

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.

## Third Sunday in Advent - December 11th 2011

**Pastor**  
Rev. Gregory Yacyshyn

**In Residence**  
Msgr. John Heinlein

**Senior Priest**  
Rev. James Leone

**Parish Office  
Hours**

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

WEDNESDAYS  
9:00am-6:00pm

SATURDAYS  
CLOSED

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 Advent,  
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  
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, DECEMBER 10, 2011

5:00pm Sally Ann Prichard †

7:30pm Parishioners of Saint Jude

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

8:00am Frances Casciano †

9:30am Carole Murphy †

11:30am Sabina McNamara †

5:00pm Carmela Pitaro †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011

9:00am Antonina DiGristina †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011

9:00am Joe Franke †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

9:00am Hank Eppig †

12 Noon Saint Jude Guild:

Angelina Tamburrino †

Theresa Abbott †

Antionette Vicens †

Elizabeth Green & daughters †

Virginia Heinz †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

9:00am George Frusco †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011

9:00am Amanda Rossi †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011

8:30am Robert Norton Perfect †

5:00pm Elizabeth Reichert †

7:30pm Ann Johnson †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

8:00am Carole Murphy †

9:30am Parishioners of Saint Jude

11:30am Cyril Wolpert †

5:00pm Ralph Gervasio Sr. †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Benjamin Archer, Paul Bidegain, Janet Brandimarte, Francis X. Butler, Cecelia Cottone, Anthony Cuccia, Mary Theresa Cunningham, Michael Francis Cunningham, Natalie Danisi, Alexandra Ditman, Isabella Grace Dobbeck, Chuck Drake, Nicholas Ferrara, Anthony Fino, Christian Gallucci, Frank Gaeta, Bob Gamberale, Nora Getchell, Deacon Thomas Gillen, Ann Giordano, Michelle Gonzalez, Joan Guarino, Charlotte Hall, Catherine Hannon, Joan Hanson, Steve Herrbrandt, Jo, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Father Walter Kedjerski, Cookie Landau, Frances Lee, Christine Leone, Katherine Lindsey, Carmine Linsalata, Ryan Loftus, Julius Manchise, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Joan Muller, Ruth Muller, Joshua Mussi, Logan Murphy, Ronald Nappe, Frank Nitto, Miguel Oriana, Doris Ortiz, Joan & Jessica Passaro, Jackie Pastore, Gina Pisano, Abdul Rattu, Salvatore Russo, Lucille Story, Joseph Stozzetto, Patricia Swenson, Angelo Tafuro, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana

FOR THE DECEASED: Carlo Trombetta, William C. Murphy, Anthony Vigorito, Dorothy Cahill

FOR THE MILITARY: John Abel, Matt Corica, Joseph Competello, Michael Cuervo, Kenneth Drumm, Jr., Daniel Edwards, Daniel Engo, Michael Hickey, Jeffrey Holmes, Steven Kay, Richard Kruger, Chris Manakides, John Maresca, Joe Occhineri, Anthony Ochoa Jr., Katherine M. Onorato, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Randy Sanchez, Steven Schloesser, Carl Seaman, Don Skelton, Bobby Sosa, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

## Christmas Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th

“Special Visitor” at the 9:30AM Mass!

### CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 14th, 2–2:45PM

Saturday, December 17th, Noon–1PM

Saturday, December 17th, 4–4:45PM

Wednesday, December 21st, 2–2:45PM

Friday, December 23rd, Noon–2PM

Saturday, December 24th, Noon

### PENANCE SERVICE WITH CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 19th at 8PM

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

**SATURDAY:** 4PM, 6PM, & 8PM (Spanish Mass)

11:15PM Christmas Carols with Mass at Midnight

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

**SUNDAY:** 9AM, & 11:30AM

\*\*\*Please Note Times\*\*\*

NO evening Mass Christmas Day

### NEW YEARS EVE MASS

5PM Vigil Mass for Sunday Obligation, & 7:30PM (Spanish Mass)

### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

8AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM, & 5PM

New Years Day follows a regular Sunday Schedule.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Children's Pageant at the 9:30AM Mass

## Important Information

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS:** Once again the children and their family of the parish are invited to gather for the Family Mass at 9:30AM on December 18th. We will celebrate Mass and the children will receive a special treat!

## Faith Formation

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The Faith Formation office will be closed from 11:30–3PM on Wednesday, December 14th. We will open at 3:15PM.

**CONF. PREP. 2, HIGH SCHOOL, AND RCIC2 UPPER STUDENTS:** There will be a ‘Large Group Presentation’ of the ‘Pam Stenzel Morality DVD’ and Confirmation Robe Measurements will be taken, on this Wednesday, December 14th from 7:15–9:15PM, All permission slips to view the DVD on morality must be handed into the office or you will not be able to stay for the presentation and make up work will be given. If you need another copy, please contact the office at 281-2835.

**HOME STUDY PARENT MEETING, LEVELS 1–6** On Tuesday, December 20th at 6PM in the parish center. Bring books and questions with you.

## Faith Formation Fundraisers

**BAKE SALE:** Our bake sale will be held this week on December 12th, 14th, 15th, & 17th during sign in/out of class in lobby of parish center. All donations gladly accepted! Bring your donation with you when you bring your child to class. If you are a student who needs to do community service, this will be a great opportunity. Contact the ‘Office of Faith Formation’ for details 281-2835.

## Christmas Wafers—Oplatek

The price is \$3 per package. The Christmas “Oplatek” Wafers are available at the rectory. The Oplatek Wafer is part of a beautiful Polish tradition at Christmas and they come with complete information on how to use them.



# and with Your Spirit (Part II)

## and some more current events...

A special thank-you goes out to Sue Fumai and the Christmas Fair committee. This year's fair netted \$5,972.88 for St. Jude Parish. Thanks also to the many individuals and groups who contributed baskets for the Chinese Auction. Should anyone wish to be involved with the Easter Fair next April, or next year's Christmas Fair, please contact the rectory. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to stewardship in this area of parish life.

This is the last weekend "Giving Tree" stars will be available in the church narthex (entryway). **There are still a number of stars available.** Each star **represents a gift for a specific child in need.** Thanks to those who have already returned the gifts they lovingly and generously purchased. Giving tree gifts may be returned to the tree (with the identification stars attached) as late as this Tuesday, December 13th. If anyone wishes to "adopt a family in need" for Christmas, they may contact the Outreach Office at 281-5634.

Preparations for the St. Jude New Years Eve Dance are going well. However, planning a party for over 200 people does not just happen on its own. It is not an easy task! The committee has been working diligently and has put in much time, effort, and hard work to ensure a most enjoyable evening for all those who attend. In addition to making sure the event is successful, the committee members also have families to tend to and Christmas celebration preparations to complete, much the same as everyone else at this very busy time of year. Therefore, in light of all the many details that the committee must address, **the absolute last day to purchase New Years Eve Dance tickets will be next Sunday, December 18th.** If you do plan to attend, **PLEASE** purchase your ticket(s) as soon as possible, as none will be available after that date; neither will any be available at the door the night of the party. Thank-you! (N. B.: Dance attendees are welcome to bring their own "cheer" if they so wish.)

Our newly renovated auditorium (where the New Years Eve Dance is to take place) is looking quite beautiful. So many parishioners who have been in the parish center lately are most pleased with the transformation. The central crucifix is the one that hung over the altar in the Old Shrine Church, and the bas-relief statues of Our Blessed Lady and St. Jude were the ones that hung on the sanctuary walls in the parish center. They fit in with the décor quite well! A few more finishing touches are still being addressed.

I thank all those involved in the auditorium: our contractors who worked with our needs and requests and did a very fine job; parishioner/architect Isabella Mancini who designed the space and did a beautiful job selecting the finishes and colors; parish business manager, Cynthia Lacey, upon whom I placed many of the logistical burdens, coordination with the contractors, and for watching all the nickels and dimes... And thanks to all of you who sacrificed with contributions to the capital campaign. Without your monetary contributions, none of this work would have been possible. Our next major venture will be the renovation of the St. Jude Shrine and its grounds. I hope to provide information on that project, as well as memorials that will be available plus various giving options to fund the project early in 2012. A couple of parishioners have approached me about possible memorials at the shrine. Should anyone be interested in assisting in this effort, either for direct gifts or to help with the drive, I would be most interested to hear your proposals.

In recent months I have been in contact with Mastic Beach Village officials and representatives from our local Historical Society who are very eager for the preservation, renovation, and future utilization of the Old Shrine Church. The current thought is to restore the exterior of the building to near original appearance, and to use the re-configured interior as a Village Cultural Arts Center. As I understand the basic proposal, the work would be funded through village monies, possible grants, and private donations. The parish would then lease the building to the Village. Details will be worked out with the diocesan Office of Construction and Renovation and the Office of General Counsel. Regardless of where the funds come from, the parish will not be incurring any of the renovation expenses. Therefore, if any individuals are interested in contributing to this effort, please contact Mastic Beach Village Hall or the Historical Society for details.

Some parishioners have inquired about the concrete pad and reinforcing rods that have appeared in the flower bed on the west side of the church. It is the Eagle Scout project of Augustine Minelli. It is the foundation/base for a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, which has yet to be obtained. Very soon, contributions will be solicited so that we can purchase the statue. More information will follow in the near future.

The Lord be with you... And with your spirit. (We'll get it yet!)

**Happy Advent,**  
**Fr. Greg**



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Catholic elementary schools are an essential part of the life of our Diocese. We all are grateful for those who built, staffed and promoted Catholic schools for over 100 years. I am grateful to the parents, Catholic and non-Catholic, who have seen the value of Catholic elementary schools and sent their children to receive formation and education in our schools. To the pastors and parishioners, the principals and teachers, those who provide staff support and those who provide material and financial support, we all owe a debt of gratitude.

For some time we have been witnessing changes that have affected Catholic schools in our Diocese. The first came when the schools became less and less staffed by religious. Changing demographics and difficult national and local economic conditions have added to the pressure on our schools. In all of this we must also acknowledge that parents of Catholic school children do not get the support from the government that it is owed to them in justice. As a Diocese we cannot and will not abandon Catholic elementary education because it is the best way we have to form leaders for our Church and our society in the years to come.

During my ten years as your pastor, we have tried to keep schools open and have closed them only when there was no choice. While well intended, that approach leaves parents with great uncertainty about the future of a particular school, with all the attendant worries about their own child's education. This then leaves the schools as victims to potentially harmful speculation. To reassure parents, I convened a group of dedicated individuals to form the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Catholic Education to develop a Strategic Plan for the future of Catholic elementary schools in our Diocese. This Committee's charge was to develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan, using the criteria they developed which I approved. This plan can be found on the diocesan website, [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org). Using those criteria the Committee made its recommendations to me. Their goal and mine is to ensure the long-term sustainability, growth and excellence of Catholic elementary schools.

This is how we reached our decisions. The Bishop's Advisory Committee first completed a thorough analysis of the viability of each of our schools as part of the implementation process of the Strategic Plan for Catholic Elementary Schools that was announced in September, 2011. The Committee then made an evaluation of each school's ability to provide, and sustain into the future, a quality Catholic education program. This study included an extensive analysis of enrollment and school age demographic trends, the financial position of schools and parishes, and a review of the facilities, technology and programs offered. Given the decline in school-age population and the economic climate on Long Island we, like many public school districts, must face the harsh reality that we no longer need as many school buildings as we may have had in the past.

With recommendations based on the committee's analysis in hand, I have confirmed the continued operation of forty-three Catholic schools which will continue as they currently are. After much deliberation, I have agreed to close six schools according to the criteria mentioned above. In addition to the closings, I have asked pastors to work together with school and diocesan leadership to collaborate in strengthening the schools in one section of Suffolk County (Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional School, Center Moriches; Our Lady of Mercy Regional School, Cutchogue; and St. Isidore School, Riverhead) and one in Nassau County (St. Dominic School, Oyster Bay and St. Edward the Confessor School, Syosset) so that we will have good, sound Catholic schools for the future in both areas.

While these choices have not been easy and closing schools is one of the most painful parts of my ministry, I want to assure the parents and children affected by this that they and their children are uppermost in my mind and in my heart. My goal was to make decisions now that will allow us to say that there will be no more school closings beyond my time as your bishop. My hope is that through our continued investment in Catholic elementary education and the execution of our Strategic Plan for the future, we will be able to deliver Catholic education to more families and students where to date we have not had this unique gift and extraordinary blessing. What the future holds, no one can predict. But I am confident we have done the best we can to guarantee the future of Catholic education in our Diocese and I am even hopeful that the future may offer us new opportunities we today might not be able to foresee.

In closing I want once again to assure all of you of my commitment to serve you, your families, and especially the children, of our Diocese, as your pastor and bishop so long as the Holy Father grants me this singular privilege to be the Bishop of Rockville Centre. May Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, watch over us and our children now and in the future.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Rockville Centre

## St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." As we prepare for Christmas let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord. Christmas is a time of love and gift giving... Please share your abundance by giving a gift to the 'Society of St. Vincent de Paul' so that those who do not have, can share in the blessings of Christmas.

## Lighthouse Catholic Media

### **BECOMING THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF—**

**MATTHEW KELLY:** Using Scripture and his gift of storytelling, Matthew Kelly shows us how to see the challenges in our everyday lives in a new light. He will help elevate and energize you to pursue the highest values of the human spirit and become the best version of yourself. You can also pick up Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscover Catholicism*, in the rectory for \$5.

## Shrine of St. Jude— Knights of Columbus

The newly formed 'Shrine of St. Jude—Knights of Columbus Council' will hand out 'Keep Christ in Christmas' magnets as long as supplies last after Masses on Saturday, December 10th and Sunday, December 11th. While the Christmas season is time of celebration and enjoyment, we must never forget the Birth of Christ Our Savior is the reason for the season.

## Happy Birthday, William Floyd!

The library is celebrating the birthday of General William Floyd, a local leader in the Revolutionary War and signer of the Declaration of Independence. This year's Floyd celebration focuses on the theme of "courage." Join us on Saturday, December 17th, for activities for all ages, including: **GALLERY CRAWL IN THE LIBRARY:** Local school children's winning art on the theme of "courage" will be displayed throughout the library. Pick up a Gallery Guide to learn about these young artists and their work at any service desk. **FLOYD FACTS:** Stop by our reference desk to watch a short video slide show featuring facts about the Floyd family, local residents here in Mastic Beach until the 1970s. **CHILDREN'S DROP-IN ACTIVITY:** Learn how colonial era farmers made butter and make your own homemade batch! Create a traditional tin punched ornament for the holidays. **BIRTHDAY PARTY:** At 3PM, local schoolchildren will read selections from their winning writings about William Floyd, followed by a musical performance by student musicians. Help us blow out the candles on a giant birthday cake, then stay to enjoy some refreshments.

## Blood Drive at the MBPOA

On Thursday, December 22nd from 1–7PM at the 'Mastic Beach Property Owners Association' at 31 Neighborhood Road, Mastic Beach. Our region suffers from a shortage of local blood donors. A single donation has the potential to help three people. For questions regarding eligibility, please call 1-800-668-0900 or visit the website at [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org). Thank you in advance for the "Gift of Life" and your support.



## Christmas Fair Thank you

This year's Christmas Fair was very successful due in part to the hard work of our many volunteers, private donors, and the generosity of our business community who donated raffle prizes. A special thank you to all of the people who worked really hard to make this fair one of our most successful to date. They include: Pat Fusco, Ann Leonardi, Loraine Caruana, Mary Vitale, Theresa Reyes, Heather Raghunandan, Jeannine Signorelli and George Dietrich, for setting up and running the raffle, Chinese Auction, and 50/50 table; Maryann Bechhofer, Cynthia Lacey and Angela Szumski, Cynthia Hill for the terrific job they did in the kitchen; The Italian Society (Anna Maria Pisano, Silvia Mancini, Sarina Franzino, Grace Montalbano, Santa Iazzetta, Nina Oddo, Louisa Dimartino, Giuseppina Barale, Anna Ciatto, Maria Realmuto and Michelle Campisi) for preparing and serving food at the Italian Food table; and a special thanks to Catherine D., Mike and Marina Kobasiuk for their baked goods, accepting donations and running the bake sale table.

A special thank you to Gina Fumai and Cameron Lacey for doing a wonderful job taking photos with Santa, Jo Ann Dietrich for being the photo cashier, Carlo Fumai for running the photo printers and Vincent Rutkowski for handing out the photos.

There were many other volunteers and many people who donated items that contributed to the success of our annual Christmas Fair. They include: 'Outreach', Aida Dankowski, Karen Sonneborne, Laura Vecchio, 'Saint Vincent de Paul', 'Saint Jude Legion of Mary', 'J.V. Kavanaugh K of C Council', Robbie & Linda DiFrancesco, Julie & Brianna Novotny, Margaret Warren, Margaret Muszynski, Denise Franzone, Patty Bona, Renee Staziant, Lisa Conlin, Kim & Alexa Panettieri, Terrie Cicerelli, Lukasz Niedzwiecki, Scott Bamberger, Jackie, Cynthia & Justin Steel, Phyllis Albertina, Cathy Beczak, Sally Wheeler, Fran Riker, Jeannine Signorelli, Jim Alan, Rose Marie Akie, Diana Coady, William Wilson, Mary & John Sumwalt, Kelly Carey, Mary Ellen Dillon, Ellen Peters, Barbara Fitzgerald, Ketty Colbert, Mr. & Mrs. Larkin, Heather Aylward, Shawwna Tereshko, Karine Fitzgerald, Kimberly Romaine, DC, Mary & Edward Dunn, DiGiovanna Family, Abbene Family, Lori Rudek, Mr. & Mrs. Lewery, Shiela Doyle, and Benny Schiraldi.

Thank you to John Feeney for setting up the tables, and the ladies from the Rectory (Cynthia, Carmilla & Anna). And a special thank you to my family, Carlo & Gina Fumai, for all their help year round.

Thank you to the following businesses for their generous donations for our raffle and Chinese auction: 'Handy Pantry', 'Lee Ann Florist', 'Gateway Playhouse', 'Ice Cream Cottage', 'Apple Bee's of Shirley', 'Shirley AMF Bowling', Connie and Barbara Kruk of 'Roma Funeral Home', and all who anonymously donated items.

An extraordinary thank you to **Santa** for being at our Christmas Fair during his busiest time of year. And a very special thanks to Father Greg Yacyshyn, Msgr. John Heinlein, and Father James Leone, for making time to make an appearance; also thank you to Gina Fumai for assisting Father Greg while calling the 50/50 and raffles winners. The fair raised \$5,972.88!!!!

A Very Merry Christmas to all!

From, Sue Fumai and the Christmas Fair Committee

**Raffle Prize Winners:** 1st Prize: Jeanine Signorelli; 2nd Prize: Robert Halversen; 3rd Prize: Nick Ambrosino; 4th Prize: Joe DiBarnardo; 5th Prize: Janeth Billian; 6th Prize: Regina Realmuto; 7th Prize: Carmen Rodriguez

# We are God's precious children.

Besides the wild dress and unique locust-and-honey diet plan, one other thing can be said for John the Baptist: He was the least self-centered man around. He spent much of his time deflecting questions about his identity, giving negative responses when asked if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet, yet the Church gives us two Sundays in Advent to ponder this man who never wanted anyone to focus on who he was. Clearly we need to learn something important about John. John the Baptist wasn't concerned whether people knew who he was—he was concerned whether they knew who he was in relation to Jesus. He could easily have claimed to be the Messiah—he was surrounded by crowds and could have been swept away with the excitement of power and popularity. Instead, he wanted people to come to know Jesus through him. He identified himself as “the voice of one crying out in

the desert”—the one to help people prepare for the coming of Jesus, the true Messiah.

We spend more time than we realize telling people who we are. When we meet someone new or fill out an application, we reveal our occupation, marital status, and hometown. But how regularly do we think about who we are in relation to God? When we introduce ourselves, does “son or daughter of God” come to mind before our name, job title, or address? On this third Sunday of Advent, we rejoice at the nearness of Christmas. We can also rejoice that we are God's precious children. As those beloved children who live selflessly and generously, we can emulate John the Baptist and lead others to God.

As those beloved children  
who live selflessly and generously,  
we can emulate John the Baptist  
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JANEL ESKER | [sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)



## Advent Wreath at Home

Each day at home, the candles are lit, perhaps before the evening meal—one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. The rose candle is usually lit on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lit, a prayer may be said.

**THIRD WEEK:** O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.

### What do Advent wreath candles signify?

Most Advent wreaths have three purple candles and one rose to echo the liturgical colors of the Church's Advent celebrations. Whether the wreath is being used at home or in a church, the lighting of the candles should follow the pattern established by the Sundays of Advent. Some churches and families have begun to add a fifth candle to their Advent practices, placing a white candle in the center of their wreath. They light this at Christmas, again echoing the Church's liturgical color for the season and rejoicing in Christ our Lord, whose birth brings light and our life to our world.

**We Wait For Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Charity unites us to God. There is nothing mean in charity, nothing arrogant. Charity knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect.

—Pope Saint Clement I

## Christmas Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate for Christmas flowers to decorate the church may use the envelope provided in your envelope packet. If you did not receive envelopes, there are envelopes available in the church narthex (entryway). Please PRINT the name of the person you wish to have remembered clearly, so that it may be included in the bulletin after Christmas. The envelopes may be placed in any of the collections. A minimum suggested offering is \$20. This will help to pay for the Christmas flowers purchased. Thank you.

## Remembrance Envelopes

The 'Christmas Remembrance Envelope' for the 'Christmas Novena Masses' is included in your mailed envelope packet. Extra envelopes are available in the back of the Church. The Novena of Masses begins December 24th. Please remember to get your intention envelopes in early to have your loved ones remembered.

## The Woman at the Well

Come together with other women as we look at the stories of the 'Women in the Bible', as well as other women in our church history and see how they relate to our lives today. Tuesday, December 27th from 7:30–9PM at 'Mary Immaculate' in Bellport located in Room 7 of the Church Auditorium. We will be discussing **Queen Esther and Judge Deborah**.

## A Christmas Carol

The story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey to find the true meaning of Christmas. The Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol" is being performed at 'Theatre Three' 412 Main Street in Port Jefferson until December 27th. Please call 631-928-9100 for more information.

## Building Stronger Catholic Elementary Schools

An ongoing series on the 'Strategic Plan for Catholic Elementary Schools' *Vision for the Future*. 'The Diocese of Rockville Centre' released a 'Strategic Plan for Catholic Elementary Education' on September 22nd, outlining the goals and actions that will provide a future for Catholic elementary schools on Long Island that is fiscally secure, academically excellent and fully engaged in promoting the Catholic faith and values. This plan may be accessed through the diocesan website, [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).

**RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP:** The 'Diocese of Rockville Centre' is committed to supporting Catholic elementary schools that are academically excellent and spiritually engaging as well as affordable and accessible. All of us are called to collaborate in this mission by working to make the best use of the talent and treasure available to us.

We are entrusted with the stewardship of our schools, which the 'United States Conference of Bishops' has called "a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church." Our 'Strategic Plan' reaffirms our commitment to our schools as an apostolic ministry of the Catholic Church.

"The Catholic Church needs Catholic schools and society needs Catholic schools," said Ursuline Sister Joanne Callahan, superintendent of schools. "We need to look at how we can be really strong for the next generation."

The 'Strategic Plan' calls for many individuals to continue their role as stewards and for others to become engaged. Those include:

- The 'Tomorrow's Hope Foundation' will continue its vital mission of insuring the excellence and continuance of Catholic schools on Long Island by increasing awareness of the value of Catholic education and providing scholarship and program funding to meet the needs of students and schools.
- Alumni will be invited to become more engaged in the life of their schools, and schools will work to engage alumni by hosting special events for them or finding other ways to get them involved.
- All parishes will continue to contribute to the ministry of Catholic education because schools are a crucial pathway for faith formation.

We all share responsibility for passing on strong Catholic schools to the next generation; we all are stewards in this task.

"We must never forget: Jesus Christ is the reason there are Catholic schools," wrote the Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, bishop, 'Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Ill.' "We must be about moving from 'I' to 'we': each of us has concerns about our parish and our school. But from today forward we must have concern for 'our' parishes and 'our' schools. If we do not, no amount of planning we do will successfully guide us to fulfill the true goal of Catholic education."

In the coming weeks, we will provide more information about the Strategic Plan and our vision for the future of Catholic elementary schools in our Diocese. By working together—religious and laity, principals and teachers, parents and students—we can achieve our shared goal of creating a secure future for our schools.

**REGARDING THE REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOLS:** This week Bishop Murphy announced that six schools will close in June 2012 and two strategic collaborations will be initiated. The difficult decision to close certain schools is the result of a thorough analysis of the viability of each school as part of the implementation process of the 'Strategic Plan for Catholic Elementary Schools' that was announced in September of 2011. The 'Bishop's Advisory Committee' completed an evaluation of each school's ability to provide and sustain into the foreseeable future, a quality education program. Given the decline in school-age population and the economic climate on Long Island, the Catholic schools, like many public school districts, must face the harsh reality that we no longer need as many buildings as in the past. We are very hopeful about the future of Catholic school education in the 'Diocese of Rockville Centre' and remain committed to quality Catholic education on Long Island. We ask for your prayers for all those affected by these decisions—the administrators, faculty, current and former families and students, and all who have supported Catholic schools.

## Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY				Total
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30	5pm	
Nov. 13	351	144	218	345	510	182	1750
Nov. 20	357	121	263	366	550	147	1804
Nov. 27	359	135	246	363	470	225	1798
Dec. 4	354	175	260	291	305	203	1588

## Weekly Collections

December 4th \$10,012.62  
L.I. Catholic \$2,747.00

## Catholic Ministries Appeal

2011 Goal \$50,174.00  
Total pledges a/o 12/6/11 \$59,414.08  
# of Donors 200  
Payments a/o 12/6/11 \$56,414.08

Thank you to all who have pledged.

## Scripture Readings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

ZEC 2:14–17 OR RV 11:19A; 12:1–6A, 10AB •  
LK 1:26–38 OR 1:39–47

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011

*Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr*

ZEP 3:1–2, 9–13 • MT 21:28–32

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

*Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church*

IS 45:6B–8, 18, 21B–25 • LK 7:18B–23

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

*Advent Weekday*

IS 54:1–10 • LK 7:24–30

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011

*Advent Weekday*

IS 56:1–3A, 6–8 • JN 5:33–36

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011

*Advent Weekday*

GN 49:2, 8–10 • MT 1:1–17

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

2 SM 7:1–5, 8B–12, 14A, 16 • ROM 16:25–27 •  
LK 1:26–38

## Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of  
December 12th has been donated:

In memory of Philip & Anna Castrogiovanni

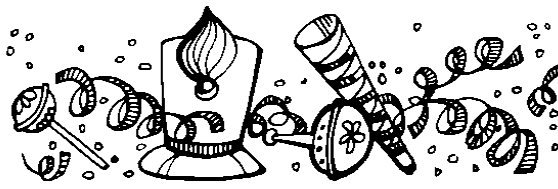
## Altar Flowers

The altar bread and wine for the weekend of  
December 10th & 11th has been donated:

In memory of Dennis Fennessy &  
Glenn Walbrecker

## Baptisms

Daniel Joseph Caruso, Kayleigh Nicole Caruso,  
Shayla Maria Lorenzo-Maldonado,  
Carlos Hernandez-Parias Jr.  
Finn Joseph Quirke,  
Angelina Nichole Treadwell  
May God bless them and their families!



# NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

**Saturday, December 31st at 7:30pm**

Join the 'Parish of St. Jude' in our newly renovated hall.

**Tickets: \$50 per person —**

Come enjoy delicious food catered by Mama Lisa, feel the music by DJ—  
Bob Vecchio, and take a chance on a raffle ticket!

**Ticket price includes food, DJ, wine, beer, soda, noisemakers and a  
midnight champagne toast!**

**FINAL DAY to purchase tickets will be December 18th!**

Tickets are can be purchased at 'Roma Funeral Home', and  
'St. Jude Rectory', and on our website; [www.stjudemb.org](http://www.stjudemb.org)

'New Year's Eve Party' and raffle tickets will be on sale after Masses the  
weekends of: December 10th & 11th, and 17th & 18th

**Raffle tickets are 3 for \$10**

1st Prize: \$1,000 Cash;

2nd Prize: \$500 Cash; 3rd Prize: Lottery Tree \$250 Value; 4th Prize:

Basket of Cheer \$200 Value; 5th Prize: Trader Joe's Basket \$50 Value

Thank you to the following donors:

1st Prize: donated by Roma Funeral Home;

2nd Prize: donated by J.V. Kavanaugh Council; 3rd Prize: donated by Empire National Bank;

4th Prize donated by J.V. Kavanaugh Council; 5th Prize Donated by Anonymous

**Tables have been generously donated by the Kane Family**