pastoral staff
Rev. Msgr. Christopher J. Heller, Pastor
Rev. Joseph V. Arevalo, Associate Pastor
Rev. Ethel Amarado, Associate Pastor
Rev. Francis A. Samuel, OIC Resident/Associate
Deacon Barry P. Croce
Deacon Michael J. Leyden
Deacon John F. Sullivan
Dr. Marie Drohan, Music Director
Mrs. Barbara McNulty, Youth Ministry Director
Ms. Claire Moule, Faith Formation Director
Mrs. Marion Peckholdt, Nursery School Director
Mrs. Kathryn Raniere, Parish Outreach Director
Mrs. Jane Zollo, Parish Operations Manager
Stewardship Services Director

office hours
parish office
Mon to Thurs. 9:00am to 4:00pm, 7:00 to 9:00pm
Fridays Closed
Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm

cemetery office
Mon to Thursday 9:00am to 12:30pm
Please call in advance to make an appt. during these hours.

faith formation office
Mon to Thurs 9:00am to 4:00pm
Fri Closed

hispanic office
Fri 7:00 to 9:00pm

outreach office
Mon to Thursday 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Other times by appt. (669-4544)

food pantry
Mon to Thursday 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Other times by appt. (669-0068 x 128)

thrift shop
Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00am to 3:00pm

parish phone numbers [area code 631]
Parish Office ..................... 669.0068
Cemetery Office .................. 699-0068 Ext. 107
Faith Formation .................. 587.4717
Nursery School .................... 661.4559
Outreach .......................... 669.4544
Hispanic Community .............. 669.0068 x131
Thrift Shop ........................ 669.5574
Youth Ministry .................... 669-0068 x 108
Fax ............................... 669.9175

E-mail:parishoffice@stjosephsbabylon.org
WebSite: www.stjosephsbabylon.org

we celebrate the eucharist
Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Church
Sunday Church 7:00am, 8:45am, 10:15am, 11:45am, 5:00pm
Nolan Hall 9:30am
Nolan Hall 11:30 am Misa Dominical Español

Weekday Mass Schedule
Mon to Fri 7:45, 9:00am Church
Saturday 9:00am Church
Holydays See Special Schedule the Sunday before each Holyday

we celebrate the sacraments
baptism
Parents are requested to call the Parish Office at least two months before child’s birth to make arrangements. New Parents’ Instruction Class will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in Room 257. Baptism is celebrated every Sunday of the month at 1:30pm except during the Lenten Season.

RCIA [rite of christain initiation of adults]
Anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church should call the Parish Office.

reconciliation [confession]
Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm in the Church or call the Parish Office for an appointment.

matrimony
Couples are requested to call at least six months before the wedding for an appointment with a Priest or Deacon to set the date and make arrangements. No arrangements can be made by phone.

anointing of the sick
Fourth Saturday of the month at the 9:00am Mass or call the Parish Office.

welcome to all new parishioners. We invite you to register at the Parish Office.

First Sunday of Lent + February 14, 2016
At this Mass, we remember:

Monday, February 15
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18, Ps 19:8–10, 15, Mt 25:31–46
7:45 Holiday - No Mass
9:00 Intentions of Kathy O’Brien

Tuesday, February 16
Is 55:10–11, Ps 34:4–7, 16–19, Mt 6:7–15
7:45 People of St. Joseph
9:00 Stephen Jacques

Wednesday, February 17
Jon 3:1–10, Ps 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19, Lk 11:29–32
7:45 Thomas Gruber
9:00 Sam Lisy

Thursday, February 18
Est 6:12, 14–16, 23–25, Ps 138:1–3, 7c–8, Mt 5:7–12
7:45 David Wood
9:00 Janet Elder

Friday, February 19
Ez 18:21–28, Ps 130:1–8, Mt 5:20–26
7:45 Elizabeth Burderi
9:00 George Rebecchi, Jr.

Saturday, February 20
Mt 26:16–19, Ps 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8, Mt 5:43–18
9:00 Lauren Simek

Weekend Celebrations (barring last minute changes)
4:00 Confessions Today Fr. Chris
5:00 Roy Sullo, Jr. Fr. Ethel

Sunday, February 21 ~ Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 15:5–12, 17–18, Ps 27:1, 7–9, 13–14, Phil 3:17—6:1 or 8:20—8:1, Lk 9:28b–36
7:00 People of St. Joseph Fr. Joe
8:45 Frank McKenna Fr. Francis
9:30 People of St. Joseph Fr. Chris
10:15 Fortunata Tesoro Fr. Francis
11:45 Jack Canning Fr. Chris
5:00 Carla Dieterich Fr. Ethel

Hospitality Sunday
On Sunday, February 21st, please join us for Hospitality after the 8:45am Mass through the 11:45am Mass in the Hospitality Center.
Our Parish Mission Statement

The Parish of St. Joseph is a Roman Catholic Community of Christ’s Disciples:
We Welcome. We Worship. We Witness.

Sacrificial Giving

Thank you for your generosity in returning to God and God’s work some of what God has given to you.

Month: January 2016
Actual Collection: $111,640.00
Budgeted Collection: $115,392.00
God Bless You!

Liturgy

We Assemble for Prayer

The Eucharist
Each day and each weekend, we celebrate the Eucharist, the Summit & Source of Catholic Christian Spirituality.

Benediction
We celebrate Benediction on the third Sunday of the month at 2:30pm in the Little Chapel.

Rosary
We pray the Rosary before the 9:00am Eucharist
Mondays through Saturdays.

Nocturnal Adoration
A Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the First Friday of each month, from 9:00pm to 10:00pm in the Church.

Men’s Spirituality Group: Witness and grow in Faith. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Church.

Prayers for Our Service Men & Women

We continue to pray for the following military personnel and their families:

U.S. Navy:
PO3 Joshua D. Benoit
Lt. Michael Catalano
Lt. John T. Izzo
Lt. Caroline Mayer
PO2 Kristen Tice
PO1 Rasheen Tice

U.S.M.C.:
Sgt. Lauren Colantropo
Sgt. Colin M. Leitch
Malik Rodriguez
Nelson Sanchez, Jr.
PFC Joshua J. Coughlin

U.S. Army:
SPC Elliot Chodkowski
SSG Josuah Insull
LTC John Kallo
SSG David C. Ray
Eric Stein
LTC Jon J. Uebel
PVT2 Danny Bornschein
Pvt. Edwin Zambrano
PFC Dominick Pititto
Lt. Stephen Scuderi
Pvt. Mark Ospina
Lt. Joseph A. Vanderveldt, III

U.S. Coast Guard:
PO1 Benjamin Flad
Capt. Matthew W. Sibley
J.A. Madison Mulders

U.S.A.F:
Maj. Matthew G. Bland
AB Christopher Signoretti
SSGT Brandon Ward

Parish Office News

All Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th, 2016.
Thank You!
Stewardship, Mercy & Everyday Life

When Pope Francis came to the East Coast last fall, he made a powerful impression on both believers and non-believers. To illustrate: in speaking at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, our Holy Father wasted no time in setting the tone for Evening Prayer, a reflection very much in solidarity with our whole-hearted embrace of stewardship.

He first encouraged us to receive and release to others the Spirit of Gratitude with which God has endowed us. This Spirit of Joy proclaims God’s wondrous love for us, and invites us to participate in renewing the faces and hearts of all those God sends into our lives. Giving thanks and remembering, then, become hallmarks of the Christian life, action and reflection for each of us takes a personal and communal responsibility. (Remember: the Spanish language translation for Stewardship = Corresponsabilidad).

The Pope’s second theme, the Spirit of hard work, is a beautiful outgrowth of the first theme: as we recognize how blessed we are, we become “spontaneously impelled to serve the Lord, and finding expression in a life of commitment to our work.” Christians gradually comprehend that it is a holy privilege, an ongoing opportune moment of grace, to practice total stewardship, one that is imbedded in every dimension of our beings.

May I suggest that during the month of January (and beyond!) during this Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, we might apply Pope Francis’ two fundamental themes to our renewed lives, an attitude of gratitude and the joy of hard work, to the issue of human life. What follows are several suggestions of ways to live as a steward of Mercy:

- Support the Right to Life March in Washington DC, either by personally going or sponsoring someone’s food and transportation for the day.
- Pray each day, at the same time of day if possible in order to develop a positive rhythm and habit, for the Holy Innocents of all time: those whose earthly lives were deliberately and prematurely ended.
- Shop for and donate new baby items to Birthright, the Life Center, or your Parish’s baby shower.
- Transport the donated baby items to the location where they can most easily be distributed to struggling families.
- Fast one day a week (even if it’s just during daylight hours) to demonstrate your solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are currently refugees and immigrants, forced against their will to abandon their homes.
- Adopt a retired priest, and send him a card on his birthday or on his ordination anniversary, as one means of saying “thank you!” to him for his service to the church.
- Take that coat you have not worn (or have not been able to fit into for several years), and donate it to a thrift shop, Penn Station, or specific police precincts.
- Find out and shop for the specific foods your local church or civic food pantry can use, and make a donation, since the demands for food continue to rise.
- See which neighborhood organizations close to your home are accepting wash-up kits and ready-to-eat foods for homeless people, and for those who cannot or will not go to shelter.

The opportunities to be a steward of Mercy are limitless. As you thank God for the life you love, create the legacy of love for those who hunger and thirst for ordinary and everyday comforts.

Love,
Father Chris
Financial Information

Because many of our Parishioners either use Faith Direct or give monthly, we are changing our method of reporting Sacrificial Giving. Going forward, we will include monthly amounts in the bulletin. We will also include additional financial information on a quarterly basis.

Sacrificial Giving for December
Actual – $98,458
Budget – $92,314

Christmas
Actual – $104,273
Budget – $99,000

The Finance Committee has reviewed results of operations for the first quarter of the current fiscal year (September 30 – November 30, 2015). A summary follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Prior Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Revenues</td>
<td>$646,275</td>
<td>$679,591</td>
<td>$688,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>639,417</td>
<td>636,123</td>
<td>642,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Surplus</td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>43,468</td>
<td>46,776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revenues are higher than budget primarily because Nursery School enrollment is higher than we expected. Expenses are below budget due to lower health insurance costs.

The full Parish financial report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015 can be found on the parish website. Go to www.stjosephsbabylon.org and under “About” on the home page click the link for Financial Information for the report.

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to our Parish. As we move forward, please know that I carry you in prayer every time I celebrate the Eucharist: it is you, each and all of you, who help me to see clearly the faces of the members of the Body of Christ here at St. Joseph!

With Love,
Fr. Chris
THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY: LENT AND RECONCILIATION

"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him."

With these words from the very first paragraph of Pope Francis’ Bull of Indiction, Misericordiae Vultus (MV), proclaiming the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we see the heart of what we celebrate this year: that God’s mercy is brought to us in Jesus Christ. The closer we come to Jesus, the Son of God, and the more intimately we know Him, the more we will experience the unbelievable richness of the Father’s mercy.

The Holy Father has given the Church an extraordinary gift in the Year of Mercy. The word “mercy” reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Mercy is the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy is what connects God and His children, because His mercy opens our hearts “to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.” (MV 2) Indeed, this Year of Mercy is a special time for the Church, “a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.” (MV 3)

Isn’t that a great challenge for us — that we might become more effective witnesses of mercy? Imagine if we could really do that! Maybe that’s a good Lenten project for each and every one of us: to become a more effective witness of mercy!

We know that Lent prepares us for the celebration of Easter, either by preparing us for the Sacraments of Initiation, or by preparing us to recall our own Baptism. Doing penance is central to this. However, if we are going to truly live Lent and not just “observe” it, we must make a true response to God’s call to renewal, and accept the spiritual challenge to cooperate with God’s grace by making a decision, a plan and a continuous effort.

To really live this Jubilee Year in keeping with its motto “Merciful like the Father,” we must experience the proof of God’s love for us: “He gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. He comes to our aid whenever we call upon him.” (MV 14)

The Sacrament of Penance is for us one of the most powerful ways (or proofs!) we have of experiencing the mercy of God, and of renewing our baptismal dedication and dignity. Through the mercy of God, that sacrament becomes the opportunity to restore baptismal innocence, an innocence that becomes marred by sin.

Continuing through Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord this year, we will explore various aspects of the Sacrament of Penance, so that we might use this time of Lent for conversion and reconciliation in order to experience the richness of the Father’s mercy and, come Easter, celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord’s death and resurrection with minds and hearts renewed by God’s mercy. ✡
Golden Wedding Liturgy

50th Golden Anniversary

This spring, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at liturgies on Sunday, April 10 at the Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville and on Sunday, April 24th at the Church of Maria Regina in Seaford. Both liturgies will begin at 2:30pm. Couples may register for One liturgy. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the Parish Office. Registration must be received by the Office of Worship by March 25th for the April 10th liturgy and by April 8th for the April 24th liturgy. If you have any questions you may call 516-678-5800, extension 207.

Rediscover Jesus

How About Leading a Discussion on the book we gave out at Christmas: Rediscover Jesus: An Invitation by Matthew Kelly?

The last Book Discussion meeting is:

Sun Feb 21, 1:30pm to 3:30pm
in rooms 252A, 258 & 259

Group size limit: 15 people.
Bring your copy of the book.
To register: call 631.669.0068, ext 105
or by e-mail:
azakrewski@st.josephsbabylon.org
St. Joseph Sociable Single Seniors

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17th, 2016 at 7pm in the O’Connell Room. Dinner will be Loin of Pork, potatoes and broccoli. We will celebrate Valentine’s day with a “Make your own Sundae” for dessert. As always, we will also be serving coffee, tea and cold drinks.

The cost per person is $15.00, please make checks out to St. Joseph RC Church and mail to my home by Feb. 13th. PLEASE REMEMBER: WE CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT PAYMENT AT THE DOOR.

For my address or any questions please call Lorraine DeCanditis @ 631-553-0160

Music Ministry

St. Joseph's 10:15 Choir would like to take this opportunity to welcome Catholic singers to join a community of likeminded Catholic voices. If you are age fourteen or older and can easily carry a tune you are invited to be part of the renowned St. Joseph’s Choir. Male voices are particularly needed at this time however, all voices are invited! They are currently preparing for the glorious music of the highest Holy Days of the liturgical year and the winter is a wonderful time to join them! The choir has the privilege of enhancing the sung worship each Sunday at the 10:15 mass, Holy Week, First Eucharist celebrations, Confirmation, Christmas Eve, and perform a renowned yearly December Benefit Concert for the benefit of the Mercy INN Soup Kitchen. (Concert generated donations of $9200 in December) You may call Dr. Drohan at 631-539-0957 or send an e-mail to musicdirector@stjosephsbabylon.org. You may also see her after the 10:15 Sunday mass or attend the next rehearsal on Thursday in

The Church of St. Joseph, Babylon would like to invite a musician who can lead our youth on instruments and in song at the Sunday 5 PM liturgy. Guitar and vocal skills are desired; music degree preferred but will consider one's experience and musical talent. Rehearsals are held in the church prior to mass. The candidate should exude spirituality, enthusiasm, and enjoy working with teenagers. Other optional worship opportunities may arise during the year that highlights the band. Send all contact information with your résumé and letter(s) of recommendation to the Pastor: By mail to Msgr. Rev. Chris Heller at Church of St. Joseph, 39 N Carll Ave, Babylon, NY 11702; or via e-mail at CHeller@stjosephsbabylon.org with “Youth Band Leader Position” in the subject area.
**Bible Study**

**Little Rock Bible Study**  
Isaiah

The primary role of a prophet is to speak for God, to see and hear as God sees and hears, and then to pronounce words of correction and hope. In Isaiah we will encounter the holiness of God, hope for a messianic king, prophecies of restoration, and challenges for exiles returning to their homeland.

**13 Sessions**  
Thursdays, 2/18/16 – 5/26/16  
(No sessions 3/24/16 & 4/28/16)  
7:30 – 9:00 PM  
O’Connell Room  
$17/person for Study Room  
Please register so materials can be ordered for you.  
Contact Carol Pellegrino at 631-587-3511 or email - jcjmpell@optonline.net

**Pope Francis**

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Little Black Lenten Book**

Our Little Black Lenten Book is available for $1.00  
Please see Usher.  
Thank you!
STATIONS
THE WAY OF THE CROSS
“Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.”

Please note the new time this year for Stations of the Cross
It takes place at 2pm on Fridays during Lent in the Church.
All are welcome.

Bereavement Support Group

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS
Bereavement
Support Group 50 and over
8 Week Program
Fridays, March 4th - April 29th, 2016,
7:30pm, in the Parish Center

For more information please call
Valerie Stone
631-617-9246

Book Club

Meeting on Thursday,
March 10th, 2016 at 7:30pm in
Room 255.
The book discussion will be on
“The Gods of Guilt”
By Michael Connelly
All are welcome
St. Joseph the Carpenter Council #14771 is a Membership Organization of St. Joseph Parish. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age and older. Meetings are normally held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 8PM in the O’Connell Room.

For membership information contact: Larry Dell’Erba at 631-539-8565. For additional information about the Knights of Columbus and St. Joseph the Carpenter Council: Just Google “Knights of Columbus St Josephs”

Our girls are sewing "pillowcase dresses" for girls in Haiti as part of the Annual Mother/Daughter celebration.

Look for more information soon.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas - Court Bishop McDonnell #1403

We welcome all our Catholic sisters to add their names to the roster of the largest Catholic women’s organization in the world through Court Bishop McDonnell #1403

Tell a friend!

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month - September thru June. Come and visit one of our meetings and mingle with our members and learn how we work in UNITY and CHARITY to help others less fortunate.

For more information:
Contact: Stephanie Conley 631-422-0175

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The GOLDEN AGE club meets every Wednesday 12:30PM - 2PM in the O’Connell Room, St. Joseph’s Babylon. Seniors are invited to play cards or bingo and enjoy desserts and friendship with us.

© NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED! ☺

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The GOLDEN AGE club meets every Wednesday 12:30PM - 2PM in the O’Connell Room, St. Joseph’s Babylon. Seniors are invited to play cards or bingo and enjoy desserts and friendship with us.

© NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED! ☺
The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of St. Joseph Parish are sponsoring a food drive during Lent, which we are calling “40 Cans for Lent”.

The food drive will start on Ash Wednesday February 10, 2016 and run until March 20th.

All food collected will be delivered to the St. Joseph Food Pantry and Outreach. Throughout the year our Parish Outreach Program serves many in need of food, and in need of hope.

We invite you to join us in this Lenten food drive. During these 40 days of Lent we are asking each family to consider setting aside one can of food for each day of Lent. So when you come to Mass to feed your soul, you can also help feed those in need.

We will be setting up collection stations for non-perishable food items at three locations on our Church grounds. They will be marked by the “40 Cans for Lent” banners, and located at the main entrance to our Church, at Nolan Hall and in the hall near our Parish Office.

For every 1,000 lbs. of food we collect, the Knights of Columbus will also donate $100 to St. Joseph Food Pantry, up to a $500 total donation.

A Suggested ‘Grocery List’ for Our “40 Cans for 40 Days” Lenten Food Drive:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canned Vegetables: all varieties</th>
<th>Ready-Made Pasta: macaroni &amp; cheese, ravioli, spaghetti-o’s</th>
<th>Mayonnaise, Ketchup Coffee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canned Fruit: all varieties</td>
<td>Sauces: all varieties of tomato, pasta, gravy</td>
<td>Milk Products: powdered, shelf stable, Velveeta, canned milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned Meat: tuna, chicken, ham, beef-stew, turkey, spam</td>
<td>Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes</td>
<td>Peanut Butter / Jelly / Jam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soups: all varieties</td>
<td>Pasta, Rice and All Varieties of Dry Beans</td>
<td>Boxed Cereals, Pancake Mixes: all varieties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juices: all fruit varieties (need for apple, orange), ‘fusion’ vegetable juices</td>
<td>Hamburger Helper: all varieties</td>
<td>Canned Protein Shakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bean Products: refried, ranch, pork &amp; beans</td>
<td>Paper Towels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: We cannot accept expired food or raw food.
Whenever the temperature drops, the volunteers here at Outreach can’t help but wonder and worry about our homeless population. We continue to offer support through referrals for services, advocacy, listening and offering direct help. Along with socks, hats, and local vouchers, we supply “emergency food bags” containing food that can be consumed without the benefit of heating or refrigeration. Please help us by donating the following items:

Individual cans or pouches of tuna or chicken, Granola or cereal bars, Liquid instant breakfast, Water bottles, Snack size fruit, Pudding and Jello, Small size snacks – chips, pretzels, cheese and crackers, cookies and individual canned soda or juice.

*Thank you for your ongoing support!*

Catholic Charities CSFP provides FREE food to seniors. Eligibility criteria include: age 60 and over, live in New York and meet income guidelines. Call 516-623-4568 to see if you are eligible or to find one of the locations.

**Social Ministries**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

*Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul 669-4544.*

As we begin Lent, let us be open to God’s grace through prayer and almsgiving. Donating to the POOR BOX will give you the opportunity to help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.

*Thank You!*

The next meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul is Monday, February 22, 2016 at 9:35 am in room 256 of the Parish Center. All are invited to attend.

**Thank you for your Food Pantry Donations!**

**Our Food Pantry is most in need of these items:**
Rice, Coffee, Apple Juice, Mayonnaise, Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Ketchup, Mustard, Pasta Sauce, Paper Towels & Toilet Paper. Gift Cards from supermarkets are in demand and would be greatly appreciated.

*Thank you for your past and future donations.*

**Thrift Shop News**

*All Clothing ~ 1/2 price*

*Valentine’s Day Items ~ 1/2 Price*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please **DO NOT** leave any donations on the outside steps when the Thrift Shop is **closed**.

Like us on Facebook, We have a page!
The Faith Formation Office will be closed the week of February 15th for winter recess and there will be no classes that week.

The Level 6 trip to the synagogue has been changed to Thursday, February 25th from 6:00-7:30pm. This trip takes the place of class for level 6 students the week of February 22nd. The Congregation Beth Sholom is located at 441 Deer Park Avenue in Babylon. Please try to carpool (parking is limited) and please arrive 10 minutes early to allow time to sign in.

Level 3 & 4 – are required to attend an Instructional Mass on Monday, February 29 @ 6pm in Nolan Hall.

Please take a copy of the book Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly on your way out of Mass or pick up a copy in the Faith Formation Office. There will be several opportunities to share your thoughts about the book in a book discussion. The dates will be posted in the bulletin soon.

Operation Rice Bowls – our level 4 students will be participating in Catholic Relief Services “Operation Rice Bowl” during Lent. We are inviting any parishioners who would like to participate in this Lenten project to pick up a Rice Bowl in the Church or hall. The proceeds from the rice bowls are given to Catholic Relief Services, an organization that helps people around the world. The rice bowls will be collected at the Masses on the weekend of March 19 & 20.

My good deed for the week was: Talia helped her mom shop, Michael helped bring the bags in from the car, Erica, Justin, Ryan, Sophia, Cameron, Mark, Sean & Ayden helped clean, Shae, Caedon, Nate & Domenick shoveled snow, Joey got boots for Tommy, Alyssa & Jason helped their grandma, Katie helped her mom cook, Katherine helped her brother, Brianna set the table, Robert, Kaelyn & Jessica helped their grandma after surgery, Evangeline took care of her brother when he wasn’t feeling well, Matthew helped his dad, Colin gave to the poor, Owen & Emmett took care of a friend’s pet, Dillon & Tristan didn’t fight with each other, Dulce told the truth to the teacher, Mikaila played a game with a friend when she didn’t want to, Jason, Caitlin, Jimmy & Matt did chores, Noah spent time with his grandparents, Hannah helped her dad, Kristen studied for a test, John & Isabella set the table, John helped a friend pick up school supplies when they fell, Summer helped a friend who couldn’t read, Connor & Isabella helped their moms, Kiera helped her baby brother brush his teeth, Caitlin helped her family, Joe helped with a community service project, Fiona & Julian helped their mom, Brendan & William studied for school, Gavin took out the trash, Frankie helped the elderly, Ryan helped a friend at a basketball game, Ronan & Riley helped their parents, Henry & Angelina made their beds, Anthony & Hailey were nice to each other, Jimmy & Caitlin were kind, Alex made a nice card for his nana, Erik shared, Michael was nice to his brother, Andrew helped his dad paint, Michelle helped around the house, Alexandra helped a friend pick up popcorn, Nicholas helped his friends with an essay, Mallory cleaned snow off the cars, Salvatore emptied the dishwasher, Nick helped a teammate who fell, Lucas listened to his mom, Nicholas helped his dad in the kitchen, Ava & Susanna babysat their cousins, Gianna helped with the grocery shopping, Michael carried in the groceries & James received a kindness gift at school for being thoughtful.
Youth Ministry

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

Youth Group is open to all in grades 6 – 12. Some activities are grade specific. Most are open to all.

LENT HAS BEGUN.
Teens interested in helping with our Holy Week Family Services, please let us know now so we can include you on the planning. Please remember to add Prayer to your list of daily activities.

Upcoming Activities:
No High School meeting 2/15.

PBJ GANG – Thursday 2/18  7pm in the Madonna Room. Please remember to bring bread

Holy Hour – Friday 2/19 – 7pm at St Ignatius in Hicksville. We will meet in Hicksville at 6:30pm.
If anyone is in need of a ride, please let me know. 7th & 8th Graders – are you joining us??

Our HS Teens will be working at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, February 20th—
This is for students in grade 9 and above please.

You must be registered in advance. Adult Chaperones needed too. Thank you.

RESERVATIONS NEEDED: Please email youth@stjosephsbabylon.org to get your tickets and reserve your seat.

Tickets are now available to attend these events.
Only Students in grade 8 and above please.
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A YOUTH GROUP MEMBER TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS –
But you do need tickets. Newcomers welcome. Come check it out.

Check website for more details. www.stjosephsbabylon.org

March 2nd—Chris Padgett at St John Nepomoceme in Bohemia Donation is $5 per person.

March 13—Roller Skating at United Skates of America (6PM – 8:30PM)
Tickets $16 includes Admission, Skates, unlimited pizza & soda,
Bridge for Peace

Presents

“Lord is it I?”

Sunday, March 13th, 2016
3pm
Bring the family and friends to this dramatic presentation of The Last Supper at

St. Joseph, Msgr. Nolan Hall
39 North Carll Ave., Babylon, NY 11702

Free will offering to support the ongoing ministry of Bridge for Peace
Information call Sharon at 631-321-8986 or Bfp @ 631-730-3982
Bridge for Peace - Healing to the Nations
www.bridgeforpeace@optonline.net
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Invites You to a Parish Mission

March 7, 8, & 9, 2016
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
There will be a different and additional morning session on
Wednesday at 10:00 AM

“The Road to Emmaus”
Presenters:
Deacon Glenn & Linda Harmon

We welcome Deacon Glenn and Linda to our parish.
They have been in full time ministry for 24 years giving over
500 parish missions and retreats. They have shared the love of
the Lord and their Catholic Faith to well over 100,000 people
around the United States and Canada.
They have written 2 spiritual books that have been read by
people around the world.
Deacon Glenn and Linda have been married for 45 years and
have been blessed with 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.
Their style of teaching and preaching is very practical and
down to earth. They come across to their listeners as a couple
who has personally experienced the love, mercy, forgiveness,
hope, and healing of our Lord Jesus Christ.
This parish mission is designed to strengthen our relationship
with God, our Church and one another. It will also assist you
in spiritually experiencing the Holy season of Lent.

Come Prepared to Be Blessed!!
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Ivan the IV, or as he may be better known Ivan the Terrible was tsar of Russia during the 16th century. He believed himself to be a deeply religious man, so much so that he would build the iconic church, The Cathedral of St. Basil, which can be found today in Red Square. And yet in his belief that he and he alone was chosen by God to lead the Russian people he would manipulate power to become sole and supreme ruler of the Russian people. And his rule would be rife with abuse, mayhem and murder. After 37 years of power Ivan would repent of his sins and spend the rest of his life seeking forgiveness from God. In this period of his life he would become known as Ivan the Remorseful. How many despots throughout human history have acted in similar fashion, consolidating power in themselves and ruling with an iron fist? And how diametrically opposite this is to the one and only God, our God the Supreme Being!!

The Second Vatican Council document Lumen Gentium (Light for the Nations) states: “Just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by the ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is really communicated in different ways to His creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.” God, Almighty God SHARES His power, wisdom, love, etc. with you and me! Dear friends we need to take time and reflect upon this awesome truth!

There are many who believe our God is an angry God, a God who can’t wait to judge us. Does the statement above make our God out to sound like an autocratic, stern God? Remember the scene in John’s Gospel where Jesus is talking to the disciples about his heavenly Father and Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father? Jesus, it seems almost incredulous replies, and I paraphrase, “Philip, don’t you get it? He who sees me sees the Father” (John 14:7-9). Jesus, who ate with tax collectors, who forgave sinners; Jesus who from the Cross forgave those who had put him on that Cross! This is our God!

Our God desires for you and I to share in the mission of His son, to be in a sense co-redeemers. Of course there’s nothing you and I can do on our own; it’s only with, in and through the grace of our God through our Lord Jesus Christ that we are able to share in Jesus’ mission. When with this grace we say a kind word, stretch out a helping hand, offer a word of loving correction we share in the redemptive mission of the Son of God. St. Paul seems to allude to this when he speaks of “what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church” (Col. 1:24). Our efforts, sufferings, etc. when united to our Lord can become redemptive. This is the desire of our God, the God whose love for each and every one of us is beyond our understanding!

Ivan and so many others throughout history, up to this very day may very well be terrible; however our God is THE Supreme Ruler! And if we turn to our God and ask in Jesus name for faith, truth, love, etc. you and I can be instruments of and share in His magnificence! As the song says, “Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from Heaven above.” And He chooses to do so through those who unite themselves in humility to Him through His son, our Lord Jesus Christ!
HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY, HAPPY LENT

Let’s see if I have this right. I can’t give Barbara a box of candy for St. Valentine’s Day because it’s the liturgical season of Lent and the good Sisters of Mercy made it very clear during my eight wonderful years at St. Boniface in Sea Cliff that we could not have candy during Lent. And if that were not enough, St. Valentine’s Day is no longer a celebrated feast day on February 14. While I am sure that makes fans of St. Cyril and Methodius happy, traditionalists like myself can only wonder why Holy Mother the Church does some of the things* she does.

Our approach to remembering our favorite Valentine might be a blueprint for how we celebrate the liturgical season of Lent. Of late there has been the great debate about the merits of self-denial during the proclaimed 40-day period and those of being charitable toward others. The latter can come in many forms. Giving alms (however we define our treasure) to those in need is certainly a positive Lenten practice. We might also check out the Corporal Works of Mercy as there are many around us that are in some kind of tangible need. For those more cerebral, the Spiritual Works of Mercy might just do the trick. One has particularly caught my eye: to bear wrongs patiently.

Bearing wrongs could be extended to mean putting up with some of the physical, mental, and spiritual trials that find us. Perhaps for Lent we will suffer in silence or, even better, put on that proverbial happy face. And if we can find a way to do that, we might be able to figure out a way to more than survive the shortcomings of those around us. And guess what? If we get good at bearing wrongs patiently, we might be able to forgive offences willing.

This is the Year of Mercy, so clearly the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy will help us make this the kind of Lent that will keep us on our road to redemption for the rest of our lives. * In an effort to keep us politically correct, two rephrased Spiritual Works of Mercy are: Harbor the Harborless and Ransom the Captive.

PRAYER

Loving and Compassionate Father, as we welcome the Season of Lent, may we find the way our Holy Father has given us to serve those in need. Give us the Grace we need to distinguish real need from the minor trials that come our way. May our prayers be frequent, directed, and filled with gratitude for the many blessings that come our way each day. This we ask in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Stewardship...

Stewardship Sound Byte

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who share their first fruits by practicing a corporal work of mercy - welcoming the stranger - by extending invitation, hospitality and inclusion to the newest members of our parish community.
Annual Adult

**ST. PATRICK – ST. JOSEPH**

**DINNER DANCE**

**SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2016**

7PM-11PM

Church of St. Joseph
Msgr. Nolan Hall
39 N. Carll Ave., Babylon, NY
631-669-0068

Tickets on sale after all Masses Feb. 20/21 and Feb. 27/28
Tickets are also available at the Parish Office

**Tickets are $25 per person**

Includes: Buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda, coffee, tea,
Irish soda bread and cookies

**HURRY: Only 300 tickets will be sold**

Music by Tom White and the “Spin Around Sound”

Entertainment by: “Mise Eire Step Dancers”
and
“AOH Saffron United Pipe Band”

Bring some pocket money for: Raffles and “50/50”

For information and tickets contact:
Dom (631) 669-1092, Frank (631)587-6384 or
Larry (631)539-8565
Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

El Santo Padre ha enviado a todos un Mensaje para esta Cuaresma del Año Jubilar de la Misericordia. Quiero llamar su atención e impulsarles a leerlo. Es hermoso, concreto y nos abre de forma rica e inspiradora para hacer esta Cuaresma un viaje profundo y maravilloso de fe mientras buscamos el amor misericordioso de Dios y lo recibimos durante los cuarenta días que caminamos juntos para celebrar el Sagrado Triduo de la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de nuestro Señor y Salvador.

En su carta, el Papa Francisco dice: ¡No desperdiciemos el tiempo de la Cuaresma! Él sigue llamando a María, el ícono perfecto de la Iglesia que evangeliza y es evangelizada por el Espíritu Santo. Nosotros también, que conformamos la Iglesia, debemos imitar a María y abrimos al Espíritu como ella hizo en la Anunciación. Conducidos por el Espíritu, esta Cuaresma podemos hacernos evangelizadores de la misericordia de Dios por medio de nuestras palabras y nuestras acciones.

El Papa Francisco nos encomienda “Las obras de la Misericordia”, Corporales y Espirituales, tan estimadas a lo largo de los siglos. Él dice, la misericordia de Dios transforma nuestros corazones haciéndolos misericordiosos, inspirándonos amar al vecino. Tomar una al día y usarla para hacer un acto de caridad. Corporales: dar de comer al hambriento; dar de beber al sediento; vestir al desnudo; acoger al forastero; cuidar de los enfermos; visitar a los presos; sepultar a los muertos. Espirituales: convertir al pecador; instruir al ignorante; aconsejar al que duda; consolar al que sufre; soportar el mal con paciencia; perdonar las injurias; orar por los vivos y los muertos.

Para mí la parte más hermosa de su mensaje es cuando él habla del amor misericordioso de Dios por Su Pueblo Escogido y la fidelidad de Su amor como la promesa que, a pesar de todos los pecados del Pueblo de Dios, Él siempre será fiel, siempre perdonará, y nunca dejará de amarnos. El Papa toma esto y nos invita a ver la compasión de Dios por nosotros Su pueblo como un modelo y una inspiración del matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer y el amor que trae los niños al mundo a formar parte de una familia. El amor incesante, fiel de Dios (hebreo: hesed) culmina en la Encarnación de Su Hijo como el novio que hace todo para ganarse a Su novia, la Iglesia. ¡Él hasta muere por ella!

Y Él hace eso por nosotros ahora y siempre. Hagan de esta Cuaresma un tiempo en el cual se abran a ese amor. Experimenten ese amor por medio de la reconciliación y sanación del sacramento de la Penitencia; dejen que ese amor sane sus corazones y renueve su fe y su compromiso con su cónyuge, sus hijos, sus padres, todos los miembros de su familia, sus vecinos, sus amigos, con todos aquellos que ustedes puedan estar enajenados. Dios les ofrece ese amor. Ustedes que aceptan Su amor deben ser donantes de ese amor a los demás.

Que las palabras del Dios de amor y reconciliación habite en nuestros corazones esta Cuaresma de la Misericordia y que Dios bendiga nuestra Iglesia aquí en Long Island y nos haga instrumentos de Su amor misericordioso para con los demás.

Fielmente suyos en Cristo,

[Señal de firma]

Obispo de Rockville Centre
El Año del Jubileo de la Misericordia:
Cuaresma y Reconciliación

"Jesucristo es el rostro de la misericordia del Padre. Estas palabras bien podrían resumir el misterio de la fe cristiana. En Jesús de Nazaret la misericordia es viva y visible, alcanzando así su culminación en Él."

Con estas palabras del primer párrafo de la bula de convocatoria, Misericordiae Vultus (MV), del Papa Francisco, proclamando el Año extraordinario Jubilar de la Misericordia, vemos el corazón de lo que celebramos este año: que la misericordia de Dios llega a nosotros por Jesucristo. Cuanto más nos acercamos a Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, y cuanto más íntimamente nosotros le conocemos, más vamos a experimentar la inmensa riqueza de la misericordia del Padre.

El Santo Padre ha dado a la Iglesia un don extraordinario en el Año de la Misericordia. La palabra "misericordia", revela el misterio mismo de la Santísima Trinidad, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo. La misericordia es el acto máximo y supremo por el cual Dios viene a nuestro encuentro. Misericordia es lo que conecta a Dios y sus hijos, porque Su misericordia abre nuestros corazones "a la esperanza de ser amado por siempre a pesar de nuestros pecados." (MV 2) De hecho, este Año de la Misericordia es un momento especial para la Iglesia, "un momento en que el testimonio de los creyentes puede fortalecerse y ser más eficaz." (MV 3)

¿No es un gran reto para nosotros - que seamos testigos más eficaces de la misericordia? ¡Imagínense si realmente pudiéramos hacer eso! ¡Tal vez eso es un buen proyecto de Cuaresma para todos y cada uno de nosotros: llegar a ser un testigo más eficaz de la misericordia!

Sabemos que la Cuaresma nos prepara para la celebración de la Pascua, ya sea preparándonos para los sacramentos de iniciación, o preparándonos para recordar nuestro propio bautismo. Hacer penitencia es fundamental para esto. Sin embargo, si vamos a vivir realmente la Cuaresma y no sólo "observar", debemos dar una verdadera respuesta a la llamada de Dios a la renovación, y aceptar el desafío espiritual para colaborar con la gracia de Dios haciendo una decisión, un plan y un esfuerzo continuo.

Para vivir realmente este Año Jubilar de acuerdo con su lema "misericordioso como el Padre," tenemos que experimentar la muestra del amor de Dios para con nosotros: “Él da todo su ser, siempre, libremente, sin pedir nada a cambio. Él viene en nuestra ayuda siempre que lo invocamos." (MV 14)

El sacramento de la Penitencia es para nosotros una de las formas más poderosas (o pruebas) que tenemos para experimentar la misericordia de Dios, y de renovar nuestra compromiso bautismal y dignidad. A través de la misericordia de Dios, ese sacramento se convierte en la oportunidad de restaurar la inocencia bautismal, una inocencia que se ha empañado por el pecado.

Continuando hasta el Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión del Señor, este año, vamos a explorar diversos aspectos del Sacramento de la Penitencia, para que utilicemos este tiempo de Cuaresma para la conversión y la reconciliación con el fin de experimentar la riqueza de la misericordia del Padre y, llegada la Pascua, celebrar el Misterio Pascual de la muerte del Señor y la resurrección con mentes y corazones renovados por la misericordia de Dios.