

**Masses For The Week**

**Monday - December 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest**

6:30 Edward Rasmussen  
9:00 Robert McCabe

**Tuesday - December 4**

6:30 Kathleen Wilson  
9:00 Charles "Chip" Harvey

**Wed. - December 5**

6:30 Margaret, Emil & Walter Schweiger  
9:00 Stanley Lomot, Nick & Ustina Drobig

**Thursday - December 6 - St. Nicholas, Bishop**

6:30 Lena Prendergast  
9:00 Maureen Walters, 2nd Anniversary

**Friday - December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor**

6:30 Rev. Walter Kedjierski, LIVING  
9:00 Gerald Meehan  
7PM Katherine & Michael Healy

**Saturday - December 8 - Immaculate Conception**

6:30 Mary Mullaly  
9:00 George & Doris Held  
12 Noon Lazzati & Tesoriero Family

**Saturday - December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent**

5:00 Delia & John Connaughton & Bernie Lavin  
7:00 Speelman & Pedro Family

**Sunday - December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent**

7:00 The People of the Parish  
8:30 The Donahoe Family  
10:00 Padraig & Eamon Fitzgerald  
11:30 In Memory of the Szmytkowski & Zoitke Family  
1:00 Marie Kruckel, Anniversary  
5:30 Bridget Ridge

**Readings For The Week**

Mon. Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11  
Tues. Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24  
Wed. Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37  
Thurs. Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
Fri. Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31  
Sat. Gen. 3:9-15, 20; Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38  
**Sun. Baruch 5:1-9** *Jerusalem, look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One.*

**Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11** *St. Paul prays that our love may increase ever more in knowledge and to discern what is truly of value that you may be pure for the day of Christ.*

**Luke 3:1-6** *John the Baptizer went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*



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

**Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift**

**Weekly Budgeted: \$17,500.00**  
**11/18 Collection: \$17,623.18**  
**11/25 Collection: \$16,360.18**

**Thanksgiving: \$1,068.00**  
**(Split between Food Pantry & St. Vincent)**

**Reflection and Living Stewardship**

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who embrace stewardship by recognizing God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and all they are.



*Charismatic Prayer Group*

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

**"Let every heart prepare Him room."**

We get our rooms ready for guests. We decorate our houses. Since Jesus lives in our hearts, we should do all we can to prepare a special place for Him. It shouldn't need much, just a little tidying up!!

**Our next meeting is Monday, December 3rd at 7:30 pm in St. Alphonsus Hall. Come give praise and glory to God. It's a very good way to prepare your heart. All are welcome. Call 516-993-9672 for more information or prayer requests.**

**HOP Club Winners**

11/26/18 #566	Kathie Speelman	\$25
11/27/18 #31	M. Demairo	\$25
11/28/18 #369	R. & C. Miranda	\$25
11/29/18 #660	R. Chimenti	\$25
11/30/18 #48	Ida Ibosi	\$50

## Wedding Banns

3rd Christopher Simico & Lauren Quealy

1st James Priore & Christiane Laspina



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

**Thanks to your tremendous generosity for Thanksgiving, the Pantry needs nothing this week. Because of your help, we were able to serve all our clients for the holiday!**

### 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 December 2 - 8, 2018*

*In Loving Memory of  
Ann & Bill Csajko*

### *Sanctuary Candle*

*Week of December 2 - 8, 2018*

*In Loving Memory of  
Montana, Maggio & Crème Family*



**If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, this is the support group for you.** We plan to offer groups on **Thursday mornings from 10am to 11:30am** on **Dec 6, 13; Jan 3, 10 & 17.** **We will meet at 208 Broadway.**

Call Parish Outreach at 516-931-7332 and leave a message for Mary.

**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  
Matthew Messina, Pat Cannata, Christopher Gratton, Barbara Thompson  
Donald Castor, Dorothy Quinn, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov, Patricia Morrone  
Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil, Brendan Rodriguez, Rebecca Passaro  
Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna  
Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh, Louise Sandberg, Anthony Luisi  
Tommy Johnson, Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Florencio Carmenate  
Mary McCarthy, Karen Kilgard, Ann Marie Frayler, Nicholas Balducci  
Robert Kennan, Corey Voboril, Baby Scarlett, May Duffey  
Anna M. Bosco, Janet Medina, Kevin Henson, Marie Newman  
The Mascia Family, Daniel Costa, Hector Valentine, Theresa DuRoss  
Bob Baciaska Carol Ann Scudder, John Scudder  
Justine & Nicole Scudder, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall  
Catherine A. McCarthy, Paul Granberg, Elsa Ryan, Sarah Messina  
William Boyce, Jo Ann Anastos, Michael Arato, Connie Burgess  
Dolores Miller, Elizabeth Ryan, Layla Barr, Susan Carroll-Goyan  
Patty & Tom Turano, Nicholas Amato, Jesusa Aquin, Joseph McCroary  
Richard Graziano, Jean Mulligan, Taylor, Edward Boyce  
Geraldine Zeterberg, Fran Gandolfo, Fr. Edmund Faliskie CSSR  
Joseph & Joyce Kostyak, Johnny D., William Castle, Anthony Della Croce  
Nicole Carbone, Barbara Rusch, Connie Kane, Beverly Viselli, Casey  
Betty Mara, Teri Pigott, 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 Czarnicki, Bill Monahan, Maureen Roberts  
Francis Meehan, Brendan Donahoe, Janet Scarpelli, Andrew McCarthy  
Alicia Manetta, Baby Lucia Bianchi, Pat James, Joseph David Iovieno  
Robert Daniel, Dorothy Eisenstadt, David Drohan, Martin Lee  
Ralph Caputo, Kristen Smith, Michael Vigotty, Vinny Vanturini  
Tom Mitchell, Pat Murphy, Tarabokija Family, Philip Marino  
Henry Hamilton, Libia & Maria Teresa Valdez, Nancy Gerace  
Robert Collelouri, Arthur Baudo, Kathy Smith, Samantha McNeill  
Veronica McCarthy-Pigott, Janine, Mary Jedlicka, Pete Moran  
Brian John Roe III, Fr. Paul Wood, The Kloos Family, Patricia Olive  
John Bunker, Jacklyn Baddalucco, Yolanda Zitelli, Rose Marie Gaccione  
Filomena Rosa, Andrew Bartolozzi, Pat Bergersen,  
Robert, Amy & Richard Ferranti, Bill Veltri, Joseph V. Pace, Jr.  
Justin Turner, Christopher Hehn, Baby Remy, Jimmy Rizzo, Thomas Kelly  
Peggy Epstein, John Murphy, Al DeBatto, Adeline Norton  
Ann Marie Wezel, Jeanie Wilkins Ann Soehngen, Ed Segretto  
Fred Cameron, Elaine Caiazzo, Ryan Westbrook, Donna Strickland  
Anthony Clese, Valerie Haberly, The Family of Brendan Langhauser  
Helen Kurlowicz, Christine Marsiello, Michael M. Durante  
Sonny D'Ambrosio, Pasquale Patalano, Noelle Eichenlaub, Thomas Triola  
Keith Ferrara, Noelle Buchner, Margaret DeMarco  
Robert Amato, Yvonne McDonnell Denise Dolan, The Gallagher Family  
Henry Hamilton, Christian Bogdanos, Terry & John Bunker, Liam  
Margaret Young, John Lazzara, Rosemary Caiazzo, Virginia Gala  
Karen Murphy, Catherine Comiskey, Connie Sheehan, Richard Baker  
Dina Ledogard, Ed Russo, Petrina Dralas, Benito Picinic, Michael  
Joanne Gorman, Jean Vanturini, Diane Passaro

### *Rest in Peace*

**Guido Reverberi, Sonny Considine  
Julia Funfgeld**

## *The Pastor's Letter*

I had a very nice Thanksgiving Day. The Mass that we have at St. Martin's is beautiful, and I cannot think of a better way to begin my favorite holiday. Actually, it began with meeting a friend in the city to attend a preview of the new Broadway play *To Kill a Mockingbird* written by the late Harper Lee. This story is both one of my favorite all time books as well as is the movie version that starred Gregory Peck. The seats were very tight, even for someone way small as I am, and the show was well over two hours. It was well done, but I suppose I was a bit let down since it could not live up to my expectations from the book and movie, especially in the character of Atticus Finch, one of my all-time literary heroes. Jeff Daniels plays Atticus Finch and does a fine job, but he does not fit the Atticus of my expectations. Quite honestly, I do not think anyone could live up to my mental vision of Atticus.



You might be familiar with the story that a book was discovered in Harper Lee's effects called *Go Set a Watchman*. There was both much anticipation and excitement about this new book since so many people loved *To Kill a Mockingbird*. However, there was also considerable controversy surrounding this lost and found book. Some said that *Watchman* was really a rough first draft of the later book. Others were deeply disappointed that the Atticus character in *Watchman* was far from the noble person we see in the Finch of *Mockingbird*. Although a well-written book and worth reading, people were shocked to read that Lee had portrayed the character as a borderline racist who used some ugly names about African-Americans.

Our parish book club read *Go Set a Watchman*, and I think all our members were quite familiar with the story and characters of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I found our discussion of the book very helpful. After listening to the group and thinking about my own feelings, I came to the conclusion that this book was written through the eyes of a mature woman and not the young person who idolized her father, Atticus. However good our parents may have been, as we grow older we know that they had their own faults and struggles as do we. Other than Jesus and the Blessed Mother who was freed from original sin, we are all flawed and sinful people to varying degrees. Sometimes we set our ideals far higher for other people and it becomes very difficult to accept the failures of someone we once loved and admired.

Most of us have been blessed with good and loving parents, teachers and friends, but I know there are times that people have to make peace with their past. Sometimes, we can find it almost impossible to accept our failures and sins from younger years, and we also may apply even stricter standards to anyone who hurt us in the past. I remember as a young man I had an almost hero worship of John Kennedy. When I came to learn about some of his betrayals of his marriage vows, I was shocked and saddened. I began to see him very differently and turned against him for a time. Now I see him as a flawed figure who may have saved the world from disaster during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

I once had the ministry of working on Engaged Encounter, a weekend marriage preparation program conducted by a priest and two or three married couples. It is an excellent program that still continues and a wonderful way for a couple to prepare for marriage. I think the key message that we sought to give the couples was that there would come a time in the not too distant future when the honeymoon and romantic feelings would lessen. Then would come the time to truly love one another, not for who we *thought* they were but for who they truly *are* with all their strengths and weaknesses.

The couples were told that if they expected to *always* feel as passionate as they do now, they would be disappointed. But if they learned to commit and sustain love over hard and challenging times, they would have a love with a deep and profound intensity. I used to tell a joke about a husband who complained to his wife, *you are not the girl I married!* She responded, *I was never the girl you married!* How true!

Expectations are good, but they must be also tempered with realism. If we are looking for the perfect children, friends, careers, parish, we will not find them. Certainly, there are times when we have to step back from a person or situation that we judge is harmful to ourselves and others. I do like the old quote that the best can be the enemy of the good. The pattern of expectations and reality can even impact our spiritual lives. When I study about St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, it is clear that she experienced God and his grace in a most powerful way when she was younger. Such a period is called a "time of spiritual consolation." However, there was a lengthy period in her life when she experienced a deep and haunting time of spiritual desolation. Still, she persevered. The great St. Teresa of Avila wrote about such experiences of great consolation followed by darkness.

Some of us after a great retreat or mission, a powerful liturgy, a spiritual program or a pilgrimage, feel what we might call a "spiritual high." That is a true grace from God. But just as some people become addicted to falling in love, some people run from one religious program to another seeking yet another spiritual high. I am convinced that love is in the daily details of living and loving. We carry the DNA of hope in our hearts. We walk by faith and trust, slip and fall and trust in the amazing grace of God.

**Father Patrick Woods, CSsR, Pastor**  
[www.smtbethpage.org](http://www.smtbethpage.org)    [woodscsr@aol.com](mailto:woodscsr@aol.com)

Once again the Llorente Family and kind volunteers, served a complete dinner on Thanksgiving Day to anyone who would have otherwise been alone. Because of their generosity and spirit, those who came enjoyed not only turkey and trimmings, but good conversation and fellowship. Our parish is once again blessed by caring and giving hearts. - Father Pat



**Sincerest gratitude** from our St. Vincent de Paul Conference members and the many families who enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner because of so much generosity from the parishioners and the community. With the help of Parish Outreach, the Vincentians filled thirty-two boxes with fresh fruits and vegetables, canned goods, stuffing mix - complemented with a turkey and a choice of pies.

A very special thank you to **B.K. Sweeney's and staff** who prepared sixty turkey dinners. Pictured is Mary Vitti, Parish Outreach coordinator, who was able to give all 60 dinners to people who are homeless, without access to a kitchen or who are homebound. Our parish is blessed to be able to share our bounty with so many people in need. **Thank you!**

**St. Martin of Tours - St. Vincent de Paul Conference is searching for that very special person who speaks Spanish and would like to become a Vincentian.** We have a number of Spanish-speaking neighbors who approach the Vincentians for help, but communications are limited. Anyone interested, please call the Vincentians' mobile phone. 718-678-8854.

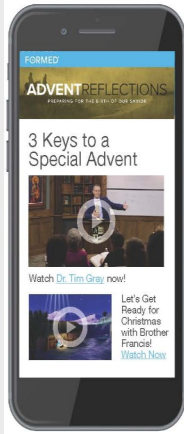


### Prepare for Christmas Like Never Before

How will you prepare for Christmas? Enrich your Advent with daily reflections for you and your kids sent directly to your inbox! Walk with Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal to ready your heart for the coming of Christ! Plus, add children's reflections to your daily email, and Herald Entertainment's beloved *Brother Francis* will help your kids get ready for Christmas with joyful songs and valuable lessons.

Haven't signed up for your FREE FORMED ACCOUNT?

Register at [smtbethpage.formed.org](http://smtbethpage.formed.org)



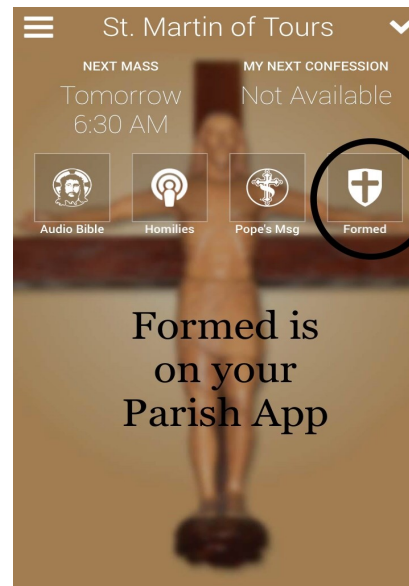
Sign up at [formed.org](http://formed.org) or with the FORMED app!



### St. Martin of Tours Giving Tree



Gift cards must be **returned by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>** to give us time to sort and deliver them to the families in our community. Please write the dollar amount on the gift card and deposit it in the rectory door mail slot. St. Vincent de Paul and SMT's Outreach are very grateful for your compassion and support of our neighbors!



### FORMED RECOMMENDATION PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING

Catholic theologian Dr. Scott Hahn reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

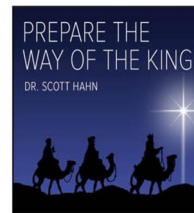
#### FORMED CHOICE: KIDS' KORNER

It's Christmas Eve in the year 722 in Germany. Kristoph is accompanying Boniface, a missionary priest on their way to the first Christmas the boy will celebrate outside the orphanage. They come across a group of men worshipping a sacred oak tree and are preparing to sacrifice the son of the village chieftain. This legend recalls how evergreen trees became part of the Christmas celebration. Using the *Discussion & Activities Guide* will help children explore their faith. "A Prayer of Blessing for a Christmas Tree" is downloadable and ideal for a family to use as they decorate their own tree.

### FORMED PICK

#### Prepare the Way of the King

By Dr. Scott Hahn

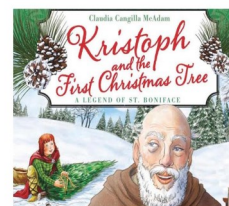


#### Ready Your Heart this Advent

Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord by learning about shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod.

[Listen on formed.org](http://formed.org)

### FORMED KIDS' KORNER



St. Boniface explains the origins of the first Christmas tree while reminding us to be beacons of hope, grace, and light.

Watch on: [smtbethpage.formed.org](http://smtbethpage.formed.org)

Dear Parents,

As we begin our second basketball clinic program in January 2019 in St. Martin of Tours Auditorium, there are certain things that must be clarified to each of you concerning the use of the auditorium. Please note that the clinic ages are now from 2 years and up, K, 1st & 2nd grades. I ask that you read and discuss the following rules with your child:

1. Please do not leave your child without checking in with the clinic staff. Be sure to pick up your child on time.
2. Please do not allow other children (siblings, friends, etc.) to remain in the auditorium unsupervised. Clinic staff cannot be responsible for them.
3. Remind your child:
  - No running in the hall of the school building.
  - No ball playing except in the auditorium.
  - No spitting water or playing at the water fountain or in the bathrooms.
  - Children must be reminded that they are representing themselves, you and St. Martin of Tours each time they participate. Good behavior is a must.

We expect each parent to go over these rules to ensure their child's good behavior. We ask for your full cooperation and look forward to a happy and fun program.

Sincerely,

Father Patrick Woods, CSSR, Pastor

**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS BASKETBALL CLINIC REGISTRATION - Deadline December 30, 2018**

Child's Information (please print):

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

M / F Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle Grade: 2 years + up Kindergarten First Second

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (please print)

As parent or guardian, I assume all the risks and hazards incidental or associated with such participation including all activities, contests and practices. I hereby waive, release and absolve indemnity and agree to hold harmless St. Martin of Tours Church, Bethpage NY 11714.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE LINE SCREENING****December 13, 2018 - St. Alphonsus Hall**

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$124 with the member discount). In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount you must call 1-877-380-1743 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle). You can also text the word **circle** to 797979.

**BASKETBALL CLINIC NEWS**

To the parents of boys and girls 2 years and up, Kindergarten, first and second graders. Please see page 7 of this bulletin for details to register your child for the SMT Basketball Clinic.

**Clinic starts: Sunday, January 6, 2019**

**Clinic ends: Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**We will meet following the 10AM Mass from 11AM- 12 Noon at SMT Auditorium**

**St. Martin of Tours  
BLOOD DRIVE**

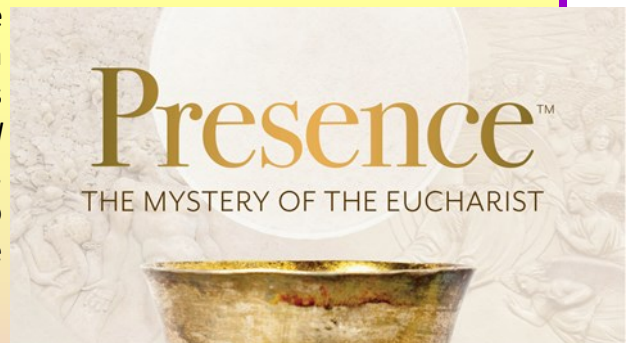
**Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 2:30 - 8:30PM  
38 Seaman Avenue, Bethpage -St. Alphonsus Hall**

**Questions on medical eligibility, call 1-800-688-0900**

**To make an appointment, please contact Genny Mitchell at 516-931-0818**

**WALK-INS WELCOME!!**

The Jewish meaning of *Bethlehem* is rooted in the words *House of Bread*. Jesus was placed in a manger, a place for food for the animals. Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life. Jesus became the *Word Made Flesh* when He was born over 2,000 years ago. Today, in His Divine Presence, He continues to come to us in the Eucharist at Mass and is present to us in the tabernacle of every Catholic Church in the world.



Advent may well be the busiest time of the year for many of us with all our Christmas preparations. It can be easy to lose our spiritual focus during this sacred time.

**Our Parish will have a three night Advent Retreat on the Gift of the Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament which will consist of a video, prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The service will be about an hour. Come to any one or all three of the following dates:**

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 10th - 12th at 7:30PM in the Church.**

*Be still and know that I am God.*

*Come to me all you who are burdened, and I will refresh you.*

**DRIVER EDUCATION  
DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE  
\$45.00 per person**

**Saturday, January 19, 2019  
8:30AM-3PM in St. Alphonsus Hall**

**Register with DRIVER EDUCATION at (631) 360-9720 Monday - Friday from 9AM - 4PM.**

**Minimum enrollment: 15 people  
Maximum enrollment: 40 people**

*The Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Friday, December 7th - Vigil Mass 7PM  
Saturday, December 8th  
6:30AM, 9AM and 12 NOON**

**(Please note: the 5PM & 7PM Masses on  
Saturday, December 8th celebrate the  
Second Sunday of Advent)**



**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.**



- MAJ Gregory Holownia, US Army
- MAJ Erika Holownia, US Army
- SGT Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
- PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army
- SGT Dennis Diesel, USMC
- SGT 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
- CPL 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
- A1C Jake DeRossi, USAF
- CPT Mike Polan, US Army
- L/CPL Daniel O'Shea, USMC

- 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
- 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
- LTC Michael F. Wendelken, USAF
- PVT John Marcel, Jr USMC
- LCPL Brendan M. White, USMC
- PFC Clint Applegate, US Army
- CPT Patrick C. Looney USAF
- SGT Ryan O'Keeffe, USMC

**NEW FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE**

**We will no longer have devotions at 7PM. Beginning December 7th, First Friday devotions will be at the 9AM mass as a communion meditation.**





All High School Teens are welcome and encouraged to attend the 5:30PM Mass on Sundays.

This Sunday we're planning a fun Life Night afterwards.

Diana Hughes & Liam Gordon, Youth Ministers & the Life Teen Core Team

SMT\_lifeteen@yahoo.com

**ONE DAY CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

The Youth Ministry will be selling Christmas trees at St. Martin's Church parking lot on Friday, December 7th from 4:00PM - 9:00PM only. All trees are \$35.00.



Our second meeting of Rachel Held Evan's book, *Inspired*, will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall.

**NEXT VIRTUS CLASS**

St. Martin of Tours, Bethpage

**Wednesday, December 26th at 7PM - St. Alphonsus Hall**

All those who wish to volunteer in any capacity in the Diocese of Rockville Centre must attend. To register online, go to [drvc.org](http://drvc.org), click on Virtus found on their home page and follow the directions.

Should you have a problem, please call our rectory office at 516-931-0818 and you will be directed to someone that can help.

**CALLING ALL ANGELS, KINGS AND SHEPHERDS**

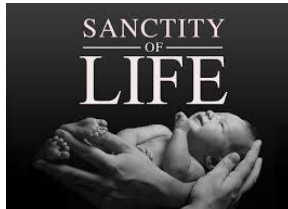
The Children's Christmas Pageant will be on Monday, December 24th at the 6:00PM Mass in the Church. Please fill the space below and submit it to the rectory by December 20th. The one and only practice for the pageant will be on Thursday, December 20th at 4PM in Church.

CHILD'S NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

AGE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PART REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE & DATE



## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

**A BEAUTIFUL LIFE:** *"Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."*

Matthew Joseph Thaddeus Stepanek was born on July 17, 1990. Matthew suffered from a rare and fatal form of Muscular Dystrophy. Three of his siblings died from the disorder before the age of four. The condition was unknown until his mother, Jeni, was diagnosed in 1992, after all four of the children were born. His mother considered abortion, but decided against it because of her Catholic faith. Mattie survived until three weeks before his 14th birthday, and in that brief lifespan became an international phenomenon, selling more than two million copies of his poetry collections and giving inspirational speeches to thousands. He started writing at the age of 3. At his funeral, former President Jimmy Carter gave the eulogy, declaring, *"My wife and I have known presidents and prime ministers, but the most extraordinary person whom I have ever known is Mattie Stepanek."*

Although he was once healthy enough to earn a first-degree black belt in martial arts, since 2000 he was confined to a wheelchair, a ventilator and many blood transfusions. Though doctors did not think he would survive his first day of life, he rallied, attended school through the 4th grade, climbed trees and ran. On an interview with Larry King, he was asked how he remained so hopeful. Mattie replied, "I get frustrated; I get sad. I have feelings too. What keeps me going, a big factor, is my mom who's been there for me. Another hope comes from prayer. I am very close to God, and I feel there is a heaven and you will move on. But we should use our time on earth. We should enjoy it while it lasts." Mattie's poetry showed his Catholic faith most eloquently. Consider "About Life" from his book, "CELEBRATE THROUGH HEARTSONGS." In his short life, the tireless child wrote 5 volumes of poetry, three of the volumes reached The New York Times BEST SELLER LIST. In June of 2010 a performance of HEARTSONGS took place at Carnegie Hall featuring his poetry set to music by composer Joseph Martin and performed by a 200 - voice combined children's choir and other members of the Concerts Singers International.

September 21, 2012, the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild was officially initiated. Its purpose is to gather information and investigate Mattie's life for the possible Cause of Canonization in the Catholic Church. EWTN'S THE WORLD OVER 2018 November 22nd: You Tube 7 watch Jeni Stepanek on Mattie Stepanek's Legacy. Raymond Arroyo interviewed Jeni Stepanek, who championed her son while also confined to a wheelchair on a permanent ventilator and battling cancer.

In his writings, speeches and interviews, this child has taught us how to live and how to die - to make every moment count. He has taught us to use our God-given talents to reach out and touch someone, and that Peace in the World is possible. We each have a message. Mattie sent it to us in all of his nearly 14 years.

Google "Mattie Stepanek" for his poetry and speeches.

### CHRISTIAN MOTHERS ROSARY CONFRATERNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY & RAFFLE NIGHT

*CMRC Christmas Celebration*

Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00PM

*St. Alphonsus Hall with a feast and raffle night!*

Please bring either an appetizer or dessert  
and a NEW \$10 wrapped gift.



### LIVING WATERS

### CATHOLIC COUNSELING

[www.livingwaterscounseling.biz](http://www.livingwaterscounseling.biz)  
Campus of St. Elizabeth's Church  
175 Wolf Hill Road, Melville 11747

Tel: 631-754-3990

Fax: 631-271-0914

**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**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Listen to God's voice by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 8-10, 2019 in Huntington, NY and Apr 26-28, 2019 in Huntington, NY.

For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 877-697-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmenyli.org/>.

**MOMMAS HOUSE**

**MOMMAS HOUSE** is a home for young women who are pregnant, homeless and alone. The young women are between 18 and 24 years old. While at MOMMAS, the young women will complete their education or vocational training. The babies are cared for by the staff and volunteers at MOMMAS House. For more information, call 516 781-8637 or go to the website: [www.mommashouse.org](http://www.mommashouse.org).

**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**

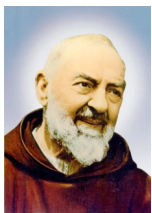
**(631) 858-0380 OPEN MON-SAT 10-6**

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.

**PARISH LIBRARY**

**Hours: Mondays after 12PM - 3PM; Tuesday - Saturday from 9:30AM until 3:00PM.**

Instead of using the Seaman Avenue entrance, please come to the rectory and ask for the key to the side door of St. Alphonsus Hall.

**Padre Pio Holy Hour**

There is no Padre Pio Holy Hour in December. The next date is January 15, 2019 at 7:30PM in the Eucharistic Chapel.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

**TUESDAYS 3-7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel**

Please check the [Upcoming Events](#) for any change to the hours.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP #604 CHRISTMAS BLANKET & WREATH SALE**

Boys Scout Troop 604, Bethpage, will be selling beautiful wreaths during the weekend of December 1 & 2 after all Masses or until sold out. Wreaths are \$20; Blankets \$25.



### *The Meaning of the Advent Wreath*



The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine

cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true God, becoming also true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to a sum of 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.



#### **DIVINE OFFICE - MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**

**Beginning December 3rd, the first Monday of Advent, to Monday, December 24th, we will say the Morning Prayer of the Church at 8:30AM in the Prayer Chapel. All are invited.**

***"From ancient times the Church has had the custom of celebrating each day the liturgy of the hours. In this way the Church fulfills the Lord's precept to pray without ceasing, at once offering its praise to God the Father and interceding for the salvation of the world."***

**SMT Golden Harvest Raffle Winners  
November 17, 2018**

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chapey Funeral Home      | Mary Ellen Welsh         |
| William Brady            | Geraldine Matulewich     |
| Cathy & Tom Fazio        | Roy and Ellen Keuling    |
| Margaret O'Mara          | Bob Frandolig            |
| Michelle Ferraro         | Dom & Laura Leigh Agnese |
| Joseph Giugliano         | Jim & Pat Belmonte       |
| Vinny and Fran Valenti   | Patricia Schimmoller     |
| Mary Russo               | Maria Bradley            |
| Veronica Spencer         | Ned Moore                |
| Mildred Kestler, Jr.     | Lucy McNamara            |
| Cathy Springer           | Lois & Robert Burn       |
| Christian Mothers        | Bruce Doyen              |
| Henry Dolan              | Ralph Paul               |
| Victoria Maley           | Kate Mayerhofer          |
| Karen Maley              | Catalano Family          |
| Betty and Mike Croan     | Louis Fielack            |
| Dolores Sgaraglio        | Vincent Mangiamele       |
| Geraldine Laraia         | Lucy McNamara            |
| Ronnie White             | Isabella Silva           |
| Mary Jane Pendl          | Mathew D'Avanzo          |
| Michelle Valenti         | Minelli Family           |
| Jane Marsar              | Gloria Masci             |
| Ellen Gulli              | Mary Drescher            |
| Vincent and Janet Kramer | Rosanna Kluth            |
| Tony Cavanagh            | Frank DeBobes            |



As you know, we had our *Paving the Way for Christ* memorials redone by the company from whom it was purchased. It is my hope that these new memorials will last indefinitely. They have assured me that the inscriptions will not peel off as did the previous ones. There was no additional charge for the new memorials.

- Father Pat, CSSR

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL  
BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORTED THE GOLDEN HARVEST**

- Bethpage Pharmacy  
 Central Avenue Bagels and Deli  
 Century 21 Real Estate  
 Frederick J. Chapey Funeral Home, Inc.  
 Papardelle's Restaurant  
 McCourt-Trudden Funeral Home, Inc.  
 Arthur F. White Funeral Home, Inc.

I want to thank **Ronny & Tony Ciarniello and their team of volunteers** who organized and sold the Golden Harvest raffles and arranged for the party on Saturday, November 17th. Our parish is blessed with so many who give their time and talent every year to help with this important fundraiser. God bless you all.

Father Pat, CSSR

**St. Martin of Tours CYO Girls' Volleyball**

St. Martin will be offering CYO Volleyball for girls in grades 5 through 8. Priority for the program is to be parishioners of St. Martin's and girls who played in our initial season last year. Practices begin in January and games run from the end of February through the end of April. Local travel to other parishes in the Diocese will be required.

If you are interested please contact CYO Coordinator Dave Fantry at email [dfantry@drvc.org](mailto:dfantry@drvc.org). If we get a good turnout, we will offer teams at each grade level possibly multiple teams. Registration will be held in Parish Auditorium sometime in late December and the program starts after the Christmas break. Last year was a huge success and we are working on building the program moving forward. Thanks and enjoy the holiday season.

**FEES FOR SEASON**

- 1<sup>st</sup> child: \$150**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> child from the same family: \$240**  
**3 or more children from the same family: \$295**  
**New Uniform Fee - TBD**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Dec 3: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 4: Eucharistic Adoration 3PM - 7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Dec 3: Holy Face Devotion 1PM Church
- Dec 7: First Friday Devotions at 9AM Mass
- Dec 7: Youth Ministry Christmas Tree **ONE DAY SALE** 4PM - 9PM Church Lot
- Dec 7: Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception 7PM
- Dec 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception 6:30AM, 9AM & 12 Noon Masses
- Dec 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent Masses 5PM & 7PM (not Masses for the Immaculate Conception)
- Dec 10, 11 & 12: ADVENT MISSION 7:30pm Church
- Dec 12: BLOOD DRIVE 2:30-8:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 13: Life Line Screening
- Dec 14: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM in the Library
- Dec 19: Women's Group 7PM
- NO PADRE PIO HOLY HOUR IN DECEMBER
- Dec 26: VIRTUS Training 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Jan 19: Defensive Driving 8:30AM-3PM St. Alphonsus Hall

