

# Roman Catholic Church of St. Matthew

35 North Service Road, Dix Hills, New York 11746

(631) 499 - 8520 Fax: (631) 499 - 1530 [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org)

Office Hours: Mon-Fri in the Parish Center 9 am-12:30 pm & 1:30 pm-5 pm

## Pastor

Rev. Robert Hewes

## Associate Pastors

Rev. Joseph Habila

Rev. Benet Uwasomba

## Deacons

James McQuade

Carmine DeStefano

Luis Polanco

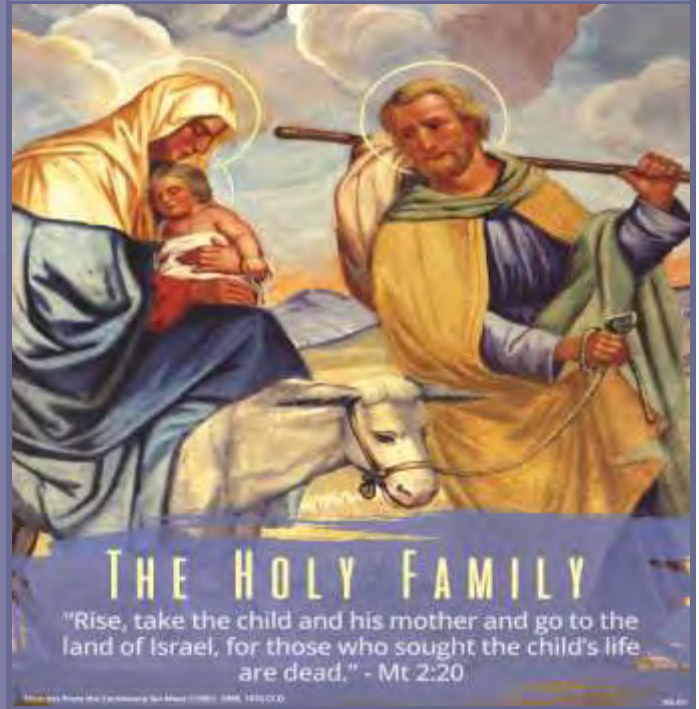
## Pastoral Associate

Sister Kathleen McCarthy, O. P.

D.R.E.: Mary Donaldson

Music Director: Lee Forsythe

December 29, 2019



*The Salvation of Souls is the Supreme Law*

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

SATURDAY: 4:00 p.m. and Spanish Mass at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m. (Choir Mass), 12:30 p.m. and also at 12:30 p.m. (Latin) Tridentine Mass in the Chapel.

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church. Holy Days will be printed in the bulletin.

## CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. For any other time, please call to make an appointment with a priest.

## BAPTISM SCHEDULE

The 3rd Sunday of each month at 1:45 p.m. and the 4th Saturday of the month at 12:30 p.m. (No Baptisms Easter Sunday or Christmas Weekends.) First-time parents are required to attend a **Baptismal Preparation Class** which is offered on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. (No class is held in December.)

**Registration is required for both the Baptism and /or the Baptism Class and must be done online at [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org).**

## MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at least 6 months in advance and should be made prior to making plans for a reception. Call the Parish Center for an appointment with the priest or deacon you wish to witness your wedding. All couples are required to attend Pre-Cana.

## PARISH MINISTRIES

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Porzia DiGiorgio: [me@porzia.com](mailto:me@porzia.com)  
and John DiGiorgio: [me@johndigiorgio.com](mailto:me@johndigiorgio.com)

**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER:**

Kathryn Giandoreggio: 631-491-3735

**ATHLETIC WEBSITE:** [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org)

**ATHLETICS DIRECTOR/ INTRAMURAL & CYO TRAVEL**

**COORDINATOR:** Chris Felice: [smrccathletics@gmail.com](mailto:smrccathletics@gmail.com)

**BAPTISM OFFICE:** Bettyanne Russo: 499-8520 x 126

Email: [stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com)

**BEREAVEMENT:** Kathryn M. Douglas: 631-495-8541

Including: Teens (12-17) who have lost a parent.

Widows and Widowers 65 and under

Widow and Widowers 65 and over

**BIBLE STUDY:** Anthony Albano: 586-4827

**BOY SCOUTS:** Ernst Tramosch: 631-254-2656

**BULLETIN:** email: [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org)

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Dolores Tiernan: 499-8520 x 113

**CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION:**

Ann Podina: 858-0684

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:**

Jack Maccio: 499-8520 x 117 or [JBM1944@icloud.com](mailto:JBM1944@icloud.com)

**C.C.D. RELIGIOUS ED:** Mary Donaldson, D.R.E.: 864-3321

Rita Minder, Assistant: 864-3321

**CHOIR:** Lee Forsythe: 631-499-8520 x 116

Ed Oriani, Cantor for Tridentine Mass

**COMPASSIONATE CARE & CONSOLATION MINISTRY:**

Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

Ray Smolenski: 243-0449

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND:**

Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**FEED THE POOR MINISTRY:** Frank Harnos: 499-0074 or

Julie Maddaloni: 242-2183

**FOOD PANTRY:** Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**HOSPITALITY:** Dolores Tiernan: 499-8520 x 113

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Glenn Martin GK: 631-873-7233

**K OF C SQUIRES:** Sir Francis Scotti: 917-567-9829

**LECTORS:** Helen Campa: 586-0682

**LEGION OF MARY:** Judy Archbold: 667-4629

**LET'S PLAY:** Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**MINISTRY OF PRAISE:** Rosemary Sammon: 499-5176

**PARISH OUTREACH:** Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**PILGRIM MADONNA:** Rosa Nappo: 920-2446 or

Lucia Agnone: 940-4015

**PLANT ENGINEER:** Luis Flores: 631 492-7881

**PRE-CANA:** Deacon Carmine DeStefano: 631-896-0983

**RIGHT TO LIFE:** Toni Shannon: 631 586-3807

**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY:** Patricia Bissex: 631 549-9415

**PASTOR/PARISH SECRETARY:** Bettyanne Russo:

499-8520 x 126 - Email: [stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com)

**SONS OF ITALY:** Diana Grauer: 631-242-2710

**SPANISH MINISTRY:** Deacon Luis Polanco: 631-334-1052

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL:** Michael Brennan: 499-8520 x 118

**USHERS:** Tom Siegler: 631-920-2055

**WEDDING MUSIC:** Lee Forsythe: 631-334-7138

**YOUNG SENIORS MODERATOR:** Fr. Benet: 499-8520 x125

## PARISH REGISTRATION

**NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org).**

New families and new parishioners are encouraged to register with the parish. Registration forms are also available at the Parish Center.

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE FAITH:

Those adults who live in the Dix Hills area and/or those with family in the parish seeking information about becoming a Catholic or completing their Sacraments are invited to contact the Pastor.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Mass is at 9:00 a.m. Exposition of the Holy Eucharist takes place in the Chapel from Friday 7:00 p.m. until Saturday 8:30 a.m. and concludes with Benediction.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** 8:15 a.m. Devotions

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** The Sacrament is available EVERY SATURDAY after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The Sacrament is available for those who are to undergo a serious medical procedure the following week or who have a serious illness and who have not been anointed within the past three months. If you wish to be anointed, please let the celebrant know before Mass.

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:** Holy Communion will be ministered to those confined at home. Those who are seriously ill should request a priest for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

**PARISH SCHOOL: HOLY FAMILY REGIONAL:**  
631-543-0202



**First Friday Exposition**  
From 7:00 pm the First Friday  
of the month until  
8:30 am Saturday morning  
in the Parish Center Chapel.

Private and authorized group prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle is encouraged at any time during the many hours the main Church and Chapel are open. Occasions on which specific groups request Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament can only be conducted by a priest or deacon with the knowledge and approval of the Pastor.

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, Dec 28

4:00 PM Intentions of Jack Tseng  
Michael Panico  
Intentions of Christine & Peter Amato  
Domenico & Amelia Capozzi  
Louis & Margaret De Ciantis  
Vincenzo Marra

7:00 PM Leonardo Vasquez 9th Anniversary

### Sunday, Dec 29

7:30 AM Johnathan Bonfitto  
9:30 AM Joseph & Rosemary Volpe ~  
Merry Christmas  
11:00 AM Salvatore Montesano  
12:30 PM (L) For the People of the Parish  
12:30 PM Special Thanks To God From  
Yolene & Frantz Lubin

### Monday, Dec 30

9:00 AM Irys Stanton Korn

### Tuesday, Dec 31

9:00 AM Michael G. Quinlivan ~ Happy  
30th Anniversary In Heaven  
7:00 PM Deceased Members of the  
Motlenski & Fontanelli Families

### Wednesday, Jan 1

9:00 AM Robert Iannarelli  
10:30 AM (L) For the People of the Parish  
12:30 PM Vincent & Louise Costello

### Thursday, Jan 2

9:00 AM Alois Perz

### Friday, Jan 3

9:00 AM Salvatore Montesano

### Saturday, Jan 4

9:00 AM Joseph Simone  
Alma Curcio  
Anne Murray  
Angelina Ferzola  
Marie Pacifico  
Salvatore Messina  
4:00 PM Damien Matuza  
Intentions of Jack Tseng  
Denis McNamara  
Ruth Kollmer  
Marie M. Pecoraro  
Eugene Krawchuk  
Joseph Lakis  
7:00 PM Carmen Rosa

### Sunday, Jan 5

7:30 AM Christine Stone  
9:30 AM Lovana Piscitello  
11:00 AM Janet Reynolds  
12:30 PM (L) For the People of the Parish  
12:30 PM Irene Schreiber

### Business Manager

**Dolores Tiernan**

### Finance Chairperson

**Richard Bove**

### Trustees

**Philip Pandolfi and  
Raymond Smolenski**



### Collection Totals

#### December 14 & 15

Weekly:	\$16,716.00
Precious Schools:	\$ 4,393.00
Faith Direct:	\$ 2,300.00

*The totals for December 21 & 22 will be in next week's bulletin.*



### Mondays

- **Miraculous Medal Novena:** after the 9:00 am Mass
- **Legion of Mary:** 2:30 pm In the Blessed Mother Room

### Tuesdays

- **Rosary Society:** 1st Tuesday each month 7:00 pm
- **K of C:** General/Business Meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 8:00 pm

### Wednesdays

- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7:00 pm In the Family Room

### Thursdays

- **Carmelite Holy Hour:** 3rd Thursday of each month 4:00 pm-5:00 pm in the Chapel
- **Young Seniors:** 9:00 am
- **Apostleship of Prayer:** 1st Thursday of each month after the 9:00 am Mass

### Saturdays

- **Bible Study:** 9:45 am
- **Spanish Bible Study:** 1:00 pm
- **Tridentine Mass Choir:** (Latin) 4:00 pm in the Family Room

### Sundays

- **Secular Franciscan Order:** Second Sunday of each month (except January & August) 1:00 pm in the Library (Room 201)
- **Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites:** Second Sunday of each month (except April, May & August) 9:00 am-1:30 pm including 11:00 am Mass

### *Christmas Thank You's*

- Many thanks to *Mike Brennan, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society; Sister Kay McCarthy and the Parish Outreach Volunteers* for their dedicated and untiring work this Christmas Holiday Season. Your generosity benefits so many here and in other communities in ways we can hardly imagine.
- *Dolores Tiernan* who helped make our "Christmas Bonus 50/50" such a success. A lucky parishioner and the Parish are very grateful!
- I also thank her for her care of the church and its decoration in Advent. Very special thanks are also due to *Mary Augusta and her "merry band"* who decorated our sanctuary so beautifully for Christmas.
- *Bettyanne Russo and the Parish office workers and receptionists* who handled the many inquiries and extra work of the holiday season with patience and good spirits.
- *Lee Forsythe, our Section leaders* and the entire Adult Choir for the splendid music at our Christmas celebrations and for the continued **flourishing and delightful sounds of our Children's Choir.**
- *Lou Flores* for his setting up and taking down of our "overflow" Mass Christmas Eve and his care for the church and the Parish Center.
- *To the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the Lectors, and the Ushers* a tip of the proverbial hat.
- *John and Portia DiGiorgio, and all the Altar Servers.*
- And to *you all* for your kindness, generosity and kind words to me and to the priests and deacons of the Parish!!! We have all received many kind wishes, cards, and gifts. We may not be able to thank you all by name, but to each, and to all, a very blessed New Year!
- **Finally, special note to a local "landmark:"** many thanks to Jimmy, Steve, and all the staff at *The Bonwit* for their kindness to the priest's Christmas Eve dinner!

Father Hewes

*Happy New Year*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*The Place for Learning and Praying*

***Our Family/Children's Mass is Sunday at 9:30AM***

*Mary Donaldson, Director, Rita Minder, Assistant*

*Religion Office Phone 864-3321 Fax 499-1530 maryccd@smrcc.org*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MAY 2020 BE A WONDERFUL YEAR FOR ALL**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

When registering a new student, 1st thru 8th grade, you must come into the Religion Office on the second floor of the Parish Center, Monday through Thursday, between 11:00AM and 4:00PM. Please be sure to bring a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate when you come. The fee of \$175.00 per child is due at that time.

**GRADE LEVEL MASS FOR WINTER AND SUMMER PROGRAM STUDENTS**

***Sunday, January 5, 2020, the 7th & 8th grade will attend the 9:30 Mass.***

***Sunday, January 12, 2020, the 5th & 6th grade will attend the 9:30 Mass.***

The 7th and 8th grade Mass includes the Summer Program students. For those students attending their grade level Mass listed above, please sit in the front of the Church, try to arrive by 9:10AM and remember your tithing envelope as they are not only used for a donation but also for taking attendance. All family members are invited to join us at this Mass.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

As Christmas vacation comes to an end, we will resume classes on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Monday, January 6th, 2020, all 8th grade students must be present to be measured for their Confirmation gowns and get their Confirmation packets. This will take place during class time 7-8PM.

Monday, January 20, 2020, classes are cancelled for Martin Luther King Day.

The date for Confirmation for our 8th grade students is Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Bishop Richard Henning will be presiding and there are two Confirmations, one at 10:00AM and one at 1:30PM.



*Altar Candles  
In Memory of  
Thomas McGee  
Happy Anniversary In Heaven  
Love, Your Family*

*Bread and Wine  
In Loving Memory of  
Frank & Mary Grella  
With Love,  
Your Grandchildren*





January 4 & 5

*Eucharistic Ministers*

4:00 P.M.	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
M. Brennan	J. D'Agostino	J. Napolitano	G. Cruz	B. Abadom
J. Commisso	B. Hermosura	C. DeStefano	E. McEvoy	J. Maccio
A. Palumbo		B. Napolitano	K. Camilleri	A. Sosnilo
J. McQueeney		C. Sposato		

*Lectors*

4:00 PM	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
S. Carambia	C. DeStefano	M. Okonkwo	E. McEvoy	S. McPherson-Berg



**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Chloe Atienza  
Lisa Ciota  
Daniela Conti  
Gerard Costa  
Joseph Costa

Vilma Diaztoral  
David Falen  
Lawrence Famighetti  
Nunzio Grella  
Roy Internicola  
Christian Martino

Sophia Marzulla  
John McIntyre  
Jay McNamee  
Jill Pasquolone  
Mary Perry  
Marge Puccio  
Gary Rickerson  
Casey Rodriguez

Christopher Sabato, Sr.  
Cecelia Sanzone  
Charles Sanzone  
Grace Sanzone  
Debbie Serio  
Ed & Ann Smith  
Albi Snolis  
Brian Tripp



**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER**

The **Apostleship of Prayer** is a worldwide association of Catholics and other Christians who strive to make their ordinary, everyday lives apostolically effective. Through the Apostleship of Prayer, the **Pope** gives his monthly prayer intentions to the entire Church. For this reason, the Apostleship came to be known as **"the Pope's own prayer group."**

**DAILY OFFERING PRAYER** - *God, our Father, I offer You my day. I offer You my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings in union with Your Son Jesus' Heart, Who continues to offer Himself in the Eucharist for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit, who guided Jesus, be my guide and my strength today so that I may witness to Your love.*

**DECEMBER: The Future of the Very Young**

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.



**We Pray, especially for our Service Men and Women:**

Christopher Pavlat - Army, Rev. James Krische - Active - Colonel - Army,  
Pvt. Brandon Leap - Active - Army, 1st Lt. Dominador Pascual III - Active - Air Force,  
Pilot Matthew Waldman - Active - Air Force, 2nd Lt. Joseph Morgan - Active - Army,  
2nd Lt. Christopher Felice - Marines, Christopher Motlenski - Navy, Nicholas Mazzone - U.S. Coast  
Guard, Peter Mazzone - Marines, SSG Michael Hughes, SPC John Vautrin-Gardinier - US Army,  
Lance Cpl. Ryan Matthew Ferrara - Marines, Matthew Kirchner - Army, Noah Kirchner - Air Force,  
Ensign Melanie Thompson - Navy, Capt. Joseph De Monte IV - Pilot - United States Air Force,  
Lt. Brendan Johnston - U.S. Navy, Jeffrey Gabriellini - Air Force, Cpl. Michael Grella - Navy Airman,  
Julien - Army - Iraq., Lt. Col. Robert Wright - Marines, Michael Wissemann, LPL San Sievero - Marines,  
Ambrose Michelino, Jarod Racuot - Army, Robert Scarpelli, Anthony Lazado - Marines, Richard Freese, Jr. - Navy,  
Rho Nagasguna - Marines, Michael Doherty - Army, Pablo Quirindongo - CW4 - Army,  
Cpl. Ronnie Belmarez - Marines, Commander Christopher Grande - Navy, Spec. 4 - Frank Grue - Retired - Army

↔ If you would like your family member added to the list or if one has returned home, ↔  
please contact the Parish Office or email [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org).

## HELP SUPPORT THE PRECIOUS SCHOOL'S MISSION IN INDIA FOR THE AUTISTIC CHILDREN



**Autism**, a developmental disability in children, has become prevalent all over the world. Many children are struggling to live with it. In India, the financial backwardness and the social stigma make their life extremely miserable. The social support is practically nothing. The children with most severe autism and impairments have little hope unless we extend to them a helping hand. I believe that every child we encounter is a Divine appointment and no man stands as tall as when he stoops down to help a child in need.

**Precious School is a home where healing and hope meet.** It was founded in 2013 in a rural area of Kerala, India. It is a home where autistic children and their parents find shelter and care. A team of professionals, priests and religious are dedicated to do meaningful services to the children.

### **Mission Statement**

Precious School's focus is to raise awareness, provide treatment services and support families. It has a program that is to introduce and help facilitate early and on-going treatment in autism with a strategy to provide necessary services, so each child can reach his/her highest potential. It provides various therapies and education in a tender loving ambience. It has day-care programs, residential facility and parenting skills training. It promotes social awareness and works to fight against social stigma.

### **What we need: Your prayerful financial support for-**

- **Daily Care:** One dollar a day will support a child with food and care. I would appreciate if you could sponsor a child for a year or for a few months. A brochure is available for more information about sponsoring children and donating to the mission.
- **A New Project:** Many autistic children under five years of age are in desperate need of a place for care. The existing home is full. Therefore, we need a facility to provide them with early intervention therapy. A family in the locality has benevolently donated an acre of land which is suitable for a walk-in-clinic. The estimated cost of a building is approximately \$150,000.00 (One hundred and fifty thousand dollars). I am requesting your generous financial support for this project for the "little angels."

### **You Can Make A Difference...**

Through sponsorship you can make a life-changing investment. Your donation, no matter what its size may be, will directly and in full, go to the benefit of the needy children. They will receive personalised support by free care and training. We will provide them food, therapy and spiritual nourishment.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said:

**"Not all of us can do great things in this world, but we can do small things with great love."**

### **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE:**

PRECIOUS SCHOOL FRIENDS INC. is a non-profit organization registered in New York to help support of Precious School's Mission in India. You will receive a receipt for your tax purposes.

### **Fund transfer options:**

1. Online: **Zelle** QuickPay- Use the email: [dadyjacob@gmail.com](mailto:dadyjacob@gmail.com) Or **PayPal**
2. By "**Donate Now**" in the website\*
3. **Check for donation can be made out to Precious School Friends Inc.** and return/send to Fr. Jacob Vattackattu, 35 North Service Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746.

**Contact details:** Fr. Jacob - Cell # **516 591 9315**, email: [dadyjacob@gmail.com](mailto:dadyjacob@gmail.com)

\*Website: [www.preciousschool.org](http://www.preciousschool.org)

You can also contact Mr. John Gatto at **516 241 1264** who stands-in here for Precious School.  
NB: Fr. Jacob is residing at St. Matthew's until mid-January 2020.



**The Rosary Altar Society's November 17, 2019 Holiday Craft Fair  
Was Once Again a Huge Success**

Thank you to our pastor and moderator, Father Robert Hewes, and his staff for all their continued support during these past few months. Many thanks to our wonderful parishioners, friends and family who supported our vendors and the Rosary Altar Society. We had a wonderful turnout.

Thank you to Kim and John Prahals from Regency Sign Company for donating the large sign on our church property and the signs around town. They added to the success of our craft fair.

Thank you to Patricia Bissex, our president, the members of her board, and all the Rosarians who gave their time and talent working in the kitchen, selling raffles, and helping with the cake sale. Thank you to Fran Barone for running the kitchen, and many thanks to our cooks, Mike and Bob. Because of all of you our event was a big success.

Thank you all, who baked, wrapped, made bows, donated gift baskets and gift certificates, put up signs, sold raffles, picked up the bagels and donuts, etc. Thank you to the ladies who helped Saturday evening setting up. Your love for our Blessed Mother was shining through.

The ladies of the Rosary Society are so grateful to the following generous donors for their continued support:

**Tom Dominick – (Giardoni Foods), Bagel Chalet, Dunkin Donuts (Deer Park),  
John Michalek of Commack Abbey, donation of our Lotto Board, and Peter Cosentino,  
generous donation of our kitchen supplies.**

Our 50/50 Raffle winner was our Rosarian, Marianne Pavlot and the winner of the Lotto Board was Sue Simione one of our CCD teachers. Good luck to both of you.

Luis Flores, we can't thank you enough for all your help Saturday evening and all day Sunday.

Congratulations to all! Once again, many thanks and God's blessings during this Advent Season. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you and your families.

Louise Benenati - Chairperson

**About The Types of Catholic Wedding Ceremonies**

There are two forms of our Catholic wedding Liturgy:

**The Wedding or Nuptial Mass:**

Often referred to as a "full Mass," it is the celebration of the Mass with the wedding ceremony inserted in the middle of the Liturgy. It presupposes both parties are practicing Catholics and receiving Holy Communion after a proper spiritual preparation.

**The Wedding Ceremony:**

This has all the elements of the above (music, readings, vows, etc.) but without the celebration of Mass. This form is suitable for general congregations and is of shorter duration than the above.

***PLEASE NOTE: Nuptial Masses are NOT celebrated on Sundays. The ONLY exception is when a visiting priest is invited by the family, approved by the Pastor and is willing to offer a Nuptial Mass on Sunday.***



Every Tuesday, a Eucharistic Holy Hour for the Sanctification of the Clergy and the Purification of the Church is held in the church immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass.

The Rosary will be prayed before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance and other prayers will be offered in reparation for sins and for the healing of the victims of sin.

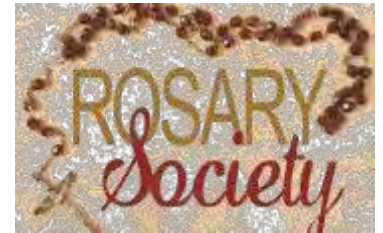


## *Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites*

are lay men and women called to live out a contemplative **vocation in daily life**. Daily meditation and prayer is our primary focus as well as Liturgy of the Hours, ongoing formation and study of the saints of the order and their writings/doctrines. If you feel called to experience a more intimate and deep prayer life and wish to learn more about the Discalced Carmelite Seculars, please contact: Carolyn Weber at 631 261-6455.

Dear Rosarians,

REJOICE, REJOICE!!! Our Savior is born! The Church exhorts us to continue celebrating Christmas as we ponder with Holy Mary the great mystery of the Nativity of Our Lord. The Feasts of The Holy Innocents, The Holy Family, The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Epiphany, and The Baptism of Our Lord all help us to celebrate the Birth and Life of Jesus Christ, especially His Divine Infancy. All the way to Candlemas Day, February 2nd, we can reflect upon and celebrate the Faith, Joy, Love and Peace of Christmas.



The Epiphany Feast, or Feast of the Three Kings, is an illustration of why we should continue to celebrate. Epiphany means manifestation or showing forth. Just as Christ manifested Himself to all the nations of the world in the persons of the Kings or Magi, so we must in the darkness of our world show our Faith and Joy in the Divine Light Who has come to save us. As the Kings gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbolizing Jesus as True King, True God, True Man, we must try to give the gift of Jesus Christ to a world immersed in sin.

So let us not rush to put Christmas away as the world does. Let our trees be standing, representing the New Life we celebrate in Christ, let our lights be blazing in honor of the Birth of the Light of the World, let our carols continue to be sung in exultation, our Nativities continue to be displayed in adoration, and let our celebrations continue in joy, as we proclaim that Jesus Christ our Savior is born.

Happy and Blessed New Year and Merry Little Christmas (Epiphany)! May Christmas and Epiphany blessings continue to come down upon us all!

With Love and Prayers in Christ our Newborn King and Savior,  
Patricia Bissex

## December 29 - Holy Family



Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We hear the words: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." During this New Year may we also grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon us by remembering to take care of our suffering brothers and sisters.

**In the month of December, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought the spirit of Christmas to those who are suffering, by providing families with food and gifts, and assisting them with bills, utilities and rent.**

Dear Parishioners,

This is a heartbreaking story. Please read the message below from Daniela Conte's family. I wish you could meet her as she is a beautiful, smart, amazing, courageous little girl who has suffered from cancer for 3 years.



Sister Kay

Last June, Daniela made her First Holy Communion in our Chapel. Fr. Hewes gave her the Eucharist for the first time and her parents, brothers and sister, her relatives, the Religious Ed Directors and I were privileged to be there. As you read below, you will learn that her family has tremendous medical bills. If you are able, please try to assist the family with these overwhelming bills. Of course, I also ask you to please pray for her and her family. I know that I can count on you.

Thank you and God bless you.  
Sr. Kay McCarthy

Daniela Conte is a vibrant 8-year-old girl who continues her battle with Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma. Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma is a relatively common muscle and soft tissue pediatric cancer. What makes Daniela's case extremely rare is that it's in her liver and surrounding veins. There are almost no documented cases like this.

For the past 3 years, Daniela has undergone various types of chemotherapy, experimental procedures, surgeries, medications, and radiation therapy. Upon completing her most current 10 rounds of chemo this past year, her scans showed her as being cancer free.

Unfortunately, this September we received news that her cancer was never really gone, just not detectable with the scans. Two areas in her liver had a regrowth of cancer. The larger area was able to be destroyed with ablation therapy. She had this procedure last month. The second, smaller area is being treated with radiation therapy right now. The plan after this is to destroy any surviving microscopic cancer cells with immunotherapy medication.

Daniela has also undergone several dental procedures due to the extensive damage from chemotherapy. Most teeth have been rotted out, many have had to be pulled and she has multiple fillings and root canal procedures at such a young age. Unfortunately, this will continue until her treatment is finished. The dental bills have already been in the multiple thousands and will continue to rise due to the continuing treatment. Her dentist is unable to do most of these procedures due to the complexity of the problems and due to the fact that she is on blood thinner medication. So, she must see a specialist and they do not participate in our insurance plan.

Despite all that she has been through, she is still in good spirits. She's back at school almost full time and is trying to live the best life she can. It's been over 3 years of her fighting this. She is looking forward to the day she is cancer free and can stop with all the treatments, procedures, and medications.

Thank you all for your love and support.

Sincerely,  
The Conte Family

**Donations can be sent to:**  
**Mrs. Katia Conte, P.O. Box 1128**  
**Melville, NY 11747**

*St. Matthew's Parish Gift Shop*

Open Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*(Closed for lunch between 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.)*

Saturday 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

Sadly, on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> adorable, beautiful, 6-year-old Gianna Traina died after suffering from leukemia for 5 years. Her funeral was here at St. Matthew's on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Her parents, Rose and Anthony Traina have 4 other children. As you would expect, they have been heartbroken and burdened, not only with Gianna's sickness and death, but also with many medical bills and other expenses. They do have a gofund me page which is listed below with the link. I know that you will help them if you are able to do so. I ask you to please pray for this family, as they mourn the death of little Gianna.

Thank you and God bless you.  
Sr.Kay McCarthy



[https://www.gofundme.com/f/giving-up-is-not-an-option-for-giqi?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium](https://www.gofundme.com/f/giving-up-is-not-an-option-for-giqi?utm_source=customer&utm_medium)

My Dear People of St. Matthew's and Children in our Religious Education Program,

The great Dominican mystic, Meister Eckhardt wrote, "If the only prayer you say in your entire life is thank you, that will be enough." Hopefully, this prayer is enough to say for you.

You have been so kind and generous, not only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but all year long, to those who lack the basic necessities of life. In fact, every morning at 7:15 when the Sisters and I gather to pray the morning office, we always thank God for our blessings and for people like you who always inspire us to love God and to help others.

As the Thanksgiving season ends, we enter into Advent, a time of waiting. Waiting is not something that most of us like to do. Technology might contribute to this. We don't need to wait in line to buy tickets for a show or sports event. You buy them on line. We don't need to wait to read the latest issue of a magazine. You can read it on line. However, waiting for test results after a previous serious sickness is extremely difficult. In addition, waiting for a loved one to come home, who has been giving military or other dangerous service, is also extremely difficult. And yet, we can even become impatient when our computers are slow to respond. That's why Advent can be a reminder of the holiness of waiting. Faithful Christian waiting and hope is a virtue and a grace.

Christian waiting also encourages us to find God in our present – not simply in our future. God is not only coming: God is already here. So while we anticipate the future with hope, we know that living mindfully in the presence of God is a key way to encounter Him. For us now, it is greater intimacy with Christ. For those near the end of their earthly lives, they wait in hope for eternal life with God. Let us pray for one another that we can find God today and wait in hope and trust in God's plan for our future. That future is unknown. The poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote of the future and asked, "when shall all man's good be each man's rule and universal peace lie like a shaft of light across the land?"

Wouldn't it be a beautiful future if we always looked out for the good of one another? And it wouldn't it be a beautiful future if there was peace in our hearts, families, homes and world - a universal peace? Let us pray for one another and do all that we can to end discord, damaging conflicts and to promote peace wherever we find ourselves.

Merry Christmas and may the peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones.

Sister Kay McCarthy

**Tune into "Religion and Rock" with Rev. Msgr. Jim Vlaun** on Sunday from 7 AM - 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117. **The theme for next Sunday, January 5, 2020 is Remaining Excited. Don't miss it!** To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock go to "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES or [www.ReligionandRock.com](http://www.ReligionandRock.com). Don't forget to tune into Catholic Faith Network, Cablevision 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit [www.cfnv.org](http://www.cfnv.org).

**Y.E.S. ~ SENIOR NEWS**

Meetings are held every Thursday (from September - June) after the 9:00 a.m. Mass except on luncheon dates. Please join us. All are welcome.

**January 2020 Calendar**

- Thursday, January 2 - No meeting
- Thursday, January 9 - Regular meeting
- Thursday, January 16 - Luncheon at Spuntino's at 12:00 Noon
- Thursday, January 23 - Regular meeting
- Thursday, January 20 - Regular Meeting

Remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their loving caregivers. Pray always for our church, our country, the military and for all first responders, who daily put themselves between us and danger. God bless America. Happy New Year!

See you in Church , Pat

**PLEASE NOTE THE UPCOMING BULLETIN DEADLINES**

Sunday, January 5, 2020 has passed  
Sunday, January 12 is Monday, January 6  
Sunday, January 19 is Monday, January 13  
Sunday, January 26 is Friday, January 17  
Sunday, February 2 is Monday, January 27  
Please email: [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org)



**Knights of Columbus**

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN COUNCIL,  
No. 7479

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Super Bowl boxes to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital after all Masses from January 4<sup>th</sup> through Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, boxes are \$25.00 each.



**ATTENTION STUDENTS  
7TH GRADE AND OLDER**



If you would like to be a part of the church ministry and are comfortable speaking in public, you may want to consider becoming a lector at the 9:30 AM Sunday Family Mass.

**If you are interested, call Mrs. Campa at 631-586-0682.**



**Maria Regina Residence at**  
1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood is a 188-bed Skilled Nursing Facility under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

We are currently seeking compassionate, dedicated men and women who are willing to volunteer their time on alternate Saturday mornings in assisting to transport residents in their wheelchairs, deliver newspapers or help to serve in the dining room. Is the Spirit calling you?

For more information, please contact Sister Mary Sheppard, CSJ, and leave contact information at 299-3288. Prayerfully and thankfully, we look forward to hearing from you and will respond on the next scheduled office day.

**Diocese of Rockville Centre  
Healing after Abortion**

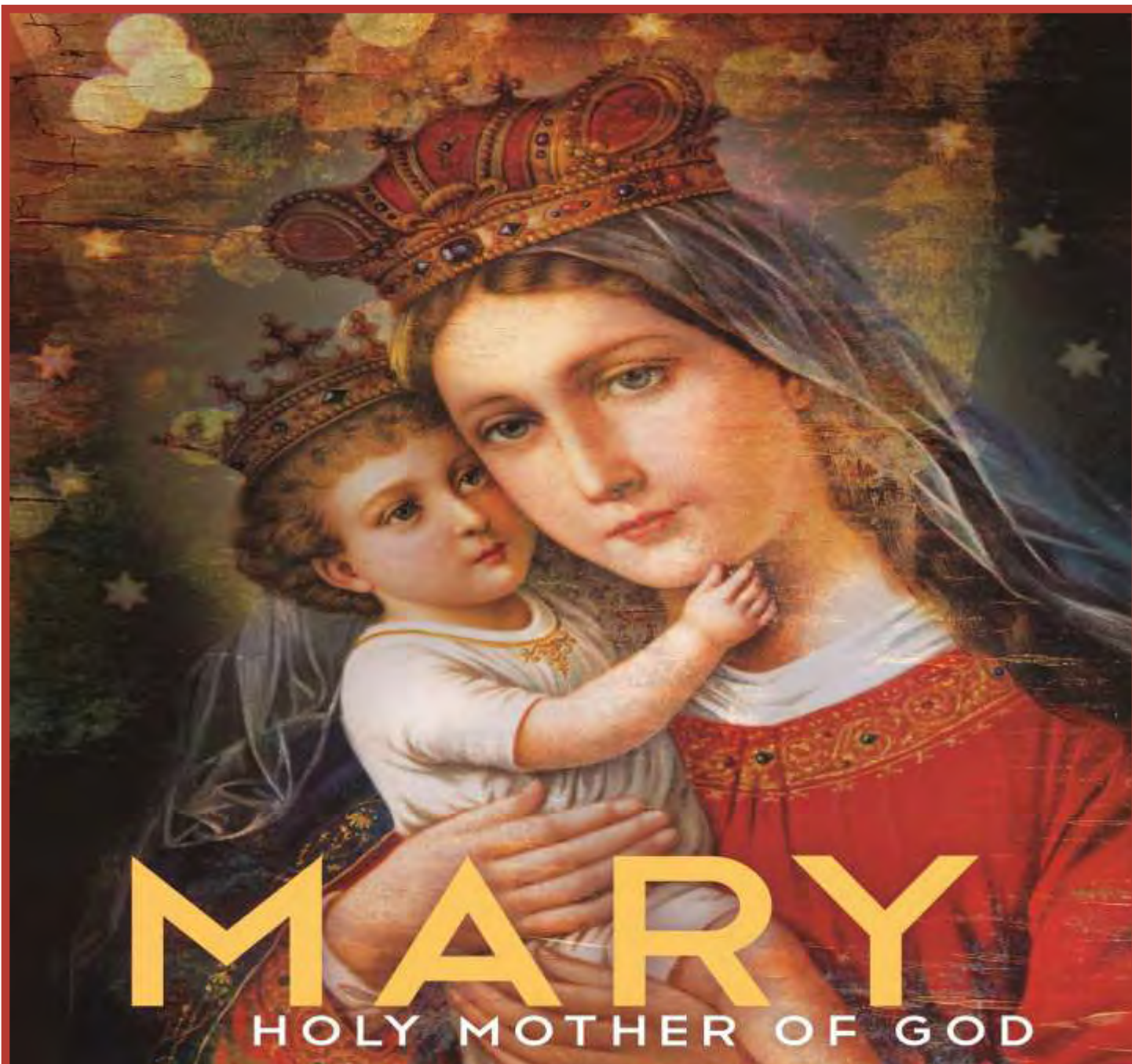


Project Rachel retreats offer the opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The retreats are directed by specially trained compassionate caregivers, including counselors and clergy, who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer.

**Day of Prayer and Healing for Women  
Saturday, March 7, 2020**

Please register by Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For more information and to register please visit [www.respectlife.drvc.org](http://www.respectlife.drvc.org) or contact Project Rachel at 1(888) 456-HOPE (4673), 1(516) 766-2538 or [projectrachel@drvc.org](mailto:projectrachel@drvc.org). All information will remain confidential.



**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** ~ Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Mass Schedule:

**New Year's Eve** - December 31, 2019: 7:00 PM

**New Year's Day** - January 1, 2020: 9:00 AM, (L) 10:30 AM  
and 12:30 PM

The Parish Center will be closed 1/2 day Tuesday, December 31  
and all day Wednesday, January 1, 2020.