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FREE

SOME SUN DISAPPEARS IN SUNNYSIDE

by Patricia Dorfman

IT WAS A TEARFUL DAY in the auditorium for many in Sunnyside at the formal farewell 1PM Sunday after Mass at Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church on Skillman Avenue for the popular Pastor, the Very Reverend Brian P. Dowd VF. "Very" is an honorific, as is "VF," which stands for "Victor Forane," a priest appointed by the Bishop to oversee area priests. A SERIOUSLY COMPETENT manager of the church's complex footprint of religious, charitable, community, organizational, social and fiscal needs, Father Dowd's connections went far beyond the constant masses, baptisms, communions, marriages, confessions, and funerals.

HIS GOODBYE to parishioners in English and Spanish at the close of mass which were interrupted by his emotion and three long bursts of thunderous applause

AS WELL AS A ROMAN CATHOLIC profoundly connected to Jesus and his faith since he was a boy, he showed by example what respect for family, duty, country, and religion are.

I AM ACQUAINTED with Father Dowd better than most local non-Catholics, because of his boundless kindness to Sunnyside Artists, a group launched at Queen of Angels, and because my husband, Richard Drake, is a parishioner. Lector Manny Gomez is a partner in most of my local efforts. Dowd hired me to redo the logo and graphics for the church's 60th Anniversary multi-day lollapalooza. I have noted Dowd's flawless leadership of the church and service to the wider community. I am Jewish and a member of Young Israel. But I find part of my happiness here in Sunnyside is due to this remarkable priest.

FATHER DOWD has served 13 years as Pastor of Queen of Angels, his longest service out for four posts in his 31 years as a priest. Thursday, June 30, he begins his new assignment as Pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. St. Patrick's is larger than Queen of Angels, and has an academy for children aged three through 8th grade.

ANSWERING the title, "Pastor" Thursday at Queen of Angels will be incoming Rev. Ambiorix D. Osorio, lately of St. Sebastian's, presiding at all masses July 3. But that is another story.

SUNDAY'S FAREWELL had 250 well-wishers from the many different tightly connected diverse parish groups of Sunnyside. Rev. Nestor Martinez praised and thanked Father Dowd at the mass. Local psychologist and Catholic leader Conrado Gomez, PhD, was Master of Ceremonies. Some visitors brought handmade gifts to the auditorium. Churchgoers also have to bid a sad farewell to scholarly priest Father Albert from Ghana, who will go with Dowd to St. Patrick's.

TOUCHING TRIBUTES came from many, including Filipino worshippers, and Manny Gomez for Spanish-speakers. Long-term parishioners of the church, such as Tess Chand, Caroline Lee, Mireille Rogers, Nadine Rogers, Eileen, Helen Krosal, Joe Pagano, Eileen McCullagh, Susan Crowley and Arthur Crowley were there. The indefatigable Gail Wagner, Deborah Matura, and others worked behind the scenes arranging for decorations and crowd refreshments.

THE MASS EVEN featured adults serving as altar servers, who had once served as children, including Kerri Sexton, now living in North Carolina, Danny Cruz, and Jude Christian. Jude is now a police officer for the NYPD. Danny is a Drug Counselor. Staunch Queen of Angels and community supporters, Maureen Lynch and family, of Edward D. Lynch Funeral Home, stopped by to pay their respects, as did Richard O'Connor of St. Raphael's.

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ENDING YOUR LIFE IS NOT THE ANSWER TO YOUR SITUATION

by Stan Popovich

You are at the end of your rope and you can't take it any much longer. You are in pain and you feel there is no hope. The first step you need to do is to seek treatment for your mental health issues. Do not make the decision to end your life when you are in these kinds of fearful situations. With this in mind, here are seven reasons why suicide is not an option regarding your problems.

1. **Things change over time:** Regardless of your circumstances, events do not stay the same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things are not as bad as they seem. In addition, your loneliness will not last.

2. **There are always other options:** You may feel lost and confused, but the answers to your specific problems are out there. The key is that you have to find the answers; the answers to your anxieties and depression will not come to you. As mentioned before, the first step in finding the solution to your problem is to seek help from a qualified professional.

3. **You can't predict the future:** Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.

For instance, you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.

4. **Focus on the facts of your situation and not your thoughts:** When people are depressed, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are depressed, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think. Do not assume anything regarding your current situation.

5. **Worrying makes things worse:** A lot of times, our worrying can make the problem even worse. All the worrying in the world will not change anything. All you can do is to do your best each day, hope for the best, and when something does happen, take it in stride. The key is not to get upset and learn how to manage your negative thoughts.

6. **Go to the hospital when it is that bad:** If things are so bad that you are unable to function, drop everything and go to your local hospital or crisis center immediately. The people at the hospital or crisis center will take care of you right away.


7. **No situation is hopeless:** There are many people and organizations that are willing to help you, but you must be willing to take advantage of this help. Regardless of your situation, take advantage of the assistance that is around you. Every problem has a solution. You just have to find it.

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RETURN OF BOROUGH HALL FARMSTAND



farmstand was a hit with the surrounding community and even members of my staff in 2021 with its wide array of locally grown produce, and I look forward to helping connect Central Queens residents and Borough Hall visitors with fresh food all summer and fall. Thank you to the Queens County Farm Museum for its unending dedication to the health and wellness of our families across The World's Borough."

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. and the Queens County Farm Museum announced today the return of the Queens Borough Hall Farmstand for a second straight year, which began June 16.

"I couldn't be more excited to partner with the incredible team at the Queens County Farm Museum to bring back the Queens Borough Hall Farmstand," said Borough President RICHARDS. "The

grown at the 47-acre Queens County Farm Museum in Floral Park, Queens.

Queens Borough Hall can be accessed via the Kew Gardens-Union Turnpike station on the E and F subway lines, as well as Q10, Q37, Q46 and Q60 bus lines.

In addition to the Queens Borough Hall Farmstand, the Queens County Farm Museum will operate a farmstand this year in front of Jamaica Hospital Medical Center's WIC clinic at 134-20 Jamaica Avenue in Jamaica. That location will be open every Friday from June 17 to November 4. The Queens County Farm Museum also operates a farmstand at its Floral Park location from Wednesday to Sunday through November 6.

Running from June 16 to November 3, the farmstand will be open every Thursday from 10am to 3pm, weather permitting, in front of Queens Borough Hall, located at 120-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens. The farmstand will offer dozens of varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers,

SUMMER BREAK

by Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz

It is getting harder and harder to free ourselves from the many mind traps that keep us locked into worry, anger and anxiety about the world around us. Even harder is trying to settle and center ourselves so that we are not consumed in the onslaught of negative events and information that repeatedly flow into our awareness from a variety of sources. An unfortunate consequence is that this can easily become the norm. Now might be a good time to simply take a breath and sip some water while contemplating a fresh start that is summoned by the official onset of the summer season. Let's change a funky mood's manifest to reflect a lighthearted change directed toward the soft caress of a summer breeze, or the colors in the evening sunset. In these, we will also find a renewed connection to some of nature's wonderful gifts that are capable of inspiring us to feel uplifted and unified with the rhythms of our glorious natural world. Watching young children at play in summer is another way to relish the wondrous capacity to find joy in simple things.

This morning, while having breakfast in a neighborhood café, I overheard the person behind the counter greeting his regular customers from the nearby school, then as they left he said, "Have a good summer." I thought that this was a great gesture that I would like to extend to all of us in this invitation to take a "summer break." Let's create a new normal that nurtures our sense of wonder and the enjoyment of the finer qualities of the summer season. Lighter clothes; brighter colors; longer days; street fairs; outdoor concerts; gardens in bloom; and occasions to see and gather with friends, family and neighbors. Walking the length of our neighborhoods we can discover a lot of natural beauty. While walking back to our home after a dinner with our son and his family at a local restaurant, I stopped to admire some beautiful roses. Suddenly, a man appeared from around the corner who apparently noticed me enjoying the roses. He insisted that I come with him to see more of the roses that he was proud to be tending. All of this was quite unexpected, and as my family members looked on, I followed his lead and was shown a fantastic array of fragrant roses. I was rewarded for taking the time to see his treasures when he presented me with one of his stunning red roses. This type of encounter does not happen every day; however, I am thoroughly delighted that I took the time for this unexpected exchange. I believe it is a matter of our openness to shifting our awareness to the bounty of pleasant distractions, as opposed to the events and information that hijack our attention in the direction of distressing content. The idea is to choose like children engaged in the free, self-directed play that focuses them in present moment activities. Summer is certainly the season for youthful expression with ample oppor-

tunities for fun and gaiety. It is up to each of us to lighten up and pursue the types of experiences that hold the possibility of joy and pleasure.

The life coach Cheryl Richardson is my source for an idea that I have shared with many people. It is captured in her saying: "Embrace easy." If ever there was a season for doing that, it is summer. When we confront a challenge or a difficult situation, we might double-down by interpreting it as stress and consequently tightening up by gripping and intensifying the struggle. Instead, perhaps it might help to approach our days with ease and, in so doing, become more relaxed and clear thinking about what to do in a given situation. Giving ourselves "ease" is a gift, and there is even a song lyric to accompany this sentiment: "Summertime and the livin is easy."

A summer break could mean that you focus on your goals or projects in a new way. Have you been wanting to travel; do some home improvements; start a yoga practice or handle a health issue in a comprehensive way with attention to your commitment to wellness and a positive lifestyle change? Taking the time to envision action steps toward your plans might be an ideal summer vacation from procrastination. Another popular summer activity often includes a reading list for beach days or afternoons indoors with a good book. You might want to launch an effort to champion a cause such as the environmental challenge of "Zero Waste;" working to create daily habits focused on sustainability. The rain tapping on my window right now is my personal reminder that I could use a rainy day to put things in order by doing some clutter clearing or watching a favorite upbeat movie. Journaling, painting or drawing, needlecraft, stamp or coin collecting, gardening or day tripping around the city to take advantage of theatre offerings and other cultural activities all can provide great options for a summer of fun. Just last week, I took my yoga mat and jumped on the train to participate in the annual Times Square Alliance event called "Mind Over Madness" for the summer solstice in celebration of the International Day of Yoga. There is no shortage of things to do in our busy communities and the other boroughs. You can find out more about what is happening by checking out NYCgo.com or local papers that are chock full of weekly events. As you enjoy your summer break, look into the ways to promote a spirit of optimism and kinship with others who actively choose not to be vexed by the ongoing drama of world affairs. This does not mean that we turn our backs on our personal responsibility to do what we can do to help our troubled world; it just means that everyone needs a break to reset and relax, or we run the risk of damaging our health and running our efforts into the ground. Remember, we make peace in the world by first finding it in ourselves and in our lives. Have a healthy, happy, joyous summer 2022!



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(continued from front page)

SOME SUN DISAPPEARS

by Patricia Dorfman

IT WAS FATHER DOWD who held an ecumenical service for all faiths after 9/11 drawing an imam and clergy of many faiths. He served on the Board of Directors of Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce. He shared facilities for Sunnyside Artists for over 40 free admission public events. He led, with former Pastor Neil Margetson of Sunnyside Reformed, the yearly Skillman processional at Christmas. It was Father Brian who brought breakfast to the jornaleros, laborers who are invisible to most.

WHEN FATHER DOWD signed petitions we brought for his approval, I noticed that getting the rest of area church leaders of all faiths would assist. He courageously signed our petition against the decking of Sunnyside Yards. "Why?" I asked him. He said, thinking practically "How many who move into the 250,000 new units are going to be coming to mass at of Queen of Angels? How many small businesses will be left on Skillman?"

THE PASTOR rented out the Parish Hall for food service to Spiderman producers Sony Pictures to help earn money for the parish. He arranged for the elevated ornate creche, exterior lights, and redoing of signage in navy and gold. Dowd learned Spanish here and performed the first Spanish language wedding at Queen of Angels. In 2012, Father Dowd was voted "Luke Adams Sunnysider of the Year," in a formal gala at Dazies Restaurant, recommended by Luke Adams himself, inspiration for the award 2011.

DOWD ARRANGED the much-needed donations to St. Teresa's, St. Mary's, St. Raphael's, and the more recent Mosaic's busy pantries. I witnessed first-hand the number of undocumented immigrants, a few skinny with hunger, he helped or got help for within minutes. in the area of assisting the needy and desperate, even neighbors we would not suspect were in trouble, he was there. Once a desperate family with children silently jumped out of the bushes at night to ask for help, when I was going in.

KEEPING THE BUILDINGS going is done with a bare bones staff, which if a commercial building would take many times the budget. If it is difficult to make ends meet sometimes, with a huge Con Ed bill and repairs, Father Brian finds a way. Becky Barker, former Chamber president and Wall Street trader said once, "Queen of Angels sure has a lot of working parts. If it were a business, Father Brian is running the toughest business in town."

I AM NOT FAMILIAR with all that Father Dowd has done, but ask Pastoral Associate Juan Rodriguez or Coordinator Carmen Cruz for more about the bustling church. Father was the first and most stalwart backer of holiday lights along Skillman Avenue. He saw people when they were at church and worried when they were not there. He cared. Dr. Gomez said, "he gave us his life." Like Santa he knew when people are good and bad.

FIVE YEARS AGO, I worriedly asked Frances Schmidt, a 50-year parishioner, what would happen if the Archdiocese of Brooklyn, which manages many churches, moved Father Dowd to a different parish. Frances darkly muttered, "Don't even say that out loud."

Well, Frances, we are there. But we will welcome a new leader, brave the morrow with confidence, and rise to the challenge as Father Brian Dowd would.



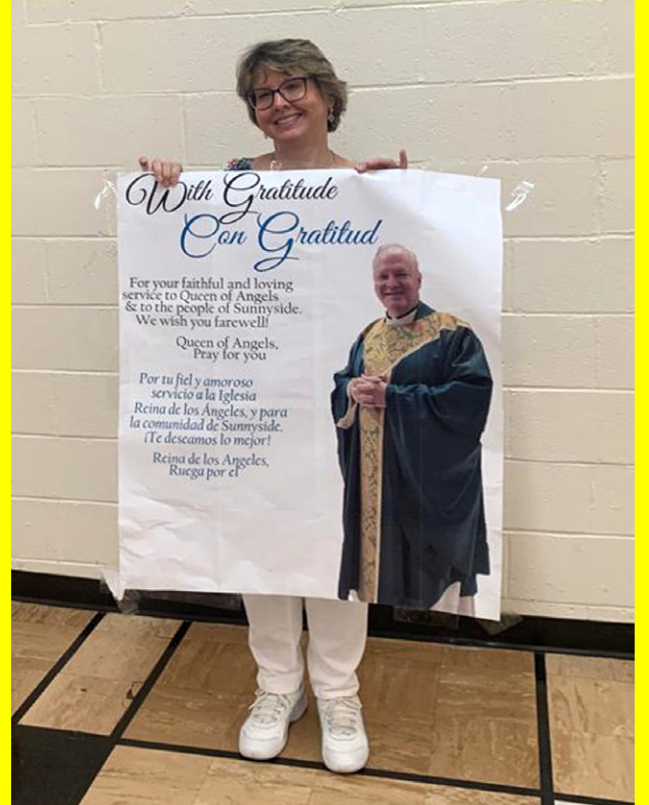
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Photo by Edwin Cadiz



Photo by Edwin Cadiz



The **New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF)** is a new federally funded program to assist homeowners at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement as a result of a COVID-related financial hardship.

The program is now accepting applications.

Help is here! Homeowners, including those living in condos and co-ops, can now apply for essential financial relief. The NYS HAF offers a wide range of services for eligible homeowners such as financial support to address missed housing-related payments. To apply or learn more, visit nyhomeownerfund.org or call 1-844-77-NYHAF (776-9423).

“TOLL PAYER PROTECTION ACT”

The “Toll Payer Protection Act” (S.3587-C), co-sponsored by Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. and approved by the State Senate and Assembly, establishes a Tolls by Mail program to improve the process for notifying vehicle owners about tolls and incurred fines while also ensuring fines are fair and motor vehicle registrations are not suspended due to an outstanding bill for a cashless toll fee.

“The cashless tolling system has been successful in easing traffic congestion and efficiency but it has also led to confusion and costly repercussions for many vehicle owners and constituents,” Addabbo said. “As with most new programs, we learn from experience what works and doesn’t work, so this bill will address problems with cashless tolling by making sure vehicle owners are billed within a reasonable time frame and they have access to information they need to avoid unnecessary fines, fees, and penalties,” Addabbo added.

New York State’s implementation of the cashless tolling E-ZPass system for bridges, tunnels, and roadways has helped to ease traffic congestion but it has also been problematic for drivers without E-ZPass devices. Too often these vehicle owners receive the Tolls by Mail notice after long delays, or not at all, resulting in unexplained or inconsistent late fees and fines. In some instances, motorists have had their car registration suspended, been stopped on the road, or had their car seized and have been left stranded due to alleged unpaid Tolls by Mail fees. The “Toll Payer Protection Act” will specifically apply to the Tolls by Mail program, not the payment of tolls using the electronic toll device.

Through this legislation, public authorities operating a toll highway, bridge, or tunnel facility would be required to create a public awareness campaign to promote the website and toll-free phone number for any person to obtain current information on any outstanding tolls or how to obtain an electronic EZ Pass device. The authority must mail toll bills and violations within 30 days of when they occur and include:

- Date, time, location, license plate number, and vehicle registration for each toll
 - The total amount of the toll due
 - Date the bill must be paid by
 - Address for receipt of payment and methods of payment for the toll bill
 - Procedure for contesting any toll or violation
 - Information related to the failure to timely pay or respond to a toll bill
 - Website address or hyperlink to access time-stamped photographs or footage of each toll incurred
 - Any other information required by law or by the authority.
- If a public authority fails to mail the toll bill to the vehicle owner within the required 30-day period and without the appropriate information, the owner will not be liable for payment of the tolls, or any penalty. After passing both houses of the state legislature, the bill is currently awaiting final approval by the Governor to become law.

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Letters To The Editor

The following letters are the opinions of its author and not necessarily those of the Woodside Herald.



Dear NYCHA & Elected Officials:

It is very simple. We are tenants within NYCHA; specifically for this concern, the Ravenswood development in Long Island City, and we have a lease agreement that provides us with an apartment and the landlord's upkeep of the building and grounds. The agreement also provides the understanding that tenants, in turn, pay rent and uphold the specified rules and regulations of the development. We are responsible for our apartment as renters. The children's playgrounds and other areas are not an extension of our apartment, but common areas for the use and enjoyment of all; however, with the coming of warm weather some tenants are turning the playground in front of our building at 12-21 35th Avenue into their kitchen for barbecuing, and a social gathering place where they entertain their family and guests with loud music, raucous conversations, drinking, smoking and other activities.

Yesterday, the gathering began in the late afternoon and concluded at about 2am. Last weekend the noise, barbecuing and socializing started on Friday and was repeated each day into the early hours of the morning Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday; each celebrating something such as a birthday, Father's Day or a graduation. The pattern has taken hold and apparently these activities need not be connected to a celebration. They are now occurring on a regular basis. The police officers have been observed in the act of asking the groups to lower the loud music; yet, the request is never honored. Calling "311" to make a complaint does little to address the situation and callers are told that the police are only required to appear once per complaint.

Tenants are not given an apartment and an extension of that apartment in the form of a playground or outdoor area as part of their lease agreement; yet, they have assumed that right and consequently infringed on the rights of other tenants who pay rent and desire to have the peaceful enjoyment in their apartment free of intrusive, unwanted noise and disturbance that floods into their living space even through closed windows. As the 4th of July approaches and the school year ends, it is anticipated that the nightly 'party' scene will reach a high point com-

plete with exploding fireworks.

I have no doubt that these individuals crave the companionship of friends and social connection; however, they are not the only ones who live here, and without landlord enforcement of the basic rules of tenancy and the uses of playground space, me and the other tenants will suffer the consequences of that lack of enforcement. I have in my possession a copy of the 46 page NYCHA document entitled: "A Home to Be Proud of: A Handbook for Residents." It specifies that the Property Manager and Property Maintenance Supervisors "oversee staff responsible for maintaining your homes, property, grounds and buildings." A section of the document labeled: "Barbecue Areas" states that "Some NYCHA developments have picnic/barbecuing areas for use by residents from May 1 to September 30 between 10:00am and 8:00pm. Authorization to use these areas must be obtained from your Property Management Office by filling out the "Request to Use Picnic Area" form and submitting it to the Property Management Office at least 10 days in advance of the requested date." It is not clear if Ravenswood has such designated areas, and if it does, there is a specific process for the use. Clearly, there is absolutely no adherence or enforcement of the policy and standard set by NYCHA. It is also clear that these residents are not familiar with the handbook or the regulations.

Tenants cannot be expected to enforce the policies and regulations of NYCHA, but someone must. Paying rent for an apartment and not having the simple assurance that the space will be free of the distasteful habits and actions of others is basic to our sense of safety and security; and we are demanding some responsible, immediate action to address this problem. We have been asked by officers and NYCHA staff: "Why don't you move?" A better question is: "What will it take for NYCHA to assume its responsibility as a landlord? Be assured that we have lived up to our responsibility as tenants and the choice to move is not one that can be easily realized with the high cost of housing. Also, how reasonable is it to ask those who pay rent and abide by the rules to leave? It reveals the intent to create a slum out of the development, deliberately allowing it to run down and decline. Inaction on this matter is evidence of the neglect that fosters an intention to abandon tenants who simply hope for a decent quality of life and affordable housing. We are urging you to help us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sharon Cadiz

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TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the opening of the initial intake tool to help small businesses determine their eligibility for the COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program. The \$250 million COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program will support small businesses that made investments to comply with emergency orders and regulations or to increase public safety in response to COVID-19. If deemed eligible by the screening tool, a link to the application will be provided when the program application opens.

"The pandemic has hit New York's small businesses especially hard, forcing many to close and others to incur significant financial burdens to protect their employees and customers from COVID-19," Governor Hochul said. "Small Businesses are the backbone of our state's economy, and in order to truly recover from the COVID-19 crisis, we must lend a helping hand. This tax credit will be a crucial lifeline to New York businesses and I encourage all who are interested to apply for this much-needed aid."

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "Businesses have been burdened with many expenses during the pandemic that were necessary to keep their employees and customers safe. This tax credit will ease the burden that the business community incurred during COVID and help it continue to get steadily back on its feet. I am grateful for Governor Hochul's support and also for all of New York's business owners who are working every day to rebuild our economy."

Small businesses were hit particularly hard by the pandemic downturn. Announced as part of Governor Hochul's Executive Budget to continue the State's support for small businesses, this new refundable tax relief program targets COVID-19-related expenses. Eligible COVID-19-related costs include, but are not limited to:

- Supplies to disinfect or protect against COVID-19 transmission
- Costs associated with expanding, or defining space to accommodate social distancing
- HVAC equipment
- Expenses related to increased outdoor activity and outdoor space expansions
- Machinery and equipment to facilitate contactless sales

Tax credits will cover 50 percent of eligible costs, up to \$50,000, for a maximum tax credit award of \$25,000, and credits will be awarded on a first come first serve basis until program funds are depleted. Eligible businesses must operate a location in New York State, have 100 or fewer employees, \$2.5 million or less of gross receipts in the 2021 tax year, and at least \$2,000 in eligible costs between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

Businesses are still encouraged to apply for the New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program which provides flexible grants of \$5,000 to \$50,000 for small businesses for COVID-19 expenses. However, costs incurred between January 1, 2021 and April 1, 2021 that were paid for with proceeds from this grant program are not eligible for a tax credit under the COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program.

To receive a tax credit for their 2022 tax return, businesses must receive a tax credit certificate from ESD on or before December 31, 2022. Potential applicants are urged to complete the screening tool and apply as soon as the program is launched, as any tax credits issued on or after January 1, 2023 cannot be claimed until a business's 2023 tax return. For more detailed information visit the ESD website at esd.ny.gov/covid-19-capital-cost-tax-credit

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Corpus Christi
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Woodside, NY 11377
718-278-8114 - Office
Food Pantry is Open
Wednesday 11:00AM to 1:00PM

www.SaintTeresaChurch.org

<http://CCWoodsideNY.org>

St. Raphael
35-20 Green Point Ave Long Island City, NY 11101
718-729-8957 - Office

Food Pantry is Open
Thursday 10:30AM to 12:00PM
Saturday 1:30PM to 3:00PM

<http://StRaphael-Queens.org/>

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