PARISH CENTER DIRECTORY

Fr. Christopher Costigan, Pastor........Ext. 302
Cheryl Nicholson..................Ext. 301
Parish Assistant
Mrs. Kathy Day..........................Ext. 304
Bookkeeper
Mrs. Marlene Jean-Baptiste
Co-Director of Social Ministry
292-1603 or 481-2550, Ext. 320
Ms. Barbara Powell
Co-Director of Social Ministry
292-1603 or 481-2550, Ext. 321
Cheryl Nicholson..........................Ext. 312
Bulletin Editor

Voice Mail Only: Must Leave a Message
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English/Creole Baptismal Program
Mr. Alvin Ingram..........................Ext. 347
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Mr. Tom Gould ..........................Ext. 348
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Elissa Hanson...............................Ext. 350
Choir Director & Organist
Ms. Lisette Joachim.......................Ext. 351
Ministry of Consolation
Deacon Evenou Saint-Louis
Parochial Archivist.......................Ext. 352

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Deacon Trevor Mathurin,
Director of Religious Education ........Ext. 311
Mrs. Imogene Regan,
RCIA Director..............................Ext. 314

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THOSE
IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

U.S. Air Force:
Staff Sgt. Andrew D. Simpson
Master Sergeant Scott Moller
Tech. Sgt. Francisco J. Velasquez
Master Sgt. Jeremy Salaver

U.S. Army:
Private Angelique J. Rosado
Master Sergeant Jill Agront
Sgt. Hisnard Cadet, Jr.
Staff Sgt. Misael Exantus
PFC Zaymerly Villalobos
Special Force Kareem Inniss
Spc. Richard Aquilar
Captain Gavin Campell McMahon
LTC Douglas Boltuc
Sgt. Andrew Gandolfo
PFC Francisco Fuentes Melinium
PFC Stefan Saindoux
PFC Luc-Ambert Saindoux, Jr.
PFC Betty Piquion

U.S. Marines:
1st Battalion Carlos Fuentes
CPL Daniel C. Monroe
RCT Eric Joel Vazquez
Sergeant W. Jason Ferris
L. Cpl. Alfonso Rodrigue

U.S. Navy:
Airman Herbert J. Alvarado
JE-4/CS3 Jesus Ron
Chief Petty Officer John V. Sparkowski
Lt. Joseph A. Baugh
Cpl. Eric Omar Matos
Lt. John R. Esposito
AG2/Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael McGee
Saint Martha Roman Catholic Church
546 GREENGROVE AVENUE, UNIONDALE, NEW YORK 11553-2145
Phone: (516) 481-2550 † info@saintmartha.org
www.saintmartha.org

THE PASTOR’S WEEKLY LETTER – December 18, 2016
~ Fourth Sunday of Advent - ~

We have now entered the last part of the Advent season, where the focus of the prayers at Mass and readings
shifts to the immediate preparations for the Birth of the Lord which we will celebrate next Sunday on Christ-
mas Day—and for the remainder of the Christmas season that follows! As we join in solidarity with Mary and
Joseph in these final days of preparation, let use this week not to solely concern ourselves with the material
preparations for our Christmas celebrations but to prepare our hearts to adequately receive the grace of God
into our lives. Please see the bulletin for added confession times this week. What better way to prepare for the
celebration of the Birth of the Lord than with a soul freed from sin and ready to live Christ’s love in the world?
Please see the bulletin for the Christmas schedule. Don’t be afraid to invite family and friends to come to
Mass (and confession) with you, especially if they have been away for some time!

Included in your envelope packets was an envelope marked “Christmas Novena.” You may discard this enve-
lope as we will not be celebrating a novena of Masses for Christmas (like we do on All Souls, Mothers’ Day,
and Fathers’ Day). However, as Christmas falls on a Sunday this year we do ask that you prayerfully consider
both your regular Sunday offering as well as the Christmas offering to the parish. The Christmas collection is
usually the largest of the year and is necessary to keep our operating expenses in the black, in addition to the
52 regular Sunday collections of the year. We thank you for your continued generosity to your fellow parish-
ioners.

Fr. Chris

Joseph, Husband of Mary

When Mary became miraculously the Mother of the Savior, this undertaking received the most ineffable consecration.
Her maternity was the supreme fulfillment of her virginity, the divine flower of her giving, the crowning of that love
which from the first moment took her utterly out of her own possession, the lily of poverty.

In taking Mary to his home in the fulfillment of the ceremony which rendered their marriage definitive, Joseph partici-
pated in the maternity of his spouse in the measure in which he was vowed to her virginity. That is to say that he was
entirely consecrated to it and that it accomplished his own fecundity, as it did Mary’s, in that marvelous fruit which was
the work of the Holy Spirit.

Thus it was that she could later say with the most moving tenderness and the most exquisite humility: Thy father and I
have sought thee sorrowing (Lk 2:48).

Jesus was truly the issue of their marriage; their virginity was fruitful, their flesh exultant and at peace, in the super-
eminent realization of the life-bearing impulse. And as the bond that united them was the divine Person of their Child,
their marriage was at once holy and eternal, combining in a unique degree all elements of the perfect union—fides,
proles, sacramentum: fruitfulness, fidelity, indissolubility.

FATHER MAURICE ZUNDEL (+1975) was a Swiss mystic, poet, philosopher, liturgist, and author.
THE PASTOR’S WEEKLY LETTER – December 18, 2016
~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~

Ahora hemos entrado en la última parte de la temporada de Adviento, en el que el foco de las oraciones en la misa y las lecturas se desplaza a los preparativos inmediatos para el nacimiento del Señor, que celebraremos el próximo Domingo en el Día de Navidad para el resto de la temporada Navideña que está por llegar! Al unirnos en solidaridad con María y José, en estos últimos días de preparación, deja que el uso de esta semana no se refiera únicamente a nosotros mismos con los preparativos materiales para nuestras celebraciones de Navidad, si no para preparar nuestros corazones para recibir adecuadamente la gracia de Dios en nuestras vidas. Por favor, vea el boletín para los tiempos de confesión añadidas esta semana. ¿Qué mejor manera de prepararse para la celebración de la Navidad del Señor que con un alma liberada del pecado y listo para vivir el amor de Cristo en el mundo? Por favor, vea el boletín de la programación de Navidad. No tenga miedo de invitar a amigos y familiares para venir a misa (y confesión) con usted, especialmente si han estado fuera durante algún tiempo!

Se incluyen en sus paquetes de sobres un sobre marcado como "Novena de Navidad." Puedes descartar esta dotación, ya que no vamos a celebrar una novena de misas de Navidad (como lo hacemos el día de Todas las Almas, Día de las Madres, Padres). Sin embargo, como la Navidad cae en Domingo este año, le pedimos que se tiene en cuenta tanto su oferta en oración dominical, así como la oferta de Navidad a la parroquia. La ofrenda de Navidad suele ser la más grande del año y es necesario para mantener nuestros gastos de operación, además de las 52 colectas regulares los Domingos en el año. Le damos las gracias por su continua generosidad a sus feligreses.

Nous entrons dans la dernière partie du Temps de l’Avent, et l’accent dans les prières et les lectures de la messe est mis sur la préparation à la Naissance de notre Seigneur, qui sera célébrée dimanche prochain le Jour de Noël – et pendant le reste du Temps de Noël qui suivra! Alors que nous nous associons en solidarité avec Marie et Joseph pendant ces derniers jours de préparation, profitons de cette semaine pas seulement pour achever les préparatifs de la Noël, mais aussi pour préparer nos cœurs à recevoir adéquatement la grâce de Dieu dans nos vies. Veuillez consulter le bulletin pour l’horaire des confessions cette semaine. Quelle meilleure façon de se préparer à la célébration de la Naissance du Seigneur qu’avec une âme libérée du péché et prête à vivre l’amour du Christ dans le monde? Consultez le bulletin pour le calendrier de la Noël. N’ayez pas peur d’inviter votre famille et vos amis à venir à la messe (et à la confession) avec vous, surtout s’ils s’en sont éloignés depuis un certain temps!

Vous trouverez une enveloppe marquée “Christmas Novena” dans le paquet d’enveloppes. Vous pouvez l’enlever puisque nous n’aurons pas une neuvaine de messes pour la Noël (comme nous le faisons pour la Fête des Morts, la Fête des Mères et la Fête des Pères). Cependant, puisque Noël tombe un dimanche cette année, nous vous demandons de considérer dans la prière de donner votre offrande ordinaire du dimanche ainsi que votre offrande de Noël à la paroisse. La quête de Noël est habituellement la plus importante de l’année et elle nous aide à faire face à nos dépenses, en plus des quêtes ordinaires des 52 dimanches de l’année. Nous vous remercions pour votre générosité envers votre communauté paroissiale.

Padre Chris      Pere Chris
# Diocese of Rockville Centre - Office of Vocations
Pray for our Bishops, Priests and Seminarians

## December 2016

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<td>Rev. Mr. Liam McDonald</td>
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<td>Rev. Msgr. Michael Fina</td>
<td>Seminarian Matthew Prochlo</td>
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<td>Rev. Mr. Christopher Sullivan</td>
<td>Seminarian Alex Turpin</td>
<td>Seminarian Roger Velezquez</td>
<td>Seminarian Benjamin Volpe</td>
<td>Rev. Mr. John Wachowicz</td>
<td>Seminarian Nicholas Weldon</td>
<td>Seminarian Dominik Wegiel</td>
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To be added to the monthly Prayer Calendar email list, please email a request to [Vocations@rvyc.org](mailto:Vocations@rvyc.org). Thank you and God bless you.

[LONGISLANDPRIEST.COM](http://LONGISLANDPRIEST.COM)
If thou love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, thou shalt serve Him well.

5:00PM - **Lector:** Barbara Fong Lee  
**Altar Server:** David LeBlanc  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Phyllis Droessler, Marie G. Josma, Nancy A. Napoleon  
**Ushers:** Rosemarie Allen, Thomas Maddox, Jim Downey, Jennifer King, Mario Cadavid, Alejandro Apresa

7:30AM - **Lector:** Kathleen Purchase  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Elaine Burke, Sharon Burke, Maria Gonzalez  
**Ushers:** Jim Capriotti, George Leonard, Carmen Charles, Genevieve Charles, Joseph Gedeon, Alex Apresa

11:00AM - **Lector:** Racquel Philip  
**Altar Servers:** Christine Occil, Danika Porcenate  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Solange Bricourt, Pat Edwards, Phyllis Droessler, Karline Graham, Barbara Powell, Teresa Sanders Davis  
**Ushers:** Bennett Paul, Agnes Duclairon, Wilner Nestor, Frantz Denis

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**Thank you for your generosity to St. Martha’s Parish!**

**December 11, 2016**

- 5:00 PM Mass: $567.00
- 7:30 AM Mass: $1,175.00
- 8:45 AM Mass: $2,700.00
- 11:00 AM Mass: $2,102.00
- 12:30 PM Mass: $900.00
- Poor Box: $41.00
- Haitian Relief (to date): $6,485.00

*(Does not reflect donations made by Faith Direct)*

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**December 25, 2016**

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Ps. 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
- Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
- Matthew 1:1-25
When Moses asks God for his name, the Lord famously and enigmatically responds, I am who I am. Oceans of ink have been spilled in the attempt to tease out the full philosophical and theological implications of this response. But the Hebrew scholars tell us that the root sense of Eyeh asher eyeh is “I will be with you.” In short, God identifies himself as the one who had pledged his solidarity with his suffering people Israel.

Writing during a time of particular trial in the history of the chosen people, Isaiah the prophet predicts that God will send a sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which carries the sense of God is with us. And as he wrestles with the terrible dilemma of what to do with his betrothed who had become pregnant, Joseph dreams of an angel who tells him to take Mary as his wife. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Saint Luke comments that this was to fulfill precisely what Isaiah had predicted regarding the Virgin and the Child named Emmanuel.

Every religion speaks of God or the gods. Many philosophers contain teachings about a supreme being or first cause. But the Bible alone indicates that God’s truest name and most distinctive quality is that he will be with us. In good times and bad, during periods of light and darkness, when we are rejoicing and grieving, God is stubbornly with us. Emmanuel.

Lectio Divina

A Prayerful Reading of Sacred Scripture

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit (1:18).

Saint Thomas Aquinas: “Since Christ wished to be born of a virgin, why did he wish his Mother to be espoused? So that his birth would be hidden from the devil, lest he should impede Christ’s Passion and the fruit of our redemption if he knew.” Saint Ignatius of Antioch: “Christ was born of an espoused Virgin in order that her childbearing might be concealed from the devil, so that he thought that Christ was not born of a virgin, but of a wife.” Saint Chromatius (+407): “Because the Word could not be seen as God in the glory of his own divinity, he assumed visible flesh to demonstrate his invisible divinity. He took from us what is ours in order to give generously what is his.”

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly (1:19).

The irony: God’s love in the Incarnation comes to us through Joseph’s broken heart. Saint John Chrysostom: “Do you not see here a man of exceptional self-restraint, freed from that most tyrannical passion, jealousy? Many have

chosen to give up their lives rather than fall under the suspicion of jealousy. Nevertheless, Joseph was so free from the passion of jealousy as to be unwilling to cause distress to the Virgin, even in the slightest way. Joseph determined to conduct himself now by a higher rule than the law. For now that grace was appearing, it would be fitting that many tokens of that exalted citizenship be expressed. It is like the sun not yet arisen, but from afar more than half the world is already illumined by its light. So did Christ, when about to rise from that womb, cast light upon all the world.” Father Cornelius a Lapide, S.J.: “Joseph thought, I am unwilling to retain Mary if an angel, or God himself, desires to have her. I am unworthy of a woman who is worthy of God or an angel; therefore, I will commend her to God, and put her away from me.”

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (1:20-21).

Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis: “Joseph has to disconnect himself from the process of human logic that he may receive the divine commandment with pleasure even if without understanding.” Aquinas: “Why in his sleep? Because Joseph was in a certain way doubting; hence he was in a certain way sleeping, so to speak, and therefore rightly is the angel said to have appeared to him in his sleep.” The angel...said, “Joseph” - Aquinas: “The angel calls him by his name so as to render him attentive for listening, and so as to recall him to himself.” Chrysostom: “The angel did not only mention Mary by name but also simply called her your wife. He would have not called her so if she had been unfaithful.” We do well to obey the angel’s command to Joseph: to take Mary into our home, and to call her Son often by name, Jesus, in prayer.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us” (1:22-23).

Saint Bede: “The name God-with-us, given to our Savior by the prophet, signifies that two natures are united in his one Person. Before time began he was God, born of the Father, but in the fullness of time he became Emmanuel, God with us, in the womb of his Mother, because when the Word was made flesh and lived among us he deigned to unite our frail human nature to his own Person. Without ceasing to be what he had always been, he began in a wonderful fashion to be what we are, assuming our nature in such a way that he did not lose his own.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home (1:24).

The word awoke has the greater meaning of “to rise, to get up.” In his arising, Joseph resembles Peter’s healed mother-in-law (Mt 8:15); the forgiven and cured paralytic (Mt 9:5-7); the disciples at the Transfiguration (Mt 17:7); and the bridesmaids who wake up to greet the bridegroom (Mt 25:7). Gospel awakening/arising marks the beginning of a graced, personal transformation. Leiva-Merikakis: “One is struck by the rapid succession of these five verbs [he rose, he did, he took, he did not know, he called], enumerating linearly (for a sense of swiftness) everything Joseph did and did not do following his dream. He is the obedient man of action whose every move is attentive to the will of God. He is the man called upon to love, cherish, nurture, and protect the Mother and the Child while at the same time having to accomplish a profound renunciation of natural human instincts…. His vocation is to be the visible fatherhood of God on earth.”
Whenever we have been at our best, as Christians, we have opened our churches as sanctuaries to the poor and the endan-
gered. We have a long, proud history wherein refugees, homeless persons, immigrants facing deportation, and others who are endangered, take shelter inside our churches. If we believe what Jesus tells us about the Last Judgment in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, this should serve us well when we stand before God at the end.

Unfortunately our churches have not always provided that same kind of sanctuary (safety and shelter) to those who are refu-
gees, immigrants, and homeless in their relationship to God and our churches. There are millions of persons, today perhaps the majority within our nations, who are looking for a safe harbor in terms of sorting out their faith and their relationship to the church. Sadly, too often our rigid paradigms of orthodoxy, ecclesiology, ecumenism, liturgy, sacramental practice, and canon law, however well-intentioned, have made our churches places where no such sanctuary is offered and where the wide embrace practiced by Jesus is not mirrored. Instead, our churches are often harbors only for persons who are already safe, already comforted, already church-observing, already solid ecclesial citizens.

That was hardly the situation within Jesus’ own ministry. He was a safe sanctuary for everyone, religious and non-religious alike. While he didn’t ignore the committed religious persons around him, the Scribes and Pharisees, his ministry always reached out and included those whose religious practice was weak or non-existent. Moreover, he reached out especially to those whose moral lives where not in formal harmony with the religious practices of the time, those deemed as sinners. Significantly too he did not ask for repentance from those deemed as sinners before he sat down at table with them. He set out no moral or ecclesial conditions as a prerequisite to meet or dine with him. Many repented after meeting and dining with him, but that repentance was never a pre-condition. In his person and in his ministry, Jesus did not discriminate. He offered a safe sanctuary for everyone.

We need today in our churches to challenge ourselves on this. From pastors, to parish councils, to pastoral teams, to diocesan regulators, to bishops’ conferences, to those responsible for applying canon and church law, to our own personal attitudes, we all need to ask: Are our churches places of sanctuary for those who are refugees, homeless, and poor ecclesiastically? Do our pastoral practices mirror Jesus? Is our embrace as wide as that of Jesus?

These are not fanciful ideals. This is the gospel which we can easily lose sight of, for seemingly all the right reasons. I remem-er a Diocesan Synod within which I participated some twenty years ago. At one stage in the process we were divided in small groups and each group was given the question: What, before all else, should the church be saying to the world today?

The groups returned with their answers and everyone, every single group, proposed as its first priority apposite what the church should be saying to the world some moral or ecclesial challenge: We need to challenge the world in terms of justice! We need to challenge people to pray more! We need to speak again of sin! We need to challenge people about the importance of going to church! We need to stop the evil of abortion! All of these suggestions are good and important. But none of the groups dared say: We need to comfort the world!

Handel’s Messiah begins with that wonderful line from Isaiah 40: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” That, I be-
lieve, is first task of religion. Challenge follows after that, but may not precede it. A mother first comforts her child by assur-
ing it of her love and stilling its chaos. Only after that, in the safe shelter produced by that comfort, can she begin to offer it some hard challenges to grow beyond its own instinctual struggles.

People are swayed a lot by the perception they have of things. Within our churches today we can protest that we are being perceived unfairly by our culture, that is, as narrow, judgmental, hypocritical, and hateful. No doubt this is unfair, but we must have the courage to ask ourselves why this perception abounds, in the academy, in the media, and in the popular culture. Why aren’t we being perceived more as “a field hospital” for the wounded, as is the ideal of Pope Francis?

Why are we not flinging our churches doors open much more widely? What lies at the root of our reticence? Fear of being too generous with God’s grace? Fear of contamination? Of scandal?

One wonders whether more people, especially the young and the estranged, would grace our churches today if we were perceived in the popular mind precisely as being sanctuaries for searchers, for the confused, the wounded, the broken, and the non-religious, rather than as places only for those who are already religiously solid and whose religious search is already complet-
ed.
## Liturgical Year (Traditional)

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![Diagram of the Sacraments of the Church](image)
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Sacrament of Baptism

Vocation Prayer
Merciful Father, you sent your Son into the world to free us from the power of sin and evil. Grant that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, our Mother of Mercy, many young men will respond to your call to give of themselves in imitation of Christ the Redeemer. Fill them with the light of your Holy Spirit that they may renounce the power of the world, proclaim truth and freedom, and bring consolation and relief to oppressed Christians. Bless our family of Mercy with numerous holy priests and brothers who will offer our world the testimony of your faith and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Scripture Readings
December 19—December 24

Monday, December 19
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Psalm 71
Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday, December 20
Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 21
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Psalm 33
Luke 1:39-45

Thursday, December 22
1 Samuel 1:24-28
Psalm (1 Sm 2)
Luke 1:46-56

Friday, December 23
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Psalm 25
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday, December 24
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16
Psalm 89
Luke 1:67-79

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

Living Stewardship
We are grateful this week for all stewards who have the courage, like Joseph, to listen to God’s voice in their own hearts and conscientiously pursue the tasks to which they have been called.
**Tender Mercy Will Visit Us**

Christ has come to reconcile us to God. You could say: *God was an enemy for me because of sin, so it was better for me not to know him than getting to know him.* Because of this, Christ came not only to make the divine majesty known to us, but also in order to reconcile us to God. Therefore, the Apostle says in Eph 2:17: *And as he is coming he will bring the good news of peace to those nearby and to those far away.* And elsewhere the Apostle says: *We are reconciled to God by the death of his Son* (Rom 5:10), and because of this the angels sang at the birth of Christ: *Glory to God in the highest* (Lk 2:14). And after the Resurrection the Lord brought peace to his disciples, saying: *Peace be with you* (Jn 20:19, 21, 26).

He is coming in order to free us from the slavery of sin. Hence the Apostle says: *Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners* (1 Tm 1:15). *One who sins is a slave of sin* (Jn 8:34), and therefore we need what is said: *If the Son sets you free, you will be truly free* (Jn 8:36). And: *The Son of man has come to seek and save what was lost* (Lk 19:10).

**Saint Thomas Aquinas (+1274)** was a Dominican priest from Italy. He remains one of the Church’s premier Doctors.

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**Outreach...**

**Free Food for Those in Need:**
For further information and income guidelines please call:
631-491-4166 in Suffolk or 516-623-4568 in Nassau

**Baby Items Needed:** Diapers, diaper wipes, strollers and car seats that meet current standards.

**Items Needed:** Individual boxed milk (i.e., Parmalat); toilet tissue, paper towels, personal care items, gift certificates.

**Shopping Bags Are Always Appreciated**

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**St. Martin de Porres Marianist School**

St. Martin de Porres Marianist School registration is now open for the 2017-18 school year. Now is the time to register your child for pre-kindergarten (age 3) to second grade. Please contact the Main Office if you are interested at 516-481-3303. Our Open House will be held January, 21, 2017.

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**The Patience of Zechariah**

Because this patience is so useful and essential, we must acquire it. And how shall we get it? By means of the light, by opening our mind’s eye and learning to know that we are not, acknowledging that our existence is the gift of God’s boundless charity. This is how we know God’s goodness: from the fact that we exist and from every gift we have been given over and above our existence. Once we have seen that we are loved by God, we see that it is out of love that God has given us the Word, his Only Begotten Son. And the Son has given his life for us.

Now, since the Son has given his life for us with such blazing love, we ought to be convinced that every burden that is laid on us, whether agreeable or disagreeable, from whatever source it may come, is given us out of love and not out of hatred; it is given only for our good, so that we may achieve the end for which we were created. And we should realize that our burdens are no greater or smaller than time—and our time is as small as the point of a needle. In breadth and in length they are nothing at all. So our burdens are tiny, finite. The burdens of the past we no longer have, since time has fled. The burdens of the future we don’t have either, because we don’t know for sure whether we will have that time.

~**Saint Catherine of Siena** (+1380), Doctor of the Church, was a Dominican, stigmatist, and papal counselor.
The Mass Intentions Book... is now open until the end of Feb. 2017

The Bread and Wine Calendar... is now open until the end of Feb. 2017

Thank you to everyone who has donated to my medical fund thus far. I found out my initial campaign (not run by me) has been shut down for an unknown reason. The first campaign helped cover my household bills from missed work, as well as smaller hospital bills. This new campaign is set up in hopes of paying back some of the $90k+ I owe as of now. (This is only one of the two surgeries I have had so far.) It is very possible I will have to claim bankruptcy if I cannot make a good dent. That is a very frightening thought as a single parent. For those of you who either have donated already, or cannot afford to, please do not feel obligated. I ask for prayers for myself and for my family. It has been a very rough couple of months. The new link is www.gofundme.com/lisashanson. You can also leave donations at the Parish Center. Every little bit helps, and has helped. God bless and thank you so much. St. Martha’s has been incredible with your generosity.

~Elissa Hanson, Music Director

PRAY FOR THE SICK

The list of names that will appear under this column will reflect ONLY those who are CRITICALLY ILL. The individual or family member must contact the Parish Center in order to be placed on the Sick List. Please note the new email address the Parish Center at cnicholson@saintmartha.org ("PRAY FOR THE SICK" MUST APPEAR IN YOUR EMAIL'S SUBJECT LINE); or come by the Parish Center with your request in writing, no later than Monday. This list will be updated on a monthly basis.

Helen Zeiser Nathan (Nate) Harkin
Josephine Esposito Cynthia Simpson
Paul Peisel John Muller
Desiree Venegas Edith Lucchi
Michael Periera Sophia Kyriakakis
Peter Johns Leopold Johnson
Laura-Jean Mauro Jerry Pope
Carolyn Maffettone

Omnipotent and Eternal God, the everlasting Salvation of those who believe, hear us on behalf of Thy pitying mercy, that, with their bodily health restored, they may give thanks to Thee in Thy church. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Elderly & Homebound

Dear Lord,
As my life declines and my energies decrease, more than ever hold me by Your Power, that I may not offend You, but daily increase in Your Love.
Give me strength to work in Your Service till the last day of my life.
Help me to ever have an increasing dread of venial sin, or whatever would cause the slightest withdrawal of Your Love; all day long, and at night keep me close to Your Heart; and should I die, ere the morning breaks, may I go rejoicing in that vision of Your entrancing beauty, never to be separated from You. Amen.

For everything you need to know in faith formation, Visit WWW.DRVC-FAITH.ORG

Tree of Life

Memorialize a loved one with a leaf on our parish’s Tree of Life, located in the Church Lobby. If you would like more information about this lovely memorial, please contact the Parish Office at (516) 481-2550 Ext 301

Get Free Daily E-Mail Updates from The Long Island Catholic

Get the latest Diocesan news free delivered to your email inbox. Each day you can receive The Long Island Catholic E-Newsletter. Whether it’s Bishop Murphy’s blog or the latest news from the Diocese, you can receive it all, free of charge. Simply visit www.licatholic.org, scroll to the bottom of the page for the E-Newsletter sign up and enter your e-mail address. That’s all there is to it. Questions? Contact the Office of Communications, 516-678-5800, ext. 633.
MESSE DOMINICALE: Chaque dimanche à partir de 12h30, la communauté haïtienne se réunit à l’église pour célébrer la messe. Venez avec votre famille et vos ami(e)s pour participer à notre célébration dominicale. La messe d’aujourd’hui est offerte pour Pierre Coriolan.

CELEBRATION DOMINICALE POUR LES JEUNES: Les jeunes de moins de 18 ans se réunissent au Bethany Hall chaque dimanche au commencement de la messe pour apprendre à mieux comprendre les textes du jour. Puis ils retournent à l’église pour la 2e partie de la célébration. Les adultes qui veulent aider sont priés de contacter Mira

PRIERE: Chaque mercredi soir à partir de 7h30 PM nous avons une prière charismatique à la chapelle. Vous êtes tous invité(e)s.

MILLE AVE: Le samedi 3 Décembre à la chapelle à partir de midi. Vous êtes tous invités

ADORATION: Le St Sacrement sera exposé les lundis et vendredis de 9h AM – 4h PM à la chapelle. Il nous faut une présence à tout moment durant l’exposition. Les volontaires sont priés de s’inscrire au Parish Center.

RCIA: Ceux qui n’ont pas reçu l’un ou aucun des sacrements suivants baptême, communion, confirmation et qui voudraient les recevoir, et ceux qui veulent devenir catholique romains sont priés de contacter Jackie au (516) 565 – 5797 ou appeler au (516)481-2550 extension 301

MESSAGE IMPORTANT: Après la catastrophe du 11 Septembre 2001, l’une de nos sœurs Marie Fanfan a eu une vision dans laquelle un homme lui disait qu’il n’y avait pas assez d’amour dans le monde et que tous les chrétiens devaient réciter le psaume 25. Par timidité elle ne voulait pas communiquer la nouvelle; mais, après l’incident de Boston elle a jugé nécessaire de faire passer le message. Elle demande à tous de l’aider à faire circuler la nouvelle et de prier pour un monde meilleur.

SERVICE SOCIAL: Les bureaux du service social de Ste Martha sont à votre disposition si vous avez besoin de nourriture, habits, demande et offre d’emploi, service d’immigration etc. Contactez-le au (516) 292-1603 du lundi au vendredi, excepté les mardis de 10h AM – 2h PM. Nous parlons anglais, français créole et espagnol. Nous avons grand besoin de nourritures, articles de toilette et vêtements pour bébé, enfants et adultes. Nous vous remercions pour votre générosité et Dieu vous récompensera pour votre bonne action.


BULLETIN DU DIMANCHE: Prenez avec vous le bulletin du dimanche et lisez le. Vous y trouverez des informations importantes sur votre communauté votre paroisse.
Social Ministry/Outreach Office Hours
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10:00AM—2:00PM
(516) 292-1603 or (516) 481-2550, Ext. 320
(English/Spanish/French/Creole)

THANK YOU! GRACIAS! MERCi!

Outreach is grateful to our parishioners for the food and gift cards to local supermarkets donated throughout the year. As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, Outreach once again asks you to help us give “our daily bread” to the many families in Uniondale, who will not have a Happy Thanksgiving or a Merry Christmas this year. When you are shopping for your family, try to remember to purchase items needed for others, such as:

- stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, hams, turkeys, tomato sauce, tomato paste, juices, salad, individual boxed milk, napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue, personal care products (e.g., toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, soap, etc.), and gift certificates.

Do not forget our babies, who are in need of diapers (all sizes), wipes, strollers, and car seats that meet current standards.

Shopping bags are always appreciated!

Remember, Hunger Hits Home. Pray for those who are in need, especially during this holiday season. Do whatever you can to ensure that our Uniondale families have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Fidelis Care
Health Insurance
Is in Social Ministry every Wednesday from 10AM–12 PM
Ask to see Soraya

Food Stamps
First & Third Thursdays! 11:00 AM—2:00 PM
Representative: Pat