

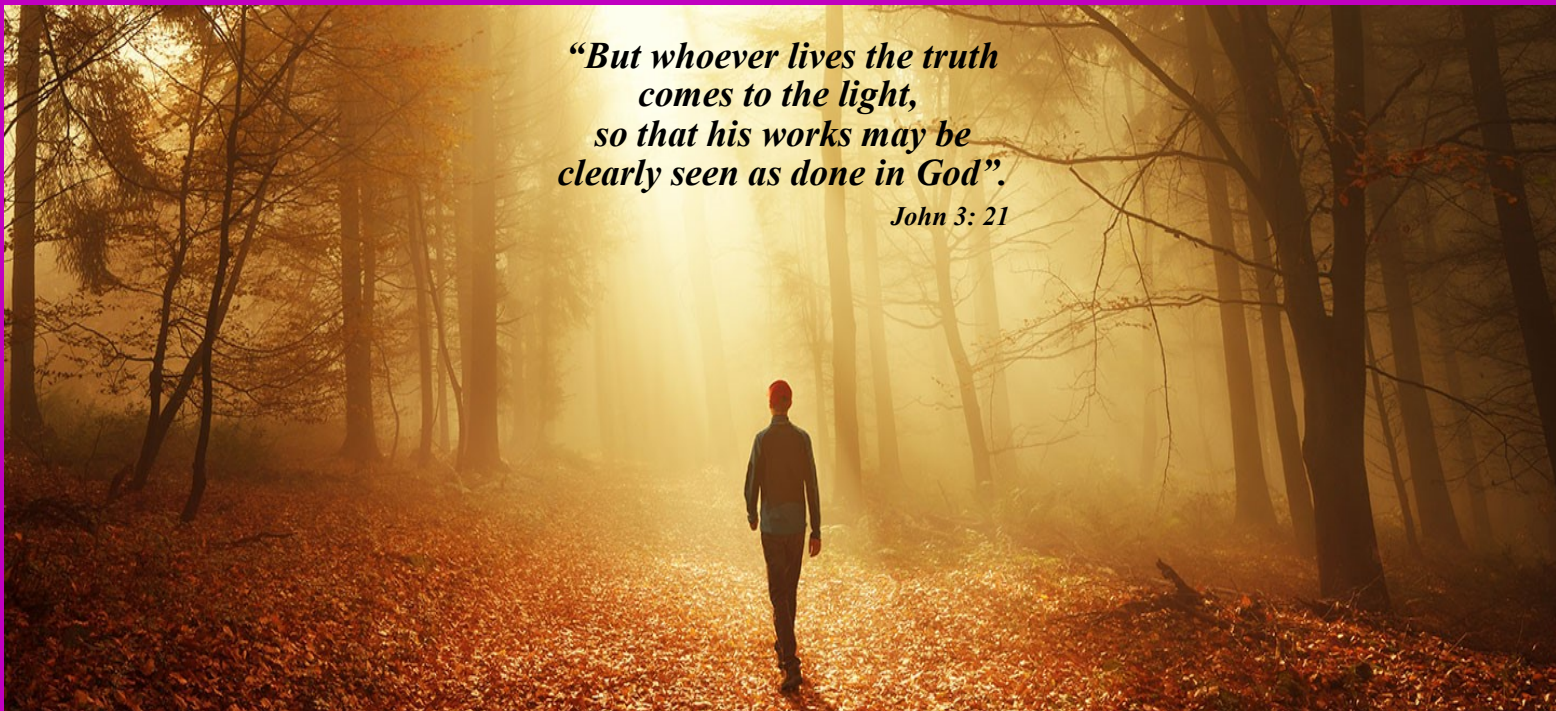
St. Edward the Confessor

205 Jackson Avenue, Syosset, New York 11791

Growing in Faith, Love, and Christ

*“But whoever lives the truth
comes to the light,
so that his works may be
clearly seen as done in God”.*

John 3: 21



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14th, 2021



THE PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael T. Maffeo, Pastor
Rev. Hyacinth Jemigbola, Associate Pastor
Rev. Celestine Nwosu, Associate Pastor
Msgr. Donald McE. Beckmann, Sunday Priest
Deacon James F. Murphy
Deacon Barry P. Croce



Administration

Deacon Thomas Wm. Connolly, Director

Pastoral Center Offices

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

St. Edward the Confessor School

Mr. Vincent Albrecht, Principal
Ms. Taylor Moran

Parish Social Ministry

Mrs. Donna Zaino, Coordinator

Office Staff

Mrs. Maryann Waite
Mrs. Luisa Ondocin

Music Ministry

Mr. Jeffrey Fox
Mrs. Marilyn Fox

Youth Ministry

Ms. Michelle Sena - Vision

Religious Education

Mrs. Rosemary Pettei, Director
Ms. Mary Calabrese, Director of Confirmation
Mrs. Ann Braun, Secretary

Quick Guide to St. Edward's Parish

Not registered? Please stop by our Rectory during office hours to be included in our parish family!

Telephone Numbers

Rectory.....	921-8030 ext. 150
Rectory Fax.....	921-4549
St. Edward Confessor School.....	921-7767
Religious Education Office.....	921-8543
RCIA.....	921-8030 ext. 135
Administration.....	921-8030 ext. 136
Bulletin Editor.....	921-8030 ext. 137
Facilities Scheduler.....	921-8030 ext. 137
St. Vincent De Paul Society.....	516-218-7837
PSM/Pantry.....	921-8030 ext. 140
Music Ministry.....	921-8030 ext. 150
Youth Ministry.....	921-8030 ext. 127
Pastoral Center Offices.....	921-8030 ext. 132

Rectory Hours

The rectory will be open during the following times:

Mondays - Thursdays:	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Fridays:	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Closed for Lunch M-F:	1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Saturdays - Sundays:	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Outside of these hours, please call: 516-921-8030

When Attending Mass

While attending Mass during the coming weeks please remember to wear your face mask at all times and to maintain social distancing. After Mass has ended you are requested to depart from church immediately afterwards, and not congregate in the gathering area. Thank You.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday:	9:00 AM	In the Church
Saturday:	5:00 PM	In the Church
Sunday:	7:30 AM	In the Church
	9:30 AM	In the Church
	11:30 AM	In the Church

Our Weekly Offering

March 7, 2021	\$ 12,606.00
# of Envelopes	195
Automatic Trans.	\$ 2,193.00
# of Envelopes	43
Total	\$ 14,799.00

Next Week's Presider Schedule

Saturday, Mar. 20	5:00 PM	Fr. Celestine*
Sunday, Mar. 21	7:30 AM	Fr. Hyacinth*
	9:30 AM	Fr. Mike*
*Deacons to Preach	11:30 AM	Msgr. Beckmann

We thank all who contributed to the support of our Parish! Fr. Mike

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays - 12:30 to 1:30 PM in the Church

You may also make an appointment by calling the rectory at: 516-921-8030.

Websites / Social Media

Parish: www.st-edwards.org
School: www.stedwardconfessor.org
Religious Ed: www.saintedwardre.com
Facebook: [stedwardsyosset](https://www.facebook.com/stedwardsyosset)
Twitter: [stedwardsyosset](https://twitter.com/stedwardsyosset)
Instagram: [stedwardsyosset](https://www.instagram.com/stedwardsyosset)
Formed: formed.org

Protect Our Children Hotline

If you or someone you know has experienced an incident of sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please **contact law enforcement and the diocesan's Office for the Protection of Children and Young People**. The Diocese maintains a special phone number for these situations:

Tel.: 516-594-9063

St. Edward's Mass is Online -

The St. Edward's 7:30 AM Sunday Mass is recorded and posted online, both on YouTube and Facebook, and is available for viewing at any time.

YouTube - St. Edward the Confessor Church - Syosset
Facebook Page - St. Edward the Confessor Church

“Lord God, be my refuge and my strength.”

Mass Intentions

- Mon. - 3/15 - Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent**
9:00 am John George Spicijaric
- Tues. - 3/16 - Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent**
9:00 am Barbara Bonomi
- Wed. - 3/17 - Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent**
9:00 am Sr. Patrice Ward
- Thurs. - 3/18 - Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent**
9:00 am Charles Pistone
- Fri. - 3/19 - Solemnity of Saint Joseph,**
9:00 Nicasio (Nick) Corsello
- Sat. - 3/20 - Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent**
9:00 am Sheila Heslin
5:00 pm Mary Gagliardi
Carol Plitt
Peter Masso
Dolly Gaita
Marylin & Tim Vetrano
Dolores Murdoch
- Sun. - 3/21 - Fifth Sunday of Lent**
7:30 am Connie Elizondo
9:30 am Maria Vukelic
11:30 am Catherine Curcio
Paul Agosta
Barbara Agosta
Eileen Ihnat
Maria Rosa Minnici
Michael Keane
- 7:00 pm No Mass

Please remember that the church will be open daily for your own private devotions, which may include: An Act of Spiritual Communion, Praying the Divine Office, Praying the Rosary, or writing down your own intentions in the book found at the rear of the church.

The Altar Bread & Wine

For the week of March 14 - March 20, 2021
Is Given in Loving Memory of
Anthony Persico

By: Lorraine Persico

The Sanctuary Candle

For the week of March 14 - March 20, 2021
Is Lit in Loving Memory of
Robert Backofen

By: Roselle Lauth

Military List

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hand. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen”

Lt. Cmdr. Jameson Adler, U.S. Navy SEAL
Cpl. Matthew V. Balestrieri, U.S. Marine Corps
Maj. Joel Bernazzani, U.S. Air Force
Pvt. John J. D’Amico, U.S. Army Airborne
Ens. Ryan Dunleavy, U.S. Navy
Sgt. Noah C. Estey, U.S. Marine Corps
Pvt. Joseph Evola, Jr., U.S. Army
SSgt. Michael Gregory, U.S. Army Special Forces
Petty Officer 3rd Class David Griffin, U.S. Navy
Lt. John Hagerman, U.S. Navy
Pvt. Gary Harris, U.S. Army
Lt. Amanda Hine, U.S. Navy
Sgt. Christopher Hofer, U.S. Air Force
Maj. Christian Kapey, U.S. Marine Corps
Sr. Airman Michael LiBretto, U.S. Air Force
Cpl. Erik Liebergall, U.S. Marine Corps
Pvt. Jonathan Maldonado, U.S. Army
Seaman Liam Pieper, U.S. Navy
2nd Lt. Richard Martin Prestegaard, U.S. Army
Petty Officer Sean T. Sattler, U.S. Coast Guard
Lt. Brian Shields, U.S. Coast Guard
SSgt. Paul Smith, U.S. Army
Maj. James Tom, U.S. Army
2nd Lt. John P. Trainor, U.S. Marine Corps
1st Lt. Michelle Turcios, U.S. Army
Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Vann, U.S. Navy

Pray For The Sick

Joseph Kempton	John Lamb, Sr.	Christiana Cheng
Kathy Rooney	Robert Philipps	Julianna Key
Michele Wesch	Renata Sorace	Susan Giambalvo
Katy Monte	John Hynson	Alexandra Reuter

Death to New Life



Diane Mazey

The Readings for The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Reading 1 - 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon
we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

On the aspens of that land
we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For there our captors asked of us
the lyrics of our songs,
And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:
"Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

How could we sing a song of the LORD
in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand be forgotten!

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

May my tongue cleave to my palate
if I remember you not,

If I place not Jerusalem
ahead of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reading 2 – Ephesians 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them

Gospel – John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

From Fr. Mike's Desk

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

“But whoever does not believe has already been condemned because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Saint John presents us with what appears to be a contradiction, how can God send His only Son to save the world and not condemn it, and yet condemns those who do not believe in His Son. It does not seem to make sense, and on first reading it looks like God is being petty, condemning those who do not believe in Jesus and the Gospel. Could this really be the God of Love and Mercy? Saint Paul tells us today that by Grace and a life centered with Christ we have been saved. So why would God not extend this to all? Well, He does, and what is really being said today, is anyone who seeks out Jesus, and acknowledges Him, as the great gift of the Father, and that He was sent into the world to forgive sins, will be saved. Those who will be condemned are the ones who refuse to accept Him. This does not mean those who do not know of Jesus, or those who belong to other faiths, do not who have another path to Heaven. God will not condemn a person for any of these reasons. However, the condemnation comes to those who know Jesus and refuse to accept Him or push Him out of their life. Those who hear His words and teaching, rejects them, and constantly goes out of their way to ignore Him or deny them, these will face condemnation. Keep in mind that this condemnation does not come from God. It comes to them by their own actions and thoughts. As the text tells us, they are preferring to live in the darkness of sin and spiritual death, and they are afraid to come into the light of Christ, God's great gift of Love and Mercy.

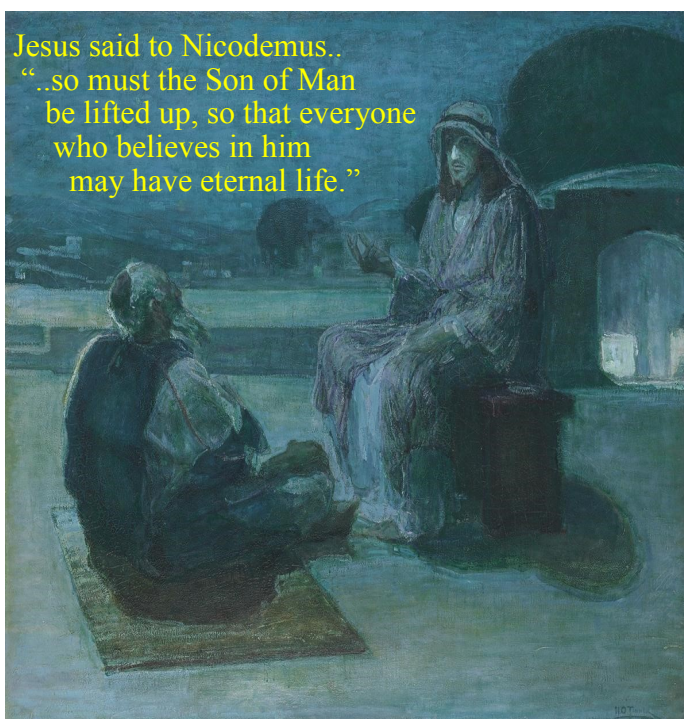
I believe we know people who have done this to themselves, who are afraid because they do not know how to seek Jesus' light. We can encourage them to follow what Jesus suggested to Nicodemus, to look at the Son of Man being lifted high on the Cross. For it is through His death and resurrection we are saved. If one who rejects Jesus can find Him, then condemnation is replaced with eternal life. Hence, it will be up to us to help them, evangelize them and be willing to walk side

by side with that person to place them on the path to Jesus.

We should also pay attention to this reading for our own lives. I know there are places in my life where I may dwell in darkness and I know I must let the light of Christ fill these dark places. We should be trying to do this every day, especially during this Holy Season of Lent. When we help others, and come out of our own dark places then we can truly feel and understand, ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...”***

Happy Lent!

Fr. Mike



Next Week's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

First Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms - 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

Second Reading - Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel - John 12:20-33

Fr. Mike's Letter for Week 51 of the Corona Virus Crisis

The following letter was posted last week, prior to the Third Sunday of Lent, on the St. Edward's website as well as on Flocknote.

This past week marks the anniversary of the first known case of COVID19 in New York. This is not to say that it was not here before March, and as some believe it was already here in late November and December of 2019. But this is the first case that medical people say they knew for sure. Shortly after this, we entered lockdown, and many of us were glued to the television or the internet. We were glued because we were trying to get as much information as we could. As many of us could testify, we found out that too much information was not truly a good thing. Many found that too much information caused more fear and anxiety. Yet not having enough information would and could increase the spread of the virus.

Here we are one year later, and while we live in a different world, it is still a world where COVID19 calls most of the shots. Over 38 thousand people have died in New York City and State during the past year, and over 500,000 have died across the whole country. Grim numbers indeed, even more so when we realize that these numbers include friends, relatives, and neighbors we knew and loved. Unfortunately, even one year later we are still losing people, and we still want more answers. However, there is some good news as well. We know a great deal more than we did a year ago. Treatments, that doctors thought would work well and failed, were followed up by new and radical ways to successfully treat the virus and now we have new treatments that work. After a few holiday spikes the numbers are going down especially the death rate. However, we know that we are not out of the woods yet, but we are getting closer to the exit. We have three vaccines available to us, but we still have the problem of making an appointment to get them. Hopefully, that will change sooner than later. If the health officials are correct, we may be done with this (or reach herd immunity) by September if not earlier. So, let us not lose hope!

There is one aspect of this past year that we must never forget and that is how everybody worked together to help one another. How many people are still helping, and we need this help now just as much as we needed a year ago. Our kids are back in school (in some sense or another) and it appears that in some places school sports will start again. We are looking into starting up CYO and maybe the Youth Mass. We must also keep in mind that we have been able to move along this path with the great help of God. As I have written many times in this space, it may seem that God was not here, but God was. Our Lord Jesus Christ continues to stand by us, as does His dear Mother, our dear Mother, who continues to pray for us and guide us.

As we look back on this past year, and pray for those who have left this world, and those who are still suffering or struggling with this virus, we must continue to keep on moving forward. We must all take steps to stay safe and stop the spread. We must keep this up, until COVID19 is no longer in the forefront of everything.

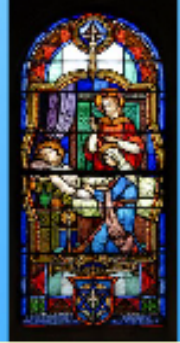
God Bless You!

Fr. Mike



Year of Saint Joseph

DEC. 8, 2020 - DEC. 8, 2021



St. Joseph's Prayer Group

All are welcome to join us on Thursdays at 8:00pm in the Church.

In December, the Holy Father announced that 2021 is The Year of Saint Joseph. St. Joseph was a worker, devoted husband to Mary, a father figure to Jesus, and provides us with a great example of what a man should strive to be. Like Joseph, Sons and Fathers in Christ must always strive to deepen their faith in the Lord. Let us answer the call to prayer by coming together with total trust in Our Father.

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them."*

In these uncertain times, let us follow the example of Saint Joseph, sharing in the love of his Blessed Spouse and Divine Son, by praying the Rosary and the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. During this season of Lent, this is a great way to spend some time in prayer with the Blessed Mother and our Lord, surrendering our crosses and trust to Jesus who is "Love and Mercy Himself."

*If you feel the pull of the Holy Spirit to spend some more time in prayer,
come join us and become part of the St. Joseph's Prayer Group!*

Prayer pamphlets for how to pray the Rosary and Divine Chaplet will be made available to everyone. Bring your own Rosary Beads. If you do not own a Rosary, a pair will be given to you. These powerful prayers are gifts from Heaven, and we should believe in their great promises. "Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears."

Looking forward to seeing you there and God Bless!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



In today's Gospel, God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son so that we may believe in him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others, acting in justice and charity.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime, quarter or dollar is multiplied by coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

If you, or someone you know, is suffering because of the pandemic and think that the St. Vincent de Paul conference could help, please call our phone number (516) 218-7837. We want to help our neighbors through this difficult time.

If you know of someone who might benefit from a virtual home visit, please call our conference at: (516) 218-7837.

Watch the Sunday Mass

Sunday Masses are now being **broadcast live** from St. Edward the Confessor Church at 7:30 AM and 11:30 AM.

Use the following link to view the Masses live:

<https://venue.streamspot.com/3854e55d>

For easy access just scan



this QR code →

with your smartphone!

The live broadcasts can also be accessed through our parish Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/stedwardsyosset

(click on the blue colored "WATCH VIDEO" tab)

or through the front page of our parish website at:

www.st-edwards.org

(click on the green 'Click Here Button' next to "WATCH MASS LIVE")

Please note that Masses will be recorded and available for viewing throughout the week using those same links.

Molloy College - Open House



Molloy College, an independent, Catholic college rooted in the Dominican tradition of study, spirituality, service and community, is committed to academic excellence with respect for each person. Through transformative education, Molloy promotes a lifelong search for truth and the development of ethical leadership.

Each year Molloy College hosts a **Spring Open House** for prospective students and their guests. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be hosting our Open House virtually, as follows:

Spring Open House
Sunday, April 18th, 2021
1:00 PM

For details, visit: www.molloy.edu or call: 1-888-4-MOLLOY

Lenten Prayer

Loving and gracious God, I have given gold, but there is only so much gold. I have given blood, but I have only so much blood to give. I have given my time, but days have only so many hours. I have given my strength, but even that has its limits. So I give my love. Because love is gold, and love is blood, and love is time, and love is strength. But love is also so much more. Because love is God, and God is love, and only you, God, have no limits. Amen



Harvest Houses

Residences for
Independent Seniors

MAKING A DIFFERENCE— PANDEMIC OR NO PANDEMIC!

We are celebrating Harvest Houses 35th Birthday!

Over 35 years ago we, the Sisters of St. Dominic, recognized the need for a completely new kind of living for independent elders. Today, we reflect on what we have learned about life from the more than 100 seniors who have lived in a Harvest House. And as we mark nearly one year since the Pandemic abruptly changed our lives, we've experienced a new reality. COVID-19, the "great revealer" threw us a new learning curve — how do we respond to life in the midst of great adversity and challenges?

Residents and staff came together during the 'lock-down', planning active days that would bring us enrichment, laughter and peace (we did have a few tumultuous days!) We became so involved in our daily activities that the months and weeks passed calmly and in comfort. Holiday and birthday celebrations with family (via Zoom or our front window) became a "happening" for everyone. We managed together to successfully plan our Easter dinner—now that was a challenge!

During the early days and months, we frequently heard from or called Senior friends whom we knew lived alone, to check on them. These calls saddened our hearts: "I am so lonely!"... "I am frightened!"... "What if I get sick?" However, as our residents adjusted to their 'new normal', we heard the following comments: "We are not afraid!"... "We are together!" *And most importantly... "We feel safe and secure."*

HEREIN LIES THE VALUE OF HARVEST HOUSES

"Research shows it is the face-to-face human interactions that are fundamental to our overall well-being. It is the day-to-day, real, in-the-flesh encounters, the **direct human contact** that matters...from birth to death we are hard-wired to connect. We are happier, healthier and more resistant to despair and disease if we satisfy the need for human contact!"

— from [The Village Effect](#) by Susan Pinker



HARVEST HOUSES are residences for eight independent seniors who live together in a family-like environment, which provides:

- Private bedroom
- Nutritious meals
- Beautiful private grounds
- Non-institutional family environment
- Social and recreational services
- Connection to community resources
- Stimulating independence
- Mutual daily support
- Security & safety

This is what Harvest House offers to independent seniors - not only in times of a pandemic crisis, but every single day! This is the very reason Harvest House Residences were created 35 years ago: to offer independent seniors a new opportunity of living in later life.

PLEASE JOIN US, SENIORS...COME! DON'T WAIT!
Call today to learn more about our residences:

Sister Jeanne A. Brendel, OP, CSW
Sister Mary E. Butler, OP, CSW
(516) 496-9796



St. Edward's Crown Club

Time for the Next Round of Winners!

\$2,000 Awarded Each Month

Buy one ticket for \$75.00 or two tickets (same name) for only \$100.00

Gets you in for all of our monthly drawings from

April 2021 through September 2021

Over \$120,000 in prize money already paid out!

Now more than ever we need and appreciate your participation!

*The pandemic has substantially restricted many of our usual fundraising opportunities and **Crown Club** is an excellent way to help St. Edward's continue with the many ministries we have to help the people of the parish and community.*

We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity!

Complete and return the entry form below along with your check by mail or at the rectory!

ST. EDWARD'S CROWN CLUB
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ ticket(s) in St. Edward's Crown Club.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: () _____ Cell: () _____

Good Luck and Thanks for Playing!

5K VIRTUAL RUN/WALK

MICHAEL ALBRECHT'S
EAGLE PROJECT FUNDRAISER



NOW THROUGH MARCH 31ST, 2021
[HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/VIEW/MIKEEAGLEPROJECT](https://sites.google.com/view/mikeeagleproject)

REGISTRATION FEE **\$20**

**TOP 3 FINISHERS
WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE**



mikeeagleproject



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK



CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK

Celebrating Traditions / Changing the Word

March 8 - 14, 2021

During the month of March, the national group *Communicators for Women Religious* is celebrating Catholic sisters nationwide. Here in our diocese, there are twelve different communities of sisters ministering in education, health care and social services.

At St. Edward's the Sisters of Mercy were invited to begin a religious education program shortly after the parish was founded in the mid-1950's. After hard work, and lots of fund-raising, St. Edward's School building was opened in 1961. Since then, over 60 Sisters of Mercy have taught in the school. The sisters also established the Religious Education Program, and Parish Outreach to the Homebound. For more information about the Sisters of Mercy, go to: www.sistersofmercy.org

Throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre, as many as twelve other communities of women religious have ministered in our schools, hospitals, and in home care: Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of St. Dominic, Sisters of Charity, Daughters of Wisdom, Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, Daughters of Mary, Holy Union Sisters, Missionary sisters of St. Benedict, Ursuline Sisters, Notre Dame Sisters, and Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Go to *Catholic Sisters Week 2021* for more information about Catholic Sisters in the United States.

www.catholicsistersweek.org

POPE AT ANGELUS

Prayer lifts us out of spiritual laziness to help others

At the Angelus* address on Sunday, February 28th Pope Francis reflects on the Transfiguration of Jesus, and urged Christians to turn our experience of prayer into a desire to carry hope to the world. He began by considering what Jesus told His disciples before taking them up the mountain. Jesus had just revealed that He would be condemned to death but would rise again. Pope Francis said Jesus thus reminded them that He would overcome death. "His face radiant and his garments glistening, providing a preview of his image as the Risen One, offer to those frightened men the light to pass through the shadows." The Pope went on to reflect on Peter's words: "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" He said the Apostle's expression of appreciation is a reminder that the Lord never lets darkness have the final word. When we face seemingly-endless trials, said the Pope, we need another point of view: "a light which illuminates in depth the mystery of life and helps us to move beyond our frame of mind and the criteria of this world." We too, he stressed, are called to climb the mountain with Jesus to have every fragment of our lives illuminated by His victory at Easter. Yet, warned Pope Francis, we must not let our joy at the Transfiguration become "spiritual laziness." "We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of this encounter by ourselves," he noted. "Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, amidst our brothers and sisters and into daily life." Spiritual laziness, said the Pope, pushes us to rest in the satisfaction of our own well-being, while ignoring the struggles faced by others. "Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality; praying never means avoiding the difficulties of life," he said.

* The Angelus is a special prayer recited by Catholics three times a day, at 6am, noon, and 6pm and is accompanied by the ringing of the Angelus bell. The name comes from the Latin word for Angel and the prayer itself reminds us of how Jesus Christ assumed our human nature through the Mystery of the Incarnation. Also, the Pope recites the Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square every Sunday at midday. He also gives a brief reflection on the Gospel of the day and often comments on some issue of international concern.



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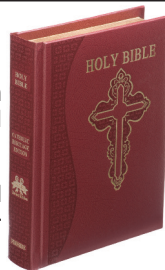
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