

# 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.

## 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 24, 2023

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:31

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

GLP



St. Vincent de Paul:

Email: svdpstgerts@gmail.com

Furniture: (516) 746-8250



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 . . .

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 23</b>
5:00 pm	John Wallace +
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 24</b>
7:30 am	For the parishioners of St. Gertrude
9:30 am	Michael Primeggia + Andrew DeNatale, in thanksgiving for a special intention Kathleen Fay +
11:30 am	Jeannine Willett Light +
4:00 pm	Lucile B. Palmaro, Marcel B. Palmaro, and the Sabin & Sobrino families +
6:00 pm	For the parishioners of St. Gertrude
Midnight	Steven Salerno +
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 25</b>
7:30 am	Sylvester and Nicoletta Della Ratta +
9:30 am	Wayne Wright +
11:30	Mario Frumiento +
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 26</b>
8:30 am	Carmen Aviles +
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 27</b>
8:30 am	Nancy Dammacco (L)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 28</b>
8:30 am	Claudio D'Chiutiis +
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>December 29</b>
8:30 am	Dennis F. Cooney +
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 30</b>
8:30 am	Joseph and Francesca Carbone + Alberto Flores +
5:00 pm	Anthony Varricchio +

**Presider's Schedule:** (subject to change)

Sunday December 24 <sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve Masses)	4:00pm – Msgr. Morrissey
	6:00pm – Fr. Joseph
	Midnight – Msgr. Morrissey
Monday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:30am – Fr. Joseph
	9:30am – Msgr. Morrissey
	11:30am – Fr. Joseph
Saturday, December 30 <sup>th</sup> :	5:00pm – Msgr. Morrissey
Sunday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:30am – Fr. Joseph
	9:30am – Msgr. Morrissey
	11:30am – Fr. Joseph



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Gertrude,

A blessed Christmas! I hope and pray that you and your families will enjoy a Christmas season filled with joy and good health. I am filled with hope that we will see our church filled with faithful families

this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You are most welcome, and your presence helps to build up our community of faith. Please invite friends and family members to join with us at the Eucharist every Sunday.

The story of Christmas goes well beyond the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem. It reaches throughout all of history. In speaking of the birth of Christ, the Incarnation, the late Cardinal Avery Dulles, the priest and teacher from Fordham University once put it this way: *"The Incarnation, the God of the ages taken on our human flesh, our human condition, does not provide us with a ladder by which to escape the ambiguities of life and scale the heights of heaven. Rather it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of life, here on planet earth and find it shimmering with divinity."*

Once again, this Christmas, God has spoken to us, the Word has become flesh. Let us allow God's word to sink into our hearts. That's the promise of Christmas—God's gift of Himself in Jesus the Savior has filled this world with love, not only on that holy night long ago, but the promise of Christmas is that the gift of Jesus shines forth the presence of **God - with - us** today, always. Indeed, we can believe — we can hold tight to the promise — we can sing — "Joy to the world, the Lord has come."

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support during the year, and your continued generosity at Christmas is most appreciated. As the year ends, may I ask you to consider making an extra gift to St. Gertrude's. Every effort is appreciated as we face continued rising costs.

I thank God for the call to serve as your pastor in this wonderful parish and village. May God bless you and your families with peace, joy, and health during 2024.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Robert O. Morrissey

Pastor





## 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          | LCpl Brian Allen         | Pfc. Mark Chuisano              |
| LT Mary Grace Colluci           | Major Janet R. Erazo     | 1st LT William Trotta, Jr.      |
| 2nd LT Glenn Harvey             | 1st LT Dylan Wall        | Capt. Alexander Van Patten USAF |
| LT Colonel Nicholas Lo Russo    | Sgt. 5 Jose Marin        | Airman Bryan Mollitor           |
| Pfc. Duncan Moskowitz           | Major James Nicholson    | LT Col. Sean Patak              |
| PFC Matthew A. Passero          | LT William Hegarty       | Sfc. Sean P. Schenck            |
| Hosp. Medic Matthew D. Perez    | LT Sean Riordan          | Cpl. Jason Roland               |
| Capt. Thomas E. Rojek           | Spc. Chase Tucker        | Major Chad Lennon               |
| ENS Patrick Hesse USN           | Ens. James Figari        | US Army Sgt. Richard F. Charon  |
| LT Colonel Terrance Thorgramson | Capt. James Andrew Baker | 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)

December 10, 2023: \$7,994

Immaculate Conception: \$1,552

Second Collection: Religious Retirement: \$1,845

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!*

Our 2023 CMA goal remains at \$55,000 and we have received \$36,818.00 to date from 74 donors (66.34%). Thank you!!!

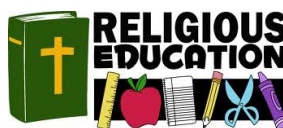


St. Gertrude Welcomes Our Newly Baptized Member

Nora Jane Russell



The Parish of St. Gertrude extends its prayerful condolences to the families and friends of those in our parish who have died.



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

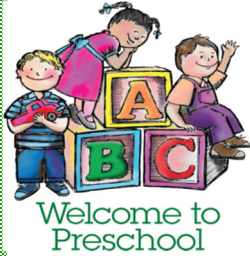
Have you or someone you know wanted to complete the sacra-

ments 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.

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

[Www.stgerts.com](http://www.stgerts.com)

**Preschool News:** The Preschool had a week full of fun and celebration! Miss Anna's Mommy and Me class made a popsicle stick reindeer craft and an elf headband. On Friday they had their Christmas party complete with a visit from one of Santa's elves! Miss Carmela's 2's made a handprint painted Santa card and worked on some Christmas coloring sheets. Miss Anna's 3's made a Christmas angel. They also made bread pudding and a gingerbread man headband. Miss Michele's 3's made a reindeer craft and reindeer food. They also worked on the letter M and made a Mickey and Minnie project. Miss Meredith's 4's worked on the letter M and made salt dough ornaments. They also made a snow globe craft and reindeer food. On Thursday our 2's 3's and 4's classes had a special visit from Santa and celebrated with their families at their class Christmas parties. All of us at St. Gertrude's Preschool would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas! The Preschool will be closed for Christmas break from December 25<sup>th</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup>.



**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](mailto:stgertprek@stgerts.org).



**NEW Virtus Session  
At St. Gertrude's, January 20, 2024**

**ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS:**

Any person wishing to volunteer in the Parish must complete these three requirements:

1. Attend Protecting God's Children (Virtus)
2. Sign the Code of Conduct
3. Complete a background screening application

St. Gertrude's will host a Virtus Session here on Saturday, January 13 at 10:00am in Room 2 of the Parish Center.

To register for the class visit: [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org).

The name of the organization is Rockville Centre-Safe-Environment. Follow directions on the next screens. Please acknowledge the Codes of Conduct. Then select class on January 13, and then you will be instructed to complete the background screening application. Pre-Registration is Required.

For more information contact the Religious education Office at 516-628-2432 or [faithformation@stgerts.org](mailto:faithformation@stgerts.org)

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2023**

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**CONFESSIONS**  
Wednesday, December 13  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 19  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

\*

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Sunday, December 24**  
4:00 and 6:00 p.m.  
Midnight  
(Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.)  
**Christmas Day**  
**Monday, December 25**  
7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

\*

**NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE**

**CONFESSIONS**  
**Saturday, December 30**  
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

**NEW YEAR'S MASSES**  
**New Year's Eve (Solemnity of Mary)**  
**Sunday, December 31**  
5:00 p.m.  
**New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary)**  
**Monday, January 1**  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2023

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In recent years at Christmas, I have meditated on the relationship between the Nativity of the Prince of Peace and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

I have been especially inspired by Pope Francis' analysis of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the second chapter of his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. It is powerful and provocative, and I would recommend it for your mental prayer.

The short phrase in the Christmas Gospel narrative in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke reads: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"No room for them in the inn." No Good Samaritan stepped up to help the Holy Family. They were ignored and treated perfunctorily and impatiently. Some passed them by. Some pretended not to notice their plight.

Remember too that in the Parable of the Good Samaritan an "inn" is also mentioned. Luke 10 reads: "But a Good Samaritan while traveling came near him, and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The inn that the Holy Family approaches on the way to Bethlehem is a sign of rejection and indifference.

The inn in the Parable of the Good Samaritan is a sign of the Good Samaritan's compassion and commitment to go the extra mile and to make sure that the wounded man is taken care of until he is completely healed.

Contemporary literary criticism might very well emphasize that the use of "inn" by the Gospel writer in both the Nativity in Luke 2 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is not by accident.

In a sense, the phrase “there was no room at the inn” in the Nativity foreshadows and connects with the phrase in the Parable of the Good Samaritan describing the callous indifference of both the priest and the Levite toward the wounded man on the side of the road: “[H]e passed by on the other side.”

As Pope Francis says in *Fratelli Tutti*: “Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Lady, St. Joseph and the unborn Christ Child experienced the reality of people who decided to be indifferent bystanders.

The Christmas Gospel narrative from Luke 2 poses a question which is posed again later in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

Will we be Good Samaritans?

Or will we be indifferent bystanders?

As the Holy Father reminds us, we make that choice every day.

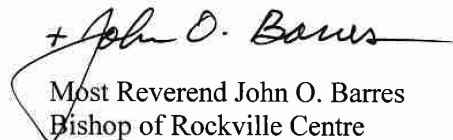
May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Nativity Mystery. May the Good Samaritan Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness and peace unite us in solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and all war-ravaged areas of the world.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit on this Christmas night and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>1</sup> Francis, encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, October 4, 2020: AAS 112 (11) 969-1074, at no. 70.

## Keep the Mission of St. Gertrude Parish in Bayville, NY Strong for Future Generations

### Dear Parishioners:

As we approach a certain age, we often wonder what legacy we will leave behind. You can leave behind a great legacy by ensuring that St. Gertrude's is able to minister to the people of Bayville for years to come by making a bequest or trust to our Parish.

Please consider using some of the vehicles noted below in your financial planning.

### Give a Charitable Bequest

Include a provision in your will or trust for the benefit of St. Gertrude Parish to ensure that its mission continues for years to come. A bequest is easy to arrange, reduces your taxable estate, and allows you to retain your assets throughout your lifetime. The flexibility of a bequest permits you to designate a specific dollar amount, percentage of your estate, or a parcel of property. If you are considering a bequest to St. Gertrude Parish, we recommend that you consult a lawyer who specializes in trusts and estates.

Our *Federal Tax ID number* is 11-1954828.

### Life Insurance

Name St. Gertrude Parish as the beneficiary of all or part of your life insurance policy. When you make St. Gertrude Parish the beneficiary of the policy, you may be eligible for an income-tax charitable deduction. Proceeds from the policy are completely removed from the taxable estate of the donor.

### Charitable Remainder Trusts

This is a flexible plan allowing you to receive immediate income tax deduction. Gifts to a Charitable Remainder Trust are usually in the form of appreciated stock or property, whose sale would incur a capital gains tax. A Charitable Remainder Trust is established when a donor places cash, stock, real estate, or art valued over \$100,000 into a trust. The trust pays you or your beneficiaries a percentage based on the value of the assets. The assets pass to St. Gertrude Parish when the trust ends.

### Charitable Lead Trusts

A Lead Trust is the opposite of the Charitable Remainder Trust. The benefits include transferring assets to your heirs and maximizing tax savings. You place a gift in a "lead" trust. The trust makes payments to St. Gertrude Parish for a specific period of time. When the trust ends, remaining assets go to your beneficiaries with reduced tax liabilities.

May the good Lord bless you and your loved ones with grace, health and peace during this Christmas Season, in the coming New Year and always.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

**Rev. Msgr. Robert O. Morrissey, JCD**

**Pastor, Church of St. Gertrude**

### *In Memorium Christmas Flowers, 2023*

Antoinette Sanzoverino  
Edward Minicozzi, Sr.  
Edward Dolce  
Edward Dolce, Jr.  
Frances Dolce  
Rose Amato  
Carole Zucaro  
Mario Frumiento

Hafner Family  
Bathie Family  
Fitzpatrick Family  
Carolyn Casino  
Michael Casino  
Francis X. Moore, Jr.  
Ignazio Amato  
Vento Family

Mazzaro Family  
Oliva Family  
Pasquale Meringolo  
Leonard Mallon  
Cassano Family  
Muriel O. Walka  
Solomito Family  
Alfred C. Hesse

Mary Fennelly  
William Fennelly  
Margaret Mullen  
Marinus Otto Diepering  
Albert L Walka  
Earl Hurley  
Frank D'Errico  
Maria D'Errico

Teresa Laurino  
Donato Laurino  
Marie A. & Anthony  
Bologna  
Tom Baxter  
Gloria Donnigi  
Teresa Varricchio  
Dolores Barker

# 2023

## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*One Family - Journeying together in  
Communion, Participation and Mission*



*“Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives ... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God’s mercy,”  
-Pope Francis*

## Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

During the Advent Season we are called to slow down during the frenetic season of shopping, visiting friends and family, baking, wrapping gifts and perhaps even studying for finals.

Are you still struggling to get a unique present for someone special? Consider a gift for all seasons – a donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. It’s a special gift that touches the lives of over 600,000 people by supporting programs that allow us to build of community of faith, hope and love in our diocese and beyond.

How does the **Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God’s People**? It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



Have you tried **Text-to-Give** to make a donation?  
It’s fast and secure.

Go to the following link to find your parish’s keyword:  
[bit.ly/3VFrMCE](https://bit.ly/3VFrMCE)

**TEXT** your parish’s Keyword To:  
**(516) 271-3338**

**Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone’s life. Thank you!**

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To make a donation, you can also visit **CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org**  
or call us at **516-678-5800 ext. 296**

Thank You!



# LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



**Join Bishop Andrzej**

For Scripture Reflection Series

**on St. JOSEPH - Part IV**

**Wednesday, December 27, 2023**

at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.

Bible Study Verses

**JOSEPH**

**The Man of Loving Justice**

**Gospel of Matthew 1: 18-25**

The Annunciation to Joseph

**Registration is Required,**  
in order to receive the ZOOM link to each session.  
Please contact the Western Vicariate office with your  
name, parish, email address and phone number.

Send your email to:

[westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org)

or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.





**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL GYM**  
**Tickets On Sale!**

<https://harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets/>

**Tickets**

**General Admission - \$30 in advance (\$35 @ door)**  
 (children 3 and under do not need a ticket)

**Reserved Student- \$50**  
 Special reserved seating close to the court and free team poster.

**Reserved Adult- \$50**  
 Special reserved seating close to the court and \$5 souvenir gift certificate. (200 max seating)

**Courtside Plus Student - \$80 (limited quantity)**  
**Courtside reserved seating**, pregame meet & greet with players, souvenir lanyard, a color team photo that is perfect for autographs and a \$5 discount on Wizards replica jersey.

**Courtside Plus Adult - \$80 (limited quantity)**  
**Courtside reserved seating**, pregame meet & greet with players, souvenir lanyard, and a \$10 souvenir gift certificate for adults.

**Courtside Player (Students K-8) - \$155 (10 tickets available)**

Courtside reserved seating, pregame meet & greet with players, jersey (picked up at game) souvenir lanyard, color team photo for kids that is perfect for autographs AND the opportunity to play in a 3-minute game with the Harlem Wizards during half-time.

\*This is not a drop-off event, K-6 students must be accompanied by an adult.

We will be selling concessions and Wizards Souvenirs (cash or cc) to help raise money



## **Because no marriage is beyond hope...**

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

## **Retrouvaille can help.**

**Our Next Weekend is  
January 19-21, 2024  
at The Immaculate Conception Seminary,  
Huntington**

**To register or for more information:  
1-800-470-2230  
HelpOurMarriage.org**

**Retrouvaille** is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

**Retrouvaille** is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

**Catholic** in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

### Third Sunday of Advent: Rejoice Always!

Isaiah 61:1: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24: "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it." Let the Lord transform your marriage.

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/>.

### **Rosary Guild News**

The Rosary Guild has a new link on the parish website (under Ministries) See: [www.stgerts.org](http://www.stgerts.org).

*Please note: Newsletters will no longer be mailed. Find them on the website, or if you'd like a newsletter emailed directly to your inbox, kindly send an email to [stgertruderosaryguild@gmail.com](mailto:stgertruderosaryguild@gmail.com). Thank you!*



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

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



Watch  
live & on  
demand.



[www.cfntv.org](http://www.cfntv.org)

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Is God  
calling  
you?

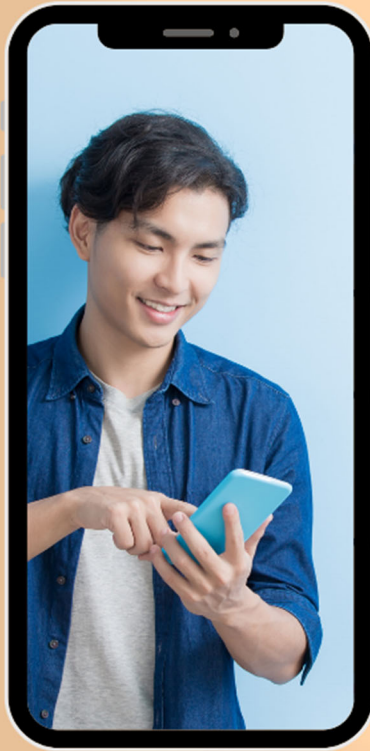
Take the next step.

[www.drvcvocations.org](http://www.drvcvocations.org)

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



# 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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# SAINT MARY'S

*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!



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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](http://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](mailto: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**

128 Cherry Lane  
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516-678-5800 x800



"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



# Rosary for Life



JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

***Every Friday - 3:00 PM***

***Via Zoom***

***Click here for link***

Meeting ID: 856 4708 7922

Passcode: 677757

Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923

Email [dcrean@drvc.org](mailto:dcrean@drvc.org)

if you would like the link  
sent to you each month.



[www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org)



## *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!

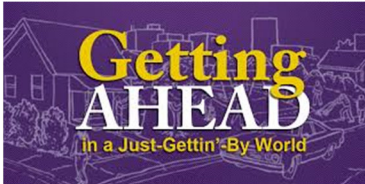
**PLEASE CALL BARBARA KILARJIAN  
AT 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at  
[bkilarjian@drvc.org](mailto:bkilarjian@drvc.org) for more information.**



# 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](mailto:svdpstgertrudes@gmail.com)

## Catholic Health Services' Skilled Nursing Facilities



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**Our Lady of Consolation Nursing & Rehabilitative Care Center**, West Islip

CHS sees each individual as a whole, requiring care of the body, mind and spirit. Safe, compassionate care in the Catholic tradition. **Caring isn't just what we do. It's who are.**

## BAYVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Consider getting involved and supporting our Business Community. Our Chamber of Commerce is working very hard to make this coming year our most successful year yet; and we hope you will be a part of it.

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[Www.bayvillechamberofcommerce.com](http://www.bayvillechamberofcommerce.com)

[thebayvillechamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:thebayvillechamberofcommerce@gmail.com)

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

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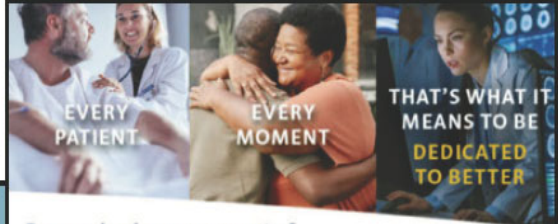


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