martin's Men, formerly the Men's Club, will be meeting on March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall.

The Movie Of Gods and Men will be shown on **Friday March 31 at 7PM in St. Alphonsus Hall.** Rated PG 13 (2 hours and 3 minutes)

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who purchased a book or DVD for the Lenten book sale that was held last weekend after most of the Masses. The first book to sell out quickly on Saturday evening was *The Mass* by Dr. Edward Sri. This book was used for The Mass Study series that Father Pat and I presented to the parish participants recently. The study was highly regarded and ended with an awesome Mass led by Father Pat that was very moving to us all. God bless you for your generosity to SMT! - Rita Verow

And a great thanks to Rita for her generous ministry of making these excellent resources available for us to buy. - Father Pat

So that they may see both spiritually and physically!



In this week's Gospel, the man born blind sees for the first time. Jesus cures him, a lowly beggar, with mud. Those around doubt the man's explanation and doubt the power and compassion of Jesus Christ. They are blind to the Lord even though they see. They are blind spiritually. In this world, there are many who, while not blind, are unable to fully see. Many of these are not spiritually blind but physically, their sight prevents them from reading or seeing distance or light causes them poor vision. Our prayers for them help them spiritually but we can use that Spirit driving us to pray by actually doing something about it.

Many of us have old prescriptive glasses for reading or distance or reading glasses bought from drug stores. Many of us have old prescriptive sunglasses that we no longer use. Perhaps you know of others in your families or among your friends who have old glasses. **The RCIA ministry is conducting a collection of gently used eyeglasses which will be shipped to *Eye Make A Difference*, a VSP global organization helping people to have a better outlook on their lives.** *There will be boxes set up in Church for you to place any gently used glasses that you might have (with or without cases). Think about it! We are such a gifted and generous parish and you can help even further by helping someone, somewhere to see.*

These boxes will remain from Saturday, March 25, through Thursday, March 30, 2017.

Catholic Relief Services Collection – March 26, 2017

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

EAGLE SCOUT FUNDRAISER

Eagle Scout James Mossman will be hosting an Italian night dinner to raise funds for religious education and give them a new conference room as well as a new parish resource center. **The dinner will be on Sunday, March 26th from 4:00 - 8:00PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. Adults \$12/Seniors and Children \$7.**



Want to learn more about what's going on at St. Martin's during Lent? Stay up-to-date with Lenten Devotions, Alpha, etc. Download our new free Parish App: Instructions in this link:

<http://mobile.koc5033.com/st.-martin-s-parish-app.shtml>

Lenten Pancake Breakfast Sunday, March 26, 2017

9:30 - 11:30AM in St. Alphonsus Hall

The Hartigan Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast which will also include eggs, sausage and baked goods! All Parishioners are invited. Free will offering.



NO Life Night on 3/26/17. The Life Teen Retreat March 24 to March 26.

Upcoming Life Teen Events: 4/2 Life Night & 4/9 Life Night 6:45-8:30PM in the OLPH Youth Center. All high school teens welcome!



Upcoming Edge Events: 7:00 - 8:30PM in the OLPH Youth Center

3/30: Game Night & 4/13 All Middle Schoolers welcome!

SMT PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS - SAVE THE DATE: This year our Youth Ministry is planning an **AUCTION AND TRIVIA NIGHT** on Friday, April 28th at 7PM in the school cafeteria. Trivia Games are open to **teams of 5 people** with an entry fee of \$20 per team. If you choose to be on a team, give your team a name (ex. "The Golden Girls" or "Men at Work"). Prior to the event, teams should pre pay by dropping off \$20 to the rectory. Please write what your team is called and list the 5 people who belong to it. The night of the event, give your name & team name to the person checking you in. Single players can pay \$5 at the door. No need to pre-pay.

WE ARE ALSO ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE AUCTION SUCH AS NEW ITEMS, GIFT CARDS OR CERTIFICATES, LIQUOR OR BOTTLES OF WINE.



Holy Thursday, April 13th at 7:30PM, St. Martin of Tours celebrates the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At some point after the Gospel is read, the priest or deacon will call forth those who have volunteered to have their feet washed.

If you are interested in having your feet washed, please notify Pat Ricci at 516-796-1320 as soon as possible.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS REV. MICHAEL J. HARTIGAN COUNCIL 5033

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

- When: Sunday, April 9, 2017 from 9:30AM to 12 Noon
- Where: K of C Council, 517 Central Avenue, Bethpage
- Cost: \$10 per person. Free for children under 3 years old.
- Contact: Joe Interrante, DGK at 516 378-0733
- Menu: pancakes, eggs, sausage, muffins, bagels, juices, coffee, tea



Following breakfast we will have fun activities for the children to enjoy - crafts, egg coloring, face painting and an egg hunt! Plus a visit with the Easter Bunny!! Don't miss this sell-out event.



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

U.S. BISHOPS PUSH FOR UNIVERSAL PRO-LIFE HEALTH CARE: CNA/EWTN News/Washington D.C., Mar 20, 2017

"The bill drafted to replace the AFFORDABLE CARE ACT has good pro-life measures but still presents "grave challenges" that must be remedied," said one leading bishop in a recent statement. "Laudably, the AHCA AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT proposes to include critical life protections for the most vulnerable among us," Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, chair of the Bishops' Domestic Justice and Human Development committee stated. However, there are also "some very troubling features" in the new law, like restrictions on health care's access for those most in need," Bishop Dewane continued. The American Health Care Act, currently under consideration in Congress and set for a floor vote soon, would be the biggest overhaul of health care policy since the Affordable Care Act passed under President Obama. It would keep in place certain provisions, like insurers not being able to deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions, but would also phase out the expansion of Medicaid coverage from the old law and could substantially reduce Medicaid coverage. Pro-life groups have in general been pleased with the language in the bill, particularly its STRIPPING FEDERAL FUNDING OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD for one year and its protections against TAXPAYER FUNDING OF ABORTION COVERAGE IN HEALTH PLANS. Pro-life groups are also concerned that the Senate Parliamentarian could remove the language from the bill because, as it is to be passed through the budgetary procedure of reconciliation, such pro-life language could be interpreted as not pertaining to the budget. However, there are areas of problematic provisions within the bill, Bishop Dewane insisted. For instance, it lacks conscience protections that were also lacking under the Affordable Care Act. These could PROTECT DOCTORS, HOSPITALS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS against mandates under the old law that they perform certain procedures like abortions or gender-transition surgeries. Also, such a provision could protect employers, especially religious non-profits, against rules like the health care law's contraceptive mandate that they PROVIDE BIRTH CONTROL, STERILIZATIONS, AND DRUGS THAT CAN CAUSE ABORTIONS. Also, THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR and other religious non-profits sued over the process of how they had to notify the government of their objection to the contraceptive mandate, saying it still forced them to cooperate with the provision of contraceptive coverage against their religious beliefs. The AFC provided federal subsidies for low-income persons to buy health insurance, while in the new bill tax credits would be provided. This new system, though, could reduce the benefits for the ELDERLY and LOW-INCOME persons and appears to create increased barriers to affordability," Bishop Dewane said. The ACA's individual mandate - a penalty for not purchasing health insurance - would be replaced with a 30% fine on a person's new premium if there has been a long enough gap in their health coverage. Also in the proposed law are higher comparative limits that the ELDERLY can pay in premiums when compared to younger enrollees. Under the ACA, those limits were 3 to 1, whereas under the proposed law the elderly could pay as much as 5 times the premiums as younger enrollees. "Some studies show that premiums for older people on fixed incomes would rise, at times dramatically," the bishop said. "In attempting to improve the deficiencies of the Affordable Care Act ACA, health care policy ought not create other unacceptable problems, particularly for those who struggle on the margins of our society," he said. "As Pope Francis has said, "Health, indeed, is not a consumer good, but a universal right which means that access to healthcare services cannot be a privilege."

ALPHA REGISTRATION FORM

Registration deadline April 6, 2017

St. Martin of Tours - April 20-June 29 at 7PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. To participate in the upcoming ALPHA program, please complete this form and return it by email, regular mail or drop off at St. Martin of Tours Rectory, 40 Seaman Ave., Bethpage NY 11714. You will receive notification confirming you as a participant.

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email

To return the registration form or for more information alphasmot@gmail.com or call 516 931-0818

Reflections on our Recent Parish Mission with Father Charles Coury CSSR

I am most grateful to God for the wonderful days we shared with Father Charles as he proclaimed the Word of God to us in such a powerful and loving way. It was a delight for me to share these days with him since we first met in high school, about fifty years ago. We shared many memories over our meals and visits. His preaching touched me very much, but even more powerful for me was the evident Spirit of God that so shines through him. I can testify that Father Charles was like that as a teenager. I am also grateful to all of you who were able to attend the mission, in spite of some harsh weather. I also know that many of you would come to the mission if you were able to get out at night or did not have other pressing commitments. I believe all the parishioners, whether you were able to attend or not, share in the grace of this week of mission. You were generous with your donations and we collected \$3,611.00 in our offerings which was mailed to Father Charles with our thanks. At the closing of the mission, I asked parishioners to email me what they were carrying in their hearts and souls from this mission. Thanks to those who wrote the following beautiful testimonies. - Father Pat

- *We are so blessed to have Father Charles conduct our Lenten Mission this year. I find the second talk/presentation very helpful. He not only defined and explained the 7 evil tendencies but he left us with antidotes to aid us in the "longest journey" we have to make, which is the journey from our head to our heart. The next day, I found myself more conscious of my evil tendencies, but I tried to resist with his suggested antidotes.*

7 evil tendencies and antidotes: (I hope i got them right!)

Pride - Humility

Envy - Learn to Admire: be grateful with what you are and what you have

Anger - Forgiveness

Greed - Be generous

Sloth - Find your joy; Pray; Eucharist; Corporal works of mercy; Spiritual works of mercy

Gluttony- Make sacrifices: Give something up

Lust - Chastity

- *What made the biggest impression on my heart and mind was Fr. Charles talk on Mary the first night. He made her all the more special by many of the statements he said such as: Mary has been called the burning bush because she was on fire with the love of God. Also that she conceived Jesus in her heart, before she conceived Him in her womb. And that she carried Him in her womb with love beyond all telling! How beautiful. And that Jesus gave to us His relationship with His Mother as He dies--to take Mary into our own home/heart--our heart which is most personal and intimate. Finally, in holding the Rosary in my hands, I am holding Mary's hands--as Jesus did in the icon of OLPH.*
- *What stays with me are the expectant eyes of a simple Jewish girl who grew to become Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Those eyes, never tiring and forever hopeful, are there in that blessed painting made so long ago by someone we can never know in this life. And her right hand, so welcoming to the tiny hands of the scared, sacred Boy, our Lord. She looks at us, not at him, and asks, "Will you join my Son's hands? I'm waiting for you. Will you? There is room in these hands for all. Will you grasp them? Will you? And when." And I said in my heart, "I will, and now, Mother." And peace flowed through me like a river. She prays for us always, now and at the hour of our death.*
- *Father Charles continually reached me in his gift of preaching with food for thought. Speaking about Mary as a young Mother, raising Jesus as a Child. The many ways to pray even when we just hold our rosary or to gaze up at the Cross in our Church of Resurrected Jesus - 1 on 1 time - no words needed. I particularly felt overwhelmed the last day when Mass was celebrated and we had the Anointing with Oil. I felt the Power of Holy Spirit so strong among all of us in our church.*

- *This might be a strange twist to your answer but I am someone who couldn't make it and the talks still touched my life. I was at the Sunday mass when Father gave a very long talk about the four part mission and found it very enlightening. I told my wife I was looking forward to perhaps making some of the evenings but since I'm a human and filled with excuses, some good some a little lazy I couldn't make it. Since I'm a custodian in a New York City public school and had to remove the snow to open the schools I was pretty well washed up by the third night after working 18-hour days. That's my human excuses but here is the enlightening part. I talked about it to a partner here at work and we discussed the Gospel every day that I missed it and told him I really wanted to try and make it but some great discussions came out of it. My curiosity made me download the parish app to see if it was going to be cancelled that night of the snow and now I have and like the app and I'm communicating with you through it. So doors were still opened even though I didn't make it. Thank you*
- *Father Woods, thank you for a wonderful mission. Thanks to Father Coury I have a new understanding of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He explained it so beautifully that I will now see it through new eyes.*
- *Fr. Charles started off the morning homily by having us reflect on our own moments of despair -- times when we questioned how are we going to ever get out of a situation? He explained that despair was a sign of the evil one's hold on us. Fr. Charles continued explaining that by Jesus' death on the cross, Jesus conquered evil. It was through the power of the resurrection that "All things work out for the good for those who love God." There is no sin greater than God's love, so we have to search out and believe in Jesus. Fr. Charles gave the example of how St. Paul had prayed to God to be rid of his weakness, but God responded that he would not remove the weakness. When one admits his weakness, he can no longer rely on his own human strengths. It is only then that the power of God becomes revealed in us, thereby making us strong through Him. Fr. Charles suggested that we had to admit that we are weak, acknowledge that we need God, and then rely on Him, because if the love of God is greater than the worst sin, "All things work out for the good for those who love God."*
- *My family and I had a great experience this week. Some of the "stand out" phrases, "the Blessed Mother is reaching out to you; take hold of her hand and she will not let go" ... "Prayer isn't just words. A gesture, a thought, a gaze are prayers" ... "In your weaknesses is the power and glory of God"*
- *The thought that stayed with me the most: the journey from the brain to the heart is the most difficult. That's exactly where I'm at right now. I've devoted the last couple of years to learning about the history of Jesus and Catholicism, studying on my own and taking advantage of the classes at St. Martin's. Living through Jesus and feeling this faith has been a more challenging transition because I allow fear and discouragement to get the best of me at times. Keep moving forward, right?*
- *I have been renewed and uplifted. Fr. Coury's experiences have really inspired me. I shared these inspirations with my family and friends.*
- *I would like to thank you for allowing me to experience the great blessing I felt during this Mission Week. My husband, mother-in-law & I attended all three evenings. it was a shame the snow interfered with one night) Thank you Fr. Charles for bringing us closer to the Blessed Mother, the Cross & my loved ones who we miss dearly. We were lucky to have Fr. Charles say mass on Friday March 17th in memory of our dads. I felt a spiritual connection with the words of Fr. Charles. What a beautiful way to pray and spend our time during the Lenten Season. Thank you Fr. Charles for coming and sharing your knowledge with our parish. It was a pleasure meeting you.*
- *Amazing Mission. The Holy Spirit was evident and the topic of seven capital sins resonated with me. Thank you Father for the excellent mission.*

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
 CPT 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 Battiata, USAF
 LT Daniel Cloonan, USCG
 PVT Daniel Kuhlmann, US Army
 LCPL Jonathan M. Gordon, USMC
 2LT Sean O'Donnell, USAF

SGT Matthew C. Windisch, USMC
 E3 CORPSMAN Robert Fidnarick, US Navy
 1LT Brian Thorpe, US Navy
 PO3 Joshua Zimmerman, US Navy
 MAJ Brendan McEvoy, US Army
 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

**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ROSARY CONFRATERNITY
 Spring Fling - Tuesday, April 18, 2017 @ 7:30PM**

Spring Fling tickets are now on sale. Invite a friend (or more) and enjoy an evening of Bingo and raffles. Admission (including one set of games) and refreshments is \$3.00.

Call Mary Colavolpe at 495-4408, Janet Dion at 433-9340 or Margo Pigott at 796-5053 and your tickets will be delivered to you.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

April 28 - 30, 2017

**Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
 440 W. Neck Road, Huntington NY 11743**

**Space is limited. For more info or to apply, call 1-877-697-9963 or visit the web site
<http://www.wwme.org>**

I have decided to put my funeral homily, delivered here at our Church on March 18th, for P. O. Michael Hance into our parish bulletin. I rarely put funeral homilies into the bulletin since I believe the funeral Mass of every person at St. Martin's is a very sacred celebration. Every death is significant, particularly to family and friends of the deceased. I chose to put this homily in the bulletin not only to honor Michael but in recognition and tribute to all the dedicated police officers who serve us and all the people of our nation with so much generosity and professionalism. I also pay tribute to all the first responders and other helpers who continue to bear illnesses and even suffer premature deaths for their compassionate service to the grieving people who had lost loved ones. Father Pat

Today we come to celebrate the life, death, and promise of eternal life for Michael Hance. His dear mother Barbara, a woman of strong faith, told me that she wanted us to truly celebrate the life of Michael, and as you know, it was and is a life well-worth celebrating. Today, despite our sadness, we thank God for the 44 years that Michael had on earth, and we trust that our Lord Jesus Christ has welcomed him into the kingdom of God.

We know that it goes against the grain of nature for a mother to bury a son. But as I sat with Barbara, it was so very clear to me that she was a woman who had the deepest bond of love for her dear son Michael, along with a humble pride for what he did with his life, yet she had a serenity and peace about her that could only come from knowing that her dear son is now at peace in the loving arms of our God. Kaitlyn and Jenna, Michael's precious children and his greatest joy in life, I know you miss your dear Daddy very much and always will. But I believe he will never stop loving you from heaven and remember that you both carry him inside yourselves and he is never far from you. I offer my deepest sympathy to Michael's sisters, Donna and Laura, and his brother Peter, and their spouses, Joe, Al and Sara. May your treasured memories of Michael console your broken hearts. To his beloved nieces and nephews, Krysten, Vinny, Nicholas, Frankie, Hailey, AJ, Peyton, to all his Aunts and Uncles and relatives and friends, our parish and community offers you our condolences. Finally, to his fellow brothers and sisters in the New York Police Department, we know your presence here is a sign of your love for Michael and his family.

Michael was a New York City Police Officer for 17 years and he loved this work. I am not even sure it is correct to call it a work since I think it was far more of a calling for Michael than a job. I believe that to be true for most police officers. He was a very decorated officer. One of his commanding officers said that he went above and beyond to help others. Many police officers wear a medal of St. Michael the Archangel, who is the patron of police officers. Michael had the blessing of bearing the name of this great protector of those in need. Police Officer Michael Hance was honored by the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for saving an infant who was choking on toy. Michael saved the life of a child.



Yesterday's *New York Daily News* had an article about Michael that touched our entire city. I quote, *the heterosexual Hance uplifted the city's spirits two years ago, when a cell phone video showed him dancing on duty and in uniform at the Manhattan Gay Pride Parade.* Almost 8 million people saw this man in a video. It was a powerful message that we are all brothers and sisters to one another, whatever our sexual preference, our nationality, color or religion. As a Catholic priest, I must confess that I do not know a great deal about twerking. The *Twerk Cop* actions, as the paper nicknamed him, that day showed a man whose heart was open to all people and who lived life with a sense of joy. Thousands upon thousands of compassionate and kind deeds of our police officers often go unnoticed and unappreciated by the rest of us. But I believe Michael showed us that day why we call our police *New York's Finest*.

Michael left us far too soon suffering from a brain cancer that spread throughout his body. He was another victim of the terror attacks of September 11th. Michael worked more than 160 hours in the sacred work of trying to recover victims from Ground Zero to bring some comfort to their grieving families. This dedicated love he had for the victims of this attack caused the loss of his own life.

But as much as Michael love being in NYPD, he had a far greater love and mission in life. His greatest love and desire was to be with and care for his two precious daughters. Kaitlyn and Jenna. His children were everything to him, and it was from loving them that he drew his greatest joy. As his brother, Peter told me, *he was a great father in every way possible, loving them was his world.* Michael was famous for a dance at a parade, but I wish we had a video of him feeding the ducks at Wantagh with his two beautiful daughters. Those were his most treasured moments in his life. With St. Patrick's Day just passing, I must make mention that while much of Michael's heritage is German in background, he took his greatest ethnic pride in having Irish blood. What a wise man and a sure ticket into heaven if St. Patrick is at the door! (I say that as an Irishman!)

One of the most famous statues in the world is that of Michelangelo's *Pieta* which is in the great Basilica of St. Peters in Rome. As you know, the great artist captures in marble the moment the broken body of Jesus was placed in the arms of his mother Mary. Today, we see another mother, Barbara, say goodbye for now to her precious son. The wonderful man that Michael is certainly a beautiful reflection on his mother and how well he was raised. We can only imagine her sorrow. She told me that Michael and she often ate together since he was in the apartment above her. She said that he was an even better cook than she is. Barbara, you carried Michael into the world and now you give him back to the God who gave him life. You will see him again.

The first reading today at Mass captures Michael life and death perfectly: *The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years.* Michael was a just man who lived his short life most honorably. We read in our second reading today: *Beloved, we are God's children now.* We celebrate that in life Michael was a child of God and now he is home forever with the Father. For our Gospel, I chose words from Jesus that spoke to me about Michael: *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.* Jesus is speaking about himself. On the cross, Jesus laid down his life for Michael and for every one of us. In his love for his family especially his daughters and mother, in his work as a police officer, and especially in risking the dangers of Ground Zero to help and console others, Michael laid down his life for others. Now he has entered eternal life. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another.

Here is part of a prayer to the patron of Police Officers, St. Michael the Archangel: *And when we lay down our night sticks, enroll us in your heavenly force, where we will be as proud to guard the throne of God as we have been to guard the city of all the people. Amen.*

**WELCOME TO MORNING PRAYER
THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS**



During the weekdays of Lent, Monday through Friday, we will be saying the Morning Prayer of the Church at 8:30AM (before the 9:00AM Mass). All are welcome!

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**

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NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE 1-800-4-Child
or 1 800-422-4453**

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

**St. Martin of Tours celebrates
Autism Awareness
and Acceptance Month!!!**

**Please join us for a Mass dedicated
to the individuals,
families and friends of people with
Autism/Special Needs.**

**Sunday, April 2nd at 3pm
St. Martin of Tours Church**



**PARISH ASSEMBLY
Saturday, April 1, 2017**

**9AM Mass following by meeting from 10-12 Noon
Topic: "I am so discouraged - my adult children or
grandchildren do no go to Mass. What can I do?"**

**Anyone 13 and older is invited.
Location to be determined.
Light breakfast will be served.**

Flyers will be given out this weekend for your response.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 26: Hartigan Council Lenten Pancake Breakfast 9:30-11:30AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 26: Eagle Scouts Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 4-8PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 28: Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament 3PM Church
- Mar 28: The Martin's Men 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 31: Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church
- Mar 31: Movie Night: Of Gods and Men 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Apr 1: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Apr 1: Parish Assembly: 9AM Mass following by meeting from 10:00AM - Noon
- Apr 2: Mass for Special Needs Children, their friends and families 3PM Church
- Apr 7: First Friday Devotions 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Apr 7: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall ("Around the Table")
- Apr 7: Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church
- Apr 14: Stations of the Cross 10AM Bethpage State Park Picnic Area
- Apr 14: If you prefer, Stations of the Cross 10AM Church
- Apr 21: SMT Regular Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall ("A Man Called Ove")
- Apr 28: Youth Ministry Trivia Game Night and Auction 7PM School Cafeteria

