

Masses For The Week

- Monday - December 10**
 6:30 Florence Yusko
 9:00 Daniel, Teresa & Daniel M. Flynn
- Tuesday - December 11**
 6:30 Mary Kate Dolan
 9:00 Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
- Wed. - December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**
 6:30 Emily D. Olive
 9:00 Edward & Shirley Miller
- Thursday - December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**
 6:30 Philip Mascia
 9:00 Bernie Helldorfer, Jr., 2nd Anniversary
- Friday - December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor**
 6:30 Albina & Pancho Rustia
 9:00 Rev. Thomas F. Schmidt, CSsR
- Saturday - December 15**
 9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Terri Marie Minett
 7:00 Aida Gilday
- Sunday - December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent**
 7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Rev. Vincent Crotty, CSsR
 10:00 Mary Rabbitte
 11:30 In Memory of the Szmytkowski & Zoitke Families
 1:00 Bernardo Mantilla
 5:30 John J. McGlynn

Readings For The Week

- Mon. Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
 Tues. Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
 Wed. Rev. 11:19a; 12:1-6a; Luke 1:39-47
 Thurs. Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
 Fri. Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
 Sat. Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sun. *Zephaniah 3:14-18a: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior.*

Philippians 4:4-7: *The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.*

Luke 3:10-18: *John answered them all saying, "I am baptizing you with water; but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*



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
12/2/18 Collection: \$17,244.18

Thank you for your generosity.

Reflection and Living Stewardship



Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who strive to respond to God's grace by serving our parish and wider community through offering their time and talent to our Parish Social Ministries and Senior Services.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Someone's baby is going to be president someday. Or win an Academy award. Or even become pope!! Someone else's Baby was born to be the Savior King!! Every child is a precious gift. Teach them. Encourage them. Guide them. Pray for them and with them. Thank God for them. But most of all - love them. A child you know may change the world someday.

Our next meeting is Monday, December 10th at 7:30 pm in St. Alphonsus Hall. All are welcome. Call 516-993-9672 for more information or prayer requests.

HOP Club Winners

12/3/18 #114	John Carroll	\$25
12/4/18 #420	M/M Anthony Sabino	\$25
12/5/18 #489	Alice DeBrino	\$25
12/6/18 #358	Kevin Courtney	\$25
12/7/18 #466	M. & S. Bistany	\$50

Wedding Banns

2nd James Priore & Christiane Laspina



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

This week the Pantry could use evaporated milk and boxed milk. We are so grateful for your tremendous generosity. Due to your assistance, we were able to serve 383 people during the month of November from 66 individual families. These numbers do not include all those helped for Thanksgiving. Thank you for remembering all those in need.

We are in need of helpers to work at the Pantry on Saturdays from 4 - 6PM, accepting Whole Foods donations as many workers are out for surgeries or vacations. You would be assigned one Saturday a month. If interested, please call Mary Vitti at the Pantry at 931-7332.

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 9 - 15 2018

In Loving Memory of
Bernie Lavin

Sanctuary Candle

Week of December 9 - 15, 2018

In Loving Memory of
Nicoletta Mattariello



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 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 Carminate
- 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

Patricia Craig, Alfred A. Galgano

The Pastor's Letter

Politicians often leave Washington to go back to their state or home districts to get a sense of what issues their constituents are thinking about. In some ways, I had such an experience with my own family, who although they deeply respect my vocation as a priest, they are far more likely to see me as brother or uncle. Since they are committed Catholics who seek to live their faith, I feel by listening to them I can get a good sense of what they think are important Catholic issues. This is also true about the parishioners here at St. Martin's; however, I think some hold back their thoughts since they may think saying something negative about the Church will hurt my feelings. I appreciate that, but I **do** welcome hearing what you are thinking and what could be impacting your own faith life.

As I was sitting in my favorite chair in my niece's vacation house over the Thanksgiving weekend, reading *The New York Post* with a virtual *do not disturb* sign hanging over my head, there was a serious conversation going on in the kitchen with no walls between us. Discussions included politics, family concerns, Christmas, and of course their various parishes by three generations of Catholics. One of my family members was hurt by the way his pastor had treated him, while another spoke of sermons being too long or too political. Then one member, a lifetime lover of her Catholic faith, a longtime religious education teacher, and a daily Mass goer said, *And the Pope should get control of some of his priests who are doing so much damage to our faith.* This was said with a mixture of sadness, pain, and anger. I thought to myself, if the Pope is in trouble with her, he is really in trouble with the larger church community.

From the day Pope Francis was elected, I have found myself attracted to him and his message. I saw him as man who truly walked the walk with the poor when he was the Archbishop in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He truly stood with the poor and lived a very simple, personal lifestyle. As Pope, he continued in a similar way. He spoke of the message of Christ's love for the poor with passion, and he focused very much on the mercy and love of God for his people. I did not always agree on everything he says (I am not speaking about dogmas of the faith), but his words were challenging to me and made me think. I found it so easy to love and admire Pope Francis.

I know that the dark issue of sexual abuse by the clergy continues to be very disturbing to us: we think about what pain and hurt has been done to the victims and their families; we ask why the abusing priests were rarely arrested; we question what the bishops and pope knew and did they cover up such terrible actions.

The issue of Cardinal McCarrick and his rise to power in the church in spite of the fact that in some church circles it seem clear that his serious misbehaviors were known to people who should have taken steps to confront the evil actions and did not. It troubles me very much that Archbishop Vigano, formerly Apostolic Delegate to the United States, alleges that the Pope Francis knew about some of McCarrick's abuses and did not confront him. Pope Francis has remained silent on these charges.

I believe that the American Catholic Church, since the Dallas Charter of 2002, has taken very serious steps to protect minors from clerical abuse. There have been some failures since 2002 and none can or should be tolerated. However, the major recent issues have been toward the Bishops and the policies that address any abuse of minors or vulnerable adults, and their need to be transparent about any issues of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable to the civil authorities and the people of God.

I think the American Bishops, perhaps having had a very serious jolt from the Pennsylvania investigations and the report given, went to Baltimore this past November determined to write a policy that addressed their own need for transparency and accountability. I believe that were determined to do it. However, to the disappointment of many of them, and to me, Pope Francis told them to hold off on the writing of this policy since there will be a world-wide meeting in February of 2019 to address all these issues in a universal way.

Some commentators, both secular and religious, are suspicious of this and wonder if it is another form of cover-up. I want to believe that the Pope's reasons for this delay are valid, but I am left with many questions. He is the Vicar of Christ on earth and I seek to be loyal to his holy office and to him. In this in between time, I pray that the Holy Spirit will move our Church to a cleansing healing at this upcoming meeting.

Although we are moving in to the joy and innocence of Christmas, I write this letter to let you know that I am aware that many of you are struggling and feeling confusion about what you see and hear. I share similar feelings, but like you, I trust in the promise of the Jesus to be with us until the end of time. We had an open parish meeting on the issue of clergy sexual abuse a couple of months ago. I asked someone who did not speak at the meeting what was their thoughts were. With the permission of that person, I'll end with a bit of what was written. I found it quite moving:

We are all human with good and bad in all of us, even the nuns and priests. We all knew for some time there was sexual abuse charges within the church. We thought it was being addressed. I think when we cover things up, it can become bigger and could explode. Well, it did. Now we are exposed. But maybe it is for the better. I feel sorry for the victims and shame on those who abused others. What can we do? Let us pull up our sleeves and put on clean clothes and start by carrying the cross with Jesus who forgives. Pray for our beautiful priests and lay people. God will get us through.

Why do I stay a Catholic? I believe that God exists.

I am God's child. I believe in the Trinity.

Where else can I receive the Real Presence of Jesus Christ who died for me?

Only at Catholic Mass. Have mercy on us and the whole world.

Father Patrick Woods, CSsR, Pastor

www.smtbethpage.org woodscsr@aol.com



Thank you to all who came to the First Children's Holiday Craft Event. It was a great success. We had 40 children participate. They made beautiful wooden signs, had refreshments and sang Christmas carols.

A special thanks to Barnyard Lane Sign Co. who co-coordinated the event with Elena and the Children's Choir. It was a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas season.



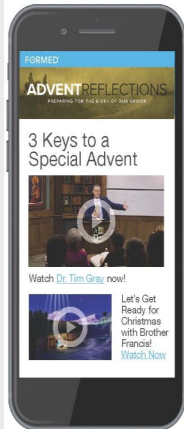


Prepare for Christmas Like Never Before

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



Sign up at formed.org or with the FORMED app!

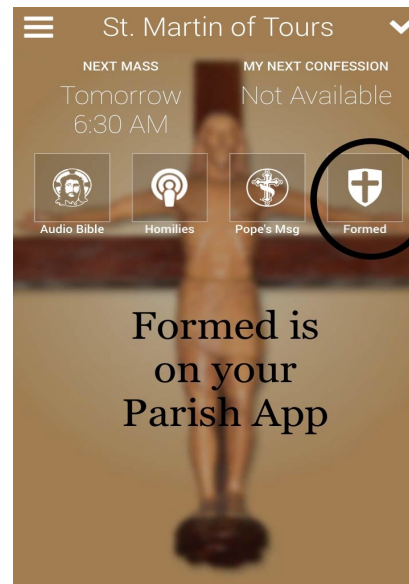


Women's Group

of St. Martin of Tours

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 19 at 7pm in St. Alphonsus Hall. All women are welcome and do bring a friend!

Please contact us at smtwomensgroup@gmail.com or at 516.931.0818 for more information. See you then!



FORMED RECOMMENDATION

CHRISTMAS IN ROME

The birth of Jesus changed the course of human history. Christmas marks one of the greatest days on the Christian calendar, and nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like the Holy City of Rome. *Christmas in Rome* follows the celebration of the Nativity throughout history, from a tiny grotto in Bethlehem to the biggest Nativity scene in Saint Peter's Square, and from small groups of early Christians to the enormous multitude of believers at Christmas Masses in St. Peter's Basilica.

See how one of the greatest events in human history is celebrated today... right from the heart of the Church.

FORMED CHOICE: KIDS' KORNER

JUAN DIEGO - MESSENGER OF GUADALUPE

Watch the Blessed Mother choose a hero for a key role in a miracle that would unite diverse peoples and change the course of history.

FORMED PICK

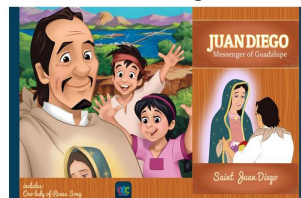
Christmas in Rome



Follow the celebration of the Nativity from a tiny grotto in Bethlehem to the biggest Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square.

FORMED KIDS' KORNER

Juan Diego Messenger of Guadalupe



Watch the Blessed Mother choose a hero for a key role in a miracle that would unite diverse peoples and change the course of history.

Watch on: 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. 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
(631) 360-9720 Monday - Friday 9AM - 4PM

Minimum enrollment: 15 people
Maximum enrollment: 40 people

Download Your Parish App@
myparishapp.com

Download Formed @
smtbethpage.formed.org

Visit Your Parish Website@
smtbethpage.org



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

Now is the time! Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is already underway!
 Don't miss out on all the fun that St. Martin de Porres Marianist School has to offer your child!
 Call (516) 481-3303 to schedule your personal tour!



All High School Teens are welcome and encouraged to attend the 5:30PM Mass on Sunday. There will be a Life Night on December 9th
December 16th: Caroling at Sunny Lane

We cannot thank this parish enough for your support for the talent show and auction that we had on Friday, November 30th. We raised well over \$2,000 so that we could buy an adaptive trike for a special needs child. It was an exciting night with so many teens (and a couple of little ones) singing, dancing, doing comedy skits and an awesome skit on the gospel.

Thanks also to those who bought a Christmas tree from the Youth Ministry on Friday, December 7th. Your support is always appreciated and a great blessing!

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

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, 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.

Our 2nd meeting of Rachel Held Evan’s book, Inspired will be on December 14th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall.

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: _____

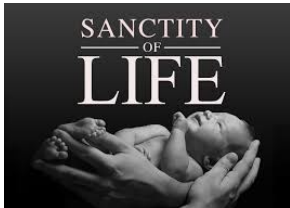
PART REQUESTED: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE & DATE

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION (Preserving Liberty For All) WWW.CFFOR.ORG.

MISSION STATEMENT: So that the First Amendment, Religious Freedom, may be practiced and preserved for generations yet unborn, it is essential that Americans understand this freedom and the circumstances from which it came.



CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION provides resources to assist laity to educate and inspire on a non-partisan basis for First Amendment Freedom of Religion by forming permanent parish groups. These groups strive to educate every generation of Catholics about our Freedom of Religion...how rare it is, how dearly it was purchased for us and how quickly it can be lost.

FREEDOM OF WORSHIP IS NOT THE SAME AS FREEDOM OF RELIGION: Freedom of Worship restricts the right to pray within the confines of a place of worship, or to privately believe. Freedom of Religion includes the right to free exercise of conscience in EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE. It includes the right to have religious literature, the right to meet with others to worship, the right to raise funds, the right to choose your religious leaders, to carry out charitable activities, to evangelize and to have religious education. If we do not understand what freedom of religion correctly means, it can be eased away from us one word and one regulation at a time. We would forfeit what God and the Constitution has protected.

CONTACT Catholics For Freedom of Religion: Non-political, non-partisan support of 1st amendment religious freedom for all. Field tested materials and activities. Holy Hour and Rosary Devotions for religious freedom. Subscription to weekly bulletin items on issues of religious freedom. Complete student FREE TO SPEAK program materials.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE NOT GOD-FREE ZONES: Student rights to religious expression are protected by law. During the school day students may: Speak and write about their faith. Pray at appropriate times. Read the Bible and religious books. Join with others for student initiated prayer. Form religious based student clubs. Speak about God and their faith at school events and graduations.

"If lay people don't love their Catholic faith enough to struggle for it in the public square, nothing the bishops do will finally matter." Archbishop Chaput. On behalf of Cardinal Timothy Dolan and the Bishops of New York State, Bishop William Murphy, DRVC, presented the Davitt Award for Exemplary Service to Barbara Samuells, the co-founder of Catholics For Freedom of Religion. March 29, 2014.

If anyone has an interest in working on this as part of our Respect Life Ministry, please contact me: Diana Hart Mirando (516) 830-5077 itsidi@aol.com. WWW.CFFOR.ORG. 631 896 8331. parishleaders@yahoo.com.

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Parish Info

- Easily contact our parish
- Helpful list of parish staff
- Connect with staff at the touch-of-a-button

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

LIVING WATERS CATHOLIC COUNSELING

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 itsidi@aol.com
(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.

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

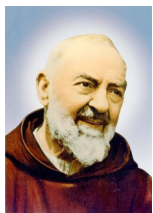
(631) 858-0380 OPEN MON-SAT 10-6

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.

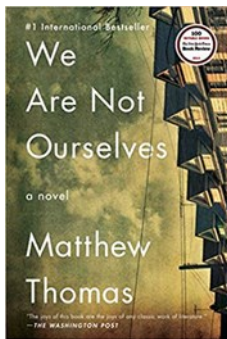
Eucharistic Adoration

TUESDAYS 3-7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel

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

*St. Martin of Tours Giving Tree*

Gift cards must be **returned by THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH** 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!



Our next regular book club selection is **We Are Not Ourselves** by Matthew Thomas. Our discussion will be on Friday, February 1, 2019.

Review: "Okay, straight out, this novel is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but. *We Are Not Ourselves* delivers the deepest, most involving and best pleasures of reading, the pleasures that have you lose your hours while curled up in a comfy couch, that have you sneaking looks and reading when you should be doing other things. A true epic in the best sense of the word, encompassing the big great gorgeous heartbreak that was our American Century. You doubt me. Please do not. Each page is suffused with a relentless and probing genius, as well as a generous and humane heart, and the result not only explodes across the darkening sky, but remains with you long after you've finished the last page and handed it to someone you love. So long as there are novels like *We Are Not Ourselves*, so long as there are writers like Matthew Thomas, the form of the novel is more than alive, it is thriving, palpitant." —Charles Bock, author of *Beautiful Children*

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."

THE ARIMATHEA MINISTRY

Volunteers who sign up for the Arimathea Ministry assist the priest at funeral and memorial masses. Since there is a shortage of volunteers, please call the rectory at 931-0818 if interested. As with all volunteers, Virtus training and disclosure forms must be completed before you can begin. If you are being called to serve at St. Martin's, this may be a good opportunity.

DECEMBER 24 -VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

4PM CHURCH AND AUDITORIUM

4:30PM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, CENTRAL AVENUE, BETHPAGE

6PM CHILDREN'S MASS IN CHURCH

9PM LIFE TEEN MASS IN CHURCH

11:15PM PRE MIDNIGHT MASS CONCERT

12AM MIDNIGHT MASS IN CHURCH

DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY - CHURCH

7AM, 8:30AM, 10AM. 11:30AM & 1PM. NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY





Last Saturday we had an ALPHA retreat for those men and women who have been participating in this beautiful spiritual program that invites us to open our hearts to the love of God in a very unique way. This is the third ALPHA our parish has had. The retreat had a special focus on the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. I think most Christians find that they can envision God as Father since we all have had fathers and can relate to that concept. Most of us have a favorite image of Jesus that we take from our reading and hearing about him in the Gospels. However, I would say that the Holy Spirit is the most elusive for us to capture in our minds. We had two videos on the retreat that certainly helped me to come to a sense of the power of the Holy Spirit in my day-to-day life. One person on the retreat described the Holy Spirit as *a nudge from God*. Another person said that she was amazed at how her life had changed and knew that it could only be explained by the presence and actions of the Holy Spirit. I certainly have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in many moments here at St. Martin's as I see people respond in love to one another, to those in need, and in the very way they live their lives.

When I was saying a few words on the retreat (I am not sure if you will believe it was *only* a few words), I said I had a very powerful experience of the Holy Spirit the night before at the talent show that our youth group had put on under the direction of Diana Hughes and Liam Gordon. The night began with an amazing performance by the F.R.E.E. Drum Corps and Color Guard who are all young people with special needs. They played their drums and waved their banners with a spirit of happiness and with smiles that spread from ear to ear. Wow! The audience gave them a standing ovation to what they had experienced in seeing these precious young people perform. The rest of the night was equally very touching. I know many young people can be self-conscious, but so many of the teens sang and danced and joked with great enthusiasm. The very word *enthusiasm* is rooted and has a connection to the Holy Spirit. *Webster's Dictionary* defines enthusiasm as: **a) strong excitement of feeling** : **b) something inspiring zeal or fervor** **c) belief in special revelations of the Holy Spirit**. I experienced all three qualities in those young people who shared their talents to raise funds for an adaptive trike for a special needs child. I saw that enthusiasm in the more than \$2,000.00 raised from donations and raffle tickets from so many parishioners. Also parishioners have been generous in support of ALPHA. The experience of the ALPHA retreat and the Teen's Talent Show merged for me into a kind of mini-Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is always full of wonder and so often catches us by surprise.

St. Martin of Tours CYO Girls' Volleyball

St. Martin will be offering CYO Volleyball for girls in grades 5 - 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. 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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 10: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 10, 11 & 12: ADVENT MISSION 7:30pm Church
- Dec 11: NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- Dec 12: BLOOD DRIVE 2:30-8:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 13: Life Line Screening St. Alphonsus Hall
- Dec 14: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM in the Library
- Dec 18: Eucharistic Adoration 3PM - 7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel
- 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

