

St. Sylvester Church

A Roman Catholic Praying Community
Staten Island, New York 10304

website: <http://StSylvesterSI.org>

e-mail: stsylvesterschurch@yahoo.com

Pastor:

Rev. Jacob Thumma

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Balareddy Yeruva ("Fr. Bala")

C.C.D. Coordinator:

Mrs. Patricia Campbell
718-420-1374

Rectory Manager:

Janet Samuel

Counselor for Funerals:

Carmela Rogan

Parish House Office:

718-727-4639 Fax: 718-273-2950

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM-4:00 PM



854 Targee Street, Staten Island, NY 10304

Masses

Saturday evening vigil - 4:00 PM

Sunday - 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM (Choir), 12 noon

Holy Days - 7:00 PM Vigil, 9:00 AM, 12 noon, 7:00 PM

Weekdays - Mon. through Fri. at 8:30 AM—Rosary Chapel
- Weekdays of Lent also at 12:00 noon
- Saturday at 9:00 AM

Devotions

Monday through Saturday - Rosary following Mass

Mondays - Miraculous Medal following 8:30 AM Mass

Tuesdays - St. Anthony of Padua following 8:30 AM Mass

Wednesdays - Eucharistic Holy Hour: 7 - 8 PM

Fridays of Lent - Stations of the Cross: 12:30 PM & 7:00 PM
- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament: 1 PM - 4 PM

Parish Activities

Men's Holy Name Society, Women's Guild, Lectors,
Golden Age, Eucharistic Ministers, Funeral Ministry,
Ushers/Greeters, Teen Youth Activities Group, A.C.A.,
Cub Pack & Boy Scout Troop 85, Manresa C.L.C.

Parish Registration

Our Parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the Parish is requested to register at the Rectory. You may fill out the adjacent form and drop it in the collection basket next weekend. →

Baptism

We rejoice with families on the occasion of the birth of a new child. Please call 718-727-4639 and speak to a member of the parish staff to arrange for an interview and registration for the required baptismal preparation class.

Reconciliation (Confessions)

Saturdays - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Matrimony

Arrangements should be made at least 6 months in advance and prior to making any plans for the reception. Please call the Parish Office for an appointment with a priest. All couples are expected to attend a Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone # _____ listed/unlisted?

e-mail _____

Please send parish census card for my/my family registration

I would like to receive Offering Envelopes

I would like a Priest to contact me.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

-- 1 Thessalonians 5:16



Liturgies and Intentions for the Week

Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. = John Ippolito

Sunday, Dec. 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. = Charles Smith

9:00 a.m. = Michael Poyntz

10:30 a.m. = Michael O'Donnell (*happy b'day. in heaven*)

12:00 Noon = Vincent Barracca (*happy 80th b'day. in heaven*)



Monday, Dec. 15 – Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. = Nathan Lapin

Tuesday, Dec. 16 – Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. = Frances Guarino

Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. = José Lumbreras

Thursday, Dec. 18 - late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. = Robert Romano

Friday, Dec. 19 - late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. = James Guardino (*happy 31st ann.. in heaven*)

Saturday, Dec. 20 - late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. = Mary & Chris Iacona, Peter Diorio

Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. = Nicholas Foremsky

Sunday, Dec. 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. = Expectacion Braza

9:00 a.m. = Michael Poyntz

10:30 a.m. = Walter Kreher

12:00 Noon = Catherine & Thomas McCoy, Sr.
and Thomas McCoy, Jr.



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** burning before the tabernacle is given in month's mind memory of*

Linda Jensen

as requested by

Patricia Mulligan De Respino

our Parish Family's support on Dec. 7-8, 2014



First Collection - \$5,105.00

Reserve Fund - \$1,25.00

*This week the **Bread and Wine** are offered at all the Masses in month's mind memory of*

Linda Jensen

as requested by

Lisa De Respino Bennett



May the souls of our dearly departed rest in the peace of God, and may their loved ones find comfort and reassurance in God, our Father.

Joann San Nicola

Keep our troops—and the families at home who support them—in your prayers:



SR Francis S. Cummings - USN

SR Michael J. Cummings - USN

Col. Jeffrey N. Davila, MD - USAF

Francesca DiSimone-Reich - U.S. Army

Michael Di Simone Biggins - U.S. Army

Ryan Foley - USMC

Lt. Col. Jay La Pore - U. S. Air Force in Japan

Col. Patrick J. Mahaney - U.S. Army

Prescod Montgomery - U. S. Army in Iraq

Ensign II Steven Passignajen-Trimble—U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf

Darrin Sack

Major Michael Volpe - U.S. Army

SUPPORT



Prayer for the sick is so important.—those anticipating a hospital stay, the homebound in our parish, and in our families. Please keep this list of the sick near the place where you pray each day so that you remember them throughout the week.

Victor Andrea, Carol Barbaro, Mary Bhatia, Tito Borrero, Elaine Boyle, MaryAnne Christopher, Frances Cirincione, Joseph Corrigan, Kathleen Coughlin, Stephen Cucci, Charles D'Arrigo, Jr., Charles Didonato, Joseph Di Maria, Connie Gorrasi, Frank Labano, Rose Marchese, Louis Matos, Delia Murguia, Joseph Murguia, Pat O'Connell, Amy O'Donnell, Mario Paralta, Joseph Palumbo, Cheryl Perniciaro, Carmela Rogan, Emil Sentfleben, Louise Stanley, Marian Tessa



St. Sylvester Parish invites you...

Reconciliation Monday, December 15
Confessions from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

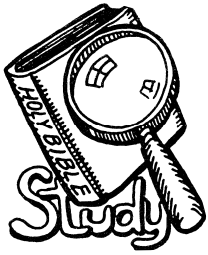
Sunday, December 21 following the 10:30 a.m. Mass
C.C.D. students present **Lessons and Carols**

Wednesday, December 24th ~ **Christmas Eve**
4:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Vigil Mass in the Church
11:00 p.m. - Christmas Carols with Adult Choir in the Church
11:30 p.m. - Christmas Midnight Mass in the Church

Thursday, December 25th ~ **Christmas Day**
Holy Day Masses will be celebrated in the Church
at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Sunday, December 28 ~ **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27th
Sunday Masses - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon

Thursday, December 31st ~ **Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
Vigil Mass - 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 30th
Holy Day Masses - 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon



We've been meeting for a few months now . . . Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room. Although last week's miserable weather forced a cancelation, we will be gathering again this coming Tuesday to share insights, ask questions, and become more familiar with what Jesus teaches us through the Gospel written by the Apostle Evangelist Mark.

Contrary to the usual for a series of meetings, the members of our scripture study have increased, rather than growing fewer. That speaks well for both the subject and our Guide, Janet Samuel.

Beginning with the Dec. 23rd meeting we'll be taking a break for the holidays. When Bible Study resumes on January 6th we would be happy to have you join us. A *study bible* will be provided—refreshments, too!

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they can't understand; but . . . I have noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those I *do* understand.

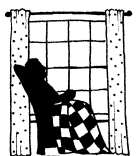
Book for Intentions



It is a tradition in the Church, as well as a Spiritual Work of Mercy, to pray for our beloved dead; not only on the feast of All Souls, its novena, and throughout the month of November, but at all times.

To help us do this a book is placed next to the baptismal fount. You may write the names of those dear to you who have died, as well as any person or intention which you wish remembered in prayer.

As you write in the book, pray for all who are included there.



Parishioners who are sick or homebound are invited to contact the parish Office to arrange a visit from an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist who will be glad to bring Communion to you.

Please ask for a priest to visit if you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or Reconciliation.

Here's News from OUT



The focus of the young people who join our Parish Teen Youth Group is providing service of love to God and community. . . *and have a good time doing it!*

This Advent and Christmas season they have found many ways in which to bring this loving service to others.

The teens will be "Christmas angels" delivering gifts from our **Giving Tree** to Seniors at Carmel Richmond Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center *and* to hospitalized children.

St. Sylvester Parish's annual Christmas Dinner Dance will benefit from their practiced help. Many of these young people have quite a bit of previous experience helping at such parish events.

On Christmas Eve at eleven o'clock they will join the Parish Adult Choir singing carols for the half-hour before Christmas Eve Vigil Mass of the Nativity.

Looking forward, the young people are planning some "fun" events to brighten January's quiet days.

Are you—or do you know someone who is—interested in joining up with the Teen Youth Group? If so, call the Parish Office (718-727-4639) and speak with Janet Samuel, Teen Youth Group Leader.

In the current 2015 dedication and memorials book availabilities remain for Masses, Sanctuary Lamp and Bread & Wine dedications. These make perfect gifts for wedding, baptism, anniversary and "get well" wishes as well as for expressions of sympathy and memorials. What better Christmas gift for "the person who has everything"!

Special Notice

If a Mass is being said for a member of your family on Saturday evening or Sunday, it would be most fitting for someone from the family to bring up the gifts at the Offertory. Please let one of the Ushers know before Mass that you would like to do this.



Pastor's Corner

My Dear Parishioners,

Today there is an abrupt shift in the season of Advent. From here on the tone is more joyful and expectant and the tug of the Christmas message is irresistible. At daily Mass tomorrow we begin to unfold the story of Jesus' birth. Who can resist the beauty of the first reading today—deserts aflame with flowers, arthritics set to dancing, the tone-deaf singing hymns? So this change is not missed, we take rose-colored vestments out of mothballs and light the rose-colored candle on the wreath.

In these shining days of Advent the seeds of God's kingdom sown in us are sprouting in many ways. How do we bring their promise to light? This is the week to prepare gifts for the poor. It is the week to write a note forgiving a lost friend, the week to shatter a family grudge so that even in the desert places of the heart, Christ's life may blossom.

This is why we are offered the opportunity of **Reconciliation Monday**. All over our Archdiocese churches will make confession and reconciliation with our precious Child-Savior-God possible for us. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM is that time here at St. Sylvester's.

In the reconciliation space hearts are laid bare, honesty is the watchword, and people confess their deepest needs. It is also a place of rebirth, or at least realignment. It is, like the baptismal font, a place where something dies, and where something else is born.

The Christ Child invites us to experience the joy of penance, the thrill of a new beginning, the assurance of God's love. Come! The forgiveness He won for us awaits.

Keep smiling,

Fr. Jacob



Coming in January!

For Grades 3 through 8

BASKETBALL Watch upcoming bulletins for full information. We have a coach and we're looking for boys and girls and adult volunteers. Interested?

Call the Parish Office . . .718-727-4639.

What's up with C.C.D.?

NOVEMBER STUDENTS-OF-THE-MONTH



Grade 1-Angelina Giordano

Grade 2-Alexis Fraser & Richel Talaquinas

Grade 3-Shea Malloy

Grade 4-Maritza Rivera

Grade 5-Gianna Valino

Grade 6-Christopher Longo

Grade 7-Jonathan Lee

Grade 8-Andrew Hionas & Liana Sciara

Qualifications:

*Mass Attendance, Class Attendance,
Scholarship, and Class Participation.*



The Choir of St. Mary's Church

On Sunday afternoon, **December 21st at 1:30 pm** the Choir of St. Mary's Church will perform its 31st annual Christmas Concert. The one-hour program, under the direction of Mr. Paul Light, will feature traditional as well as contemporary music honoring the holiness of the season.



Parish Evaluations

This year Fr. Jacob Thumma will be completing his first 6-year term as Pastor of St. Sylvester Parish. In keeping with Archdiocesan policy, an evaluation of the parish has begun. Members of the parish staff and parishioners who exercise leadership roles will receive an evaluation form which they will return to the Archdiocese of New York.

In addition, parishioners and staff who wish to do so may write letters with their own comments about our parish and its pastoral leadership. Please address your letters to:

Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Weber
The Office of Priest Personnel
Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Letters should be received no later than Dec. 31, 2014.

Any correspondence received after the deadline will NOT be included in the evaluation process.

Cover Sheet

CHURCH NAME: ST. SYLVESTER PARISH
854 TARGEE STREET
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10304

CONTACT: Patricia M. De Respino
(H) 718-447-7875

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