

89 OVERLOOK DRIVE
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951
PHONE: 631-281-5743

Roman Catholic
Shrine Church of
St. Jude

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG
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FAX: 631-395-5786

“To the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls.”



Celebration of the Eucharist

SATURDAY EVENINGS
5:00pm Vigil Mass
7:30pm Spanish Mass
SUNDAY
8:00am English & Italian
9:30am Children's Choir
11:30am Adult Choir
5:00pm Youth Mass
MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
9:00am Mass
WEDNESDAY
9:00am Mass
Noon Mass
SATURDAY
8:30am Mass
HOLY DAYS AS
ANNOUNCED.

9th Sunday in Ordinary Time - March 6th 2011

Pastor
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn
In Residence
Msgr. John Heinlein
Senior Priest
Rev. James Leone

Parish Office Hours
MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY AND
FRIDAY
9:00am-5:00pm
WEDNESDAYS
9:00am-6:00pm
SATURDAYS
CLOSED
SUNDAYS
9:00am-2:00pm
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Deacons
Thomas Gillen
Kenneth Geoghan
Mark Herrmann
Joseph Simeone

Useful Numbers
RECTORY
281-5743
PARISH OUTREACH
281-5634
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
281-2835
YOUTH MINISTRY
281-5743
NURSERY SCHOOL
395-3959
QUEEN OF APOSTLES
SCHOOL
878-1033
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL
281-5743 ext. 29

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
Available in danger of death or whenever there is a personal need, call the rectory for an appointment.

Sacrament of Penance/Confession
SATURDAYS
Noon during Lent,
4:00-4:45pm and by appointment
WEDNESDAYS
2:00-2:45pm and by appointment

Parish Outreach
MON.-THURS.
9:00am-1:00pm
CLOSED
FRI., SAT., SUN.
AND HOLIDAYS

Sacrament of Marriage
Couples wishing to be married should contact the rectory at least one year in advance to meet with one of the priests to make wedding arrangements. Pre-Cana is required for all couples.

Sacrament of Baptism
Celebrated on most Sundays throughout the year. Please contact the rectory to set up an appointment with a member of the staff to arrange for the Baptismal preparation session and to set a date for Baptism.

Devotions

MIRACULOUS MEDAL
NOVENA
Mondays after the
9:00am Mass
ST. JUDE NOVENA
Thursdays after the
9:00am Mass
ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
Wednesdays after the
NOON Mass
Benediction at 3:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY
8:00pm-9:00pm
Benediction at 9:00pm
THE HOLY ROSARY
Monday through Friday
at 8:30am; Saturdays at
8:00am

Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011

5:00pm Kevin Igoe †

7:30pm Ines Rivera †

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

8:00am Timothy Ryan †

9:30am Patricia Yander†

11:30am Madelyn Stein †

5:00pm Parishioners of St. Jude

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011

9:00am Jack Buffa †

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011

9:00am Dawn Kudreyko †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

7:30am Liturgy of the Word & Ashes

9:00am John Huber †

NOON Saint Jude Guild –

Michael Mattera †,

Eve Marie Pleczen †

4:00pm Liturgy of the Word & Ashes

5:00pm Liturgy of the Word & Ashes

7:30pm Linda Ann Lombardi †

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

9:00am Intentions of Sandy Phillips

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011

9:00am Robert Imhoff †

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

8:30am Parishioners of St. Jude

5:00pm Agnes Rutkowski †

7:30pm Mrs. Rielly †

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011

8:00am Josephina & Agostino Scarcella †

9:30am Thomas Little †

11:30am Stephen Wyhowanec †

5:00pm Michael Latham †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Christopher Barnes, Barbara Breier, Don Bull, Francis X. Butler, Cory Castelli, Rose Coppola, Anthony Cuccia, Mary Theresa Cunningham, Dorothy Davin, Anthony DeLuco, Alexandra Ditman, Mike Fallgren, Nicholas Ferrara, Theresa Ferrer, James Fiore, Steven Heerbrandt, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Lawrence Katz, Cookie Landau, Joseph Lutz, Dennis MacWilliams, Joe Maloney, Jean McDonald, Jack McCarthy, Phyllis Mohn, Anthony Naglieri, Francis Naglieri, Jennie Paruolo, Dorothy Romero, Frank Russo, Jeffrey Scaccio Jr., Fara Schacca, Lucille Scharrer, Barbara Schiebel, David Simon, Tony Sinagra, Richard Steffen, Julia Tolve, Julia Vaglio, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana, Ronald Weick, Joan Weisner, Tony Zottoli

FOR THE DECEASED: Jean Giannotti, Patrick Thomas Moroney

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Joseph Competello, Matt Corica, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Joe Occhineri, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Don Skelton, Bobby Sosa, James Tagliamonte, Derek Trabocchi, Bryant Walker, Timothy Weisner

Schedule for Ash Wednesday

Ashes will be distributed during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on March 9th, Ash Wednesday at 9:00AM, 12 Noon, and 7:30PM. In addition to these Masses, ashes will be distributed during prayer service at 7:30AM, 4PM and again at 5PM.

Lenten Regulations

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food in between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be eaten during the day.

Morning Lauds

As has been the custom here at St. Jude, we will pray Morning Prayer (The Prayer of the Church) Monday through Friday at 8:15AM. We will begin on Thursday, March 10th, followed by the Holy Rosary.

Sacrament of Confession/Penance

Lent is a special time of grace in the life of the Church. It is a time when many people receive the grace to come back to the practice of the faith. It is also a time of ongoing conversion for each of us.

The Sacrament of Confession/Penance is available each Saturday during Lent at noon, and from 4PM to 4:45PM and Wednesdays 2:00PM to 2:45PM. We encourage you to make use of this sacrament. The Confession Schedule for Holy Week will be printed closer to that week. Please mention this opportunity to family and friends who may be looking for the opportunity to come home!

Lenten Stations of the Cross

The Way of the Cross each Friday evening during Lent at 8:00PM.

Spanish Stations will be on Tuesdays at 7:30PM.

Italian Stations will be on Wednesdays at 7:30PM.

Faith Formation

ASH WEDNESDAY: There will be NO Faith Formation Classes on March 9th. Instead, families are encouraged to attend Mass or prayer service and receive ashes to mark the beginning of Lent.

STEWARDSHIP: This year the students in our Faith Formation program are learning about Stewardship; sharing what we have with others. Each month the Faith Formation Office will accept donations of items and distribute them to different organizations for their clients.

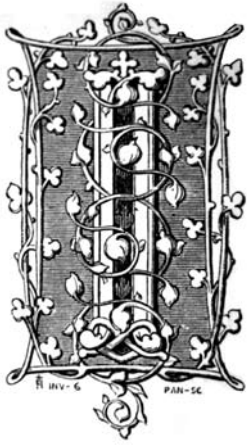
STEWARDSHIP ITEM FOR MARCH: Is Peanut Butter and Jelly. Yum!

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Jude Parish and the J.V. Kavanaugh Knights of Columbus will be hosting the annual Lenten fish fry! Come feed your body and soul. Fridays during Lent beginning March 11th and ending April 15th, the week before Good Friday. There is plenty of time to enjoy your meal and afterwards join us for the Stations of the Cross at 8PM in the church. Dinner includes: Fish fillet, french fries, coleslaw, roll, dessert and soda (or bring a drink of your choice) for just \$8.00 per person. The fish fry will be held at the parish center hall from 5:00PM to 7:30PM.

St. Jude's Catholic Men's Ministry

The St. Jude Catholic Men's Ministry meets the first and third Wednesday of every month. All men of the parish 18 and older are invited to an open meeting on Wednesday, March 16th at 7:45PM in the parish center. The Men's Ministry focuses on building-up and strengthening men in their Catholic faith and vocation. We look forward to your coming to be with us! Please call the rectory if you plan to attend.



From the Pastor

March 6th, 2011

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Accuse Myself

Though making a sacramental confession of sins is not the most “comfortable” thing in the world to do, it is a most rewarding and necessary action for the life of our souls. However, not enough Catholics truly know how to make a *good confession*, nor frequent the Sacrament often enough.

The Holy season of Lent begins this (Ash) Wednesday with fasting, abstinence, and the imposition of blessed ashes as a sign of our need for repentance and of our nothingness without the grace and mercy of the good God. While many people will wait to confess their sins towards the end of Lent, closer to Easter,

the tradition of the Church directs us that we should *begin the season* by so doing. Yet, whether one approaches the sacrament early or late in the season, that one is confessing at some point is the most important issue. When we cry out from our hearts, “Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned,” surely He is there at our side, ready to forgive.

Before approaching the sacrament, it is vitally important to examine your conscience so that you are clear (as much as is possible) in regard to what sins you have committed since your last worthy confession, and not neglect to confess any because of lack of preparation. Take some time in prayer at home or in church—before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament—to ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know your sins and trust in the mercy of God. Using an examination of conscience from a prayer book, [A Primer for Confession](#) (available in the pamphlet rack), or another source, review the list of *commissions* and *omissions*, and make note of how you have offended God since your last confession.

Upon entering the confessional or approaching the priest-confessor (anonymously behind the screen or face-to-face), make the sign of the cross and say, “**Bless me father, for I have sinned. It has been (the length of time) since my last confession.**” (I then best like the phrase immediately following used by some Irish folk who learned their faith in the “Old Country.”) **I accuse myself of the following sins.** Yes! That’s the exact point! We are accusing ourselves, plain and simple, and should then proceed to humbly confess any **mortal sins**; then follow with the **venial** ones, and not purposefully omit any, confessing plainly and simply.

We need to have contrition (sorrow) for our offenses against God and neighbor if we want His forgiveness. After confessing, the priest will then give some advice and encouragement and a penance of prayer or deed. Then an **Act of Contrition** should be made (you may bring a copy with you). Don’t let fear deter you from this precious sacrament. The priest will then pronounce the sacramental **absolution** of sins and encourage you to go forth to give thanks to God and begin again in His grace.

- Remember, Confession is an accusation, not a conversation. As best as possible, be clear and objective.
- Don’t try to make excuses or attempt to justify or rationalize your sins. Either you are accusing yourself of a particular sin or not. God knows the intricate details.
- Don’t say, “I feel that...” Though emotions are involved, it’s about sin, not feelings.
- Don’t say, “I’m struggling with...” We all struggle. When we’ve sinned, clearly we ceased struggling and gave in.
- Remember to be concise; that everyone’s time is valuable and that *you are not the center of the world* (sorry to break the news, but God is), and that there are possibly other people waiting in line behind you to confess their sins; some of whom may have been away from the sacraments for many years and might “chicken-out” and lose courage if the line is held up. Think about the confessor and other penitents.
- Avoid chatter/issues that do not pertain to your sins, unless deemed absolutely necessary. If you want to chat or need to make a long confession after many years with lots of background to give, etc., wait until the end of the line, if at all possible, or make an appointment with a priest, so that neither you, nor he, are rushed.
- Confess your sins, and not those of your spouse, children, co-workers, etc. Your sins only. (Confessing other’s sins should be “rewarded” with a hefty penance.)
- In a nutshell: Be brief, be bold, and be on your blessed way!
- Do your penance as soon as possible and rejoice in and live God’s merciful love!

Regular confession times are noted on the cover and elsewhere in this bulletin. For your convenience, Msgr. Heinlein and I will also try to make ourselves available for the sacrament between Masses on Sundays. Generally, the green light above the confessional door means “enter”, and the red light means “wait”. When in doubt as to whether anyone is in with Father, simply knock. Remember, you can always confess at another parish if you prefer anonymity. Please, just make sure to go to confession: God’s mercy is greater than any of our sins!

In Christ,
Fr. Greg

Rosary Altar Society

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 7th at 7:45PM in the parish center. Celebrating: St. Patrick will be our theme for refreshments immediately following our meeting.

Outreach Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners who donate food every week and all the anonymous monetary donations. Especially to Maureen & Mario DiMeo who shop and deliver food to Outreach every week through the generous donations of: The Mastic Beach Property Owners Assoc., Paddersquash Creek Civic Assoc., Mastic Beach Village Office, and the St. George Manor Seniors. Without your help, it would be impossible to fill the high demand we are faced with in these hard times. Thank you to Ana & Walter Haass who donate fresh produce every Monday morning. It is a real treat for our guests and very much appreciated. You are ALL an essential part of St. Jude Outreach. God Bless! *“Whatever you do for the least of My brothers you do for Me”*. —Matthew 25:40

Lighthouse Catholic Media News

Next weekend after all the Masses on March 12 & 13, we will have new CDs available. They will be distributed in bundles of 4 and we're asking \$10 per bundle. The titles listed below were chosen to help you nourish your soul during Lent and prepare your heart for the joy that is Easter.

“The Battle for Souls: Christ’s Redemption”
“Confession”

“The Healing Power of Confession”

“The Hidden Power of Forgiveness”

“Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist”

“Meditations on the Stations of the Cross”

“Our Lives Change When Our Habits Change”

“The Passion of Christ Applied to Your Life”

“The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud of Turin”

“Saints for Sinners: The Lives of St. Augustine and St. Margaret”

“Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues”

“Seven Last Sayings of Christ”

Pax Christi

Sunday, March 13th at 5PM ‘Pax Christi Peace Award 2011’ will be presented to Seemi and Habeeb Ahmed, ‘Builders of the Peaceful Community, Islamic Center of Long Island’ 835 Brush Hollow Road, Westbury, NY Directions at www.idlinc.org. Supper will follow the presentation. All are welcome to join the celebration! For more information email: PaxChristi.LongIsland@verizon.net

St. Jude’s Blood Drive

St. Jude will be hosting a Blood Drive Friday, March 18th from 2:30PM to 8:30PM. ‘Long Island Blood Services’ is in desperate need of donors due to the recent cancellation of many blood drives, because of inclement weather, please consider a donation, possibly visiting both our Fish Fry and our Blood Mobile on Friday March 18th.

Night For Michelle

‘Knights of Columbus’, ‘Columbiettes’ and ‘Kiwanis of Mastic’ are sponsoring, ‘A Night for Michelle’ on Saturday, March 26th. There will be a pasta dinner and a Chinese Auction at the ‘Shirley Bingo Hall’. Doors open at 5PM. Dinner is between 6–10PM. Tickets are \$8.00 per person. Children under 5 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance call Benny at 281-6501. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event.

Long Island Housing Partnership

On Tuesday, March 29th from 7:00PM–9:00PM there will be an informational meeting with the ‘Long Island Housing Partnership’ (LIHP) at the Mastic Firehouse located at 1080 Mastic Road in Mastic, NY. The LIHP is a non-profit housing developer, which provides communities with valuable guidance for those individuals en route to home ownership. They will be discussing: ‘Home Ownership’; ‘Community Development’; ‘Neighborhood Stabilization’; and ‘Community Stabilization’. If you are a potential homebuyer, at risk of foreclosure, a realtor or a contractor please don’t miss this opportunity to be a part of the LIHP.

Girl Scout Award

Congratulations to this year’s ‘Girl Scout Award’ recipients: **FAMILY OF GOD:** Samantha Zippel, Audrey Reynolds, Alexa Panettieri, Brianna Novotny, Elizabeth Platz, Courtney Muchow, Katherine Stirber, Mia Napolitano, Nicole Teitler, Mackenzie Hanley. Also working in the program Emily Intrieri. **AVE MARIA:** Amber LaValle.

REGINA COELI: Amanda Berryman. **WORKING ON THE ‘I LIVE MY FAITH’ MEDAL:** Natalie Intrieri, Kristen DaSilva, Cara Lanzarotta.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles

Join us on Saturday, April 2nd at 5PM for a Chinese Auction, at the Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville. \$45.00 per person includes dinner, dessert and beverage. For more information or to purchase tickets please call the school at 878-1033.

St. Vincent de Paul

Jesus said to His disciples: “Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on rock.” Know that by your donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you will indeed be hearing the words of Jesus and putting them into practice.

St. Jude Easter Fair

Keep the date open our Annual Easter Fair is on Saturday, April 16th this year. If there is any vendor interested, we have a few tables still open. Please contact the rectory for more information.

Anyone wishing to donate new items for our Chinese Auction please drop them off at the rectory. Thank you. Further details will be forthcoming about our Easter raffle prizes and the dates we will be selling tickets after Mass.

He who labors as he prays
lifts his heart to God
with his hands. —Saint
Benedict of Nursia

St. Joseph Renewal Center

MEN'S GATHERING: "Quest for the Male." is being held on Saturday, March 12th from 8-9AM. Presenters are Michael Dunne and participants from the gathering. Offering for the program is \$20.00 which includes all breakfast.

MEN'S MATTER RETREAT: "Quest for the True Self." This weekend retreat begins on Friday, March 18th at 4:00PM and runs through Sunday at noon. Based on a program established by Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM entitled "Rites of Passages for Men." Presenters are Michael Dunne and the Team from Man Matters. Offering for the program is \$200.00 for the weekend, which includes all meals and accommodations.

All programs are held at the 'St. Joseph Renewal Center', 1725 Brentwood Road, in Brentwood. Call for reservations at 631-273-1187 x23.

Mary Immaculate, Bellport

LENTEN SERIES: PRAYER IS A HUNGER: We will explore a variety of approaches and experiences to pray that can open one more fully to God's presence. Prayer forms that will be introduced are Ignatian Prayer, the Jesus Prayer, Lectio Divina (Holy Reading), Guided Meditation, and the Taizé Prayer. Join us on Tuesdays, March 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 12th, & 19th from 9:30-11:00 and Wednesdays, March 16th, 27th, 30th, April 13th, & 20th from 7:30-9:00PM. The facilitator is Sister Grace. Free for all, both men and women. Lectures are located at 'Mary Immaculate' in Bellport in the church auditorium Room 7.

Golden Wedding Jubilee

On Sunday, April 3rd, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop William Murphy at the 'Church of Saint Lawrence the Martyr' in Sayville at 2:30PM. Please pick up your registration card at your parish, fill it out and return to the rectory in time to reach the 'Diocese of Rockville Centre' no later than March 17th. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. There will be another celebration in the fall for those who may find that more convenient. If you have any questions you may call 516-678-5800, extension 207.

Sisters of Life: Hope and Healing After Abortion

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Share with them the "good news" of God's merciful love at a "Day of Prayer" at our convent in the Bronx and "Healing Retreat" in Stamford, CT. Have them join us Saturday, April 2nd. May they realize that they have a community of people to whom they can turn in time of need and will help them on the way to true healing with patience and love. FOR WOMEN: Please call the Sisters of Life: 866-575-0075 or email hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org. FOR MEN: Please call: 877-586-4621 or email lumina@postabortionhelp.org. For more information, please go to www.sistersoflife.org.

With One Stroke

AN AFTERNOON OF ART AT THE MBPOA Ten talented local artists are uniting to help the 'Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk Inc.' We are raising funds for Hospice House and their eight bed facility in Suffolk County. The artists will be displaying and selling their art, and will be auctioning off pieces throughout the day. Wine and cheese will be served along with fruits and other snacks. A \$5 minimum donation is requested at the door which will go to Hospice House. Mark Sunday, April 10th, on your calendar and come down from 2-6PM to the Mastic Beach Property Owners Association's Clubhouse at 31 Neighborhood Road at the corner of Orchid Drive in Mastic Beach for an "Afternoon of Art".

Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY			SUNDAY			Total
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	
Feb. 6	261	90	184	339	566	176	1616
Feb. 13	315	115	197	330	600	195	1752
Feb. 20	278	119	171	305	600	220	1693
Feb. 27	293	155	188	319	550	217	1722

Weekly Collections

Regular Collection Feb. 27th \$9,338.55
Spare-A-Dime \$ 756.75

Catholic Ministries Appeal

2011 Goal \$50,174.00
Total pledges a/o 3/1/11 \$28,030.00
of Donors 82
Payments a/o 3/1/11 \$12,795.00

Thank you to all that have pledged to give to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. We have pledged 56% of our goal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have not pledged to give please consider making a donation no matter how small. Every dollar counts. God Bless the parishioners of St. Jude.

Scripture Readings

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011 *Weekday*
TB 1:3; 2:1A-8 • MK 12:1-12
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011 *Weekday*
TB 2:9-14 • MK 12:13-17
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011 *Ash Wednesday*
JL 2:12-18 • 2 COR 5:20-6:2 • MT 6:1-6, 16-18
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011 *Thursday after Ash Wednesday*
DT 30:15-20 • LK 9:22-25
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011 *Friday after Ash Wednesday*
Is 58:1-9a • Mt 9:14-15
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011 *Saturday After Ash Wednesday*
Is 58:9B-14 • LK 5:27-32
SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011 *First Sunday of Lent*
GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7 • ROM 5:12-19 • OR 5:12, 17-19 • MT 4:1-11

Altar Flower Offering

The altar flowers for the weekend of March 5th and 6th have been donated:
In Loving Memory of Stephen D. Stribula
Available most weeks July & August

Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of March 7th has been donated:
Thank you Mom & Dad Love M.J.

Baptisms

Sapphire Males-Montroy
God Bless her and her family!

Don't Forget Your Baby Bottle!



On the weekend of March 12th & 13th, Saint Jude will be hosting a Baby Bottle Fundraiser to benefit 'The Life Center of Long Island.' The Life Center is a crisis pregnancy center that counsels women and men who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. They provide maternity housing, medical care, referrals, cribs, car seats, diapers and ALL other baby items that are needed. We are asking that you pick up a baby bottle and fill it with your spare change. Most importantly, we are asking you to recite the prayer on the bottle.

The prayer attached to the bottle will enable the counselors at The Life Center to say just the right words a mother or father may need to hear. It especially opens a mother's heart to accept the truth. We believe these prayers lead abortion-minded women to call The Life Center in the first place.

Let us pray with our whole heart for the lives of our unborn children.

“Oh, how happy is the soul that freely lets herself be molded to the liking of this divine Savior!” —Saint Jane Frances de Chantal

Solid Foundation

As a new homeowner, I cringed with familiar fear at Jesus' words today. Within the past six months our water heater began leaking, our electrical box burned up, our furnace died, and our microwave went kaput. Jesus' talk of torrential rain and winds buffeting a house reminded me that we're anticipating roof leaks and that some trees are leaning precariously toward our home.

Owning a home can leave you feeling quite anxious. But planning ahead—ensuring a solid foundation, buying insurance, continuing maintenance—helps homeowners live with greater peace of mind.

Jesus uses this home-construction metaphor today to conclude his Sermon on the Mount, which we've been reading for several weeks. He calls on his audience not just to listen to his words, but to act on them and make them the firm foundation of their lives. This isn't about occasionally doing nice things for others. It's about establishing a regular pattern of following Jesus,

making daily choices to develop a habit of discipleship. It's hard and ongoing work.

Yet as we know, even Jesus' most focused disciples can't avoid the torrential rains and buffeting winds of life. Just as insurance or a solid foundation can't prevent a tornado

from tearing off a roof, struggles, suffering, and tragedies happen to all people no matter how closely they follow Jesus.

Jesus didn't promise that the house of an active disciple wouldn't endure suffering; he simply promised it would be sustained through life's frightening storms.

Regular patterns of prayer, trust in God, outreach to others, and spiritual practices keep disciples rooted in God and strong in times of distress. Given that perspective, how might you strengthen your foundation today?

Jesus didn't promise that the house of an active disciple wouldn't endure suffering; he simply promised it would be sustained through life's frightening storms.

JANEL ESKER
sundaybulletins@liguori.org