

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.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 28th 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 27, 2011

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 †

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011

9:00am Magdalena Helen Kampwart †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011

9:00am Bill Kulkman †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011

9:00am Giovanna Mandera †

12 Noon Saint Jude Guild:

Intentions of Frank and

Maryanne Nappe

“Happy 25th Anniversary”

Anthony DeTomaso Sr. †,

Mary Ennis †,

Casey James Cunningham †,

Intentions of Phil Jakubowski

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

9:00am Marion Calabrese †

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

9:00am Sabina McNamara †

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

8:30am Jack Amaroso †

5:00pm Henry Robert Koenigsdorf †

7:30pm Ruben Rodriguez †

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

8:00am Filippa Lenaza †

9:30am Raffaella Iazzetta, †

11:30am Parishioners of Saint Jude

5:00pm Vincenzo Pecoraro †

† 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, Carmine Linsalata, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Joshua Mussi, Logan Murphy, Ronald Nappe, Frank Nitto, Miguel Oriana, Doris Ortiz, Joan & Jessica Passaro, Jackie Pastore, Gina Pisano, Salvatore Russo, Richard Rydzewski, June & Joseph Stozetto, Joseph Stozetto Sr., Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana

FOR THE DECEASED: Audrea Wilson, Angelina Tamburrino, John. J. Griffin, Kaiya Kukura

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, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

Rectory—August Hours

The rectory will be closed on Fridays and Saturdays until September 2nd resuming regular Friday office hours from 9–5PM on September 9th. OUR 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. Starting September 14th we will be resuming Wednesday office hours from 9–1PM.

Faith Formation

Well, one more week of summer left, awh! Before you know it school will begin, families will be back into routines, and faith formation classes will begin in October. However, have you remembered to register your child for the 2011-12 school year? If you have not yet done so, download the forms from our website and mail them to the office with the tuition fee. Registering your child for the first time? You must come into the office with child's original Baptismal Certificate, tuition fee and form completed. Any questions? Please call 281-2835.

St. Vincent de Paul

Today, we hear Jesus say to us, “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” The challenge is to let go so God can lead us. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist many families by helping with utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

We would like to thank our benefactors, both anonymous and known, who contribute to SVdP help us help the less fortunate in our community. Because of you we can both do what Jesus asks of us... To love and help our brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you for caring and giving.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CD of the Week

AN INVITATION TO CONSIDER THE CATHOLIC FAITH—FR. FRANCIS PEFFLEY: Why should a person who is not Catholic consider entering into the Church? Fr. Peffley gives five compelling reasons, followed by a simple outline of the steps one would take to begin the process of becoming Catholic. 1. The Catholic Church has all seven Sacraments; 2. The Church's relationship with Mary and the Saints; 3. Historical evidence; 4. The Church's relationship with the Bible 5. The consistent moral teachings of the Church.

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 of: ‘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.

First Friday Devotions

First Friday is September 2nd. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8PM, and concludes with Benediction at 9PM. We encourage all of our parishioners to participate in the Hour of Adoration.

First Saturday Devotions

The First Saturday of each month is especially dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. Please join in the praying of the Rosary and the First Saturday Devotion prayers, September 3rd at 8AM, preceding the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8:30AM.



Sacred Vestments, Part II

Building on (and reiterating) some of what was described in last week's letter about the history and colors of vestments used for Holy Mass and other liturgical functions, the following material is drawn from several sources, primary among them from Father Mauro Gagliardi, a consultant of the Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff; also from *The New Roman Missal*, by Rev. F. X. Lasance; and from several others. These explain the centuries-old symbolism of the particular garments and the prayers the priest says while vesting for the liturgy.

These prayers—the reciting of which is an ancient custom—are brief, but very rich from a biblical, theological and spiritual point of view. “Such a liturgical practice must be retained rather than jettisoned,” Fr. Gagliardi explains. “Its beauty and utility for the priest's spiritual life needs to be rediscovered.”

Historical Background

The vestments used by the sacred ministers in liturgical celebrations derive from ancient Greek and Roman secular clothing. In the first centuries the raiment of persons of a certain social level (the “honestiores,” persons of rank with property) was adopted for the Christian liturgy and this practice was maintained in the Church, even after the peace of Constantine (4th century AD). As we see in some Christian writers, the sacred ministers wore the best clothing, which was most probably reserved for liturgical use.

While in Christian antiquity the liturgical vestments were distinguished from secular clothing, not by their particular form but by the quality of the material and their special decorum, in the course of the barbarian invasions the customs and, with them, the vesture of new peoples were introduced into the West and brought about changes in profane clothing. But the Church kept, without essential alteration, the vestments used by the clergy in public worship; in this way the secular use of clothing was distinguished from the liturgical use.

Finally, in the Carolingian epoch (which began in roughly the 8th century), the vestments proper to the various degrees of the sacrament of orders, with a few exceptions, took on their definitive form, which they retain to this day.

Function and Significance

Beyond the historical circumstances, the sacred vestments had an important function in the liturgical celebrations: In the first place, the fact that they are not worn in ordinary life, and thus possess a “liturgical” character, helps one to be detached from the everyday and its concerns in the celebration of divine worship. Furthermore, the ample form of the vestments, the alb, for example, the dalmatic and the chasuble, put the individuality of the one who wears them in second place in order to emphasize his liturgical role. One might say that the “camouflaging” of the minister's body by the vestments depersonalizes him in a way; it is that healthy depersonalization that de-centers the celebrating minister and recognizes the true protagonist of the liturgical action: Christ. The form of the vestments, therefore, says that the liturgy is celebrated “in persona Christi” and not in the priest's own name. He who performs a liturgical function does not do so as a private person, but as a minister of the Church and an instrument in the hands of Jesus Christ. The sacred character of the vestments also has to do with their being donned according to what is prescribed in the Roman Ritual.

In the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite (the so-called Mass of Pius V), the putting on of the liturgical vestments is accompanied by prayers for each garment, prayers whose text one still finds in many sacristies. Even if these prayers are no longer obligatory (but neither are they prohibited) by the Missal of the ordinary form promulgated by Paul VI, their use is recommended since they help in the priest's preparation and recollection before the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice. As a confirmation of the utility of these prayers it must be noted that they are included in the “Compendium Eucharisticum,” recently published by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Moreover it is useful to recall that Pius XII, with the decree of Jan. 14, 1940, assigned an indulgence of 100 days for the individual prayers.

(Next week: The Mass Vestments and Prayers)

**In Christ,
Fr. Greg**

Scott Hahn at Our Lady of Mercy

'Our Lady of Mercy Parish' will feature Scott Hahn next Saturday, September 3rd from 10-5:30PM. Located at 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 scotthantickets@gmail.com

42nd Annual San Gennaro Feast

Come to the 'Sacred Heart Church', located at 282 Long Beach Road, in Island Park on Thursday, September 8th at 6PM. Mass & Procession from 7-10PM. On Friday, Sept. 9th 5-11PM, Saturday 3PM-Midnight, Sunday Sept. 11th 1:30-9PM. Homemade Italian Specialities, Rides for the young and the young at heart, Games of Chance and skill, Entertainment, Admission is FREE. For information call 516-432-8585 or 516-432-0655.

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.

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

You Can Save Your Marriage Now!

Retrouville is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with couples in troubled marriages with the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. For more information about the upcoming Retrouville weekend that begins on September 9th at the retreat house in Douglaston, Queens, please call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected directly, and confidentially, to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouville who can help. www.retrouville.org.

Smith Point Bridge 5K Run

On Saturday, September 10th at 9AM join in the 5K Run & Family Fun Walk, to benefit the 'Community Family Literacy Project'. The run begins on the barrier beach, continues over the Moriches Bay on the Smith Point Bridge, goes north onto William Floyd Parkway, and then back south over the bridge and along the park's inner roadway. The Literacy Project awards an annual college scholarship to a 'William Floyd High School' senior and the remainder proceeds go to the community-based literacy program. For more information call 399-1511 ext 215 or 5kbridgerun.communitylibrary.org.

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.

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. Please leave the items in the rear of the church or at Outreach.

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.

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 516-587-8000 x 126 for registration forms.

St. Jude Blood Drive

St. Jude's will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, October 7th in the parish center. Outreach volunteers will be taking pledges after Masses on the weekends of September 10 & 11th and 24 & 25th. Please sign up at that time. If that is not possible, you can sign up online at www.nybloodcenter.org or call Outreach at 281-5634 between the hours of 9AM-1PM Monday through Thursday. We will also be doing a Bone Marrow Drive in honor of parishioners, James Fiore and Nora Getchell, at that time. Thank you in advance for the "Gift of Life" and your support.

Kiwanis Club of the Mastics—Craft Fair

On October 1st & 2nd at 'Mastic Fireman's Field', the fair helps to raise money to send children in our area to camp. Any donation will be appreciated in any form. For more information please call Rich Geraci 281-7261 or Sharon McClinchy 433-4141.

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.

An Invitation to Join St. Jude Children's Choir

Children in first grade and up are invited to join the St. Jude Children's Choir. We sing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass during the school year. It's an opportunity for your child to participate more fully in the Mass and make new friends. Please come to the first fall rehearsal on Friday, September 16th at 5:30PM in the church. If you have any questions, please speak to the organist, Michael LaSalle, after Mass on Sunday.

Loving Memorials in The Long Island Catholic Honoring Those Lost on 9/11/2001

In our issue for the week of September 11th, we will publish "Loving Memorial" messages honoring those whose lives were taken in the September 11, 2001 attacks. We invite you to place a "Loving Memorial" message for your loved one in this special issue. A "Loving Memorial" can accommodate 215 characters, (letters, spaces, and punctuation), and should be emailed to ferguson@licatholic.org by Tuesday, September 6th. For help in submitting your "Loving Memorial" message, please call 516-594-1212. We will also post all "Loving Memorials" on our website www.licatholic.org. The fee to cover the cost of printing a memorial is \$100. We will be asking our readers to pray for those who perished and for their families and friends. May God bless and comfort you and your family.

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.

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
Aug. 21	258	125	235	319	540	149	1626

Weekly Collections

Regular Collection August 21st \$9,244.62
Mission Dominican Republic \$4,294.20

Catholic Ministries Appeal

2011 Goal \$50,174.00
Total pledges a/o 8/23/11 \$59,389.08
of Donors 200
Payments a/o 8/23/11 \$48,171.58
Thank you to all who have pledged.

Scripture Readings

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011 *Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist*

1 THES 4:13-18 • MK 6:17-29

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011 *Weekday*

1 THES 5:1-6, 9-11 • LK 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011 *Weekday*

COL 1:1-8 • LK 4:38-44

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 *Weekday*

COL 1:9-14 • LK 5:1-11

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011 *Weekday*

COL 1:15-20 • LK 5:33-39

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011 *Saint Gregory the Great, pope and doctor of the Church*

COL 1:21-23 • LK 6:1-5

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011 *Twenty-third*

Sunday in Ordinary Time

EZ 33:7-9 • ROM 13:8-10 • MT 18:15-20

Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of August 29th has been donated:

Intentions of Frank & Maryanne Nappe

"Happy 25th Anniversary"

Altar Flower Offering

The altar flowers for the weekend of August 27th & 28th have been donated:

In memory of Thomas Kokindo

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

Wedding Banns

Ill Brett Larson/ Stephanie Falco

Baptisms

John Robert Wiesman, Evan Michael Durish,
Emma Rose Gagliano, Anthony John LaScala,
Ava Jacklyn LaScala

God Bless them and their families!

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.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Join us October 16th at the Jones Beach Boardwalk for the 18th 'Making Strides Against Breast Cancer' walk. Or come on October 2nd for our 1st Walk at 'Dowling College, Brookhaven Campus'. To make fundraising easier we have a safe online site that can make it a snap. The online event information, registration, fundraising, and reporting tools help walkers nationwide exceed their goals. Using the online tool is easy. Simply log onto www.acevents.org/strides/ny/longisland and follow the step-by-step instructions to get started. Here you can organize a team and track its progress, enable supporters to donate through a secure Web site. If you would like more information call 1800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org/stridesonline.

Come Celebrate 25 Years of Life

Join us at the Life Center's '25th Anniversary Banquet' on Thursday, October 20th 7PM at the 'Coral House' in Baldwin. For information and tickets please call: 516-798-8746 or visit our website at: www.lifecenterli.org.

Golden Wedding Liturgy

'Church of Christ the King' in Commack will host a 'Golden Wedding Liturgy' for couples married 50 years or more, on Sunday, November 6th at 2:30PM. Please pick up a registration card at the rectory, fill it out and return it in time to reach the 'Diocese of Rockville Centre' by October 20th. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. For further questions please call Suzanne at 516-678-5800 ext.207.

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-Carratozollo Funeral Home'). Any further questions can be answered at (631) 243-2373.

Be merciful to all who are suffering violence,
keeping always in your heart the example of the Lord
who said, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."

—Saint Stephen of Hungary

Jesus' words are hardly warm and fuzzy

in fact, his startling prediction of his suffering and death leads Peter to fervently object. Jesus was trying to prepare his disciples for his Passion, but I imagine he was also talking to himself. Jesus was fully human and must have felt afraid to lose his life. Perhaps he was trying to build up his courage to face the inevitable. He didn't want to die, but he knew God sometimes calls us to do what we don't want to do.

In today's first reading, Jeremiah shared Jesus' experience. With the difficult task of proclaiming God's judgment to the people of Judah, Jeremiah was regularly mocked and derided. He tried to keep from announcing God's Word, but found himself unable to resist—God's word became "like fire burning in [his] heart." He was called to do what he did not want to do.

I felt the same way when I decided to study theology. My undergraduate major, speech pathology, prepared me for

a well-paying, in-demand career. But theology and ministry tugged at my heart. They didn't promise a high salary, job security, or career advancement. For these reasons I resisted, but God's persistence won. I didn't "want" to study theology—I felt compelled to do so.

Taking up our crosses
as Jesus instructs is rarely
something we want to do...
...And because he carried
his own, Jesus helps shoulder
our cross too.

Taking up our crosses as Jesus instructs is rarely something we want to do. Doing so can mean sacrificing to care for elderly parents, speaking up against injustice, or seeking help for addiction.

But we know the call is from God if we are compelled to pick up this cross and follow Jesus, even if we initially don't want to. And because he carried his own, Jesus helps shoulder our cross too.

JANEL ESKER
sundaybulletins@liguori.org