

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. GERTRUDE

28 School Street, Bayville, N.Y. 11709

CLERGY OF THE PARISH

Rev. Msgr. Robert O. Morrissey, Pastor
Rev. Joseph Gaspar, Assoc. Pastor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Dr. James Sheehan, Director of Pastoral Formation/
Pastoral Associate
Phone: (516) 628-2432
Email: faithformation@stgerts.org

PRESCHOOL:

Meredith Brosnan, Director
Phone: (516) 628-3710
Email: stgertprek@stgerts.org, www.stgertrudesprek.org

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Masses

Saturday: 8:30am & 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am (Family Mass), 11:30am

Weekdays: 8:30am

Holy Days: See bulletin/announcements for schedule

Rosary every morning after 8:30am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and
Benediction 1:00pm to 3:00pm Wednesdays
except holidays

Reconciliation/Confession:

Saturdays: 4:00-5:00pm & by appointment

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick: Available upon request.

Baptism: Third Sunday each month at 1:00pm. Prior
parent and sponsor interviews with a baptismal
coordinator required.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made in person with
priest at least 6 months in advance & prior to reception
arrangements.

Adult Christian Initiation. If you are interested in
exploring the Catholic faith or completing your
initiation into the Church, please call the Parish office.

Outreach—Pantry Hours:

St. Gertrude: Friday 8:30am-9:30am

United Methodist Church Outreach. Food pantry
opened every OTHER Saturday 9-12. Please call Ann
Albro @ 516-647-5943 for any questions.



St. Vincent de Paul:

Email: svdpstgerts@gmail.com

Furniture: (516) 746-8250

PARISH OFFICE: Phone: (516) 628-1113

Michele Drago, Office Manager

Email: parishoffice@stgerts.org

Donna Rogers, Secretary/Bulletin Editor

Email: bulletin@stgerts.org

Fran Conte, Business Manager

Email: businessoffice@stgerts.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday: 9:00am—4:00pm
(or by appointment)

Fax: (516) 628-9032

Website: www.stgerts.com



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time
will come." - Mk 13:33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

©LPI



New to our Parish? We welcome you
and ask that you please call or stop
into our Parish office to register.

*The Lord told Israel to reach out to newcomers and
welcome them (Leviticus 19:36).*

Remembering. . .

SATURDAY	December 2
5:00 pm	Maria Kieran +
SUNDAY	December 3
7:30 am	Rosary Guild living and deceased members
9:30 am	For the parishioners of St. Gertrude
11:30 am	Alfred Carfora + Francesco and Rosario Amorelli + Elena Angrisani + Michael and Elaine DiPasqua Franceschiello +; Anthony and Marie Gioia DiPasqua +; Joseph and Mary Gabriel Franceschiello +
MONDAY	December 4
8:30 am	Lucile B. Palmaro, Marcel B. Palmaro, and the Sabin & Sobrino families +
TUESDAY	December 5
8:30 am	Zachary McLaughlin +
WEDNESDAY	December 6
8:30 am	Vincent Valli +
THURSDAY	December 7
8:30 am	DeCesare Family +
5:00 pm	Lucile B. Palmaro, Marcel B. Palmaro, and the Sabin & Sobrino families +
FRIDAY	December 8
8:30 am	Michele J. Principe Amodio +
7:30 pm	For the parishioners of St. Gertrude
SATURDAY	December 9
8:30 am	Lucile B. Palmaro, Marcel B. Palmaro, and the Sabin & Sobrino families +
5:00 pm	Linda Firriello +

First Sunday in Advent Scripture Reflection

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?



Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi



Rosary Guild News

Upcoming Meeting
Dec. 7, 7:00 pm

The Rosary Guild has a new link on the parish website (under Ministries) See: www.stgersts.org. Newsletters can be found here, or if you'd like a newsletter emailed to your inbox, kindly send an email to stgertruderosaryguild@gmail.com. Thank you!

The First Sunday in Advent Scripture Readings

First Reading:

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Second Reading:

The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel:

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mk 13:35)

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Presider's Schedule: (subject to change)

Saturday, December 9th: 5:00pm — Fr. Joseph
Sunday, December 10th: 7:30am — Msgr. Morrissey
9:30am — Msgr. Morrissey
11:30am — Fr. Joseph



Those serving in our military:

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen”

LT Cmdr. Melissa Buffa

LT Mary Grace Colluci

2nd LT Glenn Harvey

LT Colonel Nicholas Lo Russo

Pfc. Duncan Moskowitz

PFC Matthew A. Passero

Hosp. Medic Matthew D. Perez

Capt. Thomas E. Rojek

ENS Patrick Hesse USN

LT Colonel Terrance Thorgramson

LCpl Brian Allen

Major Janet R. Erazo

1st LT Dylan Wall

Sgt. 5 Jose Marin

Major James Nicholson

LT William Hegarty

LT Sean Riordan

Spc. Chase Tucker

Ens. James Figari

Capt. James Andrew Baker

Pfc. Mark Chuisano

1st LT William Trotta, Jr.

Capt. Alexander Van Patten USAF

Airman Bryan Mollitor

LT Col. Sean Patak

Sfc. Sean P. Schenck

Cpl. Jason Roland

Major Chad Lennon

US Army Sgt. Richard F. Charon

Lt. Kevin Valsecchi

If you would like to inform us of any family member or friend who has been called to active service or for a name to be removed, please call our Parish office. We cannot update this list without your help.



Sean Burnett, Michael Coddington, Francesca Lattuga, David Long, Sean Stalker, Mary Lou Fusillo, Anthony

Varrichio, Mary Connelly, Joe Buffa.

Call the parish office to add a relative to our prayer list. Names will remain for 6 weeks.

Parish Financial Summary

Sunday collections (including Faith Direct)

November 19, 2023: \$ 7,885.25

Human Development and Home Missions: \$ 2,245

Our second collection next weekend (December 9-10) is for Religious Retirement

Our weekly collection budget is \$7,500.00.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support of our parish family.



St. Gertrude Parish Pantry Needs:

Supplies are either desperately low or out of the following items: Cereal, Parmalat milk, flour, sugar, coffee (decaf & regular),

tea, mayonnaise, toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, paper towels, deodorant.

Donations to be placed in back of church under choir loft.

Pantry hours are every Friday from 8:30am–9:30am in the lower Church.

United Methodist Church Outreach. Food pantry opened every OTHER Saturday 9-12. Please call Ann Albro @ 516-647-5943 for any questions.

Just a friendly reminder to please be aware of food expiration dates. Thank you!

Anthony Varrichio



The Parish of St. Gertrude extends its prayerful condolences to his families and friends.

Check out our website for other information that our printed bulletin cannot accommodate.

Wwww.stgerts.com



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

Monday, December 4

7:00pm

Parish Center



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Do you know of anyone who is thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Have you or someone you know

wanted to complete the sacraments

of Holy Communion or Confirmation? Invite them to join

a community of adults who are discerning God's call

through prayer and discussion as they learn more about

the Catholic Faith. For more information contact Dr.

Sheehan in our Religious Education office at 516-628-2432

or faithformation@stgerts.org.



Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule

Vigil, Thursday Dec. 7th – 5:00 pm

Friday, Dec. 8th – 8:30am and 7:30pm

ANGELS FOR CHRISTMAS — OUR GIVING TREE



Caring and sharing is a joyful part of Christmas where we continue our St. Gertrude's tradition of overwhelming generosity of our parish family. Through the years, parishioners have provided generous donations of new clothing, new toys, etc. for our needy children here — through the St. Gertrude Outreach Program.



The Giving Tree is set up in the back of the Church with angels identifying the children by age, gender, and size.
Please take an angel and return it with a gift for the child.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS, bring them in a holiday bag or if you can send wrapping paper with the gift, that would be great.

IMPORTANT: THE ANGEL MUST BE AFFIXED TO THE GIFT
This will ensure the right gift goes to the right child.

The gifts must be placed under the tree
NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14, 2023



Thank you so much and have a Blessed Christmas!

For further information, please email: Cyndyergen@gmail.com



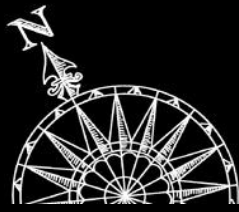
The Rosary Guild of St. Gertrude News



December Meeting Date: Thursday, December 7th- 7:00 p.m.- Parish Center

HO HO HO!! We will be assembling gift bags and baskets full of holiday treats for families in need within our parish community. Please bring 2 or more treats, which may include candy, cookies, Christmas trinkets, or any other special treat. *Nothing perishable, please.* We will enjoy holiday hospitality and Christmas music and *get creative* while we assemble the bags and baskets. *Wear your jingle bells!* Donations of festive wrapping would also be appreciated. *If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to donate treats, you may bring them to the parish office no later than December 18th.*

Please join us. All are welcome to attend our meetings.



North Shore Theatre Group's

A Christmas Carol



A solo performance of Charles Dickens' classic, holiday tale.
One actor. One hour!

Presented by the Friends of the Bayville Library
Saturday, December 16th at 7:00pm

St. Gertrude's Parish Center
28 School Street, Bayville, NY

Tickets: \$25/adult; \$15/children 10-12 years old

**For Tickets call: Pat Farnell: 516-801-3356
Louise Pecorino: 516-802-7860**

Preschool News: We hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration! This week the Preschool classes began preparing for the Christmas season.

Miss Anna's Mommy and Me class made a paper plate frosty the snowman and sensory bins. Miss Carmela's 2's made a Christmas stocking and a G is for Gumball machine project. They also made a tissue paper Christmas Wreath. Miss Anna's 3's made a handprint Christmas tree and waving snowman craft. They also made Q-tip painted snowflake ornaments. Miss Michelle's 3's worked on the letter J. They made dot marker ornaments and Christmas trees. They also did some collaborative painting and made a J is for Jesus and Jingle craft. Miss Meredith's 4's worked on the letter J. They began work on an advent wreath craft, and made symmetry painted Christmas ornaments. They also created a classroom Christmas tree using tissue paper and sponge painting.



Teacher's Assistant Wanted for our preschool for the 2023-2024 school year. We are searching for a patient, charismatic and caring individual to join our staff. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15-12. Responsibilities include assisting the head teacher in all school functions and activities, and working collaboratively with staff. High school diploma or equivalent required. Experience working with young children in an early childhood setting preferred. Please email resume to Ms. Meredith Brosnan, Director at stgertprek@stgerts.org.

Our 2023 CMA goal remains at \$55,000 and we have received \$34,431.00 to date from 73 donors (62.04%). Thank you!!!



**SUBSTITUTE
CATECHISTS
WANTED**
All grades (1-8)

The Annual St. Gertrude's Parish CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Is Back!

2023 PAGEANT: Friday, December 22nd at 6 pm

WANTED: Children grades 1-6 to act as:



*Angels
Shepherds
Innkeepers
Wise Men
Narrators and
more!*

Rehearsals: Mondays

12/4 @ 6:00 pm (1st - 6th graders)
12/12 @ 6:00 pm (1st - 6th graders)
12/18 @ 6:00 pm (1st - 6th graders)

******NOTE New Time ******

Pageant: Friday 12/22 @ 6:00pm

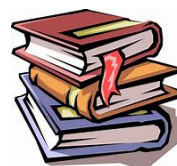
Please contact Dr. Sheehan to participate or help in the production at:

faithformation@stgerts.org or (516) 628-2432.

If interested email or call Dr. Sheehan
faithformation@stgerts.org
or (516) 628-2432.



See our website for further info that cannot be printed in our bulletin at:
www.stgerts.com.



**SOMETHING NEW
A SMALL LENDING LIBRARY**

Please look for the book cart located in the side vestibule of the church near the new restrooms.

READ AND RETURN!

Please stop by, take a look and borrow a book to **READ** and just **RETURN** when you are finished.



COFFEE with JESUS

Advent Zoom Webinars

Join Bishop Andrzej

10:00 am on Friday mornings in December:

December 1, 8, 15, 22

Online Advent Reflections

on Scripture Readings

with the special emphasis
on Mary, Joseph and Jesus.



Great opportunity to prepare and nourish your mind and heart,
in preparation for Christmas.

To register,
please call Suzanne 516-744-6850
or email westernvicariate@drvc.org.

Once you are registered, you will be emailed the
ZOOM Webinar information prior to each session
of this Advent series.





Apostle of the Impossible: Tour of the Relics of Saint Jude the Apostle



IN DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



All are invited to visit and venerate the relics.

2023 Tour Schedule & Locations

Monday, November 27, 2023

St. Jude Church

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE, MASTIC BEACH, N.Y. 11951
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

St. Anthony of Padua Church

20 CHESHIRE PLACE, EAST NORTHPORT, N.Y. 11731
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

St. Patrick Church

9 NORTH CLINTON AVENUE, BAY SHORE, N.Y. 11706
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Holy Family Church

17 FORDHAM AVENUE, HICKSVILLE, N.Y. 11801
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 1, 2023

Notre Dame Church

45 MAYFAIR ROAD, NEW HYDE PARK, N.Y. 11040
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, 2023

St. Patrick Church

215 GLEN STREET, GLEN COVE, N.Y. 11542
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Holy Name of Jesus Church

690 WOODBURY ROAD, WOODBURY, N.Y. 11797
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude: 2:30 p.m.
Veneration immediately following Mass
Veneration ends at 9:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4, 2023

St. Agnes Cathedral

29 QUEALY PLACE, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

St. Patrick Church

400 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON, N.Y. 11743
Veneration of Relic: 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Special Mass in honor of Saint Jude at 7:00 p.m.



For more information on the visit of the
relics of Saint Jude the Apostle, visit:
www.ApostleOfTheImpossible.com

Save the Date!

*St. Kilian Christmas
Organ Concert*



**In Honor of the 35th Ordination Anniversary
of Bishop John Dunne as Auxiliary Bishop of the
Diocese of Rockville Centre**

**St. Kilian Parish welcomes back Dr. Joseph Woo,
Dean of the Suffolk County American Guild of Organists,
for an afternoon of musical offerings of the
Christmas Season!**

*Sunday, December 10th at 4:30pm
St. Kilian Church*

*Our Christmas Tree Lighting will follow the concert
outside on the Church Lawn!*



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

: First Sunday of Advent: We are the clay and you are the potter. Be watchful! Be alert!

Isaiah 64:2-7: "Oh Lord, you are our Father: We are the clay and you are the potter: we are all work of your hands." Let God mold you and make you, so you can give glory to Him and you can follow His will. Love your spouse always. From scripture: "What God has joined together (man & wife), let no one divide."

Give your spouse a gift by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. You can find one by looking up WWME.org. Some of the dates to sign up are:

January 21-23, 2024 in Huntington, NY (Immaculate Conception Seminary)

February 9-11, 2024 in Huntington, NY

March 15-17, 2024 in Upton, MA

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Kevin & Regina Hickson at 631-486-8607 or <https://wwmenyli.org/>.

BAYVILLE SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB PRESENTS

Lancaster Show Trip & the Dutch Country



INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- ◆ Motorcoach transportation
- ◆ 2 nights lodging in the Lancaster area
- ◆ 4 meals: 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- ◆ Admission to the "MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS" Show at the Sight & Sound® Millennium Theatre®
- ◆ Admission to the "THE FIRST NOEL" Show at the American Music Theatre
- ◆ Visit to charming KITCHEN KETTLE VILLAGE
- ◆ Admission to THE AMISH EXPERIENCE & JACOB'S CHOICE AT THE F/X THEATRE

and much more

\$425*

3 Days 2 Nights

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Wed - Fri)
Nov 29 - Dec 1
2023



"MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS" Show at Sight & Sound® Millennium Theatre®



"THE FIRST NOEL" Show at the American Music Theatre



Experience the Amish lifestyle



Enjoy a Taste of Local Jams

Departure: Bayville, NY @ 8 am

Day 1: Board your spacious, restroom and video equipped Motorcoach and set off for Lancaster in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. This afternoon, you will head to Lancaster's famous American Music Theatre for the all-new "THE FIRST NOEL" show. Hear some of your favorite sacred and secular holiday songs and the outstanding musical arrangements of the AMT Orchestra. This will be an unforgettable experience that's bound to leave you in the holiday spirit. Tonight, enjoy Dinner before checking into your hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 2: Today after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will go to THE AMISH EXPERIENCE attraction. The Amish Country Homestead is a reflection of their commitment to accurately and sensitively portray the Old Order Amish as they live and work in today's world. The Homestead is the home of the fictional Amish family of Daniel and Lizzie Fisher, whom you have gotten to know in the Amish Experience Theater's "Jacob's Choice." Inside the Homestead, learn of Amish traditions and practices, plain clothing and life without electricity. The Fisher One-Room School is attached to the house and filled with authentic desks and furnishings from an actual Amish school. You'll learn the tradition of teaching eight grades in one room. From the pantry stocked full of freshly canned vegetables to the family's plain clothes... from propane-powered lamps to air-compressor driven appliances...the Fisher Family Homestead truly provides insights into the complex riddles of a culture so very different from our own. Then, Sight & Sound Theatres invites you to experience the "MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS" Show. This holiday season, travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wise men—along with their camels! Experience MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS as it comes to life on stage with massive sets and live animals in this cherished holiday production from Sight & Sound Theatres®! Tonight, enjoy Dinner and head back to your hotel.

Day 3: After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will head to KITCHEN KETTLE VILLAGE – a charming marketplace of shops and restaurants. Then, you'll depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great shows you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...

With Diamond Tours Exclusive *Travel Confident*® Protection Plan.
See separate advertisement...

*Price per person, based on double occupancy.

Add \$75 for single occupancy.

Final Payment Due: 9/22/2023

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Victoria Siegel @ (516) 628-1632

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Is God
calling
you?

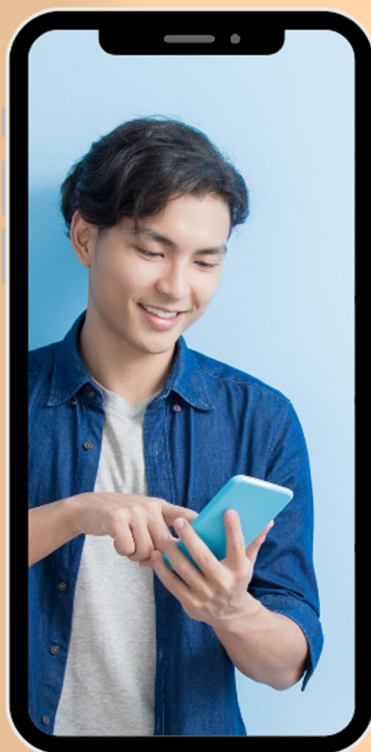
Take the next step.

www.drvcvocations.org

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5 STEPS SAFE ADULTS CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUTH ONLINE



1

Maintain open and ongoing communication about social media and online interactions

2

Monitor technology use (trust but verify)

3

Set and enforce boundaries for utilization of social media and tech

4

Educate yourself on the latest trends and potential risks

5

Inform children and youth they can always tell you if someone makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or unsafe online



www.virtus.org



DID YOU KNOW?

Planned Gifts of IRAs are not the best assets for family members to inherit? WHY? Heirs will pay taxes on these financial instruments.

On the other hand, IRAs are good assets to give to the Church or other charity when doing your estate planning since they will not pay a tax on retirement assets they inherit.

Making a planned gift of a retirement asset reduces the tax burden on a family. In addition, making a planned gift of an IRA is easy and affordable. All it takes is to update a beneficiary designation with a donor's bank or investment company.

For more information on tax-wise planned gifts, contact Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at bkilarjian@drvc.org This information is not intended and should not be construed as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax advisor or investment professional.

D • I • S • C • O • V • E • R

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for the Education of a Lifetime



We look forward to welcoming you for a tour to learn more about our Catholic faith community, academic, athletic, and extracurricular offerings!



Saint Mary's Elementary School

Providing excellence in Catholic education since 1926.

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SAINTMARYSES.ORG | 516 627 0184 | #STMARYSES



FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. NORMA STAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AT EXT. 1084 OR NSTAFFORD@SAINTMARYSMANHASSET.ORG

~A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE~

During a review of the Virtus report for St. Gertrude's, it was noted many Virtus accounts require updating. If you receive an e-mail from Virtus instructing you to log into your Virtus account, IT IS LEGITIMATE - THIS IS NOT A SCAM!!!

If you remain active in ministry **and** it has been five years (or more) since your prior background screening was performed; it is time to be rescreened. Please log into your Virtus account: www.virtus.org If you forgot your user ID and password, Virtus will provide instructions.

After logging into your account, you will be prompted to electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Codes of Conduct and complete the background screening application. Please follow all the instructions on the application and hit the submit button when completed.

During the pandemic shutdown, the Diocese established the on-line background screening process to facilitate remote screening. The company providing the screening is Sterling Solutions. During the application process, you will be creating an account with Sterling and will have access to your screening report when completed. The Diocese does not screen your financial information-the Fair Credit Reporting Act is the name of the legislation protecting your rights as a consumer. Unfortunately, this is poor choice for the title of the legislation, as many believe we have access to your financial information-we do not!.

Finally, if you are active in a ministry with children/youth: Catechist, Coach, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Ministry; you are required to participate in on-going Virtus training. To facilitate this, the Diocese has made available monthly articles you are required to read. These bulletins/articles are attached to your Virtus account, you will receive a monthly email reminder to log into your account and complete the article. When completed, please answer the question and hit submit. Your account will be credited with completion of this requirement. Each article contains useful information pertinent to today's children and youth.

If you have any questions, please send me an email: mmcmahon@druc.org

Thank you.

Mary McMahon, LSCW

Why Catholic Education?

We nourish the mind and spirit of every child. A creative academic program and powerful spiritual guidance are the heart of every day at Long Island Catholic Schools. Our commitment to strong, individualized instruction, enhanced by advanced learning technologies, ensures that all children receive the personalized attention that builds knowledge and self-esteem in addition to the skills and study habits that prepare them for the academic challenges ahead. Daily teachings of faith bring spiritual values to life and foster in children an active and humane concern for others.

Early Childhood Program—Nursery (age 3) and Pre-K (age 4)

We guide children on the path to more fulfilling lives. Our academic rigor, emphasis on spiritual values, along with our commitment to extracurricular growth opportunities, all combine to give children the knowledge, skills, and confidence to go farther. The result? Higher performance in the classroom and on recognized standardized tests and an exceptionally high rate of college admissions. More important, our students become well-rounded individuals who go on to lead successful personal and professional lives and who become active, caring members of the community.

Catholic Elementary School Education

An elementary education at a Catholic school engages children at an important formative time in their lives. They are learning information, but it is much more than that. They are learning about themselves, about their place and purpose in the world, and about their obligations to others. Catholic school stands out as a place that addresses all of the relevant aspects of a young person's life. A Catholic school's broad charter allows us to 'educate the whole person', in mind, in body and in spirit. It is a difference that creates an advantage for their entire life.

Catholic Middle School Education

Grades 6,7, and 8 can be difficult but rewarding years for students. Through our schools, we encourage authentic growth: leadership, academics, faith, contributing to their parish, and exploring sports and extracurricular activities. Taking the reins of leadership! The move from elementary school to middle school marks the beginning of a new set of expectations and a new world of opportunities. Challenging academic curriculum, inspired Catholic teachings, and an array of new after-school activities give each student the intellectual, spiritual and social preparation needed for greater achievement in high school, college and beyond.

Catholic High Schools of Long Island

It's the education of a lifetime. Nine Catholic high schools on Long Island present their own unique opportunity for students to explore a faith-based education that challenges, inspires, and prepares them for college, careers, and life. The total experience makes the difference in a Catholic education. Families are strongly encouraged to attend Open House programs held at each Long Island Catholic school to learn first-hand about programs, facilities, faculties, activities, and the character of each institution. If you cannot attend an Open House, please contact a school directly. All of the high schools located on Long Island use the Catholic High Schools Entrance Examination for admission into 9th grade. Rigorous academic learning is reinforced at each of Long Island's Catholic high schools with engaging extra-curricular activities and a strong foundation in faith. These high schools offer a wide range of exciting choices for families considering a Catholic education. Guided by talented and dedicated religious and lay teachers, a Catholic education helps each student to test abilities, add skills, build confidence, and develop his or her understanding of faith. Start your journey now!

To find out more, go to: <https://drvcschools.org> or on our website: *Choosing a Catholic School* brochure.

DRVC Department of Education

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"We pledge to persevere in prayer,
fasting and witnessing to the
sacredness of every human life."

- Bishop Barres' statement regarding the
U.S. Supreme Court Decision in
Dobbs v. Jackson, June 24, 2022



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As You Plan Your Future, Please Consider a Legacy Gift to Our Parish

The principle of Stewardship is frequently discussed in Catholic circles, both among the laity and Church leadership. Stewardship is based in scripture and in Church traditions. Stewardship flows from our gratitude to God for the gifts, with which we have been blessed. We show our gratitude by being generous in our response with our time, talent, and treasure.

We would like to encourage you to consider ways that you can leave a lasting legacy by making a planned gift to our parish or other Catholic Ministry.

You may be asking yourself what a planned gift is as it can be a confusing term and it is often misunderstood. Very simply, planned giving describes a donor's commitment to transfer capital assets to a qualified religious organization or other charity. More often than not, a planned gift is made by means of a formal agreement or contract.

Planned gifts are normally made from the donor's accumulated wealth as part of an overall estate plan. The most common form of a planned gift is a bequest provision in a Will.

Many Catholics find the idea of making a planned gift to their parish appealing. Parishioners often wonder how to go about making a planned gift and they have other questions about doing this.

Faithful parishioners have found that naming the parish in their Wills or Trusts to be a very fulfilling way to show their appreciation for what the Church has meant to them. Some parishioners have left planned gifts in memory of a loved one or close friend. Others have made a bequest to support a particular parish ministry, or outreach.

Individuals who make planned gifts often enjoy significant tax advantages from their giving. Still others find that once their surviving family receives a reasonable inheritance, leaving a bequest to the parish is a fulfilling way to show their gratitude for God's blessings and leave a spiritual legacy.

Please give thought to remembering your parish in your estate plan. It is a beautiful thing to do for future generations!

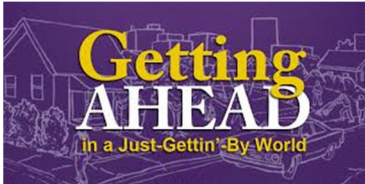
**PLEASE CALL BARBARA KILARJIAN
AT 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at
bkilarjian@drvc.org for more information.**



Resources Available

FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND INDIVIDUAL THERAPY

Family, marriage and individual therapy, provided by New York State licensed therapists including therapists who specialize in Depression, Divorce Mediation and Domestic Violence, are available to our parishioners at 147 other parishes. This program, under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani, has been conducted in the diocese for the past 41 years for the convenience of parishioners. It is provided by the Catholic Counseling Center, which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or diocese. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. We are currently looking for licensed therapists in Nassau, Suffolk and Queens. For confidential information and appointments, please call Dr. Giuliani at the Catholic Counseling Center at (631) 243-2503 or go to our website at: <http://www.thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.



“Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting By World”

An Invitation to Serve, in the District Council of Nassau North
We all know how the Society of St. Vincent de Paul regularly provides charitable assistance to neighbors in need. Beginning with the home visit, Vincentians perform numerous good deeds, many of which involve financial assistance (rent & utility bills), immediate needs assistance (food, furniture, etc.) and also counseling.

However, the challenges facing those in poverty are ever more acute today. The “Getting AHEAD” program, offered by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul across the country, is one approach to help these neighbors rise above the “tyranny of the moment” or crisis mode in which they are too often bound. It also answers the questions raised by many Vincentians: “What more can I do for my neighbor beyond the traditional home visit?” and “Is there a structured process I can become involved with that would make a difference?” If you are interested in joining, please email: svdpstgertrudes@gmail.com

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Please see their website or email them for their 2023 membership/"Friends of the Chamber" associate membership application.

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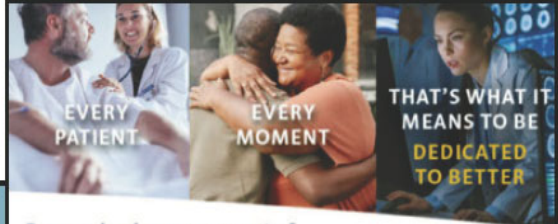


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