

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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 16th 2012

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
CLOSED

SATURDAYS
CLOSED

SUNDAYS
9:00am-12:00pm

CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Deacons
Thomas Gillen
Kenneth Geohan
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
WEDNESDAYS
2:00-2:45pm
Also by appointment.

Parish Outreach
MON., - THURS.
9:00am-1:00pm
LAST WED. OF MONTH
5:00-7:00pm
CLOSED FRI., SAT., SUN.
& 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, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

5:00pm St. Jude Knights of
Columbus Council

7:30pm Parishioners of St. Jude

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

8:00am Scott Biggart †

9:30am Anna T. Van Wart †

11:30am Deceased members of the
J.V. Kavanaugh Council †

5:00pm Carla Ciner †

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

9:00am Frederick Alan Wichelman †

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

9:00am Luigi Scalzo †

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

9:00am Patricia McGuire †

12:00pm Saint Jude Guild:
Tanzer Family Living & Deceased,
Mary Polcha †,
Intentions of Paul Caruso,
Intentions of Deborah Shipman

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

9:00am Teresa Scalzo†

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

9:00am William George Pfautsch III †

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

8:30am Helen Lopat †

5:00pm Ana Rosa Garcia †

7:30pm Parishioners of St. Jude

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

8:00am Natalie Martinelli †

9:30am Angelina S. Tamburrino †

11:30am Anna Jentz†

5:00pm Mildred Cicerelli †

† Denotes Mass is for deceased

FOR THE SICK: Benjamin Archer, Nancy Bellissimo, Joseph Buccilli III, Diane Buderer, Frances X. Butler, Anna Campagna, Hannah Chodkowsky, Audrey Cronin, Michael Cuervo, Anna Daly, Liz Daly, Gaetano DeRicco, Gloria DeTomaso, Raymond Michael Dhyne, Robert A. DiFrancesco, Rayme Farmer, Carol Franzzone, George Gebhart, Nora Getchell, Charlie Gibilaro, Catherine Gillin, Michelle Gonzalez, Ralph Guardi, Laura Guisto, Catherine Hannon, Steve Heerbrandt, Jeffery Hughes, Agnes Janssen, Ronald Jones, Donna Kilmer, Richard Kaminski, Cookie & Steve Landau, Maddi Lechner, Pat Longhitano, Megan Malone, Joseph Marchetti, Melinda Martucci, Daniel Mascia, Betty Mazzarella, Robert McCloskey, Ann Mecca, Patricia Miller, Martin Minogue, Matthew Mockler, Joseph V. Mosca Jr., Chase Richard Musolino, Edward Pallan, Christopher Frank Panzarella, Fairlie Pasfield, Abdul Rattu, Eugene Russo, Mary Saggio, Sister Mary Mildred Scrivano, Bill Stokes, Maureen Wahl, Donna Zumrol

FOR THE DECEASED: Angela Rose DiBartolo, Tina T. Picciano, Owen Frank Murphy

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, Richard McLaughlin Joe Occhineri, Anthony Ochoa Jr., Katherine M. Onorato, Ramon Ortiz, Matthew Parenti, Rich Pinckney, Tory Pinckney, Gerard Posillico, John Redding, Jr., Eric Reilly, Vinnie Riveria, Randy Sanchez, Steven Schloesser, Carl Seaman, Don Skelton, Arlise A. Smith, Bobby Sosa, Derek Trabocchi, Timothy Weisner

Faith Formation

There will be NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES ON September 17th & 18th; however, office will be open 9AM–5PM both days. Classes resume September 19th and office hours are Noon–8PM.

CONFIRMATION PREP 1&2 & RICII & 2 UPPER AND HIGH SCHOOL, The ‘Welcome Evening Of Prayer’ is on Wednesday, September 19th from 7-8:30PM in our church. Letters have been mailed to parents with yearly event calendar. If you have not received your letter, call the office at 281-2835 during office hours.

St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel Jesus says “If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in my steps.” The cross of Jesus and the crosses of his members can evangelize us: the sick, who bear illness with courage; the grieving, who hope against hope; the dying, who clearly trust in the resurrection; the suffering of our poor brothers and sisters who are hungry and homeless, but who still trust in God’s love. Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the ‘Society of St. Vincent de Paul’ ...we want to help!

Lighthouse Catholic Media

ABORTING AMERICA: THE STORY OF AN EX-ABORTIONIST AND EX-ATHEIST This is the story of how Bernard Nathanson, an New York medical doctor who helped to establish the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), became a pro-life activist. He worked with Betty Friedan and others for the legalization of abortion in the US, and was for a time the director of the Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health, New York’s largest abortion clinic.

Vatican II Lecture Series

‘The Institute for the Study of Religion in Community Life of Saint Joseph’s College’ is presenting the five part series: *Vatican II Revisited: Perspectives from Fifty Years Later*. It will begin on Thursday, September 20th at 7:30PM in the McGann Conference Room on the Patchogue campus. The first speaker in the series will be Dr. William Marrin, S.T.L., S.S.L., PhD who will be discussing *Vatican II: Unfinished Pentecost*. No R.S.V.P. is required. The talk is free and open to the public. For further information contact Professor Paul Ginnetty at 687-2681 or pginnetty@sjcny.edu.

BUNCO Game Night

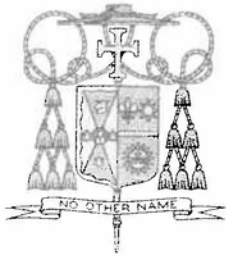
Hosted by the ‘Conference of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Jude’ on Friday, September 21st. Doors will open at 6PM the game begins at 7PM. Bring a Friend! There will be cash prizes, door prizes, & a basket raffle. Ticket price \$10 per person. **TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE RECTORY.**

St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility

“Caring for those who cared for us” The special collection for retired priests, living at ‘St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility’, will take place the weekend of September 22/23rd. Our priests, at retirement, often have given forty years or more to the mission of our Church and bringing people closer to Christ. The St. Pius X residence enables these dedicated men who need extra care and attention to live at a facility that provides them with that special care, while still enabling them to serve as active fully engaged members of the community. The Catholic Church of Long Island is blessed and privileged to be able to care for our senior priests-men who have dedicated their lives to serving God and our community. We welcome your support of this important endeavor. For more information or to donate online go to www.drvc.org/stpiusx or call 516-379-5210 ext. 229 for more information.

Catholic High School Open Houses

You are invited to explore the benefits of a Catholic High School Education. Please feel free to visit our schools during the time and dates listed: Saturday, September 22nd 9AM–12PM ‘McGann Mercy Diocesan High School’ in Riverhead on Sunday, October 21st 10:30AM–2PM ‘St. John the Baptist’ in Islip



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Catechetical Sunday
September 16, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In union with the Church throughout the country, we gather today with gratitude to celebrate Catechetical Sunday. How timely that the theme for this Catechetical Sunday is: ***Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization***. During this past year our energies have gone to renew our Sunday Celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy using the new translation of the Roman Missal. Our efforts to assist our parishioners to Belong More Deeply as they celebrate the liturgy together are bearing fruit.

As we prepare to enter into the *Year of Faith* we look to our catechists to be agents of the New Evangelization as we encourage all to Belong More Deeply. On this Sunday we recognize all who are involved in catechetical ministry. We recognize those who teach children and those who prepare parents bringing their infants for Baptism. We recognize those involved in marriage preparation as well as those who help our youth to come to know Christ. We include those who prepare our catechumens as they seek to be one with us. We pray that each of these catechists might become more deeply in love with Christ and His Church.

The writings of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI and the agenda for the Synod on New Evangelization set for Rome in October make it very clear that the catechetical mission of the Church is shared by every member. This mission is advanced by the many committed catechists who witness to the faith as they teach others. As chief catechist of this Diocese of Rockville Centre I thank you for sharing your faith and I encourage you to begin the *Year of Faith* with me on the weekend of October 13 – 14. As each of us strives to Belong More Deeply may our prayer for each other bear much fruit as we together carry on the great mission which Christ left to us, His Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of Rockville Centre

Gennesaret Retreat

FOR THOSE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS.

A retreat especially designed for persons who live with a serious illness is planned September 21st, 22nd, & 23rd, at 'The Montfort Spirituality Center' in Bayshore. 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. The retreat is offered free of charge.

Mindful Day of Prayer

The 'Sisters of St. Joseph-Renewal Center' is hosting a "Guided Mindfulness Day of Prayer" on Saturday, September 22nd from 10AM-3PM. The presenter is Irene Moore, CCH/Meditation Therapist. The offering is \$45.00 which includes lunch. The program is held at 'St. Joseph's Renewal Center' located at 1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood. Please call to register 631-273-1187 ext. 123.

Hofstra University Italian Festival

On Sunday, September 23rd from 11AM-5PM Hofstra University is having an Italian Festival on their South Campus (rain or shine). This popular Long Island event features Italian food, vendors, handmade crafts, exhibits by Italian cultural organizations, and great entertainment for the whole family. Admission is \$6, \$4 for senior citizens, children under 12 are admitted free. For more information about the festival call 516-463-6504 or visit hofstra.edu/festivals.

Friends of the Poor Walk!

What can you do to help reduce poverty in America? Hit the Pavement for the Poor and join the 'Friends of the Poor' Walk! More Americans than ever are living below the official poverty line. By taking part in the 'Friends of the Poor' Walk, you can help raise national awareness of the challenges faced by the nation's poor and to raise significant funds for use in direct service to the poor. We invite the whole community to come out for this spectacular event. Put on your athletic shoes and Hit the Pavement for the Poor during the 'Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Friends of the Poor Walk'. The Walk will take place on Saturday, September 29th, at the 'Bethpage State Park Picnic Area'. New registration and check-in will begin at 9AM with the Walk following at 11AM. Participants will walk to help raise funds for use in direct service to the poor. One hundred percent of all pledges made by our parish will be used by the Society to assist our neighbors in need right here in the Mastic Beach area! Please join us. Walk a mile in someone else's shoes and find out how good it feels to give. To register visit www.svdppriendsofthepoorwalk.org or call (516) 822-3132. Volunteers from the 'Conference of St. Vincent de Paul' here at St. Jude will be signing up anyone who would like to pledge or make a monetary donation the weekend of September 22nd & 23rd.

OLQA Golf Outing

On Thursday, September 27th. 'Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School' will hold their 3rd Annual Golf Outing at 'Rock Hill Country Club' in Manorville. The event begins at 11:30AM. Cost per golfer is \$150 and includes driving range, 18 holes of golf, lunch, and dinner. The dinner only price is \$50 per person. Unable to attend but wish to support the event? Purchase a tee sign for only \$100. Please contact the school for more registration and sponsor information at 878-1033. All proceeds from this event support the operating expenses of the school.

In Defense of the Catholic Faith Communion Supper

Join us on Saturday, September 29th Immediately after 5PM Mass in the parish center at 6:30 PM for a dinner of spaghetti and meatballs for \$10 per person. There will be speakers focusing on our Religious Liberties. 'Religious Civil Liberties Speakers: Deacon Tom Gillen from 'St. Jude's Catholic Church', Sir Knight Sal Restivo from the 'State Deputy New York State Knights of Columbus' A speaker from 'Catholic Voices - USA' (name unknown at this time) *Supper sponsored by: 'Shrine of the St. Jude Council Knights of Columbus' and 'St. Jude Rosary Altar Society'

Girl Scouts Play and Pray

All Girl Scouts, Brownies through Senior Girl Scouts are invited to the 'Girl Scout Pray and Play Day' on Saturday, September 29th at the 'Shrine of Our Lady of the Island' in Eastport, New York. Crafts, fun and prayer will begin at 9:30AM and conclude with Mass at 2:45PM. For information, call the Diocesan Catholic Scouting Office, 516-678-5800, ext. 245)

Spiritual Care Companion Workshop

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Consider sharing your gift of time and presence as a 'Spiritual Care Companion' with those that are hospitalized or living in a nursing home or are home-bound or adults with special needs. 'Catholic Health Services of Long Island' sponsors a free six-week training for volunteers of all faith with basic pastoral care skills and information to become a caring, attentive, listening presence. Topics include - communication skills, concerns of the sick and home-bound and adults with special needs, spiritual companionship, grief, death & dying, ethical issues and more.

TRAININGS: Thursdays in October the 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and in November the 1st and 8th from 6:45-9:30PM Located at 'St. Catherine Hospital', Route 25A, in Smithtown. For more information or to register call Carol Cella at 631-465-6307 or Trish Luvin at 631-465-6306

If there be a true way that leads to the Everlasting Kingdom,
it is most certainly that of suffering, patiently endured.

—Saint Colette of Corbie

St. Jude Blood Drive-Managed by Shrine Council of St. Jude Knights of Columbus

Join us on Friday, October 5th from 3:30PM–8:30PM in the ‘St. Jude Parish Center’ to donate blood. For more information, please contact Bill Doyle at 631-525-3336. Volunteers will be signing up anyone who wishes to be a donor, after Mass the weekends of September 15th/16th, 22nd/23rd and 29th/30th. Please consider giving the gift of life.

St. Mary’s Church Event

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Scott Hahn, renowned Bible Scholar and Theologian will be speaking at ‘St. Mary’s’ in East Islip. Dr. Hahn will be speaking about “*The Bible, the Eucharist and the New Evangelization*” and “*The Lamb’s Supper.*” The event is Saturday, October 13th, 10AM–4PM in ‘St. Mary’s School Auditorium’. Tickets are \$20 per person. No fee for Priests, Seminarians, Religious, but pre-registration is required. Seats are limited. Don’t miss out. Please send your check made out to ‘St. Mary’s Church’, 20 Harrison Ave. East Islip, N.Y. 11730. Attn: Scott Hahn. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your order. Lunch is not included. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Linda Crowley, 631-581-3304, ext. 122. Include on a separate piece of paper: Your name and address; telephone; (number of tickets at \$20 Each); Total. Remember–Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope so we can mail your tickets to you! Thank you!

Matthew Kelly Coming to Long Island in October

A “*Living Every Day with Passion and Purpose*” Event will be held at ‘St. James Catholic Church’ in Setauket on Saturday, October 20th from 9AM–1:30PM. Tickets are available through the ‘Dynamic Catholic’ website for \$39. Visit www.dynamiccatholic.com for details.

Bereavement Retreat

The ‘Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice’ will be having their ‘Bereavement Retreat’ for families with children that have lost a loved one this year. The weekend, held out in Montauk, October 20–21st, is a unique experience for families to explore different ways to develop their own rituals of remembrance. The Montauk setting allows for memory work, physical movement and mindfulness. The \$100 fee includes meals and may be waived should it cause financial difficulty. For further information please call Andrea Fierro, ‘LMSW Bereavement Coordinator’ at 631-930-9316. Screening required by appointment. The retreat is not suitable for children under 4.

Rachel’s Vineyard

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS HURTING FROM AN ABORTION? The ‘Life Center of Long Island’ invites you to attend our next ‘Rachel’s Vineyard Healing Retreat’ on the weekend of October 26–28th. It begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon. This retreat is conducted in English. 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 at: www.rachelsvineyard.org or call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME

Voice of the Youth Contest

How do you see the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) at work in your community?

We want to hear from you! Send your essay and our judging panel will select a winning essay from all entries. The winning essay will be printed in the CMA Newsletter, The Long Island Catholic and posted on our website. You and your family will also be invited to a special CMA Thank You event at the end of the year, where you will be given the opportunity to read your essay aloud. **CONTEST RULES:** Essay entries should be no longer than 1,000 words. Contest is open to all youth ages 12-17. All entries must be received by October 31, 2012. Essays can be submitted via email to: bkilarjian@drvc.org or mail to Barbara Kilarjian, Director Marketing & Development, Office of Institutional Advancement, Diocese of Rockville Centre, PO Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Mass Attendance

	SATURDAY		SUNDAY			Total	
	5pm	7:30	8am	9:30	11:30		
Sept. 2	274	135	275	295	340	150	1469
Sept. 9	316	135	207	297	325	141	1421

Weekly Collections

September 9th \$10,255.18
Catholic University \$2,022.00

Catholic Ministries Appeal

2012 Goal \$56,200.00
Pledges as of 9/11/12 \$63,745.00
Number of Donors 202
Payments as of 9/11/12 \$51,475.00

We have reached our pledge goal. Thank you for your generous support of the CMA Appeal. God Bless You!!!!

Scripture Readings

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 *Weekday*
1 COR 11:17-26, 33/LK 7:1-10

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 *Weekday*
1 COR 12:12-14, 27-31A/LK 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 *Weekday*
1 COR 12:31–13:13/LK 7:31-35

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 *Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gen, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs*
1 COR 15:1-11/LK 7:36-50

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 *Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*
EPH 4:1-7, 11-13/MT 9:9-13

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012 *Weekday*
1 COR 15:35-37, 42-49/LK 8:4-15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012 *Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
WIS 2:12, 17-20/JAS 3:16–4:3/MK 9:30-37

Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine for the week of September 17th is donated:

Intention of Faith Formation Catechists

Available weeks: Oct. 1st, 22nd & 29th.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for the weekend of September 15th & 16th were donated:

Intention of Faith Formation Catechists

Available dates: Sept. 29th and Oct. 14th, 21st & 28th.

Wedding Banns

III. Eric Jordan/ Ruth Gomez

I. Michael Mione/ Joanne Pullara

I. Michael Cairo/ Maryann Russell

I. Jeffrey Surdi/ Nicole Elliot

Baptisms

Geraldine Tamara Molina-Sandoval, Melvin David Gonzalez, Jake Arthur McGrady, Ethan Robert Wagner

God bless them and their families!

Good News!

September 16, 2012

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 50:5–9a / Jas 2:14–18 / Mk 8:27–35

Anyone else dislike difficult conversations?

I'm just not a fan. Every so often my husband and I sit at the kitchen table and talk about money, scheduling issues, or children's discipline. While these marriage-business meetings aren't the worst things in the world, I'd much rather we were out on a "date" or watching TV than discussing serious and sometimes contentious topics. As necessary as these meetings are to a successful and communicative marriage, I'd prefer to avoid them altogether.

Perhaps that's why I identify so strongly with Peter in today's Gospel. When Jesus initiates the difficult conversation about his own suffering and death, Peter doesn't want to hear it. He loves Jesus and can't possibly imagine him suffering and dying. So of course he protests—but as we know, Jesus will have none of it. He harshly rebukes Peter,

"You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Human beings hold tightly to life and avoid suffering and pain. But God's outlook on the matter is revealed by Jesus—that those who lose their lives for God's sake will save them. To "lose" our lives begins with turning "loose" what we think is important. Releasing our firm hold on money, career plans, certainties, independence, and even actual physical life will actually open us to the deeper new life—including eternal life—God promises us.

It's no easy task. It's like engaging in an unwanted difficult conversation. But God patiently sits waiting for us to sit down at the kitchen table, ready to help us lose our lives just a little more each day.

Janel Esker | sundaybulletins@liguori.org

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dear Padre

September 16, 2012

When does a sacramental become superstition?

I would call a Saint Joseph statue a sacramental, but it seems to me that burying it in the front yard upside down to make a house sell faster turns it into an object of superstition. Where do we draw the line?

John

Dear John,

Prayer and sacramentals become objects of superstition when we use them to try to control God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Sacramentals derive from the baptismal priesthood: every baptized person is called to be a 'blessing,' and to bless" (1669). All the baptized have a right to use sacramentals to ask for God's blessing.

You rightly point out, though, that people get carried away: "If you bury the statue upside down in the front yard, your house will sell." "If you say a Hail Mary every night, you'll find a job." These practices fit the *Catechism's* definition of superstition: "the deviation of religious feeling and of the practices this feeling imposes...when one attributes an importance in some way magical to certain practices otherwise lawful or necessary" (2111).

The *Catechism* points out that at times the Church must "purify and correct the religious sense which underlies these devotions so that the faithful may advance in knowledge of the mystery of Christ" (1676). The Church must remind people not to use sacramentals and prayer to convince God to do what you want him to do, but rather to ask his blessing.

Patrick Keyes, CSsR
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