

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

Roman Catholic
Shrine Church of
St. Jude

WWW.STJUDEMB.ORG
RECTORY@STJUDEMB.ORG
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.

21st Sunday In Ordinary Time - August 21st 2011

Pastor
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn

In Residence
Msgr. John Heinlein

Senior Priest
Rev. James Leone

**Parish Office
Hours**

MONDAY, TUESDAY,
& THURSDAY
9:00am-5:00pm

WEDNESDAYS
9:00am-6:00pm

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
CLOSED FOR AUGUST

SUNDAYS
10:00am-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
219-3542

**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., TUES., & THURS.
9:00am-1:00pm
CLOSED
WED., 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
12:30pm-1:00pm
Benediction at 1:00pm

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, AUGUST 20, 2011

5:00pm Frederick E. Ledermann †

7:30pm Concetta Camarda †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2011

8:00am Parishioners of Saint Jude

9:30am Patricia & Irma Davin †

11:30am Madonna DelSoccorso †

5:00pm Agnes & Jerry McCarthy †

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011

9:00am Ralph Langella †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011

9:00am David Palazzo †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011

9:00am Anthony DeBona †

12 Noon Saint Jude Guild:
Madalena Padlucci †,
The Tanzer Family †,
Anna Jentz †,
Joseph Hannafin †,
Marija Karba †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011

9:00am Thomas Murphy †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011

9:00am Intentions of Laura Vecchio

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2011

8:30am Jane Bertos †

5:00pm Anthony & Angelina Cincotta †

7:30pm Eva Schwabacher †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011

8:00am Feast of Madonna Della Guardia

9:30am Parishioners of Saint Jude

11:30am Eric Colon †

5:00pm Frank Dolan †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Janet Brandimarte, Francis X. Butler, Cecelia Cottone, Anthony DeLuco, Nicholas Ferrara, Anthony Fino, Christian Gallucci, Frank Gaeta, Nora Getchell, Jon Hanson, Steve Herrbrandt, Jo, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Cookie Landau, Katherine Lindsey, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Joshua Mussi, Logan Murphy, Frank Nitto, Miguel Oriana, Doris Ortiz, Joan & Jessica Passaro, Gina Pisano, Salvatore Russo, June & Joseph Stozzetto, Joseph Stozzetto Sr., Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana

FOR THE DECEASED: Guiseppe Notarnicola, John J. Griffin

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Joseph Competello, Matt Corica, James Crown, 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, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

Rectory—August Hours

The rectory will be closed on Fridays and Saturdays for the month of August. NEW PERMANENT SUNDAY HOURS ARE FROM 10AM TO 2PM.

Outreach Summer Hours

The Outreach office will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9AM to 1PM. Closed Wednesday and Friday.

Faith Formation

OFFICE HOURS: During August are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 9:30–4:30PM. Dates and times are subject to change.

REGISTRATION AND RE-REGISTRATION: Register your children for Faith Formation Classes by downloading the forms on our website and mailing them to the office with the tuition fee. First time registering your child? You must come into the office with child's original Baptismal Certificate, tuition fee and form completed. Any questions, please call 281-2835.

THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE IS IN NEED OF CATECHISTS: Please pray about sharing your faith with the youth of our community. If interested, please call 281-2835 and we will answer any questions you may have.

St. Vincent de Paul

Like Peter in today's Gospel, we can find that when we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to experience Jesus' presence in our daily lives, God reveals himself to us. Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Please call 631-219-3542 to begin your life as a Vincentian.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CD of the Week

PURSuing HOLINESS: LESSONS FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES —RALPH MARTIN Ralph Martin presents the timeless teachings of St. Francis de Sales, 16th century bishop, Doctor of the Church, and author of *Introduction to the Devout Life*, in a way that provides profound wisdom for living in today's world. Through the inspirations of this influential and well-known saint, we gain great insight into how sin affects our lives, our relationships, and our witness to the world.

Bibles Needed

The RCIA gives instruction to adults, learning or inquiring about our faith. To do this, we need Bibles! We are looking to you, our parish family, to help us in this task. Every bible donated will be inscribed with donors name and given to one of the candidates, and they will be asked to remember that person in their prayers. If you are interested in donating a copy of the *New American Bible* please leave a \$5.00 donation at the rectory to the attention: Ana Pauze.

St. Jude Christmas Fair

In past years, our parishioners have been extremely generous with our request donations for our fair raffles. This year we would like to try a change in our donation request. We are looking for donations of fully assembled baskets ready to raffle off at the Christmas Fair. If needed we have some baskets to get you started. Please let us know if you can help by calling the rectory. Fully assembled baskets, would be turned in by November 1st. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Secular Franciscan Order

A *Day of Recollection* hosted by the 'St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternity' on August 27th from 9:30AM–3PM at 'Our Lady of the Island Shrine' in Eastport. "*Refresh, Relax and Renew Our Faith in the Lord*" Call for more information Bob Metz at 631-475-3426.

Spare A Dime

'Spare A Dime' is next weekend August 27th & 28th all monies collected help the needy of our parish through our Outreach Program. Baskets will be in the lobbies after Mass. Thank you for your generosity.



Sacred Vestments, Part I

No exposition on the Mass would make sense without an explanation of the basic vestments of the sacred ministers. We may be familiar with the variety of colors of the garments that are employed throughout the Liturgical Year, but knowledge of their origin and what they symbolize makes their use in the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries more meaningful to our participation at Mass.

In the Old Testament, we are told of the Jewish priests (those set aside particularly to offer sacrifice) who wore prescribed vestments: violet and purple, scarlet twice dyed, and fine linen—in order to offer fitting worship to almighty God.

In the times following our Lord's Ascension, no special dress was at first prescribed for the Christian priesthood. During the early days of the Church, the garments worn at the Holy Sacrifice were not dissimilar in form to the clothing of civilians of ancient Rome and Greece, among other locations of the ancient world. They were distinguished, however, from profane apparel in richness and beauty of decorations; and of course, their use was restricted to divine worship.

Secular fashion changed, but the Church clung to the old style. Thus it was that garments once common to all, presently became the privileged dress of the clergy. Faith then saw in each particular vestment a symbol relating to the Passion of Our Lord, and a reminder of some Christian duty.

Liturgical Colors

In the Roman Rite, since the reforms of Pope St. Pius V (1571), liturgical colors are (generally) five in number: **white, red, green, violet, and black**. Rose color is employed only on *Lætare* and *Gaudete* Sundays. **Blue** is prescribed in some dioceses of Spain for the Mass of the Immaculate Conception.

White is the symbol of purity. It is the color proper to Trinity Sunday, the feasts of Our Lord, except those of His Passion, the feasts of the Blessed Virgin, angels, confessors, virgins and women who are not martyrs, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the feast of St. John the Evangelist (Dec. 27), the Conversion of St. Paul, All Saints, to the consecration of churches and altars, the anniversaries of the election and coronation of the pope and of the election and consecration of bishops; it is used for votive Masses when the feasts have white, and for the nuptial Mass; also in services in connection with the Blessed Sacrament, at the burial of young children, in the administration of baptism, Holy Viaticum, and matrimony. In the United States, white is also permitted for the funerals of adults. **Gold** or **silver** vestments may also be used in place of white for greater solemnities, such as Christmas and Easter.

Red is the figure of blood and fire. It is used for Pentecost and Masses of the Holy Spirit, on the feasts of Christ's Passion and His Precious Blood, the Exultation of the Holy Cross (Sept. 14), the feasts of Apostles and martyrs; and in votive Masses of these feasts. It is also used on the feast of the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28).

Green is the symbol of hope; the sign of life in nature. It is employed on the Sundays of *Ordinary Time*, generally those after Epiphany until Ash Wednesday; and after Pentecost until Advent.

Violet, the color of penitence, is used during Advent and from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Violet is also used for Masses of penitential character, at the blessing of candles and of holy water. The violet stole is used in the administration of penance/confession and for the anointing of the sick/extreme unction. It may be used for Masses of burial and funeral rites. Where a parish has such color vestments available, the bluer shades of violet (nearer indigo) are more appropriate during Advent, while the redder shades (a.k.a. "Roman Purple") are more appropriate during Lent; evoking the Precious Blood of Our Lord which was shed for our salvation and the purple garment that was placed upon him in mockery.

Rose, is symbolic of subdued or muted joy during the season of Advent, where it may be worn in place of violet on the Third Sunday, "*Gaudete*"; and during the season of Lent on the Fourth Sunday, "*Lætare*".

Black, the sign of mourning, may be used in Masses for the dead/*All Souls Day*.

More on the sacred vestments next week...

In Christ,
Fr. Greg

P.S.: Many thanks to Maria Gervasio, the adults, and teens who made this year's Vacation Bible "School" so spiritually enriching—and fun!—for the youngsters of our parish who participated. God bless!

Blue Claw Crab Festival

The 'Mastic Beach Property Owners Association' will be hosting their 7th annual crab festival next Sunday, August 28th at Marina 1, 97 Riviera Drive in Mastic Beach. Enjoy fresh steamed shrimp, crabs, crab-cakes, clams on the half shell, beer, wine and soda. There will be music and dance performances presented on the show mobile. Children's activities like face-painting and sand art. A large selection of food vendors and arts and crafts items will be on hand. Free admission to all!

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Saturday, September 3rd from 10-5:30PM featuring Scott Hahn. 500 South Oyster Bay Road, Hicksville, NY. Tickets are \$25.00 and includes a complimentary lunch. Registration/Adoration will begin at 10AM. Seating is limited. To purchase tickets call 'Our Lady of Mercy' rectory at 516-931-4351. For more information email us at scotthahntickets@gmail.com

Our Lady of Consolation Nursing Care Center

Are offering a bereavement support group to community members mourning the loss of a loved one. Eight sessions will be held on Monday afternoons from September 12th through October 31st. The meetings will be held in the Board Room of 'Our Lady of Consolation' from 3-4:30PM. For more information or to reserve a place in this group, please call (631) 587-1600 ext. 8297.

ESL at the Library

Classes are available at the 'Mastics Moriches Shirley Community Library,' beginning September 12th, classes offered to district residents include 'English as a Second Language'; 'Citizenship Tutoring'; 'Family Literacy' and 'Computer Instruction in Spanish'. For more information, call 399-1511, ext. 215 or 220 or stop by the literacy office on the lower level of the library to register. Pre-registration is required.

Inglés Como Segundo Idioma

Empiezan el 12 de Septiembre para los residentes del distrito. También se ofrecerá clases de ciudadanía, clases de Inglés (para madres y cuidado de niño) LEFA y computación en español. Para obtener más información o registrarse visite la Biblioteca oficina de Educación (Literacy) o llame al 399-1511, Ext. 215 ó 220. Pre-registración es necesaria.

DRVC Deacon Class of 2014 & Elks Club Night at the Races

The New Hyde Park Elks and Deacon Class of 2014 are hosting 'A Night at the Races' To benefit 'Mission Church' in the Dominican Republic on Saturday, September 10th. Races begins at 6:30PM. Eight races are scheduled to be shown. An \$8 admission includes: 3 foot hero, salads, beer-wine-soda, cookies and coffee. The Lodge is located at 901 Lakeville Rd. New Hyde Park. For more information please call John or Lori at 281-3095. MUST BE 18 TO ENTER.

Free NYS 4 year-old PRE-K Program

Applications are still being accepted for the Free State Funded 'Universal Pre-K' program through the 'William Floyd School District'. Any child that is or will be 4 years old by December 1st, 2011 and resides in this school district is eligible to apply. If you or someone you know may have a child that is eligible please call the rectory at 281-5743 to receive an application. We are presently looking for a substitute teacher (MA certification required) for the upcoming 2011-2012 school session. For anyone who may be interested please send your resume or you can drop it off at the rectory, attention Pre-K.

Outreach School Supply

We have been collecting school supplies for disadvantaged children in our community and will continue to need your support until September 15th. We are so grateful for your generosity. You are helping us meet the demands of our parish children who are starting school in September. Some suggestions as to what they need are: 1 and 3 inch loose-leaf binders and paper, all colors of composition notebooks, colored folders, pens and pencils, blunt scissors, washable markers, high-lighters, index cards, backpacks, 3 and 5 subject notebooks and any other items. Through your generosity we will be able to get our children off to a good start. Please leave the items in the rear of the church or at Outreach.

Attention Ministry Leaders

The calendar is currently being formatted. If you would like dates for the coming Fiscal year, you must fill out a 'Building Request Form' or email Judy at j.moran@yahoo.com before August 31st. Please do not assume that your dates will be held from last year.

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception Fall Semester Registration

The 'Seminary of the Immaculate Conception' offers 'Master of Arts in Theology' and 'Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies' Fall semester begins September 7th and registration closes September 22nd. For further information, contact the Academic Office 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743(631) 423-0483 ext. 147 Or visit our website www.icseminary.edu

Gennesaret Retreat

A retreat especially designed for persons who live with serious illness is planned September 23rd-25th at the 'Monfort Spirituality Center' in Bay Shore, NY. This retreat offers a respite, a quiet time, an oasis, to enable one to continue the journey. The retreat focuses on God's love, His forgiveness, and His faithfulness. To register or receive more information about this weekend, please call: Colette Fanelli 631-665-7052.

Rachel's Vineyard

Do you know someone who is hurting from an abortion? 'The Life Center of Long Island' invites you to attend a healing weekend retreat Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. There will be several dates offered in 2011. Our 'English Healing Retreat' will be on October 7-9th. For more information contact: Deacon Frank Gariboldi at (516)523-0586 or e-mail: fgariboldi@optonline.net. All communication is strictly confidential. To learn more about 'Rachel's Vineyard' look online www.rachelsvineyard.org or call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

Vacation Bible School

'Vacation Bible School 2011' was a fun faith filled week for all! Thank you to Lynne Comiskey, Mary DaSilva, Regina Realmuto, Minnie Russo, Mike Savino and Kristin Mills. A big thank you to our teen volunteers; Jillian Comiskey, Michael Gervasio, Amber Nemeth and Joanna Russo. Thank you to Father Greg and Monsignor John for supporting the program and visiting with us throughout the week. To Carmela, Anne and Cynthia in the rectory for their help. VBS for 2012 will take place the week of August 6th to the 10th. The children participated in 'Operation Kids to Kids' this year and sent 31 backpacks and bibles to Latin America. Hope to see you there next summer!

Catholic High School Entrance Exam Prep Course

The 'Catholic High School Entrance Exam' will be held on October 29th. 'St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School' is offering a prep course. There are five Saturday classes on September 24th, October 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 8:30-10:30AM and one Wednesday class from 6-8PM on October 26th. Call 631-587-800 x126 for registration forms.

40-Year Reunion for Holy Family Diocesan High School Class of 1971

A 40-year reunion for 'Holy Family Diocesan High School' Class of 1971 is planned for Saturday, October 15th at 'St. Anthony High School' in South Huntington. Contact Candice Carrizzo-Searles at searles18@optonline.net for details.

Talbot House

Are you or someone you know having family or interpersonal problems due to drinking ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS? 'Catholic Charities/Talbot House' is a voluntary chemical dependence crisis center located in Bohemia. We provide withdrawal services for males and females over the age of 18, who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or drug use. The medical and clinical staff at 'Talbot House' will assess the kind of care the person needs, to begin his/her journey to recovery. For more information, please call 631-589-4144. 'Talbot House' staff is available 24/7. Each call is confidential. 'Talbot House' is a NO fee for service program.

Are You a Fully Initiated Catholic?

RCIA: The Parish of St. Jude welcomes any Adult Non-Catholic who would like to find out more about the Catholic Church or any Catholic

Who Would Like To Complete The SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

(Baptism, Confirmation and/or Communion)

The group will be beginning Monday, September 12th and reception of sacraments in 2012. A \$20 material fee is requested at the time of registration. Special circumstances will be considered. It is very important that you come and stay for every class.

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Please fill out and return to rectory. Attn: St. Jude RCIA

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Sacrament(s) needed, please check all that apply:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Communion
- Please check if Baptized other than Roman Catholic

Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY				
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	Total
July 24	246	140	239	282	495	117	1519
July 31	217	130	227	257	395	145	1371
Aug. 7	272	350	221	220	430	121	1614
Aug. 14	275	110	207	260	385	85	1322

Weekly Collections

Regular Collection August 14th \$8,096.39
Assumption BVM \$538.00

Catholic Ministries Appeal

2011 Goal \$50,174.00
Total pledges a/o 8/16/11 \$59,339.08
of Donors 200
Payments a/o 8/16/11 \$47,449.08

Thank you to all who have pledged.

Scripture Readings

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011 *Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

1 THES 1:1-5, 8B-10/MT 23:13-22

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011 *Weekday*

1 THES 2:1-8/MT 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011 *Saint Bartholomew, apostle*

RV 21:9B-14/JN 1:45-51

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011 *Weekday*

1 THES 3:7-13/MT 24:42-51

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 *Weekday*

1 THES 4:1-8/MT 25:1-13

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2011 *Saint Monica*

1 TH 4:9-11/MT 25:14-30

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011 *Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

JER 20:7-9/ROM 12:1-2/MT 16:21-27

Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of August 22nd has been donated:

In memory of Samantha Getchell

Altar Flower Offering

The altar flowers for the weekend of August 20th & 21st have been donated:

For the Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Jude

Many dates are available September 10th & 11th, 17th & 18th, 24th & 25th

Wedding Banns

III Brian Keith McGarrity/Pamela Frances Start
III Marlon Velasquez/Mirna Salguero
II Brett Larson/Stephanie Falco

Baptisms

Patrick Joseph Dolan Jr.,
Gabriella Marie Scheifele
May God bless them and their families!

The Life Center is in desperate need of the following items:

Clothes for girls and boys (Sizes 0-6 and 18-24 months are especially needed) Toiletries (i.e. wipes, baby soaps, shampoos, diaper rash creams, powders, etc.), Crib sheets, Bottles, Hooded towels, Wash cloths, Socks, Diaper bags, Non Drop Side Cribs/Bassinets/Pack n Plays, Car seats (both infant and toddler), Strollers. Thank you for any help that you can provide to help us support these women, especially those who are in crisis. Donations can be dropped off at our Deer Park location: 1767 Deer Park Ave Deer Park, NY 11729 (across the street from 'St. Cyril & Methodius Roman Catholic Church', and next door to 'Boyd-Carratuzzo Funeral Home'). Any further questions can be answered at (631) 243-2373.

Library Repair Project—update August 12, 2011

Dear Residents,

Since our announcement on July 18 to the staff and the community about the temporary relocation to a smaller facility and the closure of the present library building on October 1 for critical repairs, a great deal of anger, support, rancor and frustration has been evidenced in person and in public. As your Board of Trustees, we are, without question, deeply concerned about the overall reactions we have received.

We know, as you do, that the MMS Community Library is an extremely important part of the community - a sanctuary to many, in fact - and we completely understand the strong feelings about closing the library for a 16-month period. We have had only the best of intentions for the library and the community.

We know the proposition of a 16-month layoff for our part-time staff and a few members of the full-time staff is not good news. And yet the Board also knows - as does the community - that we are in a very serious situation with the state of the current building, the limitations we have for funding, and the unknown restrictions associated with the new New York State property tax cap. Clearly, this situation demands a more creative approach that will not further burden the larger community. We thought this was the right solution at the right time, despite the fact that some would be impacted in the short term.

There should be no confusion with respect to what we believe we need to do and what some have mistakenly speculated. Our administrative team and the Board were very clear about the project and the cost in our personal outreach to staff on the evening of July 18, in our web posting that evening, in our letter to the community in the newsletter, our handouts in the library, and in the Newsday reporting that occurred on July 19. There are no hidden agendas, no plans other than what we have said: close the library on October 1, operate temporarily from a rented location, spend between \$4.5 and \$5 million to get the library fixed (with specific projects cited in the handout), and open back up as a

healthier, safer, and more efficient facility in 16 months.

Never did we suggest any other plan, nor would we say one thing and do another with this very serious matter. As we now know, the community responded very passionately to this plan. Many are concerned that there will be no library service during construction, but this is not true. Some are concerned that we might instead build a new building with the money, but this isn't true. Some suggest we are trying to permanently fire a good portion of the staff, but this, too, is not true. Some even said that this was not legal, but that, too, is not true, as we very carefully researched this matter with our legal counsel before moving forward with our announcement.

Libraries all over Long Island and beyond go through building improvement projects and function in a temporary location with reduced staff. It is hard for some to accept, especially if you are personally affected through the temporary loss of your employment at the library. However, in an effort to be fiscally responsible we presented a plan to use our existing budget and relocate to a temporary location. We believe this plan will allow us to continue the majority of library services and is the most reasonable and fairest option to meet the needs of the majority of the community.

The Board of Trustees listened very intently to what our community had to say at our meeting on July 25. Based upon this, the Board is going to suspend the planned October 1 closing of the library to consider all of the concerns and suggestions that were raised. This does not mean the Board is abandoning its plan; rather, we want to further analyze the concepts that have been brought forth, and perhaps cast further light on why we believe the concept that was presented is best for the community. But for now, we are on hold.

As it stands, the Board believes there are really four options:

1. Do nothing. We have many serious infrastructure challenges that can no longer be ignored. This is not a real option.
2. Build a new library. The community has

rejected this plan before, and in this financial environment (and given the stresses that our community is experiencing), it doesn't seem responsible or practical to consider the tens of millions of dollars the community would have to give over to create a new home. The Board does not believe this is feasible to pursue at this time.

3. Phase our improvements to eliminate layoffs and seek public support for this in a vote. This is possible, and will be further studied. It was initially rejected by the Board as an option that was far too costly and time-consuming to make the necessary improvements to the building which is really not debatable. The cost to do so would add millions to the project costs. The time frame would also greatly increase.

4. Stay with the current plan. It's the least expensive, quickest way to improve the library, despite the short-term impacts. Furthermore, most library services and programs would continue, albeit in another location. Although a much smaller collection would be housed in the temporary location, interlibrary loan services would allow residents to request books and DVDs from other Suffolk County libraries, which would be received in most cases within several days for pickup.

During our public session and in other venues, some suggested we should have gathered input and talked about the concepts first, instead of presenting the plan as a "done deal." This is a fair criticism, but we hope you can accept that we truly believed we were acting in the best interest of the community. There is little input required on the need for new electrical systems, new ceilings, new boilers, etc. But we accept the criticism that this could have been presented as a concept for community discussion, rather than a certainty.

The library needs help - immediate help. We are sorry that there was some confusion regarding release of information, as well as the Board's intentions, and look forward to a more positive dialogue in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

The MMS Board of Trustees