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 Christian Initiation of Adults)
Anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church should call the Parish Office.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent + March 6, 2016
Preparation for Marriage
Banns Posted
First Time –
David Saccante & Jessica Kramer
Mark Zeni & Emily Bollbach

For Our Sick

Altar Rose
In memory of
Winifred & Donald Jordan

For Our Deceased
Please pray for the families and souls of our deceased members including Millie Vecchione, John Bauer, Lucy Lakotta & Helen Drechsler.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY
The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he’d been given.
Our Parish Mission Statement

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

Liturgy

We Assemble for Prayer

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

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

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

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. Coast Guard:
PO1 Benjamin Flad
Capt. Matthew W. Sibley
F.A. Madison Mulders

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

U.S. Air Force:
Maj. Matthew G. Bland
AB Christopher Signoretti
SSGT Brandon Ward

Sacrificial Giving

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

Month: February 2016
Actual Collection: $93,294
Budgeted Collection: $92,314
God Bless You!

Faith Direct

Why not make a change in the way you support St. Joseph? Sign up with eGiving through Faith Direct, which is the most convenient and secure way for you to make your weekly offering. Making either one-time or automatic contributions through Faith Direct will also save valuable time. To enroll, please visit Faith Direct’s website www.faithdirect.net

And use our Parish code NY84. You can also fill out and mail a Faith Direct enrollment form, available in the Parish Office.
Thank You!
THE LORD'S PRAYER: A PRAYER REFLECTION IN DIALOGUE
EXAMINED IN THREE PARTS
This prayer dialogue, which I found on the Internet several years ago, allows us all to slow down and listen to what we are saying when we pray this beautiful prayer.
This week: enjoy Part I. Let it open more deeply the inner dialogue with God. CH

........................................

US

Our Father Who Art In Heaven.
Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.
Called you? No, I didn't call you.
I'm praying. Our Father who art in Heaven.
Did what?

But I didn't mean anything by it.
I was, you know, just saying my prayers
for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer.
It makes me feel good,
kind of like fulfilling a duty.

Okay, Hallowed be thy name . .
By what?
It means, it means . . good grief,
I don't know what it means.
How in the world should I know?
It's just a part of the prayer.

Hey, that makes sense.
I never thought about what 'hallowed'
meant before. Thanks.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Sure, why not?

I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control,
of everything down here like you have up there.

GOD

Yes?
But -- you called ME!

There -- you did it again!
Called ME. You said, "Our Father who art in
Heaven" Well, here I am. What's on your mind?

Well, all right. Go on.

Hold it right there. What do you mean by that?
By "Hallowed be thy name"?

It means honored, holy, wonderful.

Do you really mean that?
What are you doing about it?

Father Chris
Parish Mission Canceled

**St. Joseph Parish Mission has been Canceled.**

Due to Deacon Glenn Harmon’s illness, we must cancel our upcoming Parish Mission, which was scheduled for Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of this week. We are sorry for the short notice!

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**Holy Week Prayer Services**

**HOLY WEEK PRAYER SERVICES**
**FOR FAMILIES, PARENTS, & CHILDREN**
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THESE SERVICES!**

Are you seeking a meaningful way for you and your child(ren) to learn about the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus? This community prayer service may be a great way! Please join us for these Holy Week Services:

- **Holy Thursday, March 24, 2016**
  - **4:00 PM Church**
  - **Recreate the Last Supper and Washing each other’s feet**

- **Good Friday, March 25, 2016**
  - **11:00 AM Church**
  - **Venerate the Cross and Stations of the Cross**

- **Holy Saturday, March 26, 2016**
  - **11:00 AM Church**
  - **Light ceremony and Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Each day, we will do Gospel readings and a reflection led by a catechist. Group participation is welcomed. The services are less than an hour.

This is a wonderful way for children and adults to learn about Holy week and how we pray as a community during the three days. **There are opportunities for children and adults to take a role during these services. If you and/or your child are interested, please contact:** Email: stjosephholyweek@gmail.com

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Thank you,

Sarah Gillen  Gina Horowitz  Barbara McNulty  Patty Seegers
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
Saturday, March 19
is the Feast of St. Joseph!

All are welcome to come to
A special Mass at 9am in the Church
followed by a reception in the
O’Connell Room.

Join us as we celebrate the
Feast Day of our Patron Saint!
Music Ministry

St. Joseph's 10:15am 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 a 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 10:15am 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 room 254 of the Parish Center. You are promised a most enjoyable evening.

“Moving On” Group

An After Bereavement Group For Widows and Widowers Will Present:

“Stress Management”
Friday, March 18 @ 7:30 pm
For further information please call Geri Olson 631-661-8994

Saturday, May 21, 2016
9:00 AM Mass
Church of St. Joseph
Breakfast Immediately Following
The O’Connell Room
Guest Speaker - TBA
$25.00
Mary Alice Markham
Chairlady

CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH
PARISH CENTER
39 North Carll Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

“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.
Save the Date for the 11th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, May 16, 2016 ~ 10am - 7pm

About Our Honoree . . .

Richard (Dick) Maerki began his journey in the Catholic faith when his family moved to East Meadow and he decided to attend catechism classes. At the age of 13, he was baptized, made his First Communion, and became a practicing Catholic. He became a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in 1968 when he and his late wife Marlan, with their young family, moved to West Islip. Dick is the proud father of three sons, two daughters and has fifteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Dick began his career in aviation with Lockheed as a mechanic after attending The Roosevelt School of Aviation, where he obtained an aircraft and engine mechanic license. In 1952, he moved to TWA and soon became a flight engineer. Realizing there was a future for him as a pilot, he enrolled in pilot school and was soon flying the very planes he once maintained. In 1986, after 34 years of flying, Captain Dick Maerki retired from TWA fulfilling his childhood dream of flying.

Dick is a man of many interests including golf, skiing, bowling, boating, fishing, carpentry, electrician, and all around handyman. When Super Storm Sandy destroyed the first floor of his home, he served as the Project Manager while his sons and sons-in-law restored his home.

Dick is a daily communicant at the 7:45 Mass, many times arriving early to ensure everything is in its place. In addition, he serves as a Eucharistic Minister at the 10:15 Sunday Mass and is a member of the Ministry of Consolation, where he serves as a Eucharistic Minister at funeral masses. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 63 years and a member of St. Joseph the Carpenter Council #14771 since its inception. He covers security/parking lot duty faithfully on Wednesday afternoons for Faith Formation, even on the coldest or rainiest of days. Always the learner, Dick is a student in the Little Rock Scripture Studies, which is part of the parish Adult Enrichment Ministry. Dick can also be seen on the dance floor at the Annual Chrysanthemum Ball and on the fairways at the Parish Golf Outing.

On January 2nd of this year, surrounded by family and friends, Dick celebrated his 90th birthday. For his commitment and dedication to the parish, we are pleased to recognize Richard Maerki as the 2016 St. Joseph Golf Outing Honoree.

Golf Outing Committee Members
Laura Spencer Brennan - Chairperson
Keith Bush - Vice Chairperson

Douglas Chapey
Sam Descovich
Martin Kennedy
Edward Leitch
Laraine Leitch
Steve Markham

Richard Maynard
Linda Merkel
John O’Hanlon
Charles Spencer
Rita Underhill
Raymond Young
Liturgy...

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 News

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
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

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.

St. Joseph the Carpenter Council: Just Google “Knights of Columbus St Josephys”

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.

Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas

All girls 10 to 17 years old are “WELCOME”
Next general meeting is on Tuesday, March 15th 7:30pm-9pm in the O’Connell Room.

Join in the plans for our RETREAT “Exercising Our Faith”
Saturday, April 16th at the Tabor House, 8:30am until 6 pm.

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.

5 NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED! 5

Sponsored by the CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS of the AMERICAS Court Bishop McDonnell # 1403

6 March 2016
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:

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

NOTE: We cannot accept expired food or raw food.
St. Vincent de Paul

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

The St. Vincent de Paul Society consists of members that contribute in different ways. Our meetings are held every two weeks on a Monday morning, but attendance is never mandatory. Our work consists in helping families in need, making home visits, and assisting with food collection and distribution. These opportunities to help are communicated through email so that members can volunteer at their own convenience. If you would like to join us in serving the poor, please contact us at: SVdPEdC@aol.com

We would like to thank an anonymous donor for their very generous gift to St. Vincent de Paul.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 9:35 am in room 256 of the parish center. All are invited to attend.

We are on Facebook
St Joseph Thrift Shop.
Please "like" our page!

Social Ministries

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

Thrift Shop News
Vases & Frames ~ 1/2 Price
Suitcases ~ 1/2 Price
All Clothing ~ 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!
Level 7 Confirmation Interviews – will take place on Monday, March 7 & Thursday, March 10 from 4-7pm and Saturday, March 12 from 10am – Noon in Nolan Hall. A letter went out with your child’s scheduled day and time. Please call the Faith Formation Office @ 587-4717 if you need to reschedule.

Level 2 children are required to attend any Mass the weekend of March 12 & 13 to receive a prayer card.

Level 1 children are required to attend the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, March 13 to receive their Easter Activity Book.

Level 2 Parent Meeting – Monday, March 14 @ either 10am or 7pm in room 257. We will be going over the final requirements for First Eucharist.

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: Gerard, Nicole & Grace helped their friends, Michael didn’t fight with his brother, Meghan helped her grandma with dinner, Julian, Megan & Olivia helped clean the house, Matthew, David & Steven listened to their mom, Kristi vacuumed the floor, Brianne listened, Elizabeth helped her Nana with food shopping, Jack & Brook did chores, Emily & Christina helped, Tobin, Matthew & Robert helped their moms, Nicholas & Philip helped their little brother, Daniel is trying to comply, Emma made her bed, Dylan set the table, Gianna, Morgan & Nathaniel cleaned their rooms and helped make dinner, Lindsey attended a dance for students with special needs, Ryan helped his teacher, Katie gave her friend a present, Andrew helped his brother with his homework, Danny washed the dishes, Heather helped with the PB & J Gang, Maddy did homework, Julia & Molly played with their brother, Morgan watched his dogs, Jake made soup to donate, Mark held the door for a friend, Kenneth helped around the house, Lauren emptied the dishwasher, Erica & Emma helped decorate for Easter, Michelle babysat, Anita helped a friend study, Kaitlyn helped her sister, Samantha cleaned the toys, Jenna helped her sister clean her closet, Ava read to the first graders, Brennan helped her sister blow up her toy, Craig fed the dogs, Grace & Emily watched their brother, Matthew volunteered at PTA, Susanna helped at a dance, Lisa helped make dinner, Joseph worked on a project, Addison helped his mom and Ryan dusted.
Memorial Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily.
A symbol of Christ’s victory over sin and death. Once again we will adorn our altars with lilies to commemorate Jesus’ Resurrection and the promise of life everlasting.

If you wish to make a donation toward an Easter Lily plant in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a living person, please fill out the form below and return it to either the Parish Office or in the Sunday collection basket. The suggested donation fee is $20 per family or person being remembered. The list of memorial donations will be published in the bulletin after Easter.

Our deadline for collecting donations is Mon. March 21. Checks can be made payable to St. Joseph Church. Thank you for your generosity during this Easter season!

Name of Donor ______________________________ Phone _______________

Name of Person to be remembered:
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

# of Plants ____________

Amount Enc. ($20 per donation))______
St. Joseph Sociable Single Seniors

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 at 7pm in the O'Connell Room.

The cost of the meal is $13.00 per person. Please make checks out to St. Joseph Church by March 12th. Please note if you do not show up, there are No Refunds for the dinner.

Dinner will be Spinach Pie and Greek Salad. As always we will be serving dessert, coffee, tea and cold drinks.

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

Thank you!
THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY:
WHY DO I HAVE TO TELL MY SINS TO A PRIEST?

“If I’m really sorry in my heart, and I ask God to forgive me, won’t He? Why do I have to go tell my sins to a priest?”

We’ve all either heard those questions, or asked those questions, or both. There are several reasons why it’s necessary for us to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

First and foremost, it’s because it’s a sacrament. Catholics believe that sacraments are physical, concrete celebrations of the Church that communicate God’s grace to us because Jesus is present in His Church. Without the sacramental celebration, we do not experience the grace the sacrament brings to us. Sacraments make grace effectively present in our life. Going to Confession is not simply about “getting forgiveness” from God, which, admittedly, cannot be controlled by human agency. Going to Confession is, however, about sacramental grace being effectively present in our life to have an effect on us and to bring about our conversion, and sacramental grace is not available without the sacrament.

Also, there is the very human reality that praying or asking for forgiveness internally, or mentally, is simply not enough. As physical creatures, we need to externalize things to make them real to us. Just as love, for example, cannot remain an abstraction, but must be put into concrete practice in order to really be love, so too with our experience of God’s forgiveness in our life. There is something about “getting it out” once and for all and letting our sins go by verbalizing them that is an integral part of healing and forgiveness. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the confession (verbal disclosure) of sins, even from a simply human point of view, frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others. It allows us to clearly confront the sins we have committed, to take responsibility for them, and to thereby open ourselves to God and to others. (CCC 1455) As Pope Francis remarked in 2010, “For me, sin is not a stain that I have to clean. What I should do is ask pardon and make reconciliation, not stop by the cleaner’s on my way home.”

Therefore, the sacrament is as much about being healed as it is “getting forgiveness.” Part of the healing involves being reconciled with the community, our brothers and sisters in the Church, we have sinned against. Sin damages our relationship with others, and therefore we must be reconciled with the community; it is never a simple case of “God and me.” Going to Confession brings about reconciliation with the Church.

Finally, the simple truth is that we must go to the Sacrament of Penance because we are Catholic; it’s part of our identity. The faith we have is the faith of the Church, which has been handed on to us; faith is not a matter of my own personal beliefs or philosophy. The Sacrament of Penance is part of who we are as Catholics.

Remember that the priest will never reveal to anyone else in any way anything you say in Confession; the sacramental seal is absolutely inviolable, and it is a sacred trust that all priests take with the utmost seriousness. ✧
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Recently my wife, Evie and I were able to get away for a much needed vacation. While away we were eating dinner one evening when the couple sitting next to us struck up a conversation with us. They were a lovely couple from Great Britain. We all spoke of our children, vacations, etc. Then the gentleman told us he and his wife were interested in politics and they asked us our thoughts on the presidential primary races that are currently being staged in our country. I replied with some seriousness that if the two individuals who are currently the front-runners for each party end up as the contenders for the presidency my wife and I are going to move out of the country. We all laughed, and then I asked them their thoughts on our country’s races. Much to our surprise they told us they and many of the people of Great Britain are frightened. They explained, telling us they believe that for the last century the United States has been THE force for good in our world, confronting evil or holding it in check just by the threat of action from our country. To these folks the U.S. seems to have stepped back from this role and evil seems to be emboldened. And now the current front-runners for each political party’s nomination do not give them a lot of confidence.

I’ve been giving a lot of thought and reflection to this conversation since returning home: perhaps TOO MUCH reflection. Please allow me to explain. We are in the season of lent, when we are to spend more time reflecting on the love of our God. This love would compel God to become one of us in the person of Jesus who would be arrested, suffer and die AND then rise to new life: FOR US! As I’ve stated on numerous occasions this type of love cannot, can NEVER abandon us. Our Lord Jesus spoke these words to us: “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20b). This love/Love desires only our salvation. Of course we must do our part seeking to be one with the will of our God. When I am distracted from reflecting on our Lord, his love and truth; when I spend too much time reflecting on issues that cause me anxiety, issues that in fact I can’t control I seem to lose my true focus. And when I’m not focused I become anxious and I seem to make poor decisions.

We are besieged daily with “noise” about the primary races from every conceivable media source. People come up to us and many wish to discuss the races or a particular candidate or a candidate’s position, statement, action, etc. Personally I have to step back from all this “noise”. I need to shut off all the distractions and just sit, sit in the quiet. And in this quiet I listen. Just listen, for that still, quiet voice. Here, in the quiet I begin to find peace; and I then seek, I ask for His wisdom and guidance.

As good citizens it is our duty to make our voices heard by voting for the candidate we believe will be a true STATESMAN or STATESWOMAN. I need to take some time to study and reflect over each candidate and his or her positions. But most importantly I need to spend more time with our God, seeking His peace and guidance. I must seek His will in all things for His will is perfection and in my best interest. Therefore I will spend more time with the One who loves me, who loves us, each and every one of us beyond our understanding.

Jesus, guide me. Jesus, be with me. Jesus, fill me with your wisdom and peace. Jesus, save our country. Amen.
ON A WING AND A PRAYER

Tom really liked baseball. He worked his way up in the Little League ranks, was a bat boy to the New York Mets when Bobby Valentine was manager, and played four years at Stonehill College. A business major, Tommy landed a highly sought after job with a leading financial institution in Boston as soon as he graduated. He had the love of his life that he met in College on his arm, and it seemed that the elusive American dream was his for the asking.

Tommy wanted something else, however; he wanted to serve his country in the US Army. So on St. Patrick’s Day four years ago, Tommy departed, determined to advance in the military as far as he could. His athleticism and basic intelligence have prepared him to train those in areas where violence is an everyday fact of life on how to defend their country, and he has seen first-hand what others in this wide world are facing. Here are some thoughts on his current mission:

“We are deployed to the poorest region in the poorest nation of the world. Because of political instability, economic disparities, and subsequent food scarcities, it is very easy for "bad guys" here to make their mark. However every time we go out for a mission, I find myself truly in awe of the people here. Despite living and growing up in absolute destitute conditions, these people find purpose and joy in their everyday lives. The guys we train may not be the brightest or most well-equipped, but they are dedicated like you read about. They will train in the most physically demanding conditions to care for their fellow soldiers, provide for their families, and bring honor to their country. Each time I see their faces, I think of home. We are all blessed beyond belief to not only have the luxuries in life (like potable water, a home, medicine, a bed), but also each other. I can say with true conviction that the work we are doing here is God’s work."

“Purpose and Joy in their everyday lives.” “What we are doing here is God’s work”

This Lent, let us work to be able to live those same sentiments each day.

PRAYER

Generous and Loving Father, we often take for granted the blessings that You have bestowed on the people of our nation. Even in the poorest parts of this great land, we know that things are far worse elsewhere. Give us the Grace we need to realize the many gifts that You have given to us and to actively be aware of our responsibilities to help those in need all over the world. Help us to see Your face in every one we meet or see. Protect Tom and all who serve our country. Hold close in your heart the families who are separated from their loved ones in the military and reunite them all in Your time. This we ask in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6 March 2016

Reflections

Stewardship...

Stewardship Sound Byte

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who, each evening during this Lent, have examined their consciences in the light of how loving...and forgiving...they were throughout the day.
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.

**LAZARUS MINISTRY**

On Saturday, March 12th, 2016, at the 9:00 AM Eucharist, we will have our monthly Liturgy for the Commemoration of the Dead. All those who have lost a loved one, at any time in the past, are invited to join us. We especially welcome the family and friends of those who have died in the previous month or whose anniversaries occur during this time. A table will be placed in the Baptistry for family members to place pictures of those who have died. A lectern will be set up for family or friends to write the names of those to be remembered at the General Intercessions. There will also be an opportunity to remember each loved one by name in the Book of the Dead. Members of the Lazarus Ministry will be present to welcome you and to offer guidance; please let them know when you arrive. For questions or further information, please call Barbara Schade, 968-8793.

**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.
Parent/caregiver and child classes are available NOW for children 4-36 months

Let’s Play 12-24 months
Mondays 9:00-10:00

Bouncing Babies 4-12 months
Mondays 10:30-11:15

Toddling Twos 24-36 months
Mondays 12:00-1:30

Come have fun with us!

We are also registering NOW for 2 1/2, 3 and 4 pre-K classes for September 2016

Call the Nursery School for information
631-661-4559
41 North Carll Ave., Babylon Village
www.stjosephsnurseryschool.org

Can you find Jesus among the people and the Pharisees?
Draw a circle around Jesus when you find him!

Try and find the words in the boxes from the sentence below!

Jesus then told the Pharisees that the second greatest commandment that the law and prophets depend on is to love your neighbor as yourself.
Life in the Spirit Seminar
Brought to you by the Adult Enrichment Ministry
“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Matthew 3:11

3 Saturdays
April 9th, 16th & 23rd
10 AM - 2 PM in the O’Connell Room following the 9 AM mass in Church (refreshments served)

To receive the full benefit of this seminar, we ask that you attend all three sessions

Do you desire what God has to offer?
Come and...

Reawaken your spiritual gifts received at Baptism and Confirmation.

Deepen your relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Hear fellow parishioners share their journey touching on each of the following topics:

† God’s Love
† Baptism in the Holy Spirit
† Salvation
† Growth
† New Life
† Transformation
† Receiving God’s Gifts

Please call or email Sharon Saragnese to register:
631-321-8986  LMSS@optonline.net
Church of St. Joseph 39 North Carll Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

CDA Caribbean Night

A NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN

LIVE MUSIC PERFORMED BY
“NEXT LEVEL”

DINNER BUFFET, BEER, WINE, SODA, COFFEE & DESSERT WILL BE SERVED
RAFFLES AND 50/50

SATURDAY, APRIL 16th, 2016
7PM - 11PM
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ~ MSGR. NOLAN HALL
39 NORTH CARLL AVE., BABYLON, NY
$35.00 PER PERSON/ ADULTS ONLY
(21 AND OVER)
CONTACT: MARY ANN AT 631-587-1243

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS
COURT BISHOP MCDONNELL #1403

HELP US TO
SUPPORT OUR
PARISH AND
LOCAL CHARITIES.
THANK YOU!
Please: Make a Difference in Someone’s Life by donating to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal
Parish ___________________________ Pledge: $_______
Name _______________________________ Down payment: $_______
Address _________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _________________________________________________________
Phone: __________
Signature: ____________________________ Date: ______

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2016: Loving Others as Christ Would

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Catholic Ministries</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Goal 2016</th>
<th>Pledged</th>
<th># of Gifts</th>
<th>Collected</th>
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<td>$134,300</td>
<td>$48,484.00</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>$27,739.00</td>
<td>$329.92</td>
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Join us for the 11th Annual Divine Mercy Conference in this jubilee year of Mercy!
Saturday, April 16 from 9am - 5:30pm
Cardinal Spellman H.S., Bronx, NY
Email - NightToShine416@gmail.com
And
Sunday, June 5th, 2016
90th Anniversary Mass & Reception
12pm Mass - Church of Saint Mary

Full-Time Office Assistant Wanted for O.L. of Grace, West Babylon
• Do you like working in a busy, people oriented atmosphere?
• Do you pride yourself on being dependable and positive?
  • Do you enjoy warmly meeting and helping people, both strangers and familiar faces?
• Do you have a flair for managing details?
• Would you like to help people and Our Lady of Grace Parish to grow?

There is an opening for a full-time (40-hour) office assistant. Time is divided between day care and general parish responsibilities. Responsibilities include recording tuition and giving, and managing records for parish registration, safe environment training for volunteers, etc. Salary according to parish scale. Knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook) required. Familiarity with Parish Data Systems (PDS) a plus. Completion of diocesan background check and VIRTUS training, plus NY State Central Registry clearance, required. All interested parties: please contact Msgr. Vincent Rush, pastor, at vin@ourladyofgrace.net.

If you have received the A & B training by the Diocese for distribution of Holy Communion in a hospital and would like to volunteer as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Good Sam’s pastoral Care Office for a letter of recommendation to be signed by your pastor. If you do not have this training and wish to distribute Holy Communion in the hospital, please contact your parish office and they will give you the dates for training in the Diocese.

News From Outside the Parish
St. Mary’s Elementary School Celebrates 90 Years
Please join us for 2 events
Saturday, April 16th, 2016 at 6:30pm
20th Annual Take a Break Dinner Dance
North Hempstead Country Club
Email - NightToShine416@gmail.com
And
Sunday, June 5th, 2016
90th Anniversary Mass & Reception
12pm Mass - Church of Saint Mary
Cuarto domingo de cuaresma - Ciclo C

**REFLEXION**
El mensaje con respeto a la administración de los bienes de Dios que se encuentra en la parábola del Hijo Pródigo, es que nunca es tarde para volvernos buenos administradores de los bienes de Dios. Bendito es el hermano mayor que siempre había sido un buen administrador de los bienes de Dios, pero bendito también es el pródigo que tuvo que perderlo todo para apreciar el valor de lo que se le había dado.

Intercesiones por la Vida
Por los médicos y todos los que han ayudado en el aborto de un niño, o en el suicidio de una persona que estaba vieja o débil: para que se vuelvan de la sombra de la muerte y abracen la luz del Evangelio de la Vida;

Roguemos al Señor:
Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

**Contribución Semanal**
Agradecemos a todos y a cada uno de ustedes por aportar su contribución para nuestra parroquia de San José.

“La unión hace la fuerza”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month: February 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colecta:</td>
<td>$ 93,294.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastos:</td>
<td>$ 92,314.00</td>
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Curso Bíblico
Todos los martes de:
7:30PM — 9:30PM
Salón # 256
Para mas información llamar @ Antonia (631) 422-5433

Las Horas de Oficina del Ministerio Hispano son:
Domingos después de la Misa
FONO: (631) 669-0068 Ext. 131
Padre Joseph Arevalo Ext. 104

Bautismo:
Tercer domingo de cada mes. Clase:
Segundo domingo de cada mes. Venir a la oficina del Ministerio Hispano con dos meses de anticipación o llame @ (631) 669-0068, Ext. 131. Traer el certificado de nacimiento original del niño. No en cuaresma.

Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos:

Catequesis de Niños y Adultos:
Llamar a la oficina del Ministerio Hispano. (631) 669-0068, ext. 131.

Matrimonio:
Las parejas que desean casarse, deben inscribirse con seis meses de anticipación. Llamar al Padre Joe Arévalo al (631) 669-0068 ext. 104.

Pre-Cana:
Llame a Ruth y Salomón @ 631-592-9474.

Reconciliación:
Sábado a las 4:00pm o llamar para una cita, al Tel. # 669-0068 ext. 104.

Unción de los Enfermos:
Llamar a la oficina principal (631)669-0068 Ext. 100.

CURSILLO DE CRISTIANDAD:
Los invita a vivir un fin de semana con Cristo. Tenemos Ultreya todos los domingos a las 12:30pm. en el Salón # 256. Mas información llame a Cristina Vera @ 631-327-6141.

Renumovan Carismática:
Tiempo de encuentro con Dios. Les invitamos a experimentar el amor de Dios de una manera diferente al escuchar un mensaje de buenas noticias y esperanza para su vida y la de su familia. Todos los viernes @ 7:15 p.m. Para mas información llame a Ana Ramos. (631)617-2129.

Comunidad de María:
Siguiendo los mensajes de María Reina de la Paz y sobre temas de María en general) - Sábados de 7:00pm-9:00pm. Comunicarse con Adriana Mascari, al (631) 587-3072 - (631)681-0005.

COMITE:
El primer sábado de cada mes a las 10:00am en el salón # 256. Para la agenda, llamar a Ana Ramos al Tel. (631)617-2129.

ROSARIO:
Domingos a las 11:00am en la Capilla.

HERMANAS UNIDAS:
Todos los segundos domingo de cada mes, en el salón # 256, después de la misa.

EL APOSTOLADO DE LA CRUZ:
Todos los jueves de 9:00 - 11:00am en el Salón # 252A. Comunicarse con Adriana Mascari al Tel. (631) 681-0005 o Luz Marina López al (631)321-6861.

INTENCIONES PARA UNA MISA:
Ver a Herminda y Ana Elia López después de la misa.

HORA SANTA:
Cuarto domingo del mes, inmediatamente después de la misa de las 11:30am.
EL AÑO DEL JUBILEO DE LA MISERICORDIA:
¿POR QUÉ TENGO QUE DECIRLE MIS PECADOS A UN SACERDOTE?

“Si realmente estoy arrepentido en mi Corazón, y le pido a Dios que me perdone, ¿será que no me perdonaría? ¿Por que tengo que ir a decirle mis pecados a un sacerdote?

Todos hemos escuchado estas preguntas, o bien hemos hecho estas preguntas, o ambas cosas. Hay varias razones por las que es necesario para nosotros celebrar el Sacramento de la Penitencia.

En primer lugar es porque es un sacramento. Los católicos creemos que los sacramentos son celebraciones físicas y concretas de la Iglesia que nos comunican la gracia de Dios, y esto porque Jesús esta presente en su Iglesia. Sin la celebración sacramental, no experimentamos la gracia que el sacramento nos trae. Los sacramentos hacen efectivamente presente la gracia en nuestra vida. El ir a la Confesión no se trata simplemente de “conseguir el perdón” de Dios, que, ciertamente, no puede ser controlado por la acción humana. El ir a la Confesión es saber que la gracia sacramental esta efectivamente presente en nuestra vida, teniendo un efecto sobre nosotros logrando así nuestra conversión. La gracia sacramental no esta disponible sin el sacramento.

Además, está la realidad muy humana que orando o pidiendo perdón internamente, o mentalmente, simplemente no es suficiente. Como criaturas físicas, necesitamos exteriorizar las cosas para hacerlas reales para nosotros.

Así mismo el amor, por ejemplo no puede permanecer abstracto, sino que debe ser puesto en practica concreta para que realmente pueda ser amor, así también con nuestra experiencia del perdón de Dios en nuestra vida. Hay algo acerca de “sacar” los pecados de una vez por todas y verbalizarlos para que pasen.

Esto es una parte integral de la curación y el perdón. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos recuerda que la Confesión (divulgación verbal) de los pecados, incluso desde un punto de vista sencillamente humano, nos libera y facilita nuestra reconciliación con los demás.

Nos permite afrontar con claridad los pecados que hemos cometido, a asumir la responsabilidad de ellos, y así abrirmos a Dios y a los demás (CCC 1455) Tal como el Papa Francisco comentó en el 2010: “Para mí, el pecado no es una mancha que tengo que limpiar. Lo que debería hacer es pedir perdón y reconciliarme, no pasar por la tintorería camino a mi casa”.

Por lo tanto, el sacramento consiste tanto en ser sanado como también en “recibir el perdón”. Parte de la curación implica ser reconciliado con la comunidad, con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en la Iglesia, contra los cuales hemos pecado. El pecado daña nuestra relación con los demás, y por lo tanto debemos ser reconciliados con la comunidad; nunca es un simple caso de “Dios y yo”. El ir a la Confesión trae la reconciliación con la iglesia.

Por ultimo, la simple verdad es que debemos ir al sacramento de la Penitencia porque somos Católicos; es parte de nuestra identidad. La fe que tenemos es la fe de la Iglesia, que se nos ha transmitido; la fe no es un asunto de mis propias vivencias o filosofía personal. El Sacramento de la Penitencia es parte de lo que somos como Católicos.

Recuerde que el sacerdote nunca revelará a nadie, de ninguna manera nada de lo que digas en la Confesión; es absolutamente inviolable, y es un deber sagrado que todos los sacerdotes toman con la máxima seriedad.