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 11:30am 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.

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.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord + March 20, 2016
Preparation for Marriage

Third Time ~
David Saccente & Jessica Kramer
Mark Zeni & Emily Bollbach

For Our Sick

Bread & Wine for the Eucharist
In memory of the Living and Deceased members of St. Joseph Eucharistic Ministers.

For Our Deceased
Please pray for the families and souls of our deceased members including Dolores P. Browne & Juana Castro.

REFLECTION FOR TODAY
In the Gospel story of the first Palm Sunday we hear the owners of the ass had only to be told, “The Master has need of it,” to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord’s work?
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: February 2016
Actual Collection: $93,294
Budgeted Collection: $92,314
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.

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.

Hospitality Sunday

Hospitality Sunday
Today is Hospitality Sunday, March 20th, please join us for Hospitality after the 8:45am Mass through the 11:45am Mass in the Hospitality Center.

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
J.A. Madison Mulders

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

Prayers for Our Service Men & Women
THE LORD'S PRAYER: A PRAYER REFLECTION IN DIALOGUE
EXAMINED IN THREE PARTS: This Week: the Final Part - Part III

US
I'm scared too.
I know what you'll say.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up!
Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories.
She never paid back the money she owes me.
I've sworn to get even with her!
I didn't -- mean it.
Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Boy, have I got some plans for her. She'll wish she had never been born.
Well, I can change that.
I forgive Ann.

GOD
Scared? Of what?
Try ME.
What about Ann?
But -- your prayer -- What about your prayer?
Well, at least you're honest. But, it's quite a load carrying around all that bitterness and resentment isn't it?
No, you won't feel any better. You'll feel worse.
Revenge isn't sweet. You know how unhappy you are --
You can? How?
Then, I'll forgive you; And the hate and the sin, will be Ann's problem -- not yours. You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.

Oh, you know, you're right.
You always are. And more than I want revenge,
I want to be right with You ... (sigh).
All right ... all right ... I forgive her.

Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all!
In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight. I haven't been getting much rest, you know.

Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

What do you mean by that?
Yeah, I know.
For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now.
I've really made a mess of things. I want to truly follow you. I can see now how great that would be.
So, tell me ... How would I make you happy?

You just did.

Father Chris
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

Thank you,
Sarah Gillen     Gina Horowitz     Barbara McNulty     Patty Seegers

Bereavement Conference 2016

Along with Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we at the Office of Faith Formation are happy to announce that registration is now opened for our upcoming Bereavement Conference. This conference promises to be a very informative and beneficial experience for both the bereaved and those who minister to them. The theme of the conference, as we celebrate this Year of Mercy is

"Experiencing Merciful Love in Times of Pain"

We are particularly excited to have as our keynote speaker, Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield. Monsignor is the General Secretary of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and acclaimed author, including the recently published, *Life Everlasting: The Mystery and the Promise*. Monsignor's words, including his own personal witness, promises to bring the message of hope to those who grieve and to those who minister to them.

In addition to Monsignor Bransfield's keynote, we have a number of excellent workshops lined up to assist both the bereaved and those who serve them. For more information you may download the brochure that details the workshops.

**Please assist us in getting the word out! Thank You!**

When:
Saturday April 23, 2016 from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM EDT

Cost:
$35.00 per person

Where:
Kellenberg Memorial High School
1400 Glenn Curtiss Blvd
Uniondale, NY 11553

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Deacon Darrell Buono
516-678-5800 ext. 200
dbuono@drvc.org
Final Expense Options
"Honest answers to one of the toughest questions in Life"

Today average funeral costs are $8,000-$20,000...

Social Security provides just $250 for final expenses...

Life insurance plans that require no medical exam generally do not pay benefits for the first 3 policy years...

so what are your final expense options?
Won't you join us for a frank discussion?

Hello! My name is Steven Kaufman.
I am a Financial Advisor with the Allstate Insurance Company and I have spent over a decade specializing in life insurance, disability insurance, long-term care coverage and final expense insurance. I believe knowledge is power and would like to share with you how just a little planning can help our families cope during some of life's most challenging times.

Join us in the Parish Center for a Free Seminar on Tuesday, April 19th 9:45am - 11am
No registration needed.

Steven Kaufman
"Let's talk about Final Expenses"

Final Expense Options
"Honest answers to one of the toughest questions in Life"

is the most recent installment in our series of complimentary estate and life planning talks Presented by the Romanita Agency

Please Join Us - Attendance is free and there is absolutely no obligation
St. Joseph Sociable Single Seniors

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN DATE FOR THE APRIL MEETING.
WE WILL BE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH AT 7:00 PM IN THE O'CONNELL ROOM. THIS CHANGE IS FOR APRIL ONLY. FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

For any questions please call Lorraine DeCanditis @ 631-553-0160. Thank you!
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 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@stjosephs Babylon.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.
**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 Marian, 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.

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**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

11th Annual Golf Outing

Southward Ho Country Club
Bay Shore, New York

Monday, May 16, 2016

10:30 am to 12:00 Registration & Breakfast
12 Noon - Shotgun Start

- Cocktails, Dinner & Presentations

**GOLF PACKAGES**

1. **Principal Underwriter** .......... $5,000
   Foursome, recognition as the principal event underwriter(s), four-hole sponsorships.
2. **Dinner Underwriter** .............. $2,500
   Foursome, recognition as the dinner underwriter, three-hole sponsorships.
3. **Eagle Foursome** ................... $2,000
   Foursome, sign recognition as a major partner, two-hole sponsorships.
4. **Birdie Foursome** ................. $1,850
   Foursome, major sponsor recognition, one-hole sponsorship.
5. **Par Sponsor** ...................... $1,600
   Foursome, one-hole sponsorship.

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**SPONSORSHP**

6. Driving Range Sponsor ........... $500
7. BBQ Sponsor ....................... $500
8. Beverage Cooler Sponsor ........ $500
9. Putting Green Sponsor .......... $250
10. Hole Sponsor ...................... $150
11. Family Sponsorship .............. $100

**EVENT PACKAGES**

12. Event Sponsor .................... $1,000
   Includes 4 Dinner Tickets
13. Award Sponsor .................... $500
   Includes 2 Dinner Tickets

**INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

14. Golf Only ........................ $400
15. Dinner Reception Only ........... $125
   Cocktails, Dinner and Awards
   Our Golf Outing Event Includes:
   Golf with Cart, Driving Range, Lunch, Cocktails,
   Dinner, Awards, Goody-bag, Prizes, Sunshine!
   Caddies available at extra cost.

**Ticket(s) for Dinner**

at $125 per person

Please send your check, payable to St. Joseph Church
and this entry form to:

Theresa O’Donovan
St. Joseph Golf Outing
39 N. Carll Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

For all Golf Outing questions
please call 631-669-0068
ext. 107 or email:
parishoffice@stjosephsbabylon.org
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))______
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

Thank you for your generous support.
Our bake sale was a huge success.

Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas

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!

Sponsored by the CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS of the AMERICAS Court Bishop McDonnell # 1403
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.
Thank you for your continued support to Parish Outreach. Each month we help more than 100 families with food from the pantry, direct financial assistance, referral services and emotional support. Last month, February 2016, we helped a total of 110 families including 10 with their PSEG bills, 5 families with their National Grid bills and 10 families with their rent. Two families needed help with fuel and several other families were provided assistance with insurance and medication co-pays. We purchased bus passes from Suffolk County and deli vouchers from a local deli to provide immediate assistance to our homeless population.

We would not be able to provide this assistance for our clients without your ongoing support. Thank you for your monetary gifts and for donating and/or shopping at our Thrift Shop where all proceeds go directly to support Outreach. We are truly blessed to be part of this generous, compassionate parish.

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.

Last week our members were busy collecting food with Babylon Rotary at Stop & Shop in Babylon and bringing it to the Food Pantry. It is being distributed to our needy families for Easter. This food, as well as the 40 Cans for Lent collection, will enable them to celebrate the joyful Easter season.

May you have a blessed Holy Week!

The next meeting of St. Vincent de Paul is on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 9:35am 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:

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

Bag Sale $5.00

Clothing, Shoes & Handbags Only

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 on Easter Monday, March 28th. We would like to wish all the families a wonderful Easter.

Operation Rice Bowls - our level 4 students will be participating in Catholic Relief Services "Operation Rice Bowl" during Lent. 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 this weekend.

New Family Registration Meeting – Monday, April 4th @ either 10am or 7pm in room 257. Please bring the original baptismal certificate for each child you plan to register, even if your child was baptized here at St. Joseph. The annual registration fee is $130 for one child, $195 for two children and $250 for three or more. We would appreciate payment or partial payment on April 13th.

Re-Registration forms have been mailed out. Please return your completed forms to the Faith Formation Office before May 2nd to enter into a drawing for a free registration. Please register early and reserve your class day and time. We cannot guarantee you will get your first choice if you wait too long to register.

Thanks to Deacon Barry Croce for leading our Level One Forgiveness Celebration last week.

My good deed for the week was: Christopher & William cleaned up after the dog, Mark & Nicholas helped their sisters, Jessica helped her grandma after her foot surgery, Matthew & David got along with each other, Taylor helped set up a surprise party for his friend, Dylan & Landon shared their video games with each other, Nicky helped someone with their homework, Devin helped his grandma, Isabelle helped her friend after she tripped, Brooke and Brennan helped put their clothes away, Brendan & Julia helped their grandparents, Kayla helped her mom, Peyton, Shea & Chase cleaned up the neighborhood, Kristina helped with a food drive, Courtney & Sarah cleaned the basement, Theresa helped her sister ride a bicycle, Joseph & Steven were being good, Jack was a good listener, Jimmy took out the garbage, Isabella & Cameron helped their brothers, Thomas got good grades, Cassidy did chores, Patrick helped his mom, Thomas shoveled for his neighbor, Aidan helped his brother, Molly listened to her parents, and Nicholas & Sabrina cleaned their rooms.
As we celebrate the beginning of Holy Week - let's consider our personal Lenten journey......How have we welcomed Jesus into our lives? How have we been the example of Jesus to others?

Upcoming Events:
- **Monday 3/21** – High School Meeting. 7 – 8:30pm Madonna Room        No meeting 3/28.

- **HOLY WEEK FAMILY SERVICES.** Teens will be assisting at our Parish Services.
  Holy Thursday – 4pm.  Good Friday – 11am.  Holy Saturday- 11am.

- **Saturday 4/9** – MASKED MERCY – a day of reflection and fun  10am – 3pm
  Cost $15 plus a donation for our Birthday Blessing Bags (cake mix, icing, candles, balloons, etc)
  **All in grades 6 – 12 are welcome to join us. RSVP BY 3/31**
  We will be joining our friends from St Matthew’s and St William the Abbott!

- **Monday 4/18** – Evening of Prayer for Peace and Justice.  Middle Schoolers welcome.
  We will meet in the Church at 7pm.  More details to follow.

  **Check the website for more details and for more pictures.**
  www.stjosephsbabylon.org

Busy Teens Ė Lenten Retreat, working at the Parish Dance, Roller Skating with 11 other Parishes, attending Respect Life Contest, praying Stations of the Cross
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.
THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY: HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

This Monday, March 21, Monday of Holy Week, every parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre (and Brooklyn, and the Archdiocese of New York, too) will be have priests available for confession for a large part of the day. The goal of providing an extended time for priests to hear confessions on this “Diocesan Day of Reconciliation” is to have as many people as possible celebrate the sacrament, perhaps especially those who have been away from Confession for a long time.

Why not take advantage of this opportunity? Especially if you have not been to Confession in 5 or 10 or 20 years (or even longer), this is a great opportunity. We promise you a warm welcome! We promise you an experience of joy! We promise you that you will have an encounter with Jesus that will leave you feeling the best that you have felt in a long, long time!

In case you feel a little rusty about going to the Sacrament of Penance, here are some basic steps for you to follow. Don’t get worried too much about the “how to,” though; the priest will be very willing to help you if you explain to him that you are nervous or unfamiliar with the rite.

1. Prepare ahead of time. Make sure you spend some time examining your conscience, prayerfully recalling your sins and preparing what you want to tell the priest. Think about specific actions, general patterns, and attitudes. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2. Go to the priest. You can go anonymously behind a screen or curtain, or you can go face-to-face. If it’s helpful, begin by making the Sign of the Cross and saying, “Bless me Father, for I have sinned.” Then tell the priest how long it has been since your last confession.

3. Listen to Scripture. The priest may read a short passage from the Bible, to remind you of God’s mercy, or he may ask you to read something he provides for you. This reminds us that the main thing we do in the sacrament is to proclaim God’s mercy and forgiveness.

4. Confess your sins. Listen carefully for spiritual guidance he might offer. Tell the priest your sins. Be as direct and succinct as possible, but give him enough information so he can offer some words of spiritual guidance and encouragement. Take to heart the way the priest is trying to help you.

5. Receive your penance. The priest will recommend some action, a penance, for you to do to indicate your sorrow and your conversion. It might be to say a prayer, it might be to do some act of self-denial, or it might be to do some act of charity or service toward someone else. If it sounds too difficult to accomplish or if you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk it over with him.

6. Pray an Act of Contrition. The priest will ask you to say a prayer of contrition (sorrow) out loud. You may express your sorrow and your intention to avoid sin in the future in your own words, or you may use the words of a formal Act of Contrition, either one given to you to read by the priest, or one that you have brought or memorized. Here is one suggested form: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

7. Receive absolution. Here is the best part! The priest prays the prayer of absolution, proclaiming God’s forgiveness of your sins. Reflect on these beautiful and powerful words said by the priest: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

8. Conclude by praising God. The priest may say something like, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,” and you may respond, “His mercy endures forever.”

9. Go forth forgiven, renewed, and changed! Go forth, with God’s help, to begin living your new life in freedom, having been freed from the slavery of sin.
Deacon’s Corner

The Eagle Story

Someone once told me a story about a wounded eagle who was rescued by a kindly farmer. He found the bird in one of his fields, and so took him home, tended to his wounds, and then placed him outside in the barnyard to recover. Strangely enough, the young eaglet soon adapted to the habits of all the barnyard chickens. He learned to walk and cluck like them. He learned to drink from a trough and peck the dirt for food, and for many years he peacefully resigned himself to this new life on the ground.

But then one day, one of the farmer’s friends spotted the eagle and asked, “Why in the world is that bird acting like a chicken?” The farmer told him what had happened, yet the man could hardly accept the situation. “It’s just not right,” said the friend. “The Creator made that bird to soar in the heavens, not scavenge in the barnyard!” So he picked up the unsuspecting eagle, climbed onto a nearby fencepost, and tossed him into the air. But the confused bird just fell back to earth and scurried off in search of his feathered friends.

Undaunted, the man then grabbed the eagle and climbed to the top of the barn. As he heaved him off the roof, the bird made a few halfhearted squawks and flaps before falling into a bale of hay. After shaking his head a few times, the eagle then made himself comfortable and began mindlessly pecking at pieces of straw. The friend went home that night dejected, and could barely sleep as he remembered the sight of those powerful talons caked with barnyard mud. He couldn’t bear the thought, so the very next day, he headed back to the farm for another try. This time he carried the eagle to the top of a nearby mountain where the sky unfolded in a limitless horizon.

He looked into the eagle’s eyes and cried out, “Don’t you understand? You weren’t made to live like a chicken! Why would you want to stay down here when you were born for the sky?” As the man held the confused bird aloft, he made sure the eagle was facing into the brilliant light of the setting sun. Then he powerfully heaved the bird into the sky, and this time the eagle opened his wings, looked at the sun, caught the updraft rising from the valley, and disappeared into the clouds of heaven.

Do you know that we, too, were born for the sky? The Lord has called us to live in the heights, yet too many of us have huddled together in the barnyard, contentedly scurrying for the safety of our families, our finances, our careers and our comfortable crumbs of faith.

This story is dedicated to all those believers whose barnyards have been destroyed, and to the faithful ones who have walked, or are now walking, in darkness. The hour is late, beloved friends. It is not time to mourn our losses, but rather time to set our eyes upon heaven, spread our wings and fly straight towards the Son. Never mind weariness, illness, lack of feeling, irritability, exhaustion, snares of the devil, jealousy and prejudice. Let us soar together, like an eagle above the clouds, with our eyes fixed on the Son. This is why the eagle is such a perfect example of this freedom. An eagle is the only bird that has a special third-eye-lens that enables him to look at and fly directly towards the sun and thus, frees him from his enemies as they try to follow. No other bird has this ability. And, it’s the same with us. Only as we keep our eyes focused directly on the Son during our ascent to Him, will we ever become free—free from our emotions, free from our circumstances, free from other people’s responses and free from the enemy’s attacks.

Having faith in the night seasons is the only answer to possessing this overcoming victory. Let’s make our journey together…

From: The Kings High Way Ministries

Deacon John
“STILL A LONG WAY OFF, HIS FATHER SAW HIM…”

I have known Bob since the day he was born. His late and great father and I were friends, and we spent a fair amount of time together when my college days were through. I learned much from Ralph and always remember him telling him that Bob was named after his college roommate, “…the most honest man I ever knew,” Ralph would say verbatim, “he never told a lie in his entire life.”

Never sure if that had an effect on Bob, I saw him occasionally during his youth, and, when I learned he was going to the University of Albany for college, I made it a point to visit him during my many trips there for SUNY activities. An excellent student, Bob also was very involved in the Newman Club, at the time a nationwide effort to engage Catholic students on secular campuses. Bob had a serious penchant for social justice and made many trips to depressed areas of the northeast during breaks from school. He continued such activities during his grad school days, so it was not too surprising that Bob decided to join the priesthood. He was ordained in the Diocese of Albany, and my brother and I were blessed to attend his ordination and his first mass. I continue to stay in touch with Fr. Bob and join him in his yearly pilgrimage…to CitiField where he brings his Schenectady area flock to see the beloved team of his youth.

Clearly into the approach of Pope Francis, last weekend Fr. Bob did something extraordinary. He had a 24-hour confession marathon in his St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish. His philosophy was quite simple, “When do you always think about your worst sin? At 3 o’clock in the morning and you can’t do anything about it. For one night, you’ll be able to do something about it.”

Last week we heard the familiar parable of the prodigal son. We easily get the part about the father’s forgiveness, but often side with the good son who wonders why the father never had a party for him. When I found myself wandering down that road, I thought, not so much of the father’s actions, but of the nice things that surrounded the good son for his entire life. Did he really expect more? And this time another line hit me. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him…” Jesus always has us in His sights…no matter how far we feel we are away from Him.

Fr. Bob made it possible for all to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our parish is planning a Reconciliation Celebration on Monday of Holy Week from 3 to 9 p.m. in the Church. It might be a good time to let Jesus celebrate our return to Him.

Oh, worried about your penance? Says Fr. Bob, “A lot of times to forgive yourself is the best penance.”

PRAYER

All Forgiving Father, You welcome us back not matter what we have done or no matter how long it has been. Give us the Grace we need to realize Your love for us and help us to overcome whatever barriers that we have created to keep us from You. And bless Fr. Bob and all of our priests who do Your work so tirelessly. This we ask in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Stewardship Sound Byte

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, leading them to a deeper understanding of God’s mercy and a new sense of meaning and purpose in their lives.
AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE IN PREPARATION FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
(WITH CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION)
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - BABYLON, N.Y.

I. IN RELATION TO GOD:

1. Have I faithfully prayed my morning & evening prayers? Do I encourage others to pray to God each day?

2. Have I used all the time and talents that God has given me in the most beneficial ways?

3. Have I kept the Lord’s Day holy by coming to Mass each week?

4. Do I come on time for Mass, and stay for the entire Mass, and sing and pray actively during Mass?

5. Have I always spoken respectfully of God and holy things? Have I taken God’s name in vain in any way?

6. Have I put my relationship with God before my relationships with other persons, family members, employers, and those in lawful authority? Have I served money, power, sexuality or any other lesser good as if it were the supreme good to be sought? Do I ever allow other people or relationships or objects to come before God?

7. Have I spoken to others about the wonders that God has done for me? Or do I think that my faith is just a private relationship between God and I that involves no one else?

8. Do I work and pray and act to spread God’s justice on earth, as a person of virtue and true Christian values?

9. Have I turned over my will to God in times of trouble, tragedy, sickness, and in my everyday life? Do I renew my surrender to God each day in prayer, and truly try to live the words “Thy will be done?”

10. Have I faithfully prayed for and practiced the virtues of faith, hope and love?

II. IN RELATION TO MY NEIGHBOR:

1. Have I shown respect in speech and action toward my superiors, parents or employers, and all others?

2. Have I been patient toward others who have pointed out one of my faults? Have I honestly tried to correct those faults? Have I accepted good advice when it was offered to me?

3. Have I offended or threatened anyone through my words or my actions?

4. Have I held the reputation of every person as a sacred trust, or have I lessened someone’s reputation by speaking any sort of detraction or slander against him or her?

5. Have I devalued others because of the way I treated them or spoken to them? Have I given scandal to others by teaching or encouraging them to devalue others in speech or action?

6. Have I refused to carry stories about other people to my friends and neighbors? Or do I continue to spread gossip, so that I contribute to discord and misunderstanding between neighbors?

7. Have I encouraged others to practice Christian virtues? Or have I enjoyed or encouraged provoking others to swear, to curse, or in any ways to offend God?
AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE - ST. JOSEPH CHURCH – BABYLON, NY

8. Do I recognize the dignity of every human person? Do I mock or make fun of others because they have physical or spiritual imperfections or disabilities?

9. Do I speak up in the name of justice when I see or learn that something wrong is happening at work, at school, at home? Do I remain silent when bad things happen to others because I am afraid of what others will think about me?

10. Do I generously share with others the gifts of time, talent and treasure? Am I consciously grateful for all that I have received from God’s generosity?

11. Do I try to bring peace into my home, my recreational group, my extended family?

12. Do my words and actions toward others confirm that I believe in the goodness of all people, regardless of their race, nationality, belief systems or gender?

13. Have I taken things that do not belong to me, and have I made restitution for all that I have stolen? Have I given credit to others whose ideas I use, or do I take their ideas and pass them off as my own?

III. IN RELATION TO MYSELF:

Am I actively engaged in my parish, committed to the mission of Jesus Christ as it is communicated in homilies, publications and meetings?

2. Have I made progress in listening to the thoughts and opinions of others, or are my thoughts and opinions always the only correct ones?

3. Do I apologize to others for the wrongs I have done, and make proper restitution for the damage that my actions have caused others?

4. Am I a vain person? Do I need constant affirmation to feel good about myself? Is my physical appearance the standard I use to judge my value or worth? Have I taken pleasure in hearing myself praised, or yielded to thoughts of vanity?

5. Have I overindulged myself in food, drink or sensuality? Do I have trouble knowing when “enough is enough” for myself? Have I acknowledged and obtained help for all my addictions?

6. Is my conversation a positive and civil exchange with others? Or am I proud or troublesome to others?

7. Have I wasted time in selfish play? Or have I deliberately wasted time on activities of lesser importance, knowing full well that there were activities of major importance that would not be accomplished?

8. Have I harbored hatred within my heart, holding onto hurts, grudges and resentments to the detriment of my life and the lives of others?

9. Am I someone who is jealous of other peoples’ possessions, accomplishments or opportunities?

10. Do I safeguard the secrets that others entrust to me?

11. Do I remember that I am a child of God’s grace, and that God loves me unconditionally at all times?
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
† Growth

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!
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CDA #1403
ST. JOSEPH’S CYO TRACK

Join the St. Joseph’s Speedy Soles!

ONLINE REGISTRATION From March 16 - April 3:
http://stjosephscyobabylon.siplay.com/site

Boys & Girls, Grades 1 thru 8
Program runs April - June 2016
Weekly Practices Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00 – 8:00pm
All practices held at the newly renovated Babylon High School Track
FIRST PRACTICE APRIL 12th

REGISTRATION FEE:
$60 first child, $40 second child (each additional child free)
New Uniform Fee: $28 per child

Not sure of the size?
Uniform sizing available in the St. Joseph Gym, Wednesday, April 6th 6:30 – 8:00pm

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT:
Coach: Kathleen Ringstad, (516) 317-6461
Coach: Joe Callahan, (516) 510-5216
Coordinator: Susan Taheny, (631) 383-6163

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2016: Loving Others as Christ Would

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:________

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New Mass Experience

If you’ve been coming to the new Mass experience at the 11:45am Mass on Sundays, then this message is for you!

Do you enjoy attending this Mass?
Do you find the atmosphere positive and uplifting?
Do you want to be part of that experience?

If so, then we invite you to become a greeter! It’s easy!

Here’s what a greeter does:
· Arrives 10 minutes early to Mass
· Greets guests with a welcoming hello and a friendly smile
· Hands out songbooks
· Collects the songbooks after Mass
· Did we mention a welcoming hello and a friendly smile?

Call or email Laraine now if you’re interested or if you want more information: (631) 587-8477 Email: viswamp26@aol.com

Register with our Parish!

Register with the Parish!

Do you get the Christmas and Easter schedule mailed to your home, along with letters from Fr. Chris about Parish events like the Chrysanthemum Ball?

Do you get weekly collection envelopes sent to your home?

If you answered NO to these questions, then you may not be registered at St. Joseph Parish as a Parishioner!

Let’s make it “Official”!

We invite you to join the Parish by coming to the Parish Center during regular business hours to fill out a registration form.

Our Office Hours are:
- Mon-Thurs.: 9am to 4pm
- Mon-Thurs. eve.: 7pm-9pm
- Saturdays: 9am-1pm

“How wonderful it is when sisters and brothers live in unity”.

Psalm 133:1
HORARIO DE LA SEMANA SANTA

Domingo, 20 de marzo
Procesión en el Estacionamiento del Salón Nolan
@ 11:15am

Lunes, 21 de marzo
Reconciliación en la Iglesia Mayor
3:00 pm—7:00 pm

Martes, 22 de marzo
Ensayo del Jueves Santo, 7:00 pm - Iglesia Mayor

Jueves Santo, 24 de marzo
Misa de la Última Cena
8:00 pm (Bilingüe) - Iglesia Mayor
Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento hasta las 11:00 pm

Viernes Santo, 25 de marzo
Vía Crucis en el Lago Argyle (Bilingüe)
@ 1:00pm
Solemne Celebración de la Pasión y Muerte de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo
3:00 pm - Salón Nolan

Sábado Santo, 26 de marzo
Confesiones: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Iglesia Mayor
Liturgia de la Vigilia Pascual
8:00 pm (Español) - Salón Nolan

Domingo de Resurrección,
27 de marzo
11:30pm
Salón Nolan
Hermanas Unidas Iglesia San Jose de Babylon Te invitan al retiro anual.

Tema: LLamadas a ser Misericordiosas.
Fecha: Abril 02, 2016
Hora: 12:00 a 4:00 pm
Lugar: 39 N. Carll Ave.
Salon O` Connell (Cafeteria)

Dirige: Hna. Maremid Fabre
Donacion: $10 Incluye Merienda