



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS

125 HALF HOLLOW RD, DEER PARK, NY 11729

WWW.SSCMDP.ORG

To bring the universal love preached by Christ

December 20, 2020

**4th Sunday
of Advent**

READINGS THIS SUNDAY

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 - The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27 - Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

FROM THE PASTOR

This would have arrived in the mail. For those who are not in our mailing list, I am having it reprinted here

My dear friends in Christ

The pandemic has dragged on for close to 10 months now. And even if there are glimpses of light, we do not expect things to go back to normal soon. Conservative projections indicate that this will go on until the end of 2021. Many lives have been devastated by this virus – family members and friends lost, businesses drained, livelihood and jobs gone. But amidst all this, we also know how resilient we are when pushed, patient and strong when tested, hopeful and faith-filled when confronted by uncertainty and darkness.

I have personally witnessed this in many of you, and is what has kept me strong and steady as your pastor. I must admit that the past year, my first year as Pastor, has certainly been for me a baptism of fire. But I am grateful to God that for every challenge and difficulty that I faced as your shepherd leading this parish, grace has outpoured all the more.

...continued on page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 24

CHRISTMAS EVE Masses - Vigil Masses - 2:00 pm (Family Mass) - LIVESTREAM, 4:00 pm. Concelebrated MASS - 12:00 midnight. **(2:00 & 4:00 pm Overflow Mass in the School Gym)**

Dec 25

CHRISTMAS DAY Masses - 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am LIVESTREAM, 12:30 pm. **(11:00 am & 12:30 pm Overflow Mass in the School Gym)**

SCHEDULE OF MASSES**Saturday:** 5:00 pm (Vigil)**Sunday:** 8:00 am, 9:30 am: Family Mass - LIVESTREAM,
11:00 am (Choir), 12:30 pm
4:00 pm (Vietnamese Mass) & 6:00 pm**Weekdays:** 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm**Saturday:** 8:30 am**HOLY DAY SCHEDULE**

Eve of Holy Day: 5:00 pm

Holy Day: 7:00 am, 8:30 am
12:15 pm & 7:00 pm**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** (Children's Chapel)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: after the 12:15 pm Mass

Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

and by appointment by calling the Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE

Tel: (631) 667-4044

Fax: (631) 589-9010

Email: parishoffice@sscmdp.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Saturday & Sunday
9:00 am - 1:00 pmTuesday & Thursday:
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm**PANTRY HOURS**Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm**BAPTISM:** Saturday at 12:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. Contact the Parish Center to arrange for an interview and to register for the required preparation class.**MARRIAGE:** Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance and prior to wedding reception plans. Call the Parish Center for an appointment with a priest or deacon for the initial interview.**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:** Holy Communion can be received by the sick and the homebound through a co-resident minister. Call the office to make arrangements.**THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Saturday morning at the 8:30 am Mass. In an emergency, call the Parish Office to request a priest. Outside office hours, call (631) 667-4044, Ext. 9**PASTORAL STAFF: (631) 667-4044**Rev. Gius Garcia, *Pastor*, Ext. 121Rev. Moise Aime, *Associate Pastor*, Ext. 120Rev. Patrick J. T. Grace, *Associate Pastor*, Ext. 166Rev. Francis D. Sang, *In Residence*, Ext. 170 (Retired)

Deacon John F. Fitzpatrick, Ext. 124

Deacon James A. Murano, Ext. 127

Deacon William Sperl, Ext. 112

Ms. Amora Laucella, *Religious Education*, Ext. 145Ms. Georgette Fromigia, *Parish Social Ministry*, Ext. 105Mr. Timothy Leitch, *Youth Ministry*, Ext. 154Deacon Philip A. Mills, Jr. *Business Manager*, Ext. 110Deacon James A. Murano, *Liturgical Music* Ext. 127Sister Susan Snyder, CSJ, *School Principal*, Ext. 133**PARISH TRUSTESS**

Mary Malerba

John Grieb

Jane Carleo, *Bookkeeper*, Ext. 111

Joan Ann Loring, Ext. 122

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor

Marianne Saffran, Ext. 115

Baptism, Wedding & Calendar Coordinator

Family Faith Formation and Religious Education

Weekly Greeting from Ms. Laucella



We are in the final Week of Advent; Week Four! This week, we hear the background story behind one of the most well-known Names for Jesus that we hear a lot during this time; *The Son of David*. God promises King David that long after he is gone, an heir will come from his family line and rule over and surpass all of the nations of the world. God literally tells David, “*He will be a Son to Me*”. WOW. ***The Son of God and The Son of David are one in the same***. How deeply personal is that message for David, whom God also rose up from a shepherd boy to the greatest King Israel ever had. Kind David is proof that God lifts up the lowly and calls them to be great; The same way that God’s own Son, Born into the poorest of the poor, the Good Shepherd, was lifted up to be the King and Savior of the World.



FORMED Recommendations

I am reminding everyone of our Catholic media streaming service; FORMED! For this Season of Advent, I am recommending to all of you a brand new series called “*The Road to Bethlehem*”. This series has an entire layout that includes short video reflections for children, adults, and families! From Dr. Tim Gray to Brother Francis, there is truly something for everyone in your family to have a truly special Advent Season. Just make an account for free to watch at <http://watch.formed.org>! These links are also posted for you in our Instagram bio and Parish Facebook page.

Christmas Eve Family Mass *Time Change*

It is hard to believe that Christmas Eve is this Thursday! I wanted to be able to give all of our families a final reminder regarding our beloved Christmas Eve Family Mass.

We so very aware of how much our Christmas Eve Family Mass means to the families of our Parish every single year. Due to COVID-19 protocols, our Mass schedule has changed slightly for this year. We are very happy to share that we will still be having our Family Mass, but that this year, **OUR CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS WILL BE AT 2:00PM; NOT 4:00PM, AS IN YEAR’S PAST**. We wanted to be able to let all of our families know ahead of time so that everyone can plan how to spend their evening with their loved ones.



Administration
 Ms. Laucella
 Director of Family Faith Formation,
 Programming, & Religious Education
 (631) 667-4044 ext. 145
amlaucella@sscmdp.org

Office Information
 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30am-2:30pm
 (631) 667-4044 exts. 146 & 147
faithformation@sscmdp.org
 Instagram: SSCMFamilyFaithFormation
 Facebook: SsCyrilandMethodiusRCC

FROM THE PASTOR

...from cover page

As we approach Christmas and begin the New Year, as pastor, I have been making an assessment of the condition of the parish. Spiritually, I know we are hurting especially from the restrictions that this pandemic has caused. Pastoral programs had to be put on hold. Just when we were beginning to accelerate, we needed to halt. Because of the generosity of volunteers who gave their time and money, we have set up a ministry that provides livestreaming services that enables us to continue to reach out to those at their homes who are not able to come to Church for various reasons. With our re-opening in July, people have slowly returned. But unfortunately, attendance has been consistently low and is radically down compared to where we were the past year. This has also negatively reflected in the weekly collection, the main source which provides for our day to day operation as a parish. Although many people have religiously mailed their envelopes and given more than their usual, if we look at our finances we are very close to being in the red. Rest assured, we have made cuts to our expenses. But obviously, there are necessary expenses for Saints Cyril and Methodius to operate as a Church.

This is why I come to you with an appeal this Christmas. I am hoping to reach out to at least **1000 families** in the parish who may be able to generously give as a gift at least **\$100** this Christmas. This will definitely be a relief to the financial constraints that the parish feels and will certainly offset a lot in our yearly budget. I know this maybe asking much considering how many families are already struggling. Again only if you are able. My hope and prayer is that you may be touched by the spirit of generosity which is the true essence and meaning of Christmas.



In Opus Ministerii,

Fr. Gius Garcia

Saints Cyril & Methodius

Reusable Grocery Bags
Displays the Parish Logo
Strong and Eco-Friendly
Available for Purchase
at the Parish Center.
\$5.00 per Bag





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2020

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

When he was elected as a Successor of St. Peter on March 13, 2013, our Holy Father chose the name *Francis*. It was a weighty decision with a prophetic message. Especially now, seven years later and with the publication of his latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* from the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on October 3, 2020, the significance of the choice is clear: Pope Francis connects his papacy to St. Francis.

Through the ministry of our Holy Father, St. Francis of Assisi is close to the Church in these times. Therefore, as we draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this difficult year, I wish to recall two points Pope Francis highlights from the life of St. Francis. One will help us celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord; the other indicates a grace for which to pray during the holy season.

First, in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Pope Francis emphasizes St. Francis of Assisi's foundational role in our celebration of Christmas. The Holy Father recalls the origins of the crèche and the first nativity scene inspired by the holy friar in 1223, by which the saint sought "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem." Importantly, the remembrance of Christ's birth that St. Francis desired to convey was brought alive in Greccio, a small village in Italy, not by statues but by people from the surrounding towns and countryside. Together with St. Francis, his friars, an ox and a donkey, they gathered at a cave to behold a manger full of hay over which the Eucharist was celebrated. That Christmas night, almost 800 years ago, Pope Francis reminds us, "the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present." That night, there was "no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery." (2) Encountering Christ, there was simply joy and hope.

This Christmas, in our world laden with the Crosses of COVID-19, political and economic turmoil, racism, financial hardship, and so many other societal ills and challenges – challenges that impact us on Long Island – let us remember this lesson from Greccio: Christmas is an event to be lived. It demands our participation. Like the women and men who embodied that first crèche, we must be present to Christ who is born for us. We must behold and receive Him.

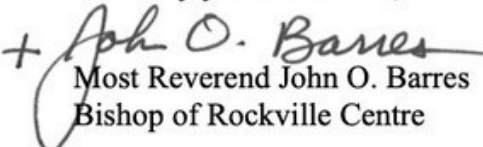
Second, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shows St. Francis as an icon of Christocentric-listening. With great humility and charity, the saint reverently listened to others. He was present to the various voices in his life – the voice of God, the voice of his neighbor, the voice of the poor, the voice of the sick, the voice of nature – and by truly hearing them, he was an instrument of peace, healing, and understanding. How different it can be for us! The Holy Father says well what we know: “Today’s world is largely a deaf world...At times, the frantic pace of the modern world prevents us from listening attentively to what another person is saying.” Aware of this fact, the Pope encourages us, in the midst of our hectic and polarized world, to be like St. Francis and “not lose our ability to listen.” (48)

This Christmas, when we approach the crib, let us ask for the grace to be attentive listeners. Let us ask for the grace to be like St. Francis, so that we may hear the voice of God and the voice of our neighbor and respond with the radical charity he exhibited.¹

Like Pope Francis, may we be moved by the example of St. Francis, and may St. Francis of Assisi’s love for the Mystery of the Nativity, his ecstatic mysticism, his love for the poor, and his spirit of universal fraternity animate our celebration of Christmas this year.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+ John O. Barres
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ Cf. Bishop John O. Barres October 8, 2020 Statement, “The Compelling Figure of St. Francis of Assisi in the Pontificate of Pope Francis and his New Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*.”

The Children’s Chapel ~ Christmas 2020

Because of inquiries already made, and after much thought and consideration, our family thought it best not to decorate the Children’s Chapel this year given the pandemic, which still is very much present. The main reason the chapel is decorated is to serve as a place of gathering. Whether it be for the SSCM School students, the students of the SSCM Faith Formation Program, the various ministries that would meet/utilize the space, and our parish family, the Children’s Chapel’s main purpose was to serve as a place of gathering during Christmastime. The stories read, the prayer liturgies held, the private meditations, the carols sung are, hopefully, only postponed until next year. This was a very difficult decision, especially since it would have been our 20th Anniversary decorating the chapel, but we know it was the right decision knowing that there would be social distancing restrictions that would be difficult to adhere to. Moving forward, we look forward to continuing the tradition to decorate the Children’s Chapel in the future and making new memories. It has been a privilege these past 19 years. I also want to take this time to thank, in a very special way, Connie and Mike Santoli, who have been instrumental in assisting us in the Chapel’s daily care. Finally, our thanks to all who have shared your kind words of appreciation. We are humbled.

Our best wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas season ~ The Laucella Family

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 21

7:00 AM - Russell Salerno's intentions

8:30 AM - Aeda Vasquez

12:15 PM - Giordano & Jokubiel Families

Tuesday, December 22

7:00 AM - Timothy G. Mullins

8:30 AM - Chuen Kam Chen-Shek's intentions

12:15 PM - Mary Zabbia

Wednesday, December 23

7:00 AM - Mary Malerba's intentions

8:30 AM - Aileen and James Jackson

12:15 PM - James Barone, Assunta & James DeJohn

Thursday, December 24, CHRISTMAS VIGIL

8:30 AM - For our Parishioners

2:00 PM - For our Parishioners

4:00 PM - For our Parishioners

12:00 Midnight - For our Parishioners

Friday, December 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 AM - For our Parishioners

9:30 AM - For our Parishioners

11:00 AM - For our Parishioners

12:30 PM - For our Parishioners

Saturday, December 26

8:30 AM - Purgatorial Society

5:00 PM - Marcellina, Richard and Michael Solomita, Ann Traverso, Richard J. Droust, Sophie & George Kassick, Frances Neiss, Joe LaRocco, & Teresa Krzysztof & Iwinski Family

Sunday, December 27

8:00 AM - Robert Salerno's intentions

9:30 AM - Harold W. Schillinger

11:00 AM - Nolito Suapengco, Matilde & Vicente Rodriguez, Esther Terenzi, Harry DeDora, Mary Serp, Paul Zarro, Kathleen Gatti

12:30 PM - Peggy Kelly

6:00 PM - For our parishioners

PRIEST CELEBRANTS

Saturday, December 26

5:00 pm - Fr. Greg Cappuccino

Sunday, December 27

8:00 am - Fr. Patrick Grace

9:30 am - Fr. Gius Garcia **Livestream**

11:00 am - Fr. Greg Cappuccino

12:30 pm - Fr. Patrick Grace

6:00 pm - Fr. Gius Garcia

NEWLY BAPTIZED

We pray for the new members of our family

Joel Palma

REST IN PEACE

William P. Kollmer

Andrew J. Spadafora

Rosalie Maiorana

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Baby T. J. Hicks, Baby Christian Daniel, Baby Owen Chapman, Baby William Shirk, Baby Bella Barra, Rita Haggerty, Catherine Rizzo, Rosemarie Dorsty, Margaret McCartney, Richard J. Murphy, Nuala Egan, Theresa Schaefer, Leonard Caltabiano, Mary Massa, Joseph Massa, Jacqueline Lullis, Mary Anne Farrell-Tzanetos, Frank Persico, Louis Gerbino, Joan Olcott, Barbara Wineberger, Connie Rigert, Steve Peterson, Frank Peterson, Diane Peterson, Catherine Troiano, Luida Samson, Matthew Locascio, John Giusto, Omar Stuart, Robert Glaser, Lucille Sanelli, Michael Ferro, Robert Flaherty, Stanley Urbanowski, Angelina Diramacco, Joseph Giammarino, Maryann Farrell, Stephen Neveroski, Eugene Sheehy, Edward Muldowney, Alberto Sanelli, Stephen M. Murphy, Clemente Oropallo, Kevin Talbot, Maria Nunziato, Lisa Hulsen, Joseph E. Torres, Paretk Gisell Torres, Sydney Ann Torres, Julio C. Rivera, William Haile, Patrick Mendola, Keith Thomas, Jean Fortunato, Gayle Ryan, Jen Scicutella, Anthony Ferrero, Luke Vaughn, Willma Lysson, Howard Lysson, Joyce Ratushny, Barbara Dunne, John Townsend, Ann Fisher

WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Sgt. Joseph Evola,

Karley Hawkins,

Gabriella Hawkins,

Ryan Ferrara,

Lt. Patrick H. LaMonica,

Lt. Jonathan W. LaMonica

James Powers

Cordel Breitenstein

Commander Christopher Grande

If you would like your family member added to the list or if one has returned home, please contact the Parish Office or email jloring@sscmdp.org



**LIVING AND SHARING
OUR FAITH**
Your gift could help support the formation of our Seminarians and Deacons.



**BUILDING THE
KINGDOM OF GOD**
Your gift could help support youth, young adult and campus ministry programs.



**CARING FOR GOD'S
PEOPLE**
Your gift could help Catholic Charities and Parish Outreach Programs feed and serve the poor and needy.

Please consider donating to the Appeal and make a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

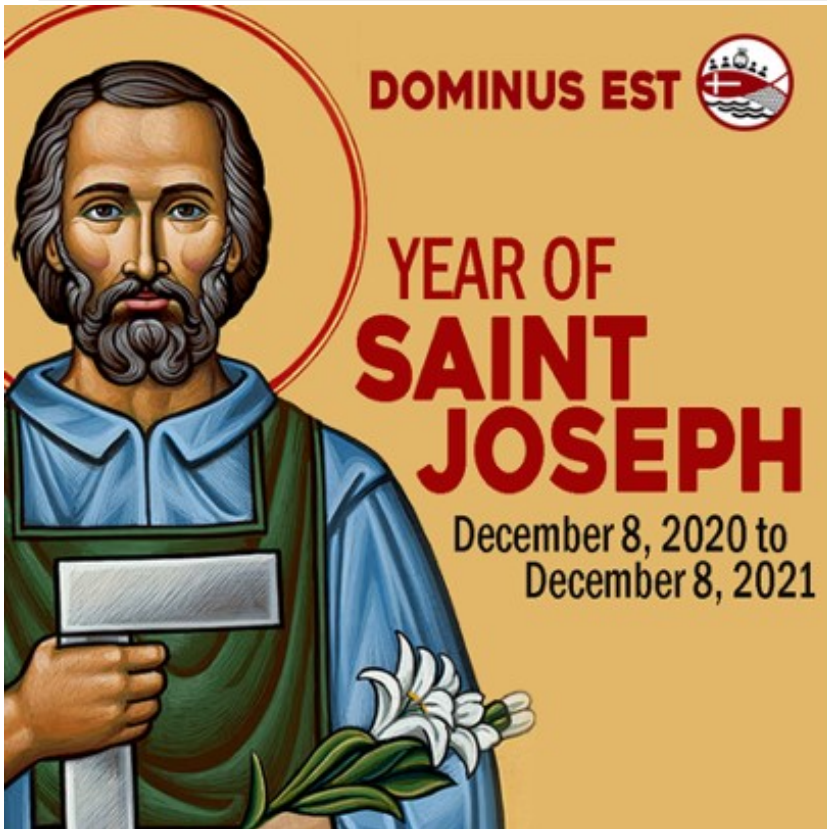
Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Parish _____ Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.



Dear Supporter:

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and to a new year of A+ School Rewards! This year's A+ Program runs from August 7, 2020 through March 13, 2021.

Our school SS Cyril & Methodius, ID#: 08826, has the opportunity to participate in and earn **CASH** from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through your local Stop & Shop!

Former Supporters:

You **DO NOT** need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.

New Supporters or Existing Supporters Wishing to Make Changes:

- Beginning *July 1, 2020*, visit stopandshop.com and select "SIGN IN" at the top right to log into your online account. Once logged in, you may select or modify your school choice.
- If you do not have an online account, visit stopandshop.com and click "REGISTER". Follow the prompts to create your online account. Once logged in, follow the same instructions as noted above.
- You'll need your 13-digit STOP & SHOP CARD number and the School ID number. If you need assistance, call 1-877-366-2668 option 1.

To earn points:

- Use your registered STOP & SHOP CARD each time you shop at any Stop & Shop, and you will earn CASH for our school. You can confirm your school selection by logging into your account.
- Earn points when shopping online (delivery or pick up).
- At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to CASH rewards. These CASH rewards for our school are updated monthly. You can track our progress when you sign into your online account.
- Our school will receive one CASH rewards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of our educational needs.

Also, please encourage your family members and friends to support our school. This could result in more cash rewards for our school!

Thank you for supporting our school.

Alumni
ASSOCIATION

BE COUNTED

Register now at
WWW.SSCMWEB.ORG or
Call **(631) 6674044 X 131**

MEMORIALS — December 20— 26

BREAD AND WINE - God Bless us everyone—from the Gould Family

ALTAR CANDLES - In loving memory of Louis Gerbino. All our love - the Loring Family

CANDLES AT BLESSED MOTHER’S SHRINE - In thanksgiving and praise to our Blessed Mother. May she continue to protect and bless me and my family in our hour of need. - Mary Priorello

CANDLES AT ST JOSEPH’S SHRINE - In loving memory of Louis Gerbino - by Gianna & Matthew Mauri

ALTAR FLOWERS - Available.

FLOWERS AT ST JOSEPH’S SHRINE - Available

FLOWERS AT BLESSED MOTHER’S SHRINE - Available

Altar Candles and Candles at Our Lady’s Shrine and St. Joseph’s Shrine Offering \$25; Bread & Wine \$50
Flowers at Blessed Mother and St. Joseph’s Shrine \$50; Altar Flowers \$50 per Vase \$100 for both.

Stewardship

DECEMBER 13, 2020

Regular Collection \$20,031.65

Online Giving \$ 2,850.96

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Goal \$126,300

\$109,604.25 Pledged

87% of Parish Goal

Thank you, and God Bless you, for your faithful weekly Stewardship of our Parish and for your support of the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal!

In today’s Gospel, we hear of the Beatitudes. May we learn from Christ’s teaching so we may one day be saints in heaven.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE:
THREE (3) HOURS TO THE LORD**

- One hour in prayer each week
- One hour in service to others each week
- One hour’s wages financial support of our parish family.