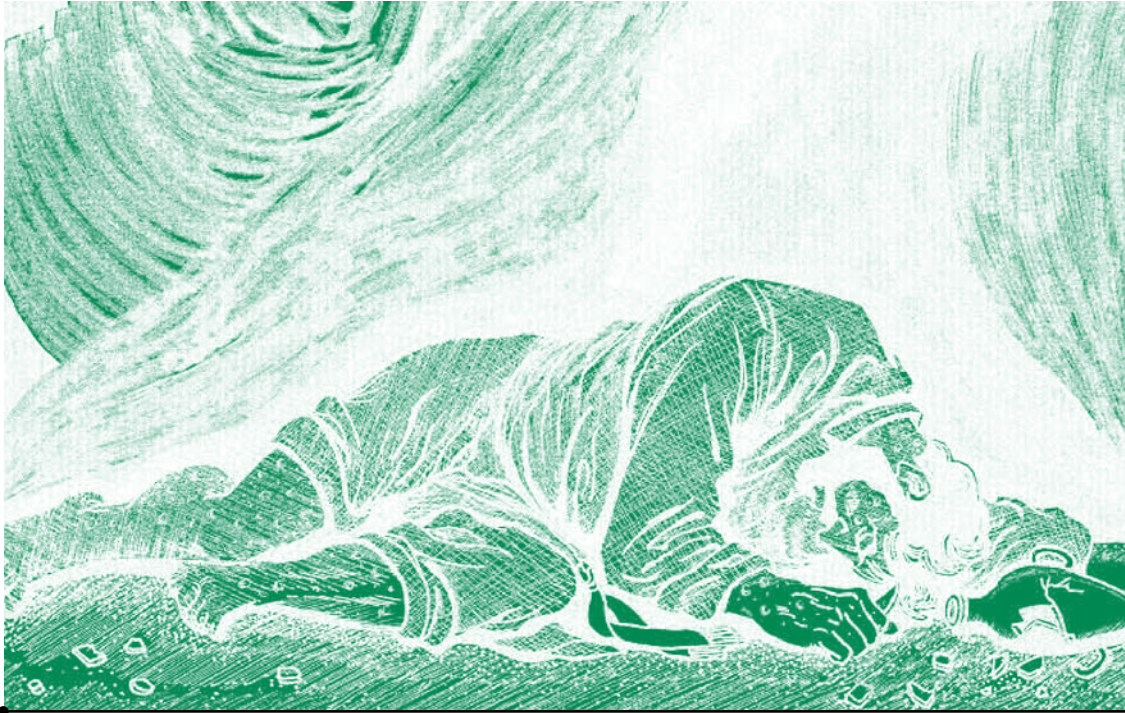


89 OVERLOOK DRIVE
MASTIC BEACH, NY 11951
PHONE: 631-281-5743

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 5th 2012

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
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, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

5:00pm Anthony & Charles DeTomaso †

7:30pm Mario Ravkin †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

8:00am Sebastiano & Rosalia Realmuto †

9:30am Parishioners of St. Jude

11:30am Barbara Cremona †

5:00pm John Hamill †

MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2012

9:00am Vincent Rocco †

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

9:00am Susan Knoernschild †

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

9:00am Jerome Ventura †

12 Noon Saint Jude Guild:
William Francis Muller †
Frank Montanez †

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

9:00am Joseph Cammarata †

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

9:00am Stanley Bombalski †

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012

8:30am William John Guiducci &
William Joseph Guiducci †

5:00pm Intentions of Bobby Vecchio

7:30pm John Weis †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

8:00am William John Guiducci †

9:30am Elizabeth DeGiovine †

11:30am James Colbert †

5:00pm Parishioners of St. Jude

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Benjamin Archer, Faith Barile, Paul Bidegain, Janeth Billian, Jeanne Blevins, Janet Brandimarte, Francis X. Butler, Lewis Ciuillo, Cecelia Cottone, Cathy Cremmens, 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, Deacon Ken Geoghan, Nora Getchell, Ann Giordano, Michelle Gonzalez, Joan Guarino, Santo Giunta, Charlotte Hall, Catherine Hannon, Jon Hanson, Steve Herrbrandt, Jo, Richard & Matthew Kaminsky, Father Walter Kedjierski, Cookie Landau, Frances Lee, Christine Leone, Katherine Lindsey, Carmine Linsalata, Brian Lotus, Julius Manchise, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Joan Muller, Ruth Muller, Ronald Nappe, Frank Nitto, Miguel Oriana, Doris Ortiz, Joan & Jessica Passaro, Jackie Pastore, Gina Pisano, Abdul Rattu, Karen Ratcliff, Aurora Riela, Salvatore Russo, Al & Farah Schacca, Lucille Story, Joseph Stozetto, Patricia Swenson, Angelo Tafuro, Al Vanderbilt, Mary Vazzana

FOR THE DECEASED: James J. Gill

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

Faith Formation

ADVENT COLLECTION: Thank you to our families who donated to our Advent collection for the 'Holy Childhood Association'. Our total amount sent is \$362.29. God bless each of you for your sacrifices to help those in need. Thank you. Theresa

LENTEN COLLECTION: Next week students in our program will be bringing home Lenten Collection Boxes to collect all your spare coins for Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services. I know you will be just as generous as you were for our Advent Collection. The Lenten collection boxes need to be returned to the office the week of April 16-20. Lets see if we can beat \$362.00! You did a great job! Thank You.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREATS: Saturday, February 4th from 1-4PM or Saturday, February 11th from 1-4PM located in the parish center main hall. It will be a fun filled day for the children so please be prompt. Students are to bring snack and drink in brown bag with their names on it. Sign in and out will be with their Catechist in the parish center main hall. All students must attend. Please bring students on their assigned date.

St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray and then he went out to preach and to heal. Praying for the poor can bring the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

SAVE THE DATE!: Friday, May 11th for the 'St. Vincent de Paul' fundraiser: BUNCO NIGHT! Plan for an evening of fun! More info will follow in future bulletins.

Lighthouse Catholic Media

After all the Masses during the weekend of February 11th and 12th, a representative from 'Lighthouse Catholic Media' will be at the back of the church. CD bundles will be available at 4 for \$10 and Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscovering Catholicism*, will be available for \$5. This book can help you with your Lenten commitment to learn more about your Catholic Faith and deepen your relationship with Christ.

Eagle Scout Project

As you may have noticed an outside podium has been completed off the path on the west side of the church. We are now asking ministries, parishioners, families and friends who may be interested in donating towards purchasing the St. Francis statue that Fr. Greg has chosen to be mounted on the completed podium. All donations can be placed in the regular collection basket, dropped off/or mailed to the rectory. Please be sure to indicate that your donation is for the 'Eagle Scout Project-Statue'.

Rosary Altar Society

On Monday, February 6th, Rosarians will meet at the church at 7:30PM to recite the rosary. Meeting will immediately follow in the Parish Center. A "members only" Chinese Auction will complete the evening. 2012 dues can be paid at the meeting.

Hospice Volunteers

Volunteers are a special gift to those overwhelmed with the responsibility of caring for someone who is at the end of life. Volunteers provide companionship to patients and respite to families. 'Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice of Suffolk, Inc.' is offering our community a 'Volunteer Training Program'. The program, which is held in East Northport, will run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9PM starting February 21st and conclude on March 1st. Although the classes are held in our East Northport office, patients are located throughout Suffolk County, near your home. Pre-registration is required. For information, please contact Amanda Dubinsky, Volunteer Coordinator at 631-930-9340 or adubinsky@vnshs.org.



In Vitro Fertilization

It is the Church's firmly held belief that every human being, no matter how they have been conceived is made in the image and likeness of almighty God and is precious in His sight. Therefore, **every** human life should be precious in our sight, as well. Ideally, we know that the right setting for new human life to come into this world is within a loving marriage of man and woman who are open to God's will and plan. We know, however, that this ideal scenario is not always that in which conception takes place. God *always* respects the Natural Law (of which He is the Author), and so if the conditions are right, when an ovum and a sperm meet, conception occurs, and a new human person comes into existence at that very moment. However, regardless of whether a child is conceived during the course of loving marital relations; outside of marriage; as the result of rape or incest, or even in a laboratory... the Creator is there!

The desire for children is a most natural one. When couples come to the Church to make arrangements for Holy Matrimony, they are reminded that Christian Marriage is ordained towards the procreation, education, and religious nurturing of children for the continuation of the Faith. Spouses are to be open to God's will for them in their marriage as to how many children He wants them to have. It may be many, few, or possibly even no children.

However, in the latter case, many couples who experience infertility explore the use of the reproductive technologies available today; this also includes numerous good faith Catholics who may be well aware that we are pro-Life, yet are unaware of the Church's specific moral teaching in this area. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains why the Church opposes methods that separate the unitive (the love-making-bonding) and procreative (baby-making) ends of licit marital sexual relations. The Church forbids fertility techniques that attempt to create life outside of marital intercourse:

They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act which brings the child into existence is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another, but one that entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Such a relationship of domination is in itself contrary to the dignity and equality that must be common to parents and children. Under the moral aspect procreation is deprived of its proper perfection when it is not willed as the fruit of the conjugal act, that is to say, of the specific act of the spouses' union. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2377)

God is not unaware that there are couples who suffer greatly from their inability to conceive and of their heart wrenching desire to have children. Sometimes in the darkness of infertility and in the desperation to share their love with a child of their own, they turn to the unconventional method of "in vitro fertilization" or IVF; literally, "fertilization in glass." Typically, when this IVF technology is employed, 10 or so eggs may "harvested" from a woman's body and fertilized at once, but not all are transferred into the her (or another woman's) uterus for implantation. Therefore, multiple embryonic human beings are conceived; the "leftover" embryos are then frozen in liquid nitrogen for possible future implantation, experimentation, or may be simply discarded after a determined period of time. This technology which seems so pro-life on the surface is not really as it appears to be. Ultimately, promoters of IVF view life as a commodity; not as a gift of God. It has also opened the door to an anything-goes approach to baby-production for customers who can provide/obtain eggs, sperm, and a womb in which a child can gestate...

For those who have pursued IVF in the hopes of having a child and are now disturbed by this, fear not! Trust in the love and mercy of God; love Him, your spouse, and your child(ren) with all your heart. Remember, we are all His beautiful, beloved children, no matter how we have been conceived. Moreover, if we know a husband and wife who are suffering from infertility, in addition to the option of adoption, they should be made aware of a "Catholic" approach to infertility through *Natural Procreative Technology* (a.k.a. NaProTechnology), which is holistic - in harmony with nature and Church teaching. According to statistics provided, it boasts a higher rate of success (pregnancy/live birth) than IVF. Visit www.creightonmodel.com for more information and related fertility topics.

In a related issue which you may have seen in the Long Island Catholic and secular media outlets, despite pleas from the U.S. Catholic Bishops, the Obama administration is forcing Church-based Hospitals and Health care facilities to cover for its employees free birth-control and other services and procedures that are ethically-morally objectionable to Catholics and some other Christians. In essence, if this presidential mandate goes forward (as it almost certainly will), within two years, Catholic health-care will no longer exist in the United States of America. So much for the First Amendment right to religious freedom and conscience...

**In Christ,
Fr. Greg**

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. Jeremiah 1:5

Spiritual Care Companion

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Are you called to be the friend of a person with special needs? If so, come to our Information Session and learn more this Thursday, February 7th from 9:30–11:30AM at Our Lady of Consolation, 111 Beach Drive, West Islip, NY 11795. Training dates are Feb. 28, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 from 9:30AM–12:30PM. For more information, please call Carol Cella or Trish Luvin 465-6307 at 631-465-6306.

AARP Tax Counseling

The Mastic/Moriches/Shirley Community Library is offering to seniors tax counselling on February 9th, 16th, 23rd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th, April 5th & 12th. Time available is from 10AM to 2PM you must register in advance please call 399-1511.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A Valentine's Day Gift! Celebrate your marriage and your love by experiencing a 'Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend'. Make your good marriage truly great. Next weekend is February 10–12th. Registration is limited. For more information or to apply, call (toll free) 1-866-499-6354. Please email Ron and Chris Morasse at ron@morassefamily.com or visit our local web site at <http://www.wwmeli.org> for more information.

Evening of Celtic Music

Benefit for 'St. Anthony's High School' 'Celtic Friars Pipe Band' and 'The Iona College' also featuring 'The Bob Morris Irish Band', 'Mulvilhill-Lynch School of Dance' and Irish Sing-along with Gerard Donnelly and Steve "Seamus" Camas On Saturday, February 11th at 7:30PM in the 'St. Anthony's HS Auditorium' tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information call 271-2020 ext 229/268.

Altar Guild Members

To all members and any other persons who wish to help beautify the church in preparation for Lent and Easter, we will be meeting on Saturday, February 18th at 10AM in the church. Please remember to wear your cleaning clothes—all cleaning supplies will be provided.

An Evening with The Josh Blakesley Band, "Unplugged"

Join the 'Adelphi University Newman Club' as they welcome an evening with the 'Josh Blakesley Band', "Unplugged." Come for a night of song and prayer as Josh and the band play a whole acoustic set to prepare our hearts for the 2012 Lenten Season. Monday, February 13th at 7PM (Doors open 6:30PM) at the 'Adelphi University Performing Arts Center Concert Hall' The concert is open to the public. All ages tickets are on sale at the door for \$5. Contact adelphinewman@gmail.com for information.

Young Adult Monthly Mass for February

Join the 'St. Rose of Lima' parish, along with the Young Adults of the 'Diocese of Rockville Centre', for a special Mass for Young Adults (18-40+). All are welcome, bring a friend. Wednesday, February 15th from 7–10PM. Please arrive between 6:30PM and 7:30PM, during which time there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Lachlan Cameron and will begin promptly at 7:30PM. After Mass, we will be going out for casual food/fellowship. 'St. Rose of Lima' church is conveniently located on the south side of Merrick Rd. (aka Montauk Highway), approximately 2 miles east of 135/Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway. There is plenty of parking; please enter the church via the doors facing the parking lot. If you have trouble finding the church immediately before Mass, please call the rectory at (516) 798-4992 (staffed until 9PM). To find out more about the 'Young Adults of the Diocese of Rockville Centre', and upcoming events, please visit their website at www.drvc.org/CYA.

Operation Hearts & Home

Children in African orphanages do not stand much of a chance in life. 'Operation Hearts and Home' is headed to Ethiopia February 17–26th to work in orphanages. Please consider donating gently used electronics. If you are interested in joining the trip or donating, please call 631-659-3468 or go to operationheartsandhome.org.

St. Jude Blood Drive

St. Jude will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, February 17th, from 3PM–9PM. Outreach volunteers will be taking pledges after all Masses on the weekends of February 4th & 5th, and February 11th & 12th. Please sign up at that time. If that is not possible, you can sign up online at www.nybloodcenter.org or call Outreach Monday–Thursday 9AM–1PM at 631-281-5634. Our blood supply is dangerously low at this time of year. Please consider giving the "Gift of Life".

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

BLIZZARD BUCKS SWEEPSTAKES:

Grand prize: \$10,000, 2nd prize: \$2,000, 3rd prize: \$1,000, and 20 prizes of \$100. Raffle tickets are \$50 per chance. Limited to 600 tickets with 23 Guaranteed prizes.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING MARCH 10th in the 'St. John's Auditorium' at 3:00PM.

Coffee Social Winners need not be present to win. All proceeds will benefit 'Our Lady Queen of Apostles'. Tickets will be available after Mass the weekend of February 18th & 19th. For more information please call 878-1033. Thank you, supporting 'Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School'.

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Jude Parish is hosting the annual Lenten fish fry! Come feed your body and soul. Fridays during Lent beginning February 24th and ending March 30th, the week before Good Friday. There is plenty of time to enjoy your meal and afterwards join us for the Stations of the Cross at 8PM in the church. Dinner includes: Fish fillet, french fries, coleslaw, roll dessert and soda (or bring a drink of your choice) for just \$8 per person. The fish fry will be held in the parish center hall from 5–7:30PM.

Catholics of African Ancestry

THE 31ST ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING will be celebrated on Saturday, February 25th at 2PM at 'St. Agnes Cathedral,' located at 29 Quealy Place in Rockville Centre.

“Strive to acquire the virtues you think your brothers lack, and then you will no longer see their defects, because you yourselves will not have them.” —Saint Augustine

Divorced/Serparted/Widowed?

Find help for the heartache of divorce, seperation, and widowhood. A weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is March 2-4th at the 'Monfort Spiritual Center' in Bay Shore. For more information and reservations, call John at 516-822-0635. You can also email us at beginningexperienceli@hotmail.com.

Irish Night Dance

The 'Dominican Sisters of Amityville' will be hosting their annual 'Irish Night Dance' for the benefit of their senior sisters on Saturday, March 3rd at 'St. Bridgid's School' in Westbury. The evening will begin with a Mass for "Peace in the World" at 7PM followed by a truly Grand Irish Celebration including Step Dancers, Bagpipers and music by the 'Celtic Connection Band' at 8PM. Back by popular demand is a traditional hot Irish dinner. For more information or to purchase tickets for this fun evening (\$40 per person) please call the Committee at the 'Dominican Sisters Development Office' 631-842-6000 ext 238 or contact S. Patricia Koehler, O.P., Irish Night Chairperson for ticket form pkoeher@aol.com.

St. Jude Easter Fair

This year's Easter Fair is Saturday, March 31st. In past years, our parishioners have been extremely generous with our requests for donations for our fair raffles. We are looking for donations of fully assembled baskets ready to raffle off at the 'St. Jude Easter Fair'. We do have some baskets if needed to get you started. Please let us know if you can help by calling the rectory. Fully assembled baskets shall be turned in by Friday, March 2nd. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Value for donated baskets should range from \$5 to \$50.

"Blessed Are You" Bereavement Conference

Sponsored by 'Catholic Cemeteries' and the 'Office of Faith Formation' in the 'Diocese of Rockville Centre'. For the bereaved and those ministering to them. All faiths welcome! On Saturday, March 17th from 8:30AM-5:30PM at 'Kellenberg Memorial High School' in Uniondale. The 'Bereavement Conference' is designed for anyone who has experienced loss and for those who minister to the bereaved. A keynote speaker and multiple workshops are offered in specific loss, traumatic loss, spirituality and support and workshops for facilitators. Download a listing of workshops or register online and save. "...Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted" (MT5:4). For more information go to <http://www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement.html>.

Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit

Currently exhibiting until April 15th at 'Discovery Times Square', 226 W. 44th Street (between 7th-8th Aves.) Monday-Thursday, 10AM-8PM; Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 10AM-9PM (Last admission is one hour prior to closing). Adults: \$22.50; Seniors (65+): \$20.00; Students/Youth (5-17): \$15. Student and Youth groups receive one (1) free ticket for every ten (10) purchased, all other groups receive one (1) free ticket for every twenty (20) tickets purchased. There is a group minimum of 10 people. Groups must reserve a specific date and time for their visit. Group reservation times are every half hour beginning at 10AM. The 'Hands on History Workshop' is available for an additional \$5 per participant. Bring your exhibition experience to life with 'Audio Guides', just \$6 each when reserved with your group! For more information, and to read our reviews, please go to our website. <http://www.discoverytsx.com/groupsales3>

Residential Openings

'Catholic Charities' still has vacancies in a few of our facilities. '**Mary's Manor Enriched Housing**' in Inwood for the frail elderly 65 or older. It is in the style of assisted living as we provide meals and home health aide assistance. '**St. Anne's Gardens**' in Brentwood consists of rental apartments for independent seniors, 60 or older. '**Thea Bowman Residence**' in Amityville, is for independent living, physically disabled individuals and families. For an application, call Stanan Management at 516-486-1000. For more information call 'Catholic Charities Housing Department' at 516-733-7076.

Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY			Total	
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30		
Jan. 1	323	155	165	208	495	190	1536
Jan. 8	369	150	240	366	580	180	1885
Jan. 15	478	161	188	368	580	180	1955
Jan. 22	192	120	156	278	500	170	1716
Jan. 29	367	175	208	379	600	190	1919

Weekly Collections

January 29th	\$9,577.34
Spare-A-Dime	\$630.75
Collection for Prison Ministry	\$2,057.00

Scripture Readings

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Saint Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

1 KGS 8:1-7, 9-13 • MK 6:53-56

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Weekday

1 KGS 8:22-23, 27-30 • MK 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Weekday

1 KGS 10:1-10 • MK 7:14-23

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Weekday

1 KGS 11:4-13 • MK 7:24-30

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

1 KGS 11:29-32; 12:19 • MK 7:31-37

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012

Weekday

1 KGS 12:26-32; 13:33-34 • MK 8:1-10

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

LV 13:1-2, 44-46 • 1 COR 10:31-11:1 •

MK 1:40-45

Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of

February 6th have been donated:

In memory of Sebastiano and Rosalia Realmuto

Dates are available for weeks of

April 2nd, 16th, & 23rd.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for the weekend of

February 4th & 5th have been donated:

In memory of Sebastiano and Rosalia Realmuto

Wedding Banns

I Sean Peter Penfold/Melissa Ann Dugan

Wet Pants

Come with me to a third grade classroom...

There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet. He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives!

The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, "Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat." He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered.

As the teacher is walking toward him, a class mate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap. The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, "Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!"

Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out. All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. The sympathy is wonderful. But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else—Susie.

She tries to help, but they tell her, "Get out. You've done enough, you klutz!"

Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?"

Susie whispers back, "I wet my pants once too."

May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do **good**.

Remember... Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Each and everyone one of us is going through tough times right now, but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that only He can. **Keep the faith.**

Prayer is powerful, and prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards. Let's continue to pray for one another.

A Prayer For You

Father, I ask You to bless my friends, relatives and those that I care deeply for, who are reading this right now.

Show them a new revelation of Your love and power.

Holy Spirit, I ask You to minister to their spirit at this very moment.

Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy.

Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through Your grace.

Where there is need, I ask you to fulfill their needs.

Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings.

Amen.

Job speaks for all of us.

OK, well, most of us. Certainly anyone who's struggled with insomnia resonates with Job's being "filled with restlessness until the dawn." But most of us share with Job the experience of suffering.

Some people have suffered beyond comprehension; others have known only "regular" suffering—illness, death, disability, tragedy—although it's never regular when it happens to us. We've all felt the frightening despair of which Job speaks.

Some fortunate souls haven't experienced such challenges. During a talk I gave several years ago, I asked the audience to recall their own

suffering. An older couple admitted they hadn't experienced significant suffering. Their children were healthy, their parents died at a ripe old age, and life had been fairly easy for them.

This isn't the experience of most of us, however. Even if we've moved past such moments of pain and suffering, we can recall

feeling as Job did—that life was misery, that hope was difficult to find.

There certainly are no easy solutions to the problem of suffering. But in the Gospel today we see Jesus in his healing ministry, reaching out to so many in need. Aren't we, in our times of suffering, among the crowds gathered at Jesus' door, begging for healing and mercy?

Jesus is persistent in his healing—he doesn't let exhaustion or weariness stop him. He reaches out, grasps hands, and is present to those who are hurting.

Jesus is this persistent presence of healing to us too. He sees us in the crowd, he grasps our hand, and he promises to stay with us always.

Jesus is persistent in his healing,
he doesn't let exhaustion or
weariness stop him.

He reaches out, grasps hands,
and is present to those
who are hurting.

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